

The Mondy Morning
CHRONICLE

Family Poop Sheet since 1990

Volume XI, Issue 16, September 4, 2000

Already September!!! We have a touch of Autumn in the air. For several days the highest temperature has been 73 degrees and each morning we have arisen to a temperature of 55 degrees. Absolutely delightful!!!

Of course this means winter may be just around the corner. The first year we lived here, our first big snow came on the 4th of October and the last one came in May, so winter can be long. But I love it. Sundown about 5 to 6 pm, with six hours writing time before bedtime at midnight.

Did I threaten to stop the Chronicle if I did not get more letters? I don't think so but you must have read my mind for I have received some good material for this issue.

From our most faithful contributors, those girls who live in Springfield, MO,
Bessie Nimmo and Bertha Buckley: (8/26)

Dear Cousins and Friends

It's hot, hot, hot here in the Ozarks. We haven't had rain for several weeks in the Springfield area though some counties have had thunder showers, but they passed us by. My lawn is turning brown and I didn't have to mow it this week. This has been a funny year for the weather. My "snowball" bush, which was covered with blossoms in the spring now has a few blooms and my forsythia bush is blooming again. I haven't checked lately but I would not be surprised to find a blossom or two on my jonquils.

Bertha and I have been staying in most of the time. Bertha went to St. Louis for a couple of days but was back in time for her birthday on the 17th. Daughter Sue made a pretty birthday cake and we had about twenty here at my house for cake and ice cream. She received several nice gifts and lots of birthday cards and telephone calls. Besides the birthday celebration, there were Wedding showers and Baby showers, so we didn't get much done.

Norma's husband, Bert, is now at home after four operations since June 30th, and is doing quite well. He has an excellent nurse, Norma.

About August 12, Daughter Ann and husband Ed, returned from roaming around the northwest and visiting Brother George's family in Washington state. Buster and Karen joined them for a few days at Glacier Park and had a great time. Buster and Karen could not be gone long for they have two dogs and a garden and thought it too much for Angela (who is pregnant) to care for and look after her own home too. She is doing great and hoping they will get into their new home before the baby arrives in November.

Grandson, Travis, who has been in Japan for three years is back with his Dad in Mississippi. They will be here soon and we will be glad to see Travis, also Charles and Brenda.

Granddaughter Jennifer and family will be here the first of September so we will be busy with them. I don't know when I'll finish my house cleaning; I've been busy all this lazy summer.

Today is Sunday and I didn't get this in the mail yesterday, so I'll add a bit to it. Bertha and I went to church this morning and heard a good sermon. We had lunch out and came home to get out of the heat. The temperature was up to 100 degrees today.

Bertha talked to Josie last night; she is doing okay. She has a new great granddaughter born on August 24th. She said that her son Jim is still waiting for a liver transplant. She also talked to Estalee and found out that Lynn has a bad case of the shingles and is not feeling well. Lillie is about the same. Estalee has her hands full taking care of both of them.

Margaret and Brecken, we hope you both had a nice birthday.

Love to all, Bertha and Bessie

Larry Rhodes is the great nephew of Margaret, Judy, and Ercil and although you have read some of his jokes in the Chronicle, this is his first letter. This is also the first contribution from the Jinks side of the Chronicle Family in several issues.

Larry says: I feel guilty [*you ought to*] for not contributing more to the Chronicle (besides jokes) so I decided to play catch-up.

Harrison, I know you hear this many times from your wide family network but we really do enjoy the Chronicle even though we don't know all who contribute.

First, let me say I got a real chuckle out of Margaret Ann's (Segrest) comments about their "hot" weather in Michigan. Try coming to Houston for a while. When Sheila and I went for a morning walk at 6:30 am, the temperature on our back porch was a chilly 75. At 5:30 this pm it was 105. Add a relative humidity of about 60% and you can imagine how it feels. They are predicting a temperature of 108 today - an all-time record. The big problem is we have had no

rain of any consequence in months. A water main in front of our house broke two weeks ago. The Utility District fixed the leak after tearing out half of our circular drive. They still haven't replaced the drive. They are so backed-up because of the large number of breaks they can't divert the manpower.

Brecken, we hope you enjoy your stay in England. Our Shelley (22) just returned from six months in London. She lived and worked there on a work visa after graduating from University of Texas. After struggling through finding a place to live, getting a phone, and dealing with English bureaucracy and socialism, she has found a new respect for this country. She had a great time but is glad to be back home. Now she just needs to find a good job which shouldn't be too difficult. As they say, "if you can fog a mirror, you can find a job these days".

Ashley (now 18) attended both summer sessions and has just started the fall semester at UT. She hasn't really decided on her major yet but is very good in science and math. Of course computer science is a field with excellent long term prospects and Austin is a smaller version of Silicon Valley so it is not a bad place to be if she chooses that path.

Mike (22) graduated from UT with a degree in Architectural Engineering. He has been accepted at the UT Law School but hasn't decided if he wants that as a career. He recently started a homebuilding company with another young man and is presently building a large home on Lake Travis. He is discovering that construction is not as glamorous as he thought. I guess the next year will tell him if he really has the entrepreneurial drive it takes to build a business. The good thing is that Austin is booming and there is a strong demand for housing.

Jennifer (25) is working as a website designer for a company called Idea Integration. Basically, they are a consulting firm

to help businesses with their electronic communications issues. She loves her job and works with a bunch of artist types in a very open and creative environment.

Greg (25) is a graphic designer who works for a company called Pegasus Design. They design and produce annual reports for public companies. He has been with them for three years and has a solid position with the company. He has gone back to UT at night pursuing an art history degree. He lacks less than 30 hours to finish. He doesn't need the degree for his work; just wants it for self fulfilment.

None of them are married or even close, so there are no grandchildren in our immediate future.

Sheila is still employed as the controller for a medical supply company; actually three small companies under the same ownership. She started out just to help them get caught up and is now putting in about 50 hours a week. I warned her! The good thing is she has an office at home so she doesn't have to commute to work and pretty well sets her own schedule.

Heck, with a computer and a cell phone you can work from just about anyplace anymore.

As for me, I'm still selling business insurance. I also own and operate a small premium finance and investment company. I'm trying to build it up to the point where it will be my sole employer in a couple of years. Then I'll work from home and play more golf.

So there you have it, an update on the Rhodes Clan in Houston. I promise to be a better contributor to the Chronicle in the future. If you spot any cool weather out there around Taos, direct it toward Houston.

Larry Rhodes, Reporter, (Houston)

She's done it again! I'm talking about our cousin, **Nell**. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Cornell University has selected her to receive the Outstanding Alumni Award. On another page I am reproducing her award letter.

She says: Our weather is great; 76 degrees, daytime, 50 to 60 at night.

I am looking forward the October occasion since I have taken so much of my time with doctors and dentists. Last week I had a hernia operation; this week it was surgery on an infected but crowned tooth.

Pat Mondy, our Journalist has come through with a report of conditions in Corpus Christi. I'm glad I don't have to retype her report – just print it as I receive it. Thanks Pat.

Judy, John, and Brecken have gone to Switzerland to attend a wedding, be back about the 10th.

Lester White will be celebrating his big 90th on the 16th of September. His kids are planning a big blowout, and of course we will be there (in Lubbock) for it. You only get to celebrate your 90th once. Happy Birthday, Lester.

After we have helped Lester celebrate, we'll continue on to Piggott Arkansas to visit **Wilma Jinks**. I love to visit Wilma; she has an office set up for me where I can work and smoke my pipe while she, Margaret, and Judy Washburn can catch up on gossip. Also, she always feeds me all the catfish I can eat.

Love you all, Harrison

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

1999-2000
ALS Alumni Leaders

President
David R. Tetor '65
RR 2, Box 443
Clinton Corners, NY 12514
914/868-7796-H 914/677-8223, X106

First Vice President
Geoffrey C. Yates '77
37 Lake Flats Drive
Chazy, NY 12921
518/298-5257-H 518/846-7330-O

Second Vice President
Peter Pamkowski '74
29 Concord Drive
Schenectady, NY 12309
518/785-3675-H 518/457-1954-O

Secretary
Mollie Pulver '80
91 Church Street
Little Falls, NY 13365
315/823-9419-H 315/823-6244-O

Treasurer
A. Edward Staehr '88
RD #1, Box 775
Cayuga, NY 13034-9757
315/889-7336-H 315/424-9485-O

Immediate Past President
Nathan R. Herendeen '64
8000 Mill Rd.
Gasport, NY 14067
716/772-7243-H 716/433-2651-O

Faculty Representative
Margaret E. Smith '78, PhD '82
Plant Breeding
524 Bradfield Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
607/255-1654-O

Graduate Student Director
Lance Baumgard

Undergraduate Directors
Jared Halpin '00
Leah Hurtgen '01

District Directors
Karl G. Baker DVM '64
Raymond E. Borton '53
Patricia A. Chatterton '56
Ronald D. Cooke '91
William E. Davidson '66
Tyler Etzel, Jr. '78
Peter V. Gardner '57
Robert L. Gloor '62
Thomas K. Jeffers '63
Mark Kellogg '80
Einar Knudsen III '91
James F. Mackerer '70
Jerry Marley '71
Tomoko Morinaga '89
Donna W. Moramarco '77
Joseph D. Moran '91
April Moulart '91
Peter J. Pamkowski '74
Clarence E. Parker '58
Bernice Potter-Masler '82
Mollie Pulver '80
A. Edward Staehr '88
David B. Thompson '80
Kimberly M. Thompson '89
Michael E. Valla '76
Durland R. Weale '44
Geoffrey C. Yates '77

Development Representative
Jane B. Longley-Cook '69

State Coordinators
Richard H. Baldwin '71 MA
Jane B. Longley-Cook '69 CT
Allan B. Simons '64 AZ

Alumni Affairs Office Staff
Richard A. Church '64, Director
Timothy J. Oonk '86, Assoc. Director
Linda L. Wyllie, Admin. Assistant
Mary K. Alo, Admin. Assistant
Kristine S. Lange, Membership Coord.

Dean Daryl B. Lund
Associate Dean Brian F. Chabot
Assistant Dean-Public Affairs
Kevin Mahaney '85

Nell I. Mondy
126 Honness Lane
Ithaca NY 14850

Dear Nell:

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive an **Outstanding Alumni Award** from the **ALS Alumni Association of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University**. You were selected by the Alumni Association Awards Committee based upon information provided to them in an extensive nomination package prepared by Malcolm Bourne. Other alumni and friends provided materials in support of your nomination.

Only ninety-seven such awards have been previously made in the twenty-four year history of the award. Competition was exceptionally keen, with your award selected to represent over 44,000 alumni of our college. As one selected from a pool of very strong and deserving candidates, on behalf of the Awards Committee, I express our heartiest congratulations.

The award will be presented at a banquet in your honor, **Friday, October 13, 2000 at The Statler Inn, Ballroom**. You will be honored by an enthusiastic crowd of alumni, faculty, friends and families, beginning with a 6:00 pm reception. In addition to dinner Friday evening, you and one guest will have complimentary room accommodations at The Best Western University Inn, East Hill Plaza, 1020 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY. If you wish to have a room for Saturday (at your expense), or wish to make a reservation for family and friends, we have a block of rooms reserved also at the Best Western University Inn where you (or they) should call them directly at 607-272-6100. Others selected to receive the ALS Alumni Association 2000 awards are:

Outstanding Alumni Award
George G. Gellert '60, Oradell, NJ
Thomas E. Kent '71, Andover, NY
William J. Lipinski '79, Hampden, MA
David M. Rice '51, Wysox, PA

Young Alumni Achievement Award
Nathan L. Rudgers '82, Burnt Hills, NY

Outstanding Faculty / Staff Award

Dale E. Bauman BS '64, MS '68 Michigan State University; PhD '69 University of Illinois
Kenneth L. Robinson BS '42 Oregon State University, MS '47 Cornell, '49 Oxford Diploma, PhD '52 Harvard

(4)

ALS Alumni Association
276 Roberts Hall
Ithaca, New York 14853-4203

Telephone: 607 255-7666
Facsimile: 607 254-4666
E-mail: alsaa@cornell.edu

May 22, 2000

August 18, 2000

Dear Harrison,

We have had a strange disaster befall some of our trees here in Corpus Christi. At first, I thought they were shedding their leaves because of no rain. Holland looked more closely and there were tiny white critters that had caused a black, greasy 'soot' which had killed the leaves by denying them sunlight. My neighbor whose trees are also affected, took a sample to a nursery where they told her we had an infestation of woolly aphids. Never heard of woolly aphids. Especially in this heat when they don't need all that wool. The choice of treatment was to spray or to do nothing, in which case, the trees would sprout new leaves when there was a heavy rain. In the meantime, another neighbor firmly, adamantly decided that the cable people or the electrical company had sprayed our trees with chemicals to defoliate them, thereby making it easier to trim away from power lines. Nothing would change her mind. She is writing letters to todo el mundo. May take it to court. Now that would have to be some spray job since trees well away from power lines were affected also. And this is all over town.

A few days ago we discovered a water line break under the concrete driveway of my neighbor whose defoliated trees standing nearby, as a consequence, got a GOOD soaking when a ditch filled running the length of her yard on two sides. We got none of it. We accused her of being sneaky and breaking the line to help her trees. But Holland came to her rescue when he said that "whatever spray had been used was also actually deadly to water lines under concrete driveways." We are all rather laughing about our suspicious neighbor's conclusions. I believe what we need are not chemicals to kill those woolly aphids, but a truck load of woolly ladybugs. At least the plain ladybugs are known to control less bundled up aphids.

Our nearly sixteen year old granddaughter Catherine Steele has been visiting and we have enjoyed her, but we know why the Almighty provided menopause. She arrived complete with all kinds of equipment to keep her entertained, including something called a play station. It hooks up to the TV and requires CDs. (Not the bank kind.) I was elected to watch this fool thing with her and believe me, reseaching Mondys/Brooks/McCarty/Harrisons is much easier. Catherine had one CD, a weird sort of game, that she told me she once completed in 33 hours. That is not a typo. I was appalled. Think she could have read War and Peace and a large portion of the Encyclopedia Brittanica in that time. Perhaps even written a book. Yes, yes. I know. I am fully qualified now to be known as an Old Fogey. When we were not play stationing, Catherine was on the internet talking to her friends. This effectively held me incommunicado since it tied up my phone line. But she was fun to have and we lived through it, but have a much wider knowledge of what makes teenagers tick than previously. As I said, we all survived and enjoyed having her. She is a very sweet, intelligent girl who will do okay.

Also learned a lot more, confirming again. that the public school system - which may be the norm all over the country - is seriously in trouble. No wonder children are not learning. Catherine, a bright girl, hates school for it is a veritable hades, made so by wild fellow classmates who leave threatening and vulgar notes in girls' lockers, push them into lockers, harass them in many other ways. And the girls retaliate, so there are fights. The principal and counselors can do nothing, or prefer not to fearing they will be sued by the aggressors' aggressive noncooperative parents. When are we going to take back our schools? I am far from condemning all teenagers. Most are great kids. But the number of those who qualify as sub huminoids is rising. End of tirade.

Catherine's school is supposedly one of the better schools in the system. She reports that they are not allowed to bring their lunches or any snacks to school to help prevent drugs and fireants from entering the school. They must undergo locker, and backpack searches at various unannounced times. But she says some kids come to school all zonked out on marijuana or cocaine. I hate even hinting at such, but perhaps we need a really deep depression to make them sink or swim. But then the burglary rate might accellerate. Why not just let the fireants take care of the drug dealers? And all of this from a known optomist - me. I'm just a pessimist short term wise.

Catherine's father is a retired chemical engineer and has been substituting in the public school system this year and reports that he was forced to call the police (not the school security) three times in one day. They came and hauled the disruptive gang off to jail. Many parents in our area are choosing to homeschool their children, and while it has both advantages and disadvantages in social development and equipment, I am beginning to understand their reasoning.

Lisa's two children (Our other grandchildren) go to an excellent private school in Albuquerque because New Mexico's public schools are not up to par. But the tuition precludes so many good kids from taking advantage of a good private school.

Lisa, Joel, and their two kidlets went to Boulder, Colorado last weekend so Lisa could be a part of a fair there and sell her polymer jewelry, etc. They had a good time and when Joel had to return to Albuquerque, Lisa and the children drove down to Lake City where Holland's sister Mary Dee Stigall lives. There were visiting cousins, Becky Nead from Tucson and Amy Stigall who has just completed her Ph. D. in Nursing. They rented a pontoon boat and had great fun on the lake.

The lake was created about 600-700 years ago by the huge Slumgullion Slide which dammed up a creek which eventually created a sizeable lake. A large section of the mountain just slid off and moved well downward. It is still moving. I was amazed to find trees leaning but apparently happy. People who are

braver than I, have built homes on the slide as if it did not exist. This slide occurred after an exceedingly wet winter. The Indians of the area remember their surprise at finding their creek turning into a lake after they had spent the winter elsewhere. . As I said, it's a sizeable lake. The whole area is beautiful, and Lake City is a touristy town in the summer. There are 300 hearty souls who live there the year round. Originally, it was an old mining town, or at least catered to the mining interests in the area. Not far up one of the mountains, a present day ghost town was touted as the future capital of the state of Colorado. In another the old rusting mining equipment from a long defunct mine can still be viewed. At the time it was in operation, they invited and expected President McKinley to come for a visit. They built him a nice little house of his own which still stands. Unfortunately, he was assassinated, and never made it there.

Cheers until next time.

Love,

Pat

This is me, I mean this is I, not Pat.

You think Christmas is a long way off but it will be here before you have time to sneeze twice. How about putting together a special Christmas issue, huh? Remember one year when we each wrote about one Christmas that stood out in our memory. We all loved it and, of course I still go back and read my copy. Now we can't do that again but when we were visiting in Los Angeles recently, we got to talking about Guardian Angels and telling stories of how it seemed that a Guardian Angel must have been looking out for us at some time. We thought that probably everyone has had such an experience and we would all enjoy hearing about them. What do you think of this idea for our Christmas edition? PLEASE let me know at once, so we can initiate the plan. All stories must be in by December 1st or I will not be able to get the paper out by Christmas.

WHAT THINK YE?

(7)

Back in 1990 when Dena Houston was writing for The Institute of Children's Literature, she wrote one article about the the Pony Express that I found very interesting and thought you might like it too.

THE PONY EXPRESS

by

Dena (Bailey) Houston

In a cloud of dust gallops a horse and rider heading towards a desolate shelter on the prairie. Dust gathers around as the rider leaps from his horse and dips into the water barrel for a drink. Another rider on a fresh mount has grabbed the leather sack filled with mail and galloped off towards the far horizon.

There were some two hundred Pony Express riders who carried mail in a relay between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California. They usually accomplished this in ten days or less. The riders changed horses every ten to fifteen miles. Riders, themselves, changed every 75 to 100 miles. The riders averaged 200 miles a day.

The Pony Express was in operation only from April, 1860 through October, 1861. Riders braved hostile Indians, scorching desert heat, and bone chilling blizzards. They traveled some 650,000 miles with nearly 35,000 pieces of mail. To save weight, letters were written on tissue-thin paper. You may ask why the weight mattered. Postage rates were \$10.00 an ounce. It was later cut to \$2.00.

The quickest ever for a delivery was in March, 1861, when President Lincoln's inaugural address was carried from Missouri to California in seven days, seventeen hours.

The Pony Express was organized by a stage-coach operator named William Hepburn Russell. He had been convinced by a group of Californians an overland mail route to their state was worthwhile. Russell's business partners opposed the risk because there was no U.S. Mail contract, but Russell proceeded building stations and buying 500 top quality Indian horses. When advertising for riders they asked for daring young men, small, and preferably orphans because of the hazardous nature of the job. Their average age was 19 years. One of the youngest riders was Bronco Charlie Miller who was only eleven years old. Another rider was William F. Cody, age fifteen, who became famous as "Buffalo Bill".

To save weight, riders carried only a pistol and knife. He was expected to out-run Indians; not out-fight them.

The Pony Express days of glory ended abruptly in 1861 after the Transcontinental telegraph was completed. Russell's firm lost over \$200,000 in the venture. The young Pony Express Riders caught the imagination of every American, and their exploits became an important part of the legend and lore of the nation.

Thanks, Dena. I found your story both interesting and informative. I am surprised that the Pony Express generated so much hype when it existed for only eighteen months.