

Watts News

Winter 2007

EDITORS

Linda White
Box 311
Cheyenne, OK 73628

Joe Elder
813 SW 63
Oklahoma City, OK 73139
Caroljoe1@sbcglobal.net

Circulation: 15 - US Mail, 34 - e-mail, 49 total

The cost is \$2.00 per year (mailed). If you have an e-mail address, Joe can send you a newsletter via e-mail for free. So send him your e-mail address and save money. The news needs to come to Joe or me, Linda White. If you have any suggestions let us know. We will publish the newsletter four times a year. The deadline for your news to reach either Joe or me will be the 1st day of each new season (i.e. June 21, September 21, December 21, and March 21.) The newsletter should be out a week later, give or take a day or so. We won't send out reminders, so be sure to mark your calendars now. If we don't have to send out reminders, we can keep the costs lower.

Notice! Please read this important announcement!

It has been suggested to me that we should include an occasional picture in the newsletter. I have been hesitant to include pictures in the past for a couple of reasons. First, the copies of the newsletter that are mailed may not have a very clear display of a picture due to I usually make Xerox copies and as most of you know pictures and Xerox do not rhyme or play well together. Second, pictures can significantly increase the file size of the newsletter. Several years ago, most of us had dial-up modems to transmit and receive e-mail, and pictures took a significant time both to send and receive. I know most of us now have better computers and faster e-mail capabilities. Bill, I would like this to be mentioned at Childress in June and I think that this issue may be best resolved at that time where any problems can be openly discussed.

Monta, Garland's Family, Richard's Family, Ed' Family: No news this issue.

Bill & Mary Watts

Dear Cousins,

This has been a busy year for us although I don't know what all we have done. We spend a lot of time going to Amarillo to one doctor or the other. Bill had shingles on the left side of his head. We caught it in time and therefore they didn't last too long. I had a malignant melanoma cut from the upper right arm and fortunately they got all of it and I did not have to have Chemo or Radiation.

We are looking forward to the **Cousins Reunion again this year which will be June 7th** on the first Saturday in June. Mark your calendars. The dinner will be free.

Bring your arts and crafts for an auction.

Bill and Mary Watts

Virginia's Family

Christmas greetings to everyone. All are doing well here. Just beginning to have winter weather - it is that time of year. I stay busy with activities of daily living, taking care of myself and glad I am not dependent on anyone. I am doing some sewing, hand and machine embroidery, knitting, etc., and church activities. I spent an enjoyable week with Roger the first part of November.

Barbara volunteers 2 days a week at Jordyn's school - in Jordyn's class on Mondays and in a Kindergarten class on Thursdays. She has been a care giver and more since January when Dennis had his initial total shoulder replacement, followed by removal of the prosthesis in July, then lots of IV and oral antibiotics and finally a new total shoulder replacement with bone grafting and, hopefully, will be totally recovered in a few weeks. Dennis has been able work part time for the car auction company.

Roger will come for a visit in mid-January. He has been extremely busy during the Christmas season at Macy's and at the homeless shelter - both are part time jobs. Thankfully, he does not have to drive very far to either job. He is glad he doesn't have to make that long commute to O'Hare which can be horrible during rush hours - also glad to be out of the corporate rat race.

Shannon, Kenneth are working at the same jobs. Enjoying their larger place they moved to a year ago which is 10 miles closer to town. TJ just had his 10th birthday - is in the 4th grade, doing well in school, sings in the Children's Choir at church and played a leading part in the Christmas program. Jordyn is 6, in the 1st grade, is an exceptional student, also sings in the Children's Choir - both adorable!

Virginia

Dale's Family

Brandt, Amber and I still live in Baghdad. Not the safest place in the world but until God gives us directions to leave we will stay the course. On the days I think I can not handle it one more day God blesses us. Recently, His blessings have been numerous.

Brandt is finishing his Ph.D. in Business/Leadership, so far he has taught in Iraqna telecom company, Ministry of Integrity and other leading companies. Amber is continuing her 8th grade year and I am still teaching English to Iraqi's.

We were blessed in September and October to spend in the states. First we went to Florida to speak, dad, Frances and Loretta met us there. We just sat on the beach and ate. Next, we went to Georgia, Karen and her family traveled down from Virginia to visit with us. God is so good to allow me to see them. Then we went on to Tennessee. Last we went home to Arkansas to spend our last two weeks with our kids. We also flew to Oklahoma in a friend's personal plane to visit; it was wonderful way to see the United

States. Brandt went to Colorado to visit his brother and speak while Amber and I just chilled at home.

Getting packed to come back to Iraq was hard, probably the hardest time of our career overseas. 15 years away from home. I think it is time to think about retiring from this job.

Christmas is a lonely time for us. It has become our habit to spend this time out of country since 1992. This year we will fly to Dubai, the United Emirates then on to Phuket, Thailand. We will spend Christmas among the palm trees. Amber is longing to go to the malls, I just want to sit and read books, Brandt wants to get a massage and relax on the beach. I think we can do it all.

In February we will travel to Turkey for a meeting. We are planning to bundle up as we have heard the weather is extremely cold. We then are planning to travel on to Greece, my lifelong dream vacation. As you can see my life has its perks.

Thank you all for remembering us in your prayers. We can not survive without them.

Blessings,
Gailia (Kenneth Dale's #3 daughter)

Hello Dear Family!

Merry Christmas to you all, just wish I could hug you all, sit for a short visit and let you all know how much I Love you and wish you all the very best. 2007 has been a difficult year for us as a whole, but it could have been much worse I am sure. So very many things transpired in 2005 and 2006 that just kept carrying right on over like a merry-go-round that just keeps right on turning until your head spins, but you just can't quite make the thing stop. Get my drift. Lord have mercy, I sure hope you weren't on that same merry-go-round; I was so dizzy, I didn't see you if you were. Darn I would have missed that visit so much even if it were in a bad spot, after all; misery loves company! Anyhow, we are looking for a good 2008 with much promise, high hopes and the end of some bad chapters in a book I have promised to write for umpteen years. If you know me, it is bound to be a novel because I am no short story person.

My immediate family is doing fair. Really we are truly blessed. Neil, still living in Tyler has told us he may try out for one of the "Survivor" shows or the "Amazing Race". Those things are really up his alley. I would not be so concerned except he now has those pin things holding his arm on after he broke his collar bone a year or two ago. I can just see the thing torn off like a rag doll or something! Surely he's joking-right. I mean is it mom's paranoia, or can he do those things with a pinned up arm? None of Ya'll have ever responded to my questions before. But, he still has some college to finish so I think he will do that first, he is pretty level headed. Anyway, Cheri' is running into problems with a Texas homeschool diploma at age 30 of all things. So, she is getting another online, she didn't want to suffice with a GED as some see it as a lesser education. She is moving a

fast pace, I just wish someone would have had trouble with this 10 years ago when we first got to Virginia instead of now. You would think holy cow; but the way our lives have been, it may sound like the Israelites in the wilderness with their golden calf. We have felt like we were in a wilderness at times yet; We just keep telling ourselves a million and one times God is in Control and all in God's timing. The tingling in my feet which we thought to be side effects from my meds turns out to be neuropathies. So, I have just started physical therapy, I am not sure how long I may hang with this. Not sure about a lot just yet. The tingling was bad enough and somehow stress or extreme excitement really triggers its progression. The bank where I work was robbed twice in 10 months time. So now my entire left leg is affected and my arms are showing slightly more problem as far as sensation. Amazing how the human body works. I have also had my thermostat adjusted in September. I have been such a cold natured person all my life, Ron's dream has now come true. That is now changing. Due to other medical things a hysterectomy has now resulted in hot flashes. My electric blanket is now on the lowest setting or off. Amazing News. I usually burn out an electric blanket each year, that has been the norm for all 33 years of marriage. You would think we would save money right. What you bet we don't. He's getting older, poor thing, arthritis is really giving him fits, so the cold really gets to him. He usually doesn't use a blanket. This year he has started turning his on level 4. 4 I said! He has had his share of drama, recovered from a torn rotator cuff, it still is uncomfortable but not like it was. He didn't want surgery if he could prevent that; so he suffered with it for several months or longer, I can't even remember how long right off. I always do my Christmas shopping Christmas Eve. I never have bought much, I just refuse to go in debt for it, get caught up in the commercialism, people are mean when you shop early, the more laid back crowd shops later; They aren't a happier more festive crowd. And I wanted my children to know the gift has already been given in Jesus our Savior at His birth and on the cross for our salvation; now, it is for us to reflect in our daily lives. So the gift giving was secondary. Well, Ron was so shocked when I agreed to go shopping early this year I guess. We happened to be out in a store, Ron felt we needed a shopping cart, and left to retrieve one. Cheri' and I had heard a few announcements on the speaker by an oriental lady, but all we could make out was, "Attention Customers"... in between and American lady saying code blue. In a hospital, obvious, here, come on, I told Cheri' they just needed to get that lady off there. They did. Her next announcement was something like, " I am telling you we need help up here!" I told Cheri' maybe they had a shoplifter or something, maybe their security wasn't so good. But to wait for me, I was going to find her daddy and find what was keeping him so long. By the time I got to the front counter, and American lady had just finish the announcement the oriental lady must have been saying repeatedly we could not understand, " Attention customers, if anyone in the store is shopping with a Ronald Waters will you come to one of the front registers" ..I said ..she pointed.. there he lay in the floor! After seeing myself as a widow the second time in a years time, three days with him in the hospital Multiple testings due to family history, being on blood pressure and chloresterole meds, and has occasional migaines; get this diagnosis. He is walking to get the shopping cart, reaches for the handle (this is where his memory stops) the smell of a perfume..something sets off a migraine, he passes out, falling backwards, hits his head on a clothes rack, causing a severe

concussion, which causes him to go into convulsions. Ron comes to in the ambulance wondering where he is, and what in the world has happened. He still can't remember passing out. Almost two weeks later, and he still has a dizzy spell once or twice a day if not more. I take him back to the neurologist in February. What a shopping trip. And we had just got in the store, see, another reason not to shop too soon. I married the right man, we are both extremely healthy. Much to be grateful for.

I have talked to Loretta. She is doing well and steadily working towards that masters. Heather has almost completed her college education at Liberty University, and Megan I believe in her second year with a 4.0 yipeeee!!! I am not sure either of the girls want to live in Virginia once college is complete. They have some pretty high ambitions, so we will have to see what plays out. Haven't heard much from Loretta, she likes the school where she teaches and that helps.

Bruce and Robbie are doing well. They are working and tired like some of the rest of us but keep on going. They keep the two grandboys pretty often, so it keeps them pretty busy. Once in a while Bruce sees my mom. They live fairly close to each other, but work such long hours it is hard to do for either of them. Bruce drives quite a distance to work I believe, and works long hours on top of that. Robbie just plain works long hours. I think Bruce trades for a new truck about every other year, and Robbie actually sold that fast little sports car she had. I can't even remember what she got instead. I want to say a little truck, but I think my memory isn't right.

Some of us had a wonderful visit with Gailia, Brandt and Amber in September. Only home a brief time. Daddy, Frances, Loretta and Heather shared time and a beach house with them in Florida. They had a marvelous time. Relaxation and such. Then Ron, Cheri', Neil, and I visited them in Georgia for a few days. We also had a terrific time. Just never enough time is there. Heaven will be great, not that I want any of us to go this minute, but to never have to say I have to go will be wonderful. Amber is growing up to be such a fine and funny young lady. Gailia suggest maybe a now and then type of photo thing in the newsletters. I am not sure all computers will be adaptable to photos, so I will leave this suggestion to Joe for response please. So as Gailia will know I have entered it for her please. Also, just a note for my sister and family in dangers arms. She may send e'mails to some of you. They have requested those not be shared, published, forwarded, and the like. Their lives are in harms way. Please help us get them home again alive. We look very forward to having Christmas as an entire family next year. Thank you for you understanding and your prayers. They can share when they return home. They now have two grandbabies! Whitney Marie to Wed in June, Gailia was able to help start plans with her and needed to turn the rest over to a planner. But it is amazing how much those two could accomplish with online stuff and knowing the task at hand. Maybe that is what Gailia should do. You know she has worked at a doctors office and altered

wedding dresses, has been a beautiful seamstress. You never know....she can organize, as can Loretta.

Oh mercy me... remember Christmastime at the farm? I can still see the rock candies Grandma had sitting on the table. The taste of the small square red ones with the fine white pin stripes were my favorites as they tasted like cinnamon. But for the fun of eating them, the striped wavy ones are the hands down winners. Bet you don't know why, because I really didn't like the taste of too many of them. They were such a challenge for me. I always tried to get the entire piece of candy in my mouth sideways and close it, teeth clinched. Yes, I entertain easily. I didn't drool too often.. too bad. I loved my childhood there. My daddy once told me for a girl to be a survivor she had to have good memories. I can remember telling him, " then I am a survivor, I will make it".

Thanks for the memories ya'll. Because of you all I truly love life, maybe not all that happens in life, but life itself. My poinsettia is on the old sewing machine, Uncle Warren's oil lamp on the sofa table, some family photos close by, you all in my heart.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2008! Karen

Elmeda's Family

Notice the new address and telephone number:

Elmeda Elder
Grace House: Apartment 15
6502 4th Street
Lubbock, Texas 79416

806-797-3223

By Oklahoma standards, this has already been a winter, and it just officially started this morning! We had an ice storm with plenty of freezing rain a couple of weeks ago beginning Sunday afternoon. We were very fortunate because our power here at home never blinked. We would have known if our power was out for even a few seconds because the VCR and microwave would have been blinking 12:00...12:00...12:00...12:00. Anyway, I went to work Monday morning and there was power on our street and then there was not any more power for six miles. Traffic lights, street lights, homes and businesses were all dark. We couldn't help but feel guilty or embarrassed because some of the people we know still did not have any electricity last Thursday, 12 days later, all were either staying with relatives or had a generator going for a few hours every day.

Lloyd stayed in his dark house the first night because he still had heat from his floor furnace. Lloyd then spent a couple of nights with us because he didn't like shaving in the dark. It was a blessing that he stayed over because sometime Tuesday night a large limb

fell from the tree and onto the driveway where he parks his car. Wednesday evening I helped him cut the fallen limbs and branches. If his car would have been there on the previous nights, he would have been out shopping for another car because the tree branch was large and had fallen from the uppermost part of the tree.

We just came back from Lubbock this evening and more ice and snow covered everything, even the streets. I thought that most of the bad drivers wrecked their cars two weeks ago, but either they got them fixed or they managed to replace them because there are a bunch of cars in the ditches around here.

Carol, John, Rachel and I managed to get yesterday (Friday) off and we went to Lubbock to visit Mom. We spent the night down there and drove back this evening. Mom seems to enjoy living at her new apartment. The house only has sixteen apartments so she won't get lost in the crowd. We decorated her room and door to make it look more like Christmas. We stopped by and visited with Lowell for a few minutes. We saw Jessie and Katie while we were at Lowell's and had a short visit with them.

Carol is scheduled to work on Christmas Day this year, so we will go up and have Christmas and see John, Amanda and Warren on Sunday afternoon. Rachel and I will take Carol's mom to El Reno on Christmas Day for dinner with Carol's sister.

Rachel is planning to go skiing for a week after Christmas with some of her friends. Hopefully she will be safe and ready to go back to school when she returns.

Birthdays:

January

1 Lloyd Elder
4 Darek Johnson
5 Chandler Clark
6 Jason Sumpter
6 Ryan Patrick James
7 Amanda Elder
14 Judy Watts
25 Gaila Smith
29 Camron Clark
31 Cheri Lyn

February

6 Roger Patterson
8 Heather (Patterson) James
16 Laura Mink
19 Amy Guest
19 Whitney Smith

March

2 Justyn Smith
2 Lowell Elder
5 Christi Elder
5 Vicki Elder
8 Paul Watts
11 Roy Watts
12 Louis Watts
13 Candace Johnson
22 Mary Dora Zuber
23 Shannon Jensen
27 Melissa Watts

Anniversaries:

January

February

2 Ben & Janna

March

15 Katie & Michael Crump
18 Barbara & Dennis Norwood

Please send all omissions and corrections to the editors.

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.daneprairie.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.