

Volume No. 2009
Issue Nos. 11 & 12
November & December
2009

Professional Bulletin For The Bell County Bar Association PARALEGALS

MEMBERSHIP - 75 MEMBERS

"THE ARMY GOES ROLLING
ALONG"...PAGE 2

Courtesy of Johnye Harriman of
Baird, Crews, Schiller &
Whitaker, P.C.

ALL ABOUT TAPS...PAGE 3

BELL COUNTY ADOPTION
DAY...PAGE 4

CHRISTMAS FUNNIES...PAGE 6

MINUTES OF GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR
OCTOBER...PAGE 8



1881 illustration by Thomas Nast who, with Clement Clarke Moore, helped to create the modern image of Santa Claus.

President's Message

Dear Members:

It is that time of the year again when we need to be thankful for family and friends. I hope all of you have a great holiday season. Thank you for all your support with the different organizations that we are helping out this holiday season. With our contributions to these different organizations, we will touch a lot of lives. If you and your family are planning on traveling this holiday season, be safe and enjoy the time you have to spend with your family. We will not be having a meeting in December as we will be having our annual Paralegal Christmas Party on Friday, December 18th at the Oxbow Steakhouse & BBQ in Belton. I hope to see you all there.

Cindi Evetts



VISION: To develop and maintain a membership comprised of paralegals and other legal support staff from every firm, practice, agency, and/or entity within the legal community in Bell and surrounding counties.

PURPOSE: Founded as an organization for professional development, the Bell County Bar Association Paralegals (BCBAP) exists to serve the legal community by providing its members with opportunities for continuing education, public service, and networking.

MISSION: To function as an integral part of the legal community and provide a variety of continuing education opportunities with a commitment to professional development, high ethical standards, and promotion of the paralegal profession.

THE OFFICIAL ARMY SONG

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2009

The Army Goes Rolling Along (1956, current official version)



Intro:

March along, sing our song, with the Army of the free
Count the brave, count the true, who have fought to victory
We're the Army and proud of our name
We're the Army and proudly proclaim

Verse:

First to fight for the right,
And to build the Nation's might,
And The Army Goes Rolling Along
Proud of all we have done,
Fighting till the battles won,
And the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Refrain:

Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud and strong
For where e'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army Goes Rolling Along.

Verse:

Valley Forge, Custer's ranks,
San Juan Hill and Patton's tanks,
And the Army went rolling along
Minute men, from the start,
Always fighting from the heart,
And the Army keeps rolling along.
(Refrain)

Verse:

Men in rags, men who froze,
Still that Army met its foes,
And the Army went rolling along.
Faith in God, then we're right,
And we'll fight with all our might,
As the Army keeps rolling along.
(Refrain)

FROM WIKIPEDIA:

The song is based on the "Caisson Song" written by field artillery First Lieutenant (later Brigadier General) Edmund L. Gruber, Lieutenant William Bryden, and Lieutenant (later Major General) Robert Danford while stationed at Fort Stotsenburg in the Philippines in March 1908. The tune quickly became popular in field artillery units. In 1917 the Secretary of the Navy and Army Lieutenant George Friedlander of the 306th Field Artillery asked John Philip Sousa to create a march using the "Caisson Song." Sousa changed the key, harmony, and rhythm and renamed it "U.S. Field Artillery." The recording sold 750,000 copies. Sousa didn't know who had written the song and had been told that it dated back to the Civil War. Although an Army magazine claims that Sousa passed on his royalties to Gruber, other sources state that Gruber became involved in a prolonged legal battle to recover the rights to music he had written and that had been lifted (unknowingly or not) by Sousa and widely sold by sheet music publishers who reaped profits while Gruber received nothing. The music became so popular that it was also used in radio ads by firms such as the Hoover Vacuum Company. Gruber lost his battle in the courts. They ruled that he had waited too long to complain and that his music was by that time in the public domain.

"The Caisson Song" was never designated as the official U.S. Army song likely because the lyrics were too closely identified with the field artillery and not the entire army. The official song retains Gruber's music, but with rewritten lyrics.

As the Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard had already adopted official songs, the Army was anxious to find a song of its own. In 1948, the Army conducted a contest to find an official song, but no entry received much popular support. In 1952, Secretary of the Army Frank Pace asked the music industry to submit songs and received over 800 submissions. "The Army's Always There" by Sam Stept won the contest, and an Army band performed it at President Dwight D. Eisenhower's inaugural parade on January 20, 1953. However, many thought the tune was too similar to "I've Got a Lovely Bunch of Coconuts," so the Army decided to keep Gruber's melody from the "Caisson Song" but with new lyrics. A submission of lyrics by Harold W. Arberg, a music advisor to the Adjutant General, was accepted. Secretary of the Army Wilber Marion Brucker dedicated the music on Veterans Day, November 11, 1956. The song is played at the conclusion of most U.S. Army ceremonies, and all soldiers are expected to stand at attention and sing. When more than one service song is played, they are played in the order specified by Army regulations: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

TAPS COURTESY OF CINDI EVETTS

As some of you already know, I attended TAPS in League City, Texas in October. This was my first TAPS conference. I highly recommend to all of you; if you are able to attend next year; attend. It was awesome. It gets you away from the office to network with other paralegals across the state. The sessions that I attended were informative and I came back to the office with lots of new ideas and more understanding of new areas of law that I knew nothing about. The social functions were GREAT. The following individuals also attended TAPS: Kathy Taylor, Janice Johnson, Brooke Johnson, Patricia Simecek and Brenda Colvin. It gave us a chance to socialize with each other and get to know each other better. It is hard for us to just see each other once a month at the meetings and really know each other. Next year TAPS will be in Austin, Texas on September 29, 30 and October 1. I hope that next year more people from our Association will be able to attend.



TAPS Pajama Social
Left to Right -
Janice Johnson, Pat Simecek, Cindi Evetts, Kathy Taylor, Brooke Johnson and Brenda Colvin



TAPS Dinner Cruise at South Harbour
Left to Right -
Kathy Taylor, Cindi Evetts and Janice Johnson

GREETING FROM TAPS!!!



FROM MALCOLM WELLS OF LSI

I know it was about a month ago, so please accept my belated thanks for visiting the LSI table while you were there. I hope you had a good time in League City!

I'm writing to invite you to participate in our bi-weekly educational webinars, held every other Friday at 10 a.m. The webinars change from session to session, and typically focus on litigation support technology, e-discovery, computer forensics, and other similar topics. Some of the classes are approved for CLE credit by the State Bar of Texas, so you can get a little additional credit along the way...

In respect to your privacy and to help curb the email traffic you already receive, I will NOT send you the notices without your permission.

Thank you again for visiting our table and learning more about us. If I can be of any assistance at any time, please feel free to email me, or call me at (214) 939-9700.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Wells
Litigation Solution, Inc.

BELL COUNTY ADOPTION DAY

On November 16, the Bell County Bar Association was pleased to be a part of creating "forever families" for 29 children who were legally adopted by 19 different families. These children, ranging in age from one year to 12 years old, had been removed from homes due to neglect or abuse, and had been with their foster families for at least six months. Two of the courtrooms in the Bell County Justice Center were transformed into magical, happy places featuring balloons, bears and bunnies. A yellow brick road lead the families into the Courtrooms, surrounded by Dorothy, Glenda the Good Witch, the Cowardly Lion, Tin Man and



Scarecrow from the classic Wizard of Oz. Thanks to generous donations from the community, each child received a gift basket loaded with toys and games, a piggy bank, stuffed animals and a heart-shaped pendant or dog tag engraved with their new name. Books were donated to all the children, and every family received a wonderful pop-up edition of The Wizard of Oz. Hallways in the Justice Center were decorated with art from several local elementary schools, wishing "Happy Adoption Day" to the children and their new families. Members of the BCBA Paralegals helped put all the goodies together, helped with decorations, and took part in the ceremonies by answering questions from families and handing out jewelry to the children. Plans are already underway for the 2010 event, and we hope everyone will consider being a part of that celebration!! (Courtesy of Cynthia Champion)

CHILDREN BEING ADOPTED



BELTON - The adoption of 29 children by 19 families became official Monday at

the Bell County Justice Complex. "Before we can make this official, this little man needs to hit this gavel right here," Bell County Judge Charles Van Orden said. He handed his gavel to a child who was just adopted. The child slammed the hammer on the judge's bench. "There we go," Van Orden said. "It is now official." The children range in age from 18 months to 13 years old. "We are all excited about helping these little ones to find their dream of having a loving family," 169th District Court Judge Rick Morris said. Rico Corporal, now a single Killeen father, was excited to be with his new son, Darius, 13. "This is a dream come true for me," Corporal said. "He is a good kid. He is highly intelligent, and I foresee him having a great future." Darius echoed his father's excitement. "I am excited, too," Darius said. "He is a cool person." The two have already bonded over video games and running track—two things Darius loves. Corporal said the future would have some bumps because teenagers will be teenagers, but he was grateful that Darius would now have someone there to love him and protect him. David and Stacy Torquato adopted 18-month-old Lelani Monday. "It feels wonderful after the 12- to 13-month wait for this day," Stacy said. "Most people wait nine months; we waited a bit longer." David said he was just looking forward to watching Lelani grow. "I think she will be more into football than soccer," David said to one of his relatives with a smile. "She is rough and tough." This was the second year that the Bell County Bar Association held an event in association with National Adoption Day, which is Saturday, said Chris Van Deusen, Department of Family Protective Services spokesman. Last year eight children were adopted by six families, he said. "People don't think there are children who need adopting ... there are children right here in Bell County," Van Deusen said. In Texas there are 6,000 children waiting to be adopted. In Bell County, there are 70 children awaiting families, Van Deusen said.

By Mason W. Canales - Killeen Daily Herald
 Posted on: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1909

- Average life expectancy was 47 years.
- Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in 1909 was 22 cents per hour.
- The average worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
- A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.
- 90 percent of all doctors had no college education. Instead they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and the government "substandard".
- Sugar cost four cents a pound.
- Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
- Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.
- Five leading causes of death were: Pneumonia and influenza, tuberculosis, diarrhea, heart disease, and stroke.
- The American Flag had 45 stars.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and ice tea hadn't been invented yet.
- There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- 2 out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.
- Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health.
- 18 percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.
- There were about 230 reported murders in the entire USA.

Courtesy of Kathy Taylor

Annual Paralegal Christmas Party

December 18, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Oxbow Steakhouse and BBQ

RSVP by December 14th

cindi@lindleylawoffices.com

Caroling Quiz...

What did the children put on Frosty the Snowman to bring him to life?

Who comes dressed in her snow-white gown to tap-tap-tap on your window pane?

What instruments did the angels play Upon a Midnight Clear?

What sort of tidings is "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" about?

What is the name of the horse pulling the one-horse open sleigh in "Jingle Bells"?

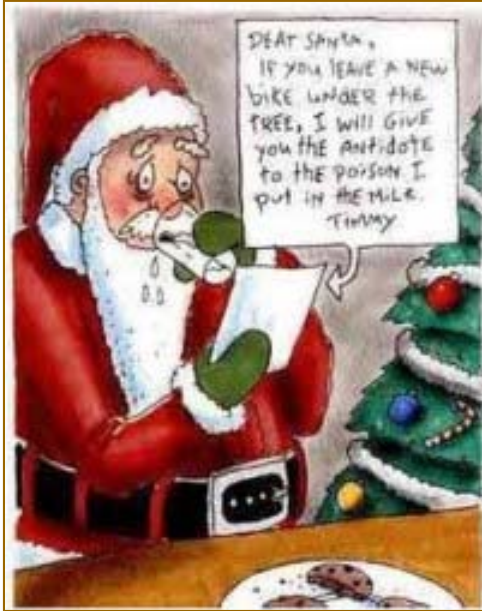
Oh by gosh, by golly, what time is it?

What will Santa Claus check his list twice to find out when he comes to town?

What roasts over an open fire while Jack Frost nips your nose?

Answers: An old silk hat, Suzy Snowflake, Harps of gold, Tidings of comfort and joy, Bobtail, Time for mistletoe and holly, Who's naughty or nice, Chestnuts.

Christmas Funnies



Christmas Eve Rituals

In the United States and Canada, children traditionally leave Santa a glass of milk and a plate of cookies; in Britain and Australia, he is sometimes given sherry and mince pies instead. In Sweden, children leave brownies. In Ireland it is popular to give him Guinness or milk, along with cookies or mince pies.

British, Australia, Irish, Canadian and American children also leave a carrot for Santa's reindeer, and were traditionally told that if they are not good all year round, that they will receive a lump of coal in their stockings, although this practice is now considered archaic. Children following the Dutch custom for *sinterklaas* will "put out their shoe" - that is, leave hay and a carrot for his horse in a shoe before going to bed - sometimes weeks before the *sinterklaas avond*. The next morning they will find the hay and carrot replaced by a gift; often, this is a marzipan figurine. Naughty children were once told that they would be left a *roe* (bundle of sticks) instead of sweets, but this practice has been discontinued.

Other Christmas Eve Santa rituals in the United States include reading Clement Clark Moore's *A Visit from St. Nicholas* or other tale about Santa Claus, watching a Santa or Christmas-related animated program on television (such as the aforementioned *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* and similar specials, such as *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, among many others), and the singing of Santa Claus songs such as *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, *Here Comes Santa Claus*, and *Up on the Housetop*. Last minute rituals for children before going to bed included aligning stockings at the mantelpiece or other place where Santa cannot fail to see them, peeking up the chimney (in homes with a fireplace), glancing out a window and scanning the heavens for Santa's sleigh, and (in homes without a fireplace), unlocking an exterior door so Santa can easily enter the house. Tags on gifts for children are sometimes signed by their parents, "From Santa Claus" before the gifts are laid beneath the tree. (Taken from Wikipedia)



Letters to Santa

Writing letters to Santa Claus has been a Christmas tradition for children for many years. These letters normally contain a wishlist of toys and assertions of good behavior. Some social scientists have found that boys and girls write different types of letters. Girls generally write longer but more polite lists and express the nature of Christmas more in their letters than in letters written by boys. Girls also request gifts for other people on a more frequent basis. Many postal services allow children to send letters to Santa Claus pleading their good behavior and requesting gifts; these letters may be answered by postal workers or other volunteers. Canada Post has a special postal code for letters to Santa Claus, and since 1982 over 13,000 Canadian postal workers have volunteered to write responses. His address is Santa Claus, North Pole, Canada, H0H 0H0. Sometimes children's charities answer letters in poorer communities or from children's hospitals in order to give them presents they would not otherwise receive. In Britain it is tradition to burn the Christmas letters on the fire so that they would be magically transported by the wind to the North Pole. However, this tradition is dying out of modern times with few people having true open fires in their homes. Recently however, national postal service Royal Mail received the tradition by giving "Santa Claus" a special address: Santa/Father Christmas, Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland, SAN TA1. In Mexico and other Latin American countries, besides using the mail, sometimes children wrap their letters to a small helium balloon, releasing them into the air so Santa magically receives them. Through the years Santa Claus of Finland has received over eight million letters. He gets over 600,000 letters every year from over 150 countries. Children from Great Britain, Poland and Japan are the busiest writers. The Finnish Santa Claus lives in Korvatunturi but Santa's Official Post Office is situated in Rovaniemi at the Arctic circle. His address is Santa Claus, Santa Claus Village, FIN-96930 Arctic Circle, Finland. (Taken from Wikipedia)



BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION PARALEGALS

Minutes of General Membership Meeting - October 2009

- Date:** October 15, 2009
- Time:** Noon
- Place:** Judge Mischtain's Courtroom
- Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Cathy Beaman - Treasurer. Members and guests were welcomed.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the last meeting were approved at a later date.
- Committee Reports:** Billie Sue Scales reported that we have 71 members.
- Old Business:** Esther Stoneburner reported cookbook is ready. Need picture of Officers. Mandy to contact photographer and date to take picture. Nursing Home Project - November 7, 2009
- Speaker for November:** Christina Gindratt - Lone Star Legal Aid
- New Business:** National Adoption Day - November 16, 2009 - Need volunteers. Motion was made to donate \$200.00
Bar Christmas Party - December 18th - Oxbow Steakhouse & BBQ
- Announcements:** There will be no meeting for December.
The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2009 at noon - McAllister's Deli in Killeen.
The next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2009 at noon - Judge Mischtain's courtroom.
- Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Mandy Cazares, Secretary

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

MARY JANE SERNA - 5TH
TRISHA DANGERFIELD - 7TH
SUSAN GREEN - 11TH
EVA LOTT - 11TH
MICHAEL KARIMKHANI - 16TH

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

MELISSA BARTON-WOOD - 2ND
URIKA MENDOZA - 4TH
MARY WEAKS - 15TH
SIRENA FUENTES - 31ST

November Born

Determined. Hopeless romantic. Industrious. Warm and compassionate. Patient and tolerant. Wise and witty. Very intelligent. Do or die attitude. Inquisitive and intuitive. Faithful friend. Sharp thinker. Emotional lover. Secretive. Active. You like to enjoy life to the fullest. Easy going. Attractive personality.

WishAFriend.com

December born

Great sense of humor. Cheerful and vibrant. Ambitious. Short tempered. Impatient. More logical than emotional. Attractive looks and pleasing personality. Honest and trustworthy. Generous. Amiable. Dynamic. Love to be praised. Independent streak. Patriotic. Good dresser. Fun to be with. Outgoing.

WishAFriend.com

WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU...

This newsletter is about YOU and all the great work being performed by our members on the job as well as off the clock. Please share your favorite snapshots (with story), get well wishes, birth announcements, wedding announcements and any other information that is important to you. Please send information to:

melissabartonwood@bcswlaw.com



Pictured above - Scott Beaman, Cathy Beaman & Connie Ritchey

Pictured below - Billie Sue Scales, David Scales and Eva Lott



Pictured above - Mary Lindley-Wiley

Pictured below - Steven J. Duskie & Lane Heginbotham





SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS

There are many symbols associated with Christmas. Some can mean different things to different people. However, most of the symbols point back to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

Red symbolizes the blood that Jesus spilt to redeem us from our sins. (John 19:34)

Green is the color of life. Therefore, green symbolizes the potential for eternal life that Jesus' sacrifice made possible for all of us. (John 3:16-17) Green is specifically an evergreen color, as evergreen trees are said to never die, nor will we if we live our life according to the Word of Christ. So, it also symbolizes eternal life.

The flame of a candle, the lights on the tree and the star on top are all meant to remind us of the new star that appeared to proclaim the birth of the promised Messiah.

The bell is a reminder of the bells worn by sheep. They provide a means for the shepherd to find the sheep that has wandered from the flock and become lost. They symbolize our pleas to the Good Shepherd for guidance back to His flock.

The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's staff. It symbolizes the responsibility that we all have to be shepherds, to help each other and guide each other back to God.

Finally, the bows on top of the presents are symbolic of brotherhood. It should be a reminder that, just as the ribbons are tied together, we should all be tied together by the knowledge that we are all God's children and, therefore, brothers and sisters.

These are just a few symbols of Christmas that should serve as reminders of what it is that we are supposed to be celebrating with this holiday.

A prayer for you this Christmas: Father God, When your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity, you changed our world. As we imagine those surroundings, we join with the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and praise. We thank you for our material lives, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. Amen.



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

BARRINGER LEGAL COPIES

JASON TURK

jasant@barringerlegalcopies.com

512-474-2679

Offers discount to BCBA Paralegals cardholding members

Will negotiate a flat firm rate pricing

Provides copy, scan, document production, media conversion and duplication, Bates labeling, electronic data discovery, and computer forensics.



MCLANE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

JUSTINE SMITH

justine.smith@mclaneat.com

254-770-6189

254-770-6165



REGISTERED AGENT SOLUTIONS, INC.

RICARDO OROZCO

rorozco@rasi.com

888-705-7274

Provides these services:

- Corporate
- Court Record
- Registered Agent
- UCC / Lien

BCBA PARALEGALS

'09-'10 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT – Cindi Evetts

VICE PRESIDENT – Brooke Johnson

SECRETARY – Mandy Cazares

TREASURER – Cathy Beaman

PARLIAMENTARIAN – Billie Sue Scales

bcba_lad@yahoo.com

BOARD MEETINGS will be held at McAllister's Deli in Killeen from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

JANUARY 14, 2010

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS are held in Judge Mischtain's courtroom from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

JANUARY 21, 2010

BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PARALEGALS

© COPYRIGHT 2009
BELL COUNTY (TX) BAR ASSOCIATION PARALEGALS

PUBLISHER: BCBA PARALEGALS ORG
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MELISSA BARTON-WOOD