

PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Pearland Historical Society

October 2020

Box 1333

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Dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of "old Pearland"

**NOTICE: THE OCTOBER MEETING AND THE REUNION LUNCHEON ARE
CANCELLED FOR 2020**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are sorry to announce the passing of John D. "Mickey" Mark, president of the society and editor of this newsletter for many years. There is a special section about Mickey in this letter.

Once again, the Covid 19 situation has made it necessary to cancel the meeting and the reunion for October. I hope you have stayed healthy and safe.

In this letter is an article about the retirement of Dr. David Armbruster. I met him when he opened up in 1964 in the old drugstore building. His nurse at the time was Kitty Bodine, mother of Steve Bodine, one of my classmates. Dr. David has "doctored" five generations of my family at one time or another. He has been a customer of mine and I count him as a friend for all these years. Also see a story about Anna Scott, first school nurse for Pearland ISD. Mickey wrote an article about Lloyd Hawkins many years ago which is included. Sadly, several of our Pearlanders have passed away, see their stories. I received an email from Clare Arnold Dusek thanking Brenda for the pictures and stories about those who have passed. She remembered swimming in the Williams's (Rusty) pool, saying it was such a treat compared to the #3 tub many used to cool off in the summer. A membership form is enclosed for those who would like to pay their dues. Jerry

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JOHN DAVIS "MICKEY" MARK

by Brenda Martin Riggs

Mickey was born March 25, 1930 in Celeste, Texas to Jess Lee Mark and Grace Lena O'Barr Mark.

He was the youngest of six children: Jess Jr. [1914 – 1979], Eugene Latham [1917 – 1984], Dorothy Cameron Givens [1919 – 1993], Roy Dearing [1926 – 2014] and Eleanor Ruth Mark [1923 – 1927].

The April 15, 1940 census reflects the family is living in Celeste, Texas. The family moves to the area west of Pearland the summer of 1940 near the Pearland-Manvel boundary line. His father worked for an Oil Company.

Mickey began 5th grade in Pearland the 1940-41 school year.



7th grade - 1943.

1st Row: Sidney Kliesing, Bobby Burkett, Ed Olin, Carl Talbot, Irvin Baggett, Johnny Conaway;

2nd Row: Charles Burton, George Clark, Alice Boyce, Dorothy Jo Raney, Paul Keonitzer, Albert Marmon

3rd Row: Mickey Mark, Marie Jamison, James Parker, Marjorie McCormack, Nels Christofferson, Charles Burton

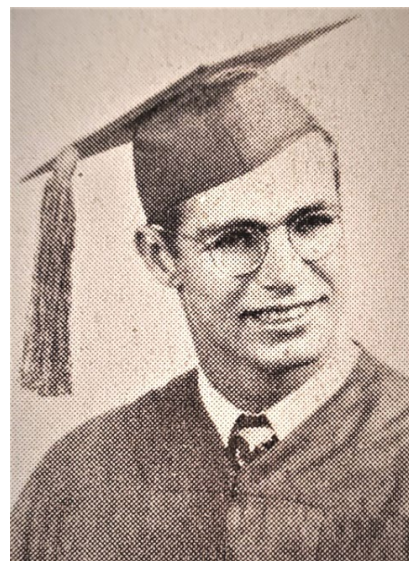
Mickey and Alice Boyce were 7th grade Class Favorites



He was President of his Sophomore Class; and graduated from Pearland High School in **1948**.

There were **14** students in the Senior class; a total of **45** student in the High School.

Mickey was Vice-President of his Sr. Class.



Mickey was also chosen as "Whose Who" his Sr. year.

The 1948 "**Six Man**" football team won the Bi-District Championship; An undefeated season playing: Shepherd, League City, Kinkaid, Friendswood. Addicks. Danbury and Orangefield.. Mickey was a four year letterman playing End and named to the All District Team.



STARTING LINE UP: *Backfield*: Wayne Long, Carl Talbot –All District, Bobby Burkett
Line: Mickey Mark – All District; John Saffle –All District, Ed Olin – All District.

The **basketball** team had a winning season. Mickey played forward.



NOTE: The 1948 Gusher did not reflect individual pictures of **Baseball** players or the season record.



1st Row: Edwin Long, Wayne Long, Happy Williams, Carl Talbot, J. C. Nichols, John Saffle;
2nd Row: Tunney Johnston. Billy Baggett: John Cunningham, Charles Baggett Lee Scott.



Below: **1st Row**: James Hefner, Mickey Mark, Ed Olin, Bob Burkett, Luther Cunningham, Jack Best,
2nd Row: Bill Stone, Charles Burton, Herbert Alexander, Corky Segelquist, and Coach Buck Brooks

Mickey received his Bachelor's Degree from the the University of Houston and soon after married his high school sweetheart, **Carleen Nichols**, a **1949** Pearland High School graduate. Mickey was drafted into the Army and served in Korea.



When Mickey and Carleen were first married, they lived in an apartment above Turner Lumber Co. - located by the railroad tracks [near the Busy Bee Restaurant. 4009 Broadway]. Later, Johnny Yost built their original home on Isla Drive in Turner Addition.

Mickey worked many years for Petro-Tex Chemical. He was President of the Pearland Historical Society from 1995 to 2017 and published the quarterly Newsletter.

Mickey was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Carleen Nichols Mark; sons: Kenneth Eugene Mark [Phyllis] and David Joe Mark [Christel]; four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Mickey passed away September 17, 2020. A Memorial Service was held Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at Clayton Funeral Home, Pearland, Texas. He will be missed by everyone that knew and loved him.

Mark Family



COACH Lloyd Hawkins
and
Oleta Campbell Hawkins

1997 Interview by
John D. "Mickey" Mark
Update and pictures by
Brenda Martin Riggs

I read this article written 23 years ago. I enjoyed it so much - I thought it warranted a repeat!

Lloyd Hawkins was the **first coach** at the 1937 Pearland High School on North Grand Boulevard. **Oleta Campbell** was one of the **first teachers**.



Former PHS students from the early days of the High School always discuss the dedication of this group of teachers **Bunyon B. Ainsworth**, Superintendent of Schools assembled in 1937.

The Hawkins stated B. B. **Ainsworth** was looking for teachers with a small town background who would fit into the small town atmosphere of Pearland. His efforts to assemble an outstanding group of teachers was successful to begin a new high school and then become affiliated. They both commented that they thought Mr. **Ainsworth** was the right man at the right time for the supt. job. They talked of the strong support he gave to all the teachers.

Coach Hawkins was working for Petroleum Iron Works, a company out of Orange, Texas, making \$12.00 a day [which was very good money in 1937]; but he really wanted to coach. He had previously been offered a coaching position with a salary of \$80.00 per month which he had turned down because of the pay. His brother told him **B. B. Ainsworth** was at Stephen F. Austin College looking for a coach for a new high school in

Pearland. When Coach **Hawkins** talked with **Ainsworth**, he was offered the coaching job at a salary of **\$1500.00** per year – and he accepted!



Bunyon Burton Ainsworth
Superintendent of Schools

Oleta Campbell taught English for two years at Lovelady and had gone back to Stephen F. Austin to complete her major in business and accepted a teaching job offered by Ainsworth.

Billy Wall was recruited by **Ainsworth** as a math teacher and **principal**.



Some of the First staff of teachers that opened the new school in the fall of 1937 were Supt B.B. **Ainsworth**, who also taught history [!] **Billy Wall** principal and math teacher, **Coach Hawkins** who also taught general science, biology and physics; **Oleta Campbell** taught Jr. business training, typing I. business law and Spanish

Fay Brookshire [the future Mrs. W.W.Hunter] taught English. Fay had been teaching in the Pearland elementary school for a few years prior to 1937.



Coach recalled that he signed his contract at the desk in the corner of the **Monarch Garage** [North Main Street], owned by **Clyde Oblinger**, a member of the Pearland Board of Trustees. Another board member **Earl E. Moore**, was

sizing up the strapping **Coach**, an ex-basketball and football player at Stephen F. Austin, and commented "**Ainsworth**, I know why you want this fella. You want him for your body guard."



Clyde Oblinger



Earl E. Moore

The Hawkins commented that Supt. Ainsworth motivated the teachers by praise rather than criticism and his leadership prompted the teachers to "go the extra mile" in helping students

Oleta's father was a Methodist minister, so she had lived in a number of small towns as she was growing up, but she considered the area around Center, Texas, in Shelby County as home.

Coach Hawkins grew up accustomed to the hard work of a farmer's son in East Texas.

When asked about their first impression of Pearland they both replied they liked it immediately. Their small town backgrounds fit right in with the Pearland life; and they both commented the first week they were in Pearland, **Clyde Oblinger** invited them to go dancing with him and his wife **Kathleen Lizer Oblinger** at Sylvan Beach in LaPorte. The Hawkins also stated the Pearland parents were so thankful for having a high school after so many years of sending the children to school in Webster that everyone in town made a special effort to accommodate and co-operate with the teachers.

Coach and **Billy Wall** shared a room at the **Suburban Garden Hotel** owned by **Ezra Grant Miller**. Coach thought they were probably among

the last tenants of this historic old hotel. [*The First Baptist Church of Pearland purchased the Hotel in 1942*].

Oleta Campbell, Fay Brookshire and Miss Bay shared a room in the **Dempsey** home which was located on SH 35 where the Jewel Box is located - **2247 N. Main**. There was an **outdoor toilet** and **no running water!** Water was carried up to the room for bathing. Along with the three lady school teachers, Mrs. Dempsey also prepared meals for Hawkins and Wall as well as Mr. Dempsey and son **Jack Dempsey**, also a teacher at the elementary school.



Coach said he came to Pearland about a week early to look over the

athletic facility and athletic equipment. He discovered they had no equipment and no schedule. He asked Mr. **Ainsworth** how many boys might be coming out for football. out for football.

He understood Mr. **Ainsworth** to say 65 – which he later learned was the total number of students to attend the high school. Coach ordered 18 practice and game uniforms from **Oshman's**. He and **Ainsworth** got on the phone and managed to line up one game for the 1937 season against **LaMarque**. Pearland tied the game 6 - 6. with a blocked punt by **David Scott** [picture below:]



13 boys showed up for practice. This was for an eleven man team. Pearland can truthfully state they had an undefeated season!

The summer of **1938**, Coach returned to school and he read about a game in Ohio – **six man** football that looked like just the thing for Pearland. He began calling other schools and soon **Danbury, Friendswood, Sweeny, League City Dickinson** and **LaMarque** were all joining with Pearland to form a six man football team district.

The **1937-38** school year, Mr. **Ainsworth** directed all of the teachers to begin some sort of a club to provide extra-curricular activities for the students. **Oleta Campbell** started a glee club. She recalled that on Armistice Day the Glee Club's program was patriotic songs- afterwards Mr. **Ainsworth**, a **World War I veteran**, came up to her with tears in his eyes and expressed his appreciation for the patriotic program

Coach said he and Billy Wall came up with the idea of a Boys Travel Club. The summer of 1938 the club took their first trip to Colorado Springs, Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park and Yosemite National Park. The cost was \$15.00 per boy. Each boy

was allowed to bring \$10.00 spending money. The trip was made on a school bus and **Ed Keonitzer** was the driver. It was quite a trip for boys who had never traveled before – Coach had never been anywhere either.

The Hawkins laughed because the School Board had voted “no dances” were to be held in the gym. This was never mentioned to the **Hawkins** and much later they discovered the ‘no dance’ vote.”

They spent approx three years at Bainbridge, MD. where Coach was a Chief in a training unit. He spent three months doing destroyer escort duty out of Galveston and then returned to Bainbridge.



The next year the Club went to San Francisco - Golden Gate Exposition and in 1940 several other schools in Brazoria County joined Pearland; a total of 168 boys traveled in a caravan for a trip to the New York World's Fair.

Oleta Campbell and **Lloyd Hawkins** were married June 11, 1939. They roomed in the home of Steven and Selma Prensner, South Grand Boulevard for a period of time. Former students always recall the dance classes the **Hawkins** held in the **Old Gym** [N Grand Blvd] - --how the classes helped their self confidence.

Six man football became very popular within a year or two. The field was located at 2337 North Galveston Avenue. Coach recalled the fall of 1941 all the boys on that team were in the service and felt he should be also. So at the end of the 1942 season he left Pearland for service in the Navy.



The Hawkins lived in their home on N. Grand Blvd after purchasing a 24' x 24' house in 1946 from **Richard Swensen's** father and had it moved to the present location. Except for a few years at Vanderbilt, they have been Pearland residents - both taught in Houston schools until retirement. They were key persons in establishing a new high school and influenced the lives of many students. The Hawkins had two children Cheryl, 1962 PHS grad and, Lloyd Jr., a 1964 PHS grad. Lloyd passed away November 20, 2002, Oleta passed away in 2008. They are buried at South Park Cemetery Pearland, TX

FIRST and ONLY PEARLAND ISD NURSE FOR 19 YEARS

by Brenda Martin Riggs

ANNA KATE SMITH was born January 30, 1921 in Marshall, Texas, to Thomas Jeremiah Smith and Josephine Katenkamp Smith. She had five sisters: Velcie, Neoma, Bessie, Shirley and Martha; and two brothers: Calvin and Thomas, Jr. who lived approximately two years.



1st Row: Martha and Bessie, 2nd Row
Shirley, Neoma, Anna and Calvin



Anna graduated from Marshall High School and Shumpert School of Nursing, Shreveport, LA earning a Registered Nurse Degree. Anna joined the Army Nursing

Corp serving two years as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. and England. While stationed at Fort Polk, La., she met and married David Wilson Scott, an Army Warrant Officer [1939 PHS graduate] on January 21, 1944, in Deridder, Louisiana

Anna and David moved to Pearland in 1946 and built their home on North Grand Blvd. She began working M-W-F as school nurse for Pearland; Tues-Thurs for Danbury ISD. Enrollment had to exceed 500 students to receive State funds. She worked this schedule for three years and was a full time nurse in Pearland for 19 years. At that time additional nurses were employed and Anna was Head Nurse for the District.



Berry Miller III, Cindy Alexander, Carolyn Tillison, Jerry Johnston, Tommy Hunter, Cathy Coppinger, Anna Scott, Barbara Coppinger

Anna's office was always located at **Pearland Elementary School**, 2319 North Grand Blvd.

ANNA KATE SMITH SCOTT retired after thirty one [31] years as a Pearland ISD nurse. Students were so fortunate to have such fond memories of our only nurse!

Anna and David traveled extensively in the U.S. and abroad. They were charter members of the Pearland Historical Society. They had two daughters Rachal [PHS 1962] and Karan [PHS 1967] Sadly Rachal passed away this year. Anna 1921-2004; David 1920-2015 and Rachal Dahse 1944-2020 are buried at South Park Cemetery, Pearland, Texas.

**Sadly, several PHS graduates and
Pearland Old-timers passed away:**

SIDNEY RAY KLIESING



Born April 28, 1930, in Pearland, to Raymond V. and Lillie Mae Kliesing, he passed away July 15, 2020. Sid graduated from Allen Military Academy. He served as a 2nd Lieutenant during the Korean War. He married

Reba Jean Eddings in 1950. They were charter members of the Historical Society. Sid was predeceased by his wife, parents, brothers: Donald and Charles; sisters: Evelyn McAninch and Bernadine Robertson and granddaughter Jamie Erin Kliesing. Sid is survived by his sons Ray, Robert and Larry [Julie] and daughter Karen Kliesing; sisters: Mary Ann Decas and Mona Shuster; five grandchildren, one great-grandchild. Sid held the title of "Mr. Pearland" for several years as he was the oldest living male born in Pearland.

MARY FRANCES MAHANAY ASHMORE



PHS 1957

Born October 2, 1939 in Houston, TX to James and Ruby Mahanay she passed away August 3, 2020 Valedictorian of her PHS class, Mary received her Bachelor's degree from Sam

Houston State Teachers College and Masters from the University of Houston. She was an elementary principal for many years.

Predeceased by her parents and granddaughter Leah Ashmore, she is survived by her sons David [Mary], Douglas [Amy], and Scott, and six grandchildren. Mary is buried at South Park, Pearland.

LUM ALSUP FURNACE – PHS 1957



Born January 1, 1939 to Robert and Oleta Furnace, he passed away July 24, 2020. He served four years in the US Air Force. Lum worked for Monsanto for many years; then became a real estate agent. Preceded in death by

his parents and brother Robert Furnace, he is survived by daughters Jana [Robert] and Dana; brothers: John Earl [Helen] and Brian [Marjorie], five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Lum is buried at the Manvel Cemetery, Manvel, Texas.

DAVID DAN DAY



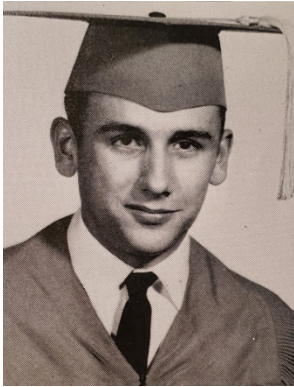
Born August 19, 1942 in Texarkana, TX to David and Lela Day. he passed away July 16, 2020 in Manvel after graduating from Sam Houston High School, he joined the US Navy. He worked in the trucking business throughout his life,

retiring in 2008 after 40 years of service. He and his wife *Society Member*, **Dianne Kliesing Day**, traveled extensively throughout the United States.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Mary Day Van Morkhaven; he is survived by his wife Dianne, sons, David and Daren [Brook], daughters: Robin and Melissa [Robert] and seven grandchildren.

Our sincere condolence is extended to every family member and to those that knew and loved each of these graduates and old-timers.

MICHAEL CALVIN BENNETT



PHS 1963

Born September 24, 1945 in Houston TX to Calvin and Bernice Bennett; He passed away February 5, 2020. Mike served in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Preceded in death

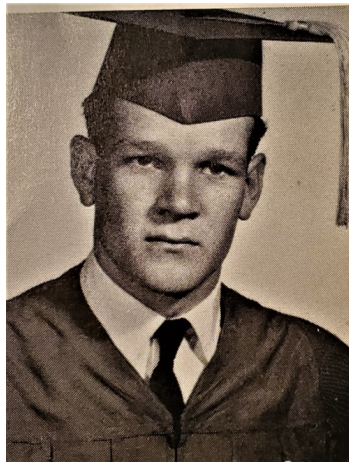
by his parents and brother Robbie, he is survived by daughters: Shaun, Teresa [Ronnie], son: Nathan [Lori] and sisters Joan Bell and Linda Smith and six grandchildren.

REMEMBERING Robbie Bennett and David Paul Brakebill killed in 1963 in a tragic accident on SH 35 between Pearland and Alvin.



Robbie Wayne Bennett

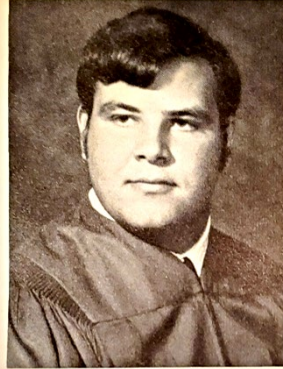
Feb 25, 1947
April 19, 1963
South Park Cem
Pearland, Texas



David Paul Brakebill

April 11, 1945
April 19, 1963
Denison Cemetery
Idabel, Oklahoma

LARRY WAYNE MAY – PHS 1975



LARRY MAY
10-2-56 "Libra"
Football — 2 yrs.; Track — 2 yrs.;
Band — 4 yrs.; Student Council —
2 yrs.; National Honor Society.

Born October 2, 1956 in Galveston County, Texas to James Roger May and Ella Louise May; he passed away August 26, 2020.

Larry received his Bachelors Degree from Texas A& M and Doctorate from Bates School of Law.

Preceded in death by his parents; he is

survived by his children: Mary Louise and Larry Wayne May Jr.; and sister Sheila May Koster.

Many will remember the Mays lived on FM 518 and sold yard art; Roger owned the Fig Company in the 1940-50s.

The Membership Drive begins each year in October. Please complete the attached 2021 form and return with your check to the address reflected. Many thanks!

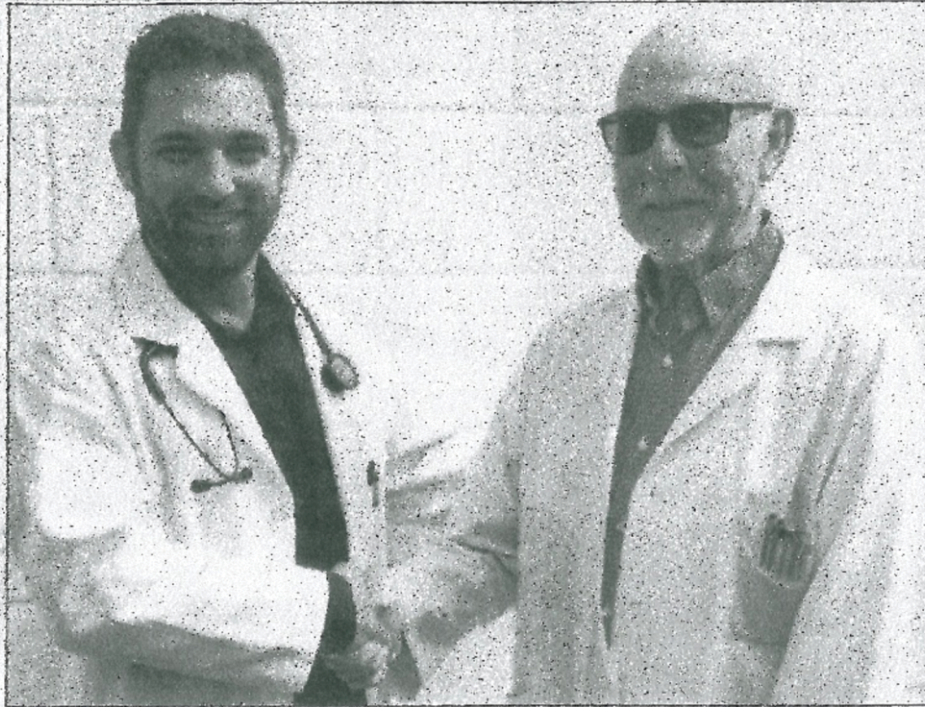
This is the last quarterly 2020 Newsletter. Please join me in thanking **Society Officers** for serving in their respective capacities:

Jerry Johnston, President, as he endeavors to guide the Society and keep us informed;
Donald Hays, 2nd Vice President, for working continuously on the Depot project;
Karen Kliesing, Secretary, keeping accurate records of Society meetings and activities;
Marsha Swensen McDaniel, Treasurer, accurately maintaining the Society and the Depot bank accounts.

And... a Big Shout Out to **Ray Kliesing**, Society Webmaster, for maintaining the Society webpage!

Many thanks,
Brenda Martin Riggs, Vice President

Dr. Armbruster and his wife Elaine celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on Monday, August 17, 2020 with a surprise drive by celebration arranged by their children and grandchildren. The couple married in Kirksville, Missouri in 1957 and moved to Pearland in 1964 to establish Armbruster Clinic.



Dr. David R. Armbruster Announces Retirement

David R. Armbruster, DO, has announced his retirement after providing healthcare to the Pearland and surrounding communities for over 56 years. Dr. David, as he is known, moved to Pearland in 1964 with his family, establishing a true family practice for many generations of patients. He has been a leader in his medical profession, including as President of the Texas Osteopathic Association, AOA House of Delegates, AOA Board Member for 18 years and has received numerous awards over the years. He also has been deeply involved in the community, through the First United Methodist Church of Pearland, the Pearland Lion's Club (a lifetime member) and as a Founding Member of the Pearland Chamber of Commerce, among others. He was the Pearland Oilers team doctor for over 20 years. He's most proud of the care he's been able to provide to families in the community. His presence as a physician here will be missed.

Dr. David is also very excited to announce that he has found a young doctor to take over his practice, Vincent Joseph Mandola, MD. Dr. Mandola has already begun providing services in the same office and will continue to work with Dr. David's nurse, Candace Daugherty. Dr. Mandola practices not only Family Medicine but is a Sports Medicine physician as well. In fact, Dr. Mandola recently served as the team doctor for the Sugarland Skeeters baseball team and still is the team physician for all athletics at HBU. He is a graduate of Texas A&M undergraduate and St. George's University Medical school. He completed his residency training in family medicine at Houston Methodist in the Texas Medical Center and went on to complete his sports medicine fellowship training at Houston Methodist Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

"I feel very blessed to have found him and to be leaving my patients in his capable care," says Dr. Armbruster.

Dr. Armbruster of course will remain active in the community, but he wants everyone to know how much he has enjoyed being able to provide care to every patient and this community for so long. "I greatly value the relationship I've had with all my patients and their families and I thank you all for your support and friendship over those years," he says.

Bits and Pieces

We Received a note from Susan Higgins Stewart, cousin of Kenneth (Corky) Segelquist, that he is residing at the Senior Village Assisted Living 501 Newport Blvd. League City, Tx 77573. He loves the historical society and was so looking forward to the reunion luncheon. He would sure appreciate any get well wishes.

Our neighbor city, Friendswood, is 125 years old.

Long time Pearland High School band director, Jack Fariss, celebrated his 80th birthday this summer. He served as director from 1969-1998 and resides in Pearland.

A certain vice president of the society said SHE didn't want any recognition for all her work for the society the past years. She constantly looks for pictures and interviews old timers. She loves Pearland history and seeks to record it factually. She is writing a book about Pearland.

As you may note from the many articles in the newsletter, we couldn't put it together without her. I didn't promise, so a great big THANK YOU Brenda Martin Riggs.

PEARLAND HISTIORICAL SOCIETY
2021 MEMBERSHIP
\$15.00 per person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Name: _____

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