

Class of 1960
Arkansas

Hot Springs High School

Hot Springs,

Newsletter April, 2001

edited by Dot Rushing Gilbert and Alice Keith Collier

The mini-reunion will be held June 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Club on Central Avenue in Hot Springs. This is for the classes of '58, '59, '60, and '61. We are sending you a registration form by email.

Jerry Gunter's daughter, Claire, is a sophomore honor student at Brandeis University. She will attend the University of Nantes in France next year. Her cousin, Kirby, (Vicki's daughter) is designing infant wear for The Gap in Paris. Nos vemos says Jerry. (Ashamed to say we have no clue as to translation! ed.)

Judy Bond Adamson reports: We have survived our first winter in the North Carolina mountains after living in Florida for sixteen years....quite a change!!! It snowed six inches the day after we moved in. Our yard is shady so it was here for a while. We had a couple of other snows and many days that did not get above freezing. Our big surprise was April 1st when we had 14 inches of snow!!! It's finally spring...guess that is why it is such a beautiful season here...to make up for winter. Our younger son Stephen, his wife, Wendy and their little two year old Tyler live in Asheville which is less than an hour away. Our other son David along with Libby and their two Emily (5) and Walker (almost 3) are also moving less than an hour away. We'll probably do more babysitting than we bargained for!!! John and I are playing a lot of golf. We are in a Newcomers Club here and there are so many activities that we could be busy every day and night if we chose. We're looking forward to a cruise to the Greek islands in June, so we will have to miss the mini reunion. Hi to everyone...wasn't the reunion last Sept. wonderful? I would not have missed it for the world.

David Stone was named "Professor of the Year" at Georgia Southern University at its recent Honors Day ceremony. The award is given by a campus student service organization. (Congratulations!!!!)

Loretta Anderson sends the following:

I JUST GOT BACK FROM AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. MY BABY DAUGHTER GOT MARRIED AND IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL WEDDING WITH A WONDERFUL WEDDING PARTY AFTERWARD. SHE WAS A GORGEOUS BRIDE. (Now, doesn't this sound like a proud mama!!!)

INFO: MY SON, MARK SAUNDERS IS A DOCTOR IN TYLER, TEXAS. HE HAS TWO LITTLE GIRLS, RACHEL AUSTIN AND MONTANA.

MY DAUGHTER, MELISSA HUTCHISON LIVES IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. SHE HAS ONE SON, MATTHEW. NINE YEARS OLD. SHE WORKS WITH HER HUSBAND IN A RECONSTRUCTION, RESTORATION BUSINESS. SHE IS ALSO CERTIFIED IN JAZZERCIZE AND HOLDS

CLASSES.

MY DAUGHTER, AMY, WHO JUST MARRIED ALSO LIVES IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA. SHE HAS HER MASTERS IN HEALTH EDUCATION AND IS THE HEALTH AND FITNESS COORDINATOR AT A HOSPITAL IN THE AUGUSTA AREA.

I STILL WORK AS A LEGAL SECRETARY FOR Q. BYRUM HURST, JR.

RIGHT NOW I AM A BRUNETTE, BUT THAT IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!! I WAS A BLONDE AT OUR LAST REUNION.

I ENJOY OUR REUNIONS SO MUCH AND REALLY LOOK FORWARD TO THE MINI COMING UP.

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL, FUN LOVING CLASS.

From **Jackie Richardson**:

After the reunion last fall I finally got enough nerve to have laser surgery (prk) on my eyes. It was done by Dr. Hampton Roy at the Baptist Eye Center in Little Rock on November 2. The results were GREAT. Since I had one eye set for distance and the other for reading (monovision) I now can read and see everything clearly without glasses or contacts for the first time since the 6th grade. We have been keeping busy with visits to our kids and their visits to us. We were fortunate to be at my daughters house in Lake Jackson, TX, when the ice storm hit Hot Springs. We just stayed there until power was restored at our house. We were lucky that the only damage we had was some limbs broken from a pine tree in the back yard. We have a family trip planned for the first of June to Portland, Oregon, where we lived from 1975 to 1978. We will meet both our daughters along with Karen's husband and two boys. Our daughter Joy (who is still single) was born there and this will be her first trip back since we left. My wife, Brenda, has discovered that living in Hot Springs gets you "appointed" to the reunion committee for the class of 61'. They are getting a late start on planning. I think they liked what they heard about our 40th and will probably follow it fairly close.

From **Ellen Hickey Jackson**:

I have been living in San Diego for the last 21 years, have two grown children, a son, Mark, 32 and daughter, Meredith, 29. I am a realtor in metro San Diego, single and very active in social and fundraising activities. I serve on the board of the Hall of Champions Sports Museum in Balboa Park and am president of their auxiliary, involved with Leukemia Society, Starlight Musical Theatre and Fairbanks Republican Women's Club. Interests: Fishing, scuba diving, dancing, traveling, cooking, entertaining. Have just formed a group called The GRITS Society (Girls and Guys Raised in the South) and we are having a great time keeping our southern accents alive and well.

Hope to see you all in June. ([Hopefully, there is a picture attached to this email--editors](#))

From **Peggy Rogers**:

Hi, Don, I have been in Hawaii and just returned last night. Bob and I had a wonderful time on the Big Island and visited the Volcano National Park, orchid and rain forests, etc. They were also having their national Hula contests. It was all very interesting and beautiful. I hope that the mini reunion is great. I am still having jet lag but it was worth it.

From **Wanda Hardy**:

Not much news here, banking is still as interesting as ever. Always good to hear from everyone. I'm still married to the same guy, have the same great two grandsons and children. Our grandsons are real involved in baseball and soccer, so that keeps them busy. Then live in Bentonville, so we only get up there every 5 or 6 weeks. Both my son in law and daughter in law are with Walmart, so keep spending your money at Walmart. Scott, my son in law is over carrier realations and they fly him everywhere (usually on the Walmart jet for day trips). Brandy, my daughter in law in a Walmart analyst. She got her Masters degree from U of A last May. Our son Michael works as a civil engineer for Crafton, Tull & Associates in Rogers. He works mainly on land layout for shopping centers, housing developments, etc. Our daughter Shannon teaches 5th grade at Spring Hill school in Bentonville. I still like to travel when we have time. Will make our annual two week trip to Panama City Beach, Fl in early May. I guess growing up around Hot Springs and the lakes, I still find the water very relaxing, especially the sound of the ocean.

From **Ronnie Mooney:** (Now this is one wild adventure!!!!...editors)

Well, we made it back from our long and wonderful trip. We drove 7,150 miles to be exact. We left on January 7, and returned on March 1, 2001. We went south to get out of this COLD and get some warm sunshine...BUT That didn't work out exactly like that. It snowed on us in El Paso, just a little. And 22 miles into Old Mexico, we were forced to sit and wait several hours for the Mexicans to clear off the road of snow & ice. Then at 55 miles in we had to wait again for snow and ice removal. We made it to Chihuahua, put our motor home (and 23 others) on the train, on flatcars. Five days and 440 miles thru Copper Canyon. At Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua we dined with a Mennonite family. We crossed the Sierra Madre Mountains and ate with the Tarahumara Indians. At Los Mochis, we unload from the train and drove 260 miles South to Mazatlan down the very scenic Pacific coast of Sinaloa. Three days later, we BACKED our motor home 600 feet into the DARK belly of the ferry. The ferry ride was adventurous to say the least (and 20 hours long). We had 1st class cabins and 2 meals on board. It was fantastic, not counting the big storm half way across. We unloaded at Todos Santos, Baja and drove to La Paz. We spent the night and drove to Cabo San Lucas. There we rode a glass bottom boat, went out and saw and touched some extremely large and friendly whales. We spent 3 days there. It was awesome. We drove up the east coast along the Sea of Cortez to Concepcion Bay. We enjoyed lots of beach combing, shell hunting, deep-sea fishing and lots of great food. We camped on the beach all the way up the Baja. We went thru numerous Mexican villages, towns and Museums and the women were literally shopped out.

Problems: Coming around a corner, an 18-wheeler got close enough to me it scratched the drivers side mirror. I ran over something and cut two tires (\$878.00 to replace them). I hit something with the right corner of the bumper and scratched it up a bit. Later on in the trip, we left SNOW at Williams, Arizona (just south of the Grand Canyon) and headed home. Have you ever seen a 20 foot awning standing straight out, while going down the road at 70 MPH, Well, it AIN'T pretty, it's \$1200.00. Over all it was a GREAT trip. Met lots of new friends, ate lots of great food (put on a few MORE pounds), had a FEW Mexican Margaritas and saw so much it would take a book to describe.

From **Linda Lewis:**

Ladies Lunch At Cracker Barrel

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> **Calling all ladies of the class of 1960!**
> We all had such a great time at the last reunion, several
> comments were made to get together and have lunch sometime. Well thanks to
> Bonnie Jo Connelly, Alice Keith, and Dot Rushing we got the ball rolling on
> February 3, 2001, when we met at the Cracker barrel with 8 attending. Those
who
> were able to make it for the first lunch were Bonnie Jo Connelly, Alice
Keith,

> Joan Mahoney, Judy Livingston, Linda Lewis, Dot Rushing, Jeanne Melton,
and
> from the class of 1961 Diane Moore. We had a wonderful time and decided to
do
> it again on the first Saturday of each month. March 3 was to be the next
get
> together at Perkins .It was decided to include the classes of 1961 and
1959.
> On this date we had 14 attending. From the class of 60 Bonnie Jo Connelly,
> Linda Jester, Jeanne Melton, Virginia Lewis, DeAnna Brown, Sharon Short,
> Janet Spurlock, Donna French, Loretta Anderson, and Vicki Sanders, And
from
> the class of '59 Cindy Carroll, Nancy Harris, Paula Wright, Glenna Magby
.The
> rain didn't dampen our sprits at all as we renewed friendships and caught
up
> on all that has been going on over the years. The first Saturday in April the lunch was held at
Jernigan's Restaurant in The Downtowner Hotel. Ten were in attendance that day. They
included: Kay Brian, Judy Livingston, Alice Keith, Vicki Sanders, Renee Lambert, Jeanne Melton,
Donna French, Bonnie Jo Connelly, Diane Moore, and Dot Rushing. The first Saturday in May all
ladies of the classes of '59, '60 and '61 are invited to King's Chinese Buffet on Central at 12:30 for
more good conversation and fun! If you are ever in Hot Springs on the first Saturday in the
month and would like to join us get in touch with Bonnie Jo at 623-7109, Alice at 767-6703 or Dot
at 767-8049.

From: **Sue Rachilla Miller Sorrells**

I would like my news about my
wedding in the paper. i was married to Klugh Sorrells on Jan 6th at First
Baptist church.I now am a GREAT grandmother!!!! have aquired 6 kids ,16
grandkids and 4 great grand kids!!!!enclosed is a picture if you want to use

it. (Hopefully, there is a picture attached---editors)

From **Donald Short:**

I just go from one thing to the next. Since I don't have much to do for the class, I have been
buying old guns. I refinish the stocks, reblue them and jewel the bolts and just put them up. I have
been making miniature Santa sleighs & deer for Christmas.I've made about 40 sets so far and will
make about 100 sets before I start something else. Just trying to keep busy.

From **Jim Austin:**

Hi, everybody! I hope this finds all well and sassey. To old clasmates I am still an independent
trucker.I still live in Pocola, OK My kid [son]
is in Seattle doing his work for Starbuks coffee. Tells them where to
put in new stores. Still playing with my old 65 Harley as time
permits. I am not ready to retire yet. ain` t found a rich widow yet. see all
this summer if not before .

News from John Massey: Things are going well for Linda and I. We have our 33rd anniversary on February 24. We will spend it in Camden where we will attend an engagement party for our son Jeff who will be married in August to Emily Eckert. Jeff will graduate from the U of A with Masters in Agricultural Economics in May and will be moving with his new wife to Palm Beach, Florida. My daughter Lisa got married in December at Eureka Springs and is an elementary teacher in Harrison. Laura is the mother of my two grandsons and teaches math in Harrison. Linda and I moved to Springdale in 1999. I have been with the University of Arkansas Health Center since summer of 1996 after retiring from Vocational Rehabilitation. I returned to Hot Springs in 1993 until 1995 as Assistant Director of the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center. Decided to give up motorcycles after seeing all the injuries and am starting to learn how to play guitar. Best wishes to all and good health.

From: **Terrell Bledsoe**

Dear Classmates,

Time flies when you're having fun. Beautiful large snowflakes are falling gently here, looks like an all day affair. Which means I'll be headed for the back bowls of Vail next week.

Continuing to improve physically from my car accident last year but have decided to go inactive from the CIA in 6 months (my contract is for life, so unless I live in Calif where I might be reincarnated as a surfer, I'm stuck as far as (remotely) possibly being recalled). A friend of mine here is the Marshal, so I'm going to help him out occasionally. Don't have to go to any schools or anything (been there, done that, got the scars) and I get a badge good in the U.S., big deal, huh? Nothing anyone couldn't do with a box of cereal.

Sandi is enjoying being a realtor here in Summit County and of course is good at it.

We're enlarging the house this summer, so even more reason to invite classmate visitors. A lot of people enjoy the summers more than the winters (how does a high of 77 sound versus 177 for you from Arkansas and Florida)? Come see us anytime.

Our kids are all doing fine except for the expected job situations. One is in the .com business and changes companies faster than she can have cards printed. One lives in Europe (my niece actually but raised as one of ours, as some of you know my brother, David, died in his early 30s) so she's going to get visited a lot once we get our lives more stable. My mother is in Shalom Park in Denver and will be 87 next week, for those that remember her.

It was great seeing everyone recently, and I have the painting that Betty Carol did framed and hanging; it looks great! Thanks again for your generosity Roy (Roy Coulter won it as a door prize but graciously gave it to me when he saw how much I liked it).

Love to all.

From: **Joe Neil Pender**

Hey, I have retired, and am in the process of moving to Atlanta. My new e-mail address is: jnpender@aol.com <<mailto:jnpender@aol.com>> .

From: Loyde Beam

My cancer returned this past summer and fall; therefore, I did not attend the reunion. I'm taking early retirement this May. I'm in remission at this point, but the future is uncertain. My only other news is that my daughter is expecting her first child in June. After 36 years of teaching it will seem strange to be out of the classroom. Thanks for the various bits of info---I enjoy reading all of it.

From: Vikiann Clark Gunter

As you may have heard at the reunion, Dick and I have moved to Ft. Worth and are absolutely loving it. Our best description came from a corporate pilot we met who after hearing how we loved it and had moved from Dallas, asked, 'Don't you just feel like you've dropped a drag chute?!'

Dick's agency is doing great and he will soon be changing the name to Craiglow & Associates.

My book is doing very well. Not only now is it in Neiman Marcus, but Amazon.com and having just been accepted by Ingram Book Wholesalers, the largest in the world, I can now fill my order from Barnes & Noble. My next step is to start workshops for pre-school mom groups and get publicity in the newspapers and local TV.

Equally as exciting is the acceptance into a local gallery of some of my photography done in Venice last winter. The series is entitled 'Canals of Burano'. I will be in the Spring Gallery Walk, an affair of great interest here at The Fort!

We are expecting our 9th grandson March30, and hoping just a bit that he will be a she!

Our front 'yard' is the famous Kimbell Art Museum so we have had the luxury of seeing the current Renoir/Picasso exhibit that has it's only American venue here about 6 times now. We have also enjoyed first hand the Fat Stock show, the National Cutting Horse Association Show and the other events at Will Rogers Coliseum since it is also just across the street. The Amon Carter Museum, currently under reconstruction, is known to be the largest repository of Western Art in the world. Also going up across the street from us is the new Modern Museum. My book, by the way, is in their gift shop downtown! YOU OUGHT TO WRITE THAT DOWN©...is a small family history/journal designed to

make easy the joy of writing down the great things kids say as they begin to verbalize the world around them. It is illustrated with my handcolored photographs, has pages for pictures and an envelope in the back to keep the 'treasures' we are given. It has a plastic cover to make it durable enough to throw in the diaper bag, purse or backpack to always have available. The thing that really intrigues parents is that it makes a great gift to keep for the child when they grow up as we all like to know what we were like when we were little. I have sold by the case for corporate gifts...clients having babies...to grandma's for fellow grandmother presents and, of course, as shower gifts. It is the perfect gift when one doesn't know whether they are having a boy or girl and it has been purchased by adoptive parents.

If anyone knows the perfect specialty store in their town for this book, please let me know and I will send them materials. (Way to go, Vikiann!!.....editors)

Guess that is my 'news' for now...If you would guess from all of this that my world and life is pretty fabulous, you would be right. I feel like I'm 18 with the wisdom of the years to make it even better!!!

From: **Richard Humphreys**

I have very little news to send. It is good to be off the road and back home in Hot Springs. This summer I will again be going on the road to Canada to produce my pig racing show, I will be thinking of all of you when the temperature is in the 90s and 100s here in Arkansas and I am having to wear a jacket in the evenings to stay warm enough. Love those Canadian summers. The ice storm that hit us really did some damage to my property. I have had to remove trees from two rent houses, a barn and one mobile home. Trees and limbs are also all over my fences around the farm. Lots of work ahead to get things back in shape. I still find time to see my grandchildren in Dallas and enjoy the ones who live here in Hot Springs. The little ones are the light of my life. Wish all my classmates the best. It sure was good to see so many at the reunion. I certainly was pleased to be able to attend after so many years of not being able to do so.

From: **Ann Sowell Dumais**

Don't let it be said that I don't contribute however so slightly! We did not make the reunion in September because Jerry & I were just coming off of a month in Maine attending the FMCA rally and Monaco pre-rally. Those of you who have motorhomes will know what I am referring to, other will have no idea. There were 7500 +- motorhomes at the rally and all were parked on the tarmac of the Brunswick Naval Station. What a site! Things in San Antonio have changed since we got home in September. Mom & Dad (80 & 81) were living in Conway but health required that they sell their home and move into an assisted living arrangement. They moved to San Antonio because I am not working and my son and daughter are here. It seemed that we were more equipped to handle their needs. This event has been a life altering experience that I had not a clue as to how to handle. There are no support groups or "how to" books. After a couple of months of "adjusting" things seem to be settling down. Just can't seem to get control of my mother! Dad has had to be placed in an Alzheimer unit; Mom is happily in her own efficiency unit. Where did we get the idea that when we got our kids raised that we would be free to pursue our own dreams? So much for my daily routine--doctors, physical therapy, etc. We own a battery business with warehouses in Austin & San Antonio. Jerry is still very involved so that limits (as does Mom & Dad's situation) our travels. When we do it is in the motorhome with dogs (sheltie & toy poodle). The dogs look forward to our trips as much as we do. We are currently involved in an RV club; Jerry is president & I am secretary. So far we have been blessed with good health and have enough income to pay the bills, so what more can I ask for! Hope all are doing well. Hope one day our schedule will coincide with a reunion and we make it.

..... From: **Betty Carol Morgan Pace**

I have been looking for Barbara Erwin for 30 years. I was beginning to think she had jumped off the edge of the world when I found her on Classmates.com. We sent 6 emails in one night trying to catch up. She was in Benton, Ar. all the time and I never knew. She was glad to catch up on some of the news. Just sorry we didn't find her before the reunion. In family news, we have a new grandson, Blake Charles Arst. He is the third child for our oldest daughter and just wonderful. I spend lots of time traveling to Kansas to spend time with my three favorite grandchildren. My husband is enjoying retirement and I spend my days at my studio where I paint and take care of the business aspects of being a professional artist. It keeps me off the streets. I've recently updated my web site at <http://www.shreve.net/~cpace> I am teaching drawing at the City Arts Center in Marshall and will be teaching a workshop in Van Buren, Ar. March 8,9,&10. anyone interested email me at cpace@shreve.net.....I'm available in your town just call me.

I had a wonderful time at our reunion and enjoyed seeing so many that I've not seen in years. What a group we have . Thanks to all of those who made an effort to come from all over the country. And thanks to those who made it all so great

From: Marilyn Hunt (Ronnie Hunt's wife)

Ronnie and I are going to Hawaii in 6 days. We are planing to stay two weeks. They are having a run away at work because I am going to be gone And they are tired of watching me do the Hula everyday. We are going to stay on four islands while we are there. Looking forward to this. (This was received quite a while back. Hope Ronnie and Marilyn had a great time!!!...editors)

From: Dot Rushing Gilbert

Hi ya'll. Since the last newsletter, I have retired. Yeah! Harold retired from the Arkansas State Police, 27 years and I retired from Reliant Energy Arkla, 23 years. We have moved to Hot Springs. We live at 1830 Marion Anderson Rd and LOVE it. It is so good to be back home. My Mom is in the Quapaw Health Care. My sister Yvonne is so glad I am home to help her check on Mama. Rick, our oldest son is still in Allen, Texas and Music Youth Director at Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano. Rod is teaching music in Oldwick, N.J. and Music Minister in a Lutheran Church there. Rick has two children, Bethany 12 yrs old and Brandon 10 yrs old. Mike is still with the Maumelle Police Dept and Eric is in Mansfield, Ohio. We have become good friends with Dick & Diane Crone. And I had lunch last week with Joan Mahoney Way, Alice Collier, Bonnie Jo Connelly Thompson, Judy Livingston Thompson, Jeanne Melton White, Linda Lewis Jester and Diane Moore Crone. I talked to Sally Baird, Roger Lynn Brown and Susan Goltz, but they had something else scheduled. We hope to start doing this once a month and have everyone that is local attend and anyone that happens to be in town on that day. It was so good visiting with old friends and catching up on their lives. We have lived all over the state and ya'll, HOT SPRINGS is the most beautiful place to retire. I wish all of our class could retire here! We had a great time at the 40th reunion, I hope we all can go to the 50th!

From: Alice Keith Collier

Dot and I have enjoyed visiting while getting this newsletter somewhat organized. What a newsworthy group we have!! Since the Sept. reunion Martin and I took a 10 day trip to the Great Smoky Mountains. We had never been to that area before. While visiting Dollywood (which we almost did not do) I was happily surprised to find an almost lifesized picture of my uncle, Ford Keith, and his Stamps Ozark Quartet (circa 1950) in the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame. He was a composer and singer of gospel music until his untimely death at the age of 27 in 1951. We really enjoyed our trip. The fall colors were breathtaking. I am still very busy in my retired life. I visit my mother in the nursing home every other day and I also have two aunts in the West Shores Retirement Center I try to visit when I can. Most of my time is spent helping my husband with his antiques/coin shop and enjoying life with our two kids (James and Alison) and our five grandchildren. They now range in age from 6 to 10. I usually see more of them during spring break and in the summer.

I have a children's book in my head. It has been rolling around in there since about 1990. I need to take a lesson from Vikiann and get it written!

Please keep sending your news by email either to Don or to me (alice@hotsprings.net). An email newsletter will be fairly easy to do. If you know any other members of our class who have email now please make sure Don has their email address. I am going to type up a very abbreviated version

of this newsletter for him to send out by snail mail. Also please be sure to keep Don or me updated on any changes in address, etc. Thanks!!! Hope to see you June 23rd. Have a great summer!!!!