



Kiwanis Club of Arlington

KIWANIGRAM



P.O. Box 441, Arlington, TX 76004

December 2007

Encourage Excellence

Sam & Barbara West honored by Farmersville Ex-Students Association

This year, the Ex-Students Association is pleased to induct into the Farmersville Ex-Student Association Hall of Fame Barbara Jackson West and Samuel West, two outstanding graduates from the class of 1952.



Having grown up on neighboring farms, Barbara and Sam were childhood sweethearts who married on June 15, 1956. Little would they realize how that education in Farmersville would obviously come into play as they attended college, Sam at East Texas State University and Barbara at McMurray College and North Texas State University. What followed was a lifetime commitment as educators, impacting the lives of literally thousands of students. In addition, Sam and Barbara have two sons and today spend time taking care of Sam's mother.

Sam student taught at Farmersville High School under Miss Williams, and so I can personally attest to the fact that even in his initial teaching experience, Sam exhibited fortitude and tenacity, for in his class was my brother, Allen. Having endured that experience and still having a desire to teach is truly the mark of greatness in my book.

Sam taught math at Dallas Sunset High School, for Wylie ISD, and at the Arlington State College Technical Institute. He also taught chemistry and engineering graphics and has coached football, baseball and track in addition to driving a bus. He is truly the epitome of the "school man." He also functioned as both an assistant principal and a principal for Arlington ISD. In 1972, he became principal of Hill Elementary School in Arlington. Under his direction and leadership, the school earned several commendations for academic excellence. The school itself serves as a benchmark for deaf education and the orthopedically handicapped. In addition, Sam invested in students in other ways as well, he coached and served as a principal. After years of public service as an educator, Sam retired in 1994.

Barbara worked as a secretary and joined the Arlington ISD as school secretary in 1968. Over the next 26 years, she served the staff at Roark Elementary, Thornton Elementary and Morton Elementary School.

Having entered my 38th year in education, I can fully attest to the fact that teaching and coaching are a commitment of service, and trust me, students know if you are genuinely committed. Without a doubt, Barbara and Sam have invested in the posterity of this country by pouring their beings into preparing young people to become not only decent citizens of their communities but also contributing members of society. Retirement came for them both in 1994, however, their endeavors benefiting others continues and their mark on the world we share will be ongoing for years to come.

Former employers, former students, family and friends all recognized their allegiance to the education of children, so much so that in 1997, the Arlington Independent School District along with parents, former students, family and friends gathered to celebrate the naming of the Sam and Barbara West Elementary School located on Kingswood Drive in Grand Prairie. Sam and Barbara still visit West Elementary School where they are referred to as Lady Barbara and Sir Sam.

It is without doubt that both Sam and Barbara have always been service oriented, and noteworthy also is the fact that they both have been members of the oldest Kiwanis club in Arlington, investing their time and energy in helping underprivileged children. Sam is currently president of the club and Barbara is a member of the club's Board of Directors.

Honor precedes them. Honor follows them, for they both have been honorable people winning the respect, admiration and love of all whose paths they crossed. Today, Sam and Barbara, I have the honor and pleasure of inducting you both in the Farmersville Ex-Students Association's Hall of Fame – an honor benefiting your lives of excellence and of service.

John Webb leaves the KCA

After more than forty years as a very active member, John Webb has quietly left the KCA and has moved to South Carolina to be with his daughter, Jan, and son-in-law, Dale (who is the Choral Director at Clemson University), his two granddaughters and his three great grandchildren.

He left so quickly and quietly that poor old Mac McKee, who has depended for sometime now on John to pick him up and take him to Kiwanis, missed a Kiwanis meeting while waiting for the ride that never showed up.

John can be reached at: John Webb % Jan Rash, 214 Horse Head Point Drive, Seneca, South Carolina 29672, (864) 653-9121.

In honor of John and his influence on this community and this club, we are rerunning on the next page the biography that appeared in the November 2005 Kiwanigram.

We love you, John Webb!



Porter and Ruff go at it

How could two supposed adults ever let something like this happen? Al Rollins or Don Henderson I could understand. But Bailey Ruff and Phil Porter?

It all started when Phil taunted Bailey over the outcome of the latest Texas-A&M game, where the Aggies simply pummeled the Longhorns. Phil knew this is Bailey's hot button but, uncharacteristically, could not resist.

Now, everyone knows that Bailey is a hothead. When he was at Highland Park High they called him Bailey the Beast, and more than once classmate Al Rollins had to pull him out of a fight. It got worse when he got into the party hose business, and the only way he knew to defend his manhood was with his fists. It was only after he got into the hardware business and felt certain that people began to see him as something more than just a long-legged fashion stud with no trace of varicose veins that he settled down at all. But even then, if it were not for his political contacts and a very strong friendship with the mayor, he would probably still be wearing an ankle monitor.

Phil is aware of all this, but Phil just could not let it go. So, when Bailey hit him with a left uppercut followed by a roundhouse KO punch (a combination that Bailey had used more than once at Billy Bob's) that sent Phil flying across the room and into the wall, Phil should not have been surprised. And apparently he wasn't, since, once he stopped the bleeding and found his glasses, he got up, shook Bailey's hand, said not a word and sat down for lunch. Bailey, too.

A few minutes later President Turney called Phil and Bailey to podium and presented them with Legion of Honor Awards, Phil for 25 years and Bailey for 30 years.

This is what Kiwanis is all about



DECEMBER LUNCH PROGRAMS

Dec 5: Paula Pierson - State Representative

Dec 12: Grace Lutheran Prep Choir - Christmas Program

Dec 19: Ben Armstrong - Pancake Kickoff

Dec 26: NO MEETING

Jan 2: Healthy Families Coalition of Tarrant County

Sign up to
Ring the Bell



John Webb: Kiwanian since 1956

Born in October 28, 1923, in Clarksville, TX, the son of Reverend John and Carrie Webb, John grew up in Methodist parsonages of the North Texas Conference along with a sister 2 years his senior, Mary Elizabeth. He attended public schools, graduating from Cedar Hill with 12 others in 1940.

John entered North Texas State University in Denton at the age of 16 and was scared to death he would flunk out, but hit the books and made the Freshman and Sophomore honor roll group called Gamadians. Except for a year at Gainesville Junior College where he met his future wife, Jean, he continued at North Texas through his junior year. Then Uncle Sam had some plans for John.



Joining the Navy Reserve in February of 1942, John stayed in college until he was sent to North Texas Agricultural College in Arlington in the first Navy and Marine units that were stationed in Arlington. That's where he met Dexter Betts! They went their separate ways and didn't see each other again until 1952.

As a graduate from Midshipman School in Chicago with a commission as Ensign in the US Navy, John was assigned to a fleet oil tanker named the Saugatuck. His ship, part of a service squadron, carried 90,000 barrels of fuel oil and 50,000 gallons of Av Gas. Escorted by destroyers, the Saugatuck along with 2 other tankers made the Pacific their home. They serviced the Marshall Islands, the Marianas, the Philippines, and were witnesses to the Iwa Jima campaign. In the Marianas, they were attacked from the air, but did not take a direct hit. Shrapnel killed one sailor and wounded several others. They came back to the US for 6 weeks of repair and refurbishment at which time he married Jean in Austin. Jean went back to the west coast with John for 3 weeks before John departed for the Okinawa campaign. While in Okinawa, the Saugatuck weathered a typhoon. John was promoted to Lt.(JG) in the spring of 1945.

When Japan surrendered, John, as part of the occupation forces, visited Tokyo and did shore duty in Japan immediately after the war. He came back to the states and was decommissioned the spring of 1946. With the Navy credits he had, John graduated from North Texas the summer of 1946 with a Bachelor's Degree. He also got his Master's Degree at North Texas.

John's first job was to teach and coach junior high in Belton, Tx. He worked there 6 years and had some wonderful kids. Several of the boys he coached made it into the Southwest Conference; Earl Wayne Miller, an end at Baylor, David Jackson at Texas Tech, Boyd Wagner at SMU (his brother at Delmar), Roger Bruce at UTA, and Benny Bloomer at Texas A&M. While at Belton, John and Jean had two daughters. The first was premature and did not survive more than a day or two, but the second, Jan, was born January 27, 1951.

John loved the coaching experience, but he decided that his background was not sufficient for a high school coach, so he went to graduate school at UT Austin for his administrative certificate. John's Arlington experience with the schools started in 1952, when he was hired as First Vice-Principal of Arlington High, assisting Principal James Martin. Four years later, Martin became Superintendent and John became Principal. In 1956, Arlington High moved from the corner of Abram and Cooper to the building on Park Row. The new facility allowed them to extend the curriculum, adding mechanical drawing and electronics, as well as other disciplines. It was also at this time that the Air Force ROTC program was added. In its first year, over 100 of the finest young men at Arlington High joined with Scott Bowden as Cadet Captain. Continuing to be Principal until 1970, John moved to the finance office as Executive Director of Finance and worked there 18 more years. He retired with 45 years of service, including some of his Navy time. During the graduation ceremony in 1969, after James Martin handed out the diploma to his daughter, Martha Sue, he switched and let John hand out the rest of the diplomas so that he could give his daughter, Jan, her diploma. Jan was an honor student and received the Rotary Scholarship to UTA and the American Legion Award.



Jean and John celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1995 at their daughter's place in Clemson, SC, and were able to go to their oldest granddaughter's wedding in 1999. Health problems plagued Jean and she passed away January 27, 2003, on their daughter's birthday. The grand-daughters, Robin and Kristen, took the initiative to play the cello and violin, respectively, at Jean's funeral. It was a lovely tribute to their grandmother.

Jan's husband, Danny, is Choral Director for Clemson University. He has traveled many places with the choir. They have performed at Radio City Music Hall and the Air Force Academy, among other venues. One summer his daughters went with him for 3 or 4 weeks to Ireland for a music workshop.

Robin, a former music teacher, plays for the Greenville Symphony along with her sister, Kristen. Robin's primary job is raising her two young sons, aged 1 and 3.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

December

Prayer, Pledge & Song: Tom Dodson, Membership

InterClubs: Jannette Workman, TOY

January

Prayer, Pledge & Song: Kay Lancaster, Spiritual Aims

InterClubs: Laura Lammons, Young Children Priority One

February

Prayer, Pledge & Song: Phil Porter, InterClubs

InterClubs: Larry James, Programs

November InterClubs...

11/9 Governor's Banquet

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| Ed Kolbe | Rod Copenhaver |
| Larry Heath | Bob Gardner |
| Russ Hagan | |

11/17 Southwest Club Chili Day

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| Jannette Workman | Mary Sprouse |
| Dave Turney | Bill Carlisle |
| Russ Hagan | Tom Dodson |
| Mike Leathers | Pete Stankosky |
| Kent Rasmussen | Susan Miller |
| Phil Porter | Ron Albertson |

Kristen married a fellow student from Appalachia State in Boone, NC, and teaches strings in public school in Anderson, SC.

John's experience in Kiwanis started October 31, 1956. He was instrumental in starting the first Key Club at Arlington High in the mid-fifties. They did some great things, participating in food drives and a mail delivery service, delivering Christmas cards to the student body. They also sponsored a dance each spring. There was a program to honor a Kiwanian youth, alternating a boy and girl each month. John served as President of The Kiwanis Club of Arlington in 1973-1974. That year he and Jean went to the International Kiwanis Convention in Montreal and the following year they went to the International Kiwanis Convention in Denver. In 1988-1989, John served as Lt. Governor of the Texas-OK District. John credits the Arlington Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel with helping win the competition against Galveston to have the convention in Arlington that summer. Jean organized a style show for the event. Jean and John went to Orlando that year to the International Convention where John was presented an award for Distinguished Lt. Governor. He also received "Kiwanian of the Year" that year and several years ago he received the Hixson Award from our club. John thinks Kiwanis is an outstanding service organization because of its six objectives and the emphasis to help young people worldwide. He has many friends in Kiwanis and has never met a Kiwanian he didn't like. Also, Jean was supportive of Kiwanis and liked it as much as John.

John has volunteered every Pancake Day and at the Minstrel Show that predated it as a fund-raiser. John recalls when Pancake Day was held at both Nichols and Carter Jr. High and the bacon was cooked at UTA! A member of the First Methodist Church, John helped to set up the Jean Pace Webb Memorial Fund, which supports the music department at the church.

John thinks he is one of the most blessed individuals that ever lived. Having had 3 major operations, one being a triple bypass, he feels like he is on "bonus time". He exercises regularly and keeps up with friends from church and school and ex-students from Arlington High. Seeing his high school kids as adults and maintaining those friendships have given John a lot of satisfaction. Some of the classes from the 1950's still get together monthly and invite John to join them. Also, the school people John worked with meet regularly at "Rise and Shine". He would love to see his family more often, but his roots run deep right here in Arlington.