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HELLO AND THANK YOU! As a postscript to Dr. Clifford mentioning John Graves and his famous trip down the Brazos River, I wanted to let everyone know about a great little book that has just come out called *John Graves and the Making of Goodbye to a River: Selected Letters, 1957-1960*, that details the genesis of the idea and the publishing history of the book. Graves is still around, living on his Hard Scrabble Ranch in Glen Rose, and was recently honored at the first ever Texas Literary Hall of Fame Inaugural Event at the Fort Worth Public Library, which feted writers both living and deceased, including J. Frank Dobie, Horton Foote, Shelby Hearon, Elmer Kelton, Larry McMurtry, Katherine Anne Porter, and Walter Prescott Webb.

It's great to be back at Tarleton! I'm sure for the older PHP people like me it's a bit surreal, but at least we're still *slightly* younger than the Honors Faculty. I was very honored to be asked to speak today and it was especially nice to reflect back on my Tarleton years and on the University's importance to my family. According to my grandmother, a Tarleton graduate herself from the early '20's, I was the 14th person in the family to attend TSU. I have her State of Texas teaching certificate dated 1924. Her sister, my great-aunt, was a Tarleton Homecoming Queen in the mid-'30's, and my father attended for two years in the late '40's before the Korean War took him to Scotland of all places where he met my mom. As recently as three years ago, a cousin of mine came back to Tarleton to augment his previous business degree.

My dad is 75 now but he still fondly remembers the school when it was called John Tarleton Agricultural College or J-TAC, and its heated rivalry with North Texas Agricultural College or N-TAC; apparently there were frequent exchanges of vandalism between the two campuses in those days, and no love lost. My father was an agronomy major and in the ROTC—after 4 years in the Air Force he finished his degree at Texas Tech. My parents lived in Stephenville briefly in the late '50's when my older brother was born, and their house was on, appropriately enough, Tarleton Street.

While there are many, many things I am thankful to Tarleton for, and *of course* I enjoyed all of the Honors Seminars, I want to especially mention the faculty and other staff that assisted greatly in a large musical project a friend of mine and I put together in March of 1988. Really it was a long play with incidental music which we called *Redemption*. It was about the Civil Rights Movement and we were very fortunate to have the drama department of another branch of A&M, Prairie View, join Tarleton's drama program in staging the event, which was attended by over 800 people at the fantastic Clyde H. Wells Theatre. I think the history and government faculty offered extra credit for attending, so we had a captive audience!

I brought two original posters from the show, one of which we had signed by Coretta Scott King several months later. We had borrowed a lot of audio and slides from the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta and were hoping they might support further productions of the play, but it turns out they were

already backing another similar-themed show called simply, *King*, but we were very happy for the reception and support our show got locally.

I GREW UP in Granbury and during High School I attended free music lessons at a wonderful place called the Chrysalis House, so I was really delighted when Tarleton acquired that property and made it the Langdon Center, which hosts various arts events now, including a show my wife Donna won an award at recently for one of her paintings, so we are *both* big fans of Tarleton now!

In closing, I want to say how very nice it has been to see some of my old friends, including Laurie Barker from my starting PHP class, and her husband, and also some of Tarleton's terrific faculty, especially Mallory Young and Craig Clifford who I'd like to thank for hosting dinner last night, and Pat Zelman. A lot of my favorites aren't here, but I'd like also to mention my appreciation and admiration for Don Zelman, Chris Guthrie, B.J. Alexander, Russell Long, Lynn Dees, and Mark Davis from the art program, and lastly a group I think of as the 3 R's from the music program: Christian Rosner, Ted Reuter and Chuck Rives, and a fourth R, Richard Denning, who was especially helpful stage-managing our production of *Redemption*.

My Honor's trip was a lot of fun with Dr. Rosner—to Rochester, New York—where we attended a meeting of the subversive-sounding Society for Music Theory. If anything, that trip confirmed I *did not* want to be a music theorist! I *did* however have a splendid time in Rochester and with Dr. Rosner, touring the Eastman School of Music and attending several wonderful concerts. After a brief stint at UT's Graduate School of Music composition program, I went into business with my brother and father—by then a nursing home administrator—where we ran a medical equipment company and pharmacy called Alliance Medical in Granbury for the past 15 years, with a lot of assistance from my mom as well.

Thank you again to everyone here!