

### From our "ageless" teacher:

**Mamie Ruth Abernathy (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher at Jones school)**

Today I had another lesson with my class at Shepherd's Center on "History of Hot Springs". This is great fun for me. About one third of my class of 60 are newcomers to H.S. in retirement. So many asked today if I couldn't continue another hour. I could handle that, but the schedule for other classes has to continue, also. The lesson was on "Wartimes in H.S., Fires, Floods, Tornadoes." I give handouts after some of the lessons. Today they received a recipe for USO Cookies, which came out in Sentinel-Record during WW II...good cookie for packing and shipping...wouldn't crumble and started the lesson on Buildings, but time ran out. I had a list of the buildings in H.S. on National Historic Register...Jones School was named to the Register in 1988.

To you "Jonestown Kids" receiving this greeting, I want to report that the renovation of our beloved Jones School is progressing well. Right now, it's a mess with the drilling for the geo-thermal system of heating/cooling...the old slate soil is all over the street. I have been plotting the progress with photos outside and inside. The Project Manager has given me two tours to see the progress, and he told me to come back any time. I think I'm on good terms with the work crew, also. I take cookies for their break time when I go! How to make friends and influence people....isn't that good PR? I took Jacke Dugan(4th grade teacher) with me the last time. Elevator on westside of the building, entering at ground level; slate chalkboards are being covered with acoustical cloth; ceilings lowered; rest rooms on each floor(sw corner rooms over boys' rest room); those beautiful mantels with beautiful tile fireplaces in Principal's office and Teachers' lounge are in tact! The Administrative offices of the H.S. School District 6 will be housed there. Projected completion is in July. The bell is still nestled in her house. I'll bet some of you younger ones didn't know that a well was there originally. When I was a little girl in Jones the well casing was covered with an iron cover and padlocked. The brave ones jumped from the top of the well to the corner seats. I was not among those brave hearts.

### From the class of 1958

**Leon Hobgood** Dear all of you,

It has been many years since we have seen or talked. Being self centered back then, I realize how much I missed.

I am married again and have a loving and beautiful wife, we met in Heber Springs, Ark.. (10 yr) Joyce has 2 children Christie and Danny. Christie has 2 children (boy, girl), Danny has a new boy. My 2 children Ricky and Stacey have children also Rick 3 (all boys) and Stacey 1 boy.

I left Hot Springs many years ago spent time in USAF, returned to HS and taught at GCCC for 12 yr. SAU for 6 yr. ASU (Beebe) 5 yr.... Yes I did graduate 3 Bachelor Degree, 2 Masters Degree, and EdD. Taught pottery/art, and technology(hydraulics,pneumatics,robotics, electronics, CADD) ... Had a farm (75 A.) in Beebe, chuck wagon raced all around for 5 yr., had a heart attack

in Beebe, retired to Conway Ar....spent next 6yr with Joyce traveling around full time in rv. Settled in Conway and thought I could sit still, nope, got a class a rv and we are going to travel some. Joyce just finished 2yr chemo-therapy, and is doing fine(thank you Lord). She is the salon manager here in Conway for JCPenney.

Leon & Joyce Hobgood  
15 Brown Street  
Conway, Ark 72032-9479  
(501) 470-9605

**Vicki Ensminger** I know I have been occupied....but who would be interested in what I am doing? Let me see if I can embellish my life stories!

I am expecting 2 grandbabies this Spring. Annabel Mary Teague in Philly will join 2 1/2 yr old Charles Arturo de los Santos Teague (I had to get that in.....it is noteworthy on it's own) and Michael Teague Emfinger (there is another interesting name and no I did not misspell it) in Monroe, Louisiana.

My \$1400 AKC Bernese Mountain Dog, Alpenstead's Bellisima Southern Babe "Bella", was spayed last week. My dream of owning a Bernese with Show ring potential dissipated with the diagnosis of early hip dysplasia, lateral Patella luxation plus irregular and frequent heat cycles.

She is the most beautiful dog I have ever owned and is becoming my trusted companion. I am not completely nuts. I also have a 7 year old Golden Retriever that I obtained/rescued from [www.goldenhearts.org](http://www.goldenhearts.org) in N. Little Rock.

I was recently diagnosed with Diabetes 2. As much as I do not want to think about that, I find myself thinking about it all the time. The diet right now is close to starvation. We are aiming for 45 g. of carbohydrates a day. Some of you probably understand all of this but for those of you who do not, I slice of wheat bread has 37 grams of carbohydrates. I read labels and absolutely love unsalted rice cakes with a teaspoon of peanut butter for breakfast. :) I do need to loose weight and have no doubt that this will do the trick. I am trying the weight loss and exercise route in hopes of holding off the insulin therapy.

I am still designing web pages for friends and non-profits that I support. Here are a few urls I have done. [www.afreshstartnonw.org](http://www.afreshstartnonw.org) [www.conwayschild.org](http://www.conwayschild.org) [www.conwayfumc.org](http://www.conwayfumc.org) a new one [www.choosingtoexcel.org](http://www.choosingtoexcel.org) and <http://users.conwaycorp.net/stopdv>

My husband, Warfield, Prof of Chem at Hendrix College since 1970 is also a Rocket Scientist. Some of you have heard me say that I find this amusing. It is if only because the prospect of me being married to a Rocket Scientist was a very unlikely possibility when I was at H.S.H.S. Anyway, Warfield does research with NASA so he looking at taking his Sabbatical next year in D.C. with NASA. Won't that be fun? I love D.C. but never wanted to live there. It is close to Philly and grandchildren though!

## [From the class of 1959](#)

### **Paul Johnson**

Paul has just completed his 10th year as the public relations counsel for the city of Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission. Paul has his own public relations agency, Paul Johnson Associates in Little Rock, having begun his PR career with Class of '59 classmate Ben Combs when the Arkansas Gazette was killed in 1991. In 2001 the A&P Commission generated more than \$10 million in free worldwide publicity about the city with the issuing of the now-fabled series of trading cards featuring another HSHS alumnus, Bill Clinton, Class of 1964. Paul is still married after 40+ years to Judith Chitwood, HSHS '58

### **Lynné McAdoo Lambert**

Ken and I moved from Harlingen, TX, down in the Rio Grande Valley, to San Augustine, TX, which is a dinky little town in the Piney Woods of East Texas, about 45 miles Northeast of the city of Lufkin, TX, and only about 30 miles from the Louisiana border. Harlingen is nice but it is so far away from the rest of the world, we decided to move a little closer to our mothers, who live in Hot Springs and Glenwood. This is our first attempt at what I call "country living".

Ken is a ham radio operator and he is enjoying having a little over an acre of land so he can put up whatever kind of radio antennas he wants without interference or griping from a property owner's association. He also loves riding his Harley-Davidson and making additions and improvements to the property.

Ken retired last August but I am still working as a Petroleum Landman. Right now I am working on an oil and gas exploration project in Nacogdoches, TX, where I have been since August, 2000. That's another reason we decided to move to Northeast Texas. I was only able to go home every other weekend due to the distance from Nacogdoches to Harlingen and we got tired of seeing each other only twice a month. Ken wants me to join him in retirement but I guess I am just not ready at this time. I still enjoy my work and the idea of being a "house frau" is not in my scheme of things.

Our daughter, Teresa, is single and she lives in La Porte, which is right outside Houston, TX. She works full time for a Thermocouple company doing AutoCAD work and she teaches Basic and Intermediate AutoCAD at San Jacinto College on Saturday. She teaches classes during the summer too.

Just in case this message reaches someone who has yet to see the web site for our class, the URL address is:

<http://home.att.net/~hshs1959>. I hope you will check it out.

Hope all of you are in good health and spirits and Ken and I wish you a belated wonderful 2002.

### **Nancy Hunter**

Charlie and I moved to San Antonio, TX in 1971. Charlie was with Associated Milk Producers, Inc. and I was with the City of San Antonio for several years. We moved to Arlington, TX in 1996 due to a company merger.

Charlie and I have now been retired since 1998. We live in Granbury, TX. In a community called Pecan Plantation. Charlie enjoys golf and plays a lot (weather permitting). I enjoy the outdoors, needle work and playing with our granddaughter, Hannah. We have one son Dave and daughter-in-law Becky who live in Plano, TX.

Anytime you are in our area please stop by and see us.

**Hal Melton** Worked around until 1962 when the DRAFT got after me. Joined the ARMY and saw the world. Retired in 1965 after 2 years 11 months and 22 days of "DOING FOR YOUR COUNTRY". Enrolled at the University of Tulsa and married Sharon Kay Birdsong of Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1965. We graduated with BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering and had one Daughter, Kim in 1970.

Went to work for Union Carbide Corp and stayed with them until 1974. We worked in Louisiana, West Virginia and NYNY in that time and we had our second daughter STACIE. We was hired by Oil Country Engineering Firm during the Energy Crisis and moved to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Sharon and I are still here growing old together.

Miss all of you

### **Judy White**

Thanks for encouraging me to give you some news. Here goes:

Judy White Collier is now a published author! My new nonfiction, 304 page hardcover book, *Quit Kissing My Ashes: A Mother's Journey Through Grief*, just came off the presses last month. It took me over 3 years to write the book, but now the tough work begins.....getting it in the bookstores nationwide, promoting it, and marketing it. What an endeavor and what a learning

experience. My next book will be titled *Why You Should Never Write a Book!* *Quit Kissing My Ashes* is about my twenty-six-year-old son's death in 1996 and his unbelievable ability to not only let his family know that he is okay, but many other people as well. For those of you who are skeptical of after-death communication, this book, "Without doubt, proves there is life after death."---Mary Jo McCabe.

John Edward, one of *People* magazine's "25 Most Intriguing People of 2001," host of the nationally syndicated TV show *Crossing Over* and best-selling author, is featured throughout the book and wrote the "blurb" on the front cover of the book jacket: "A family's story of love, death, tragedy and triumph. A MUST-READ for any parent dealing with the loss of a child."

There is even a chapter in the book having to do with the HSHS class of '59's 40th class reunion. Some of you fellow classmates are mentioned in this chapter.

This isn't only a book about the death of a child. It's about the death of anyone (all of us included). *Quit Kissing My Ashes* will definitely make you feel differently about death. I'm getting very positive feedback from those who have read it. So all the work has been well worthwhile.

It'll be awhile before the book is in your local bookstore. So if you are interested in purchasing it, you can check on my website: [www.quitkissingmyashes.com](http://www.quitkissingmyashes.com) to see how to order it. Hope all is well with all of you, and I look forward to our next get-together.

### **Robert Vann**

Greetings to all of my aging classmates from one you probably thought would wind up in prison, and has been there for 20 years. I have taught drafting and CAD to the inmates here in Huntsville at the Estelle Unit to the point of retirement in 11 months. (However I have been able to walk out the gate every day, and not wearing a white uniform).

A brief recap: 4 years in the Air Force 60-64. Stationed at a top secret security Service intercept site in Samsun, Turkey, listening in on the Rooshans. Then to Abilene, Texas, maintaining the communications gear for the Atlas Missile program. Went to Cisco Jr. College and North Texas State U. for a degree in Secondary Education majoring in Social Studies. Thank you, Bill Mears. Got married August '65. Commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Air Force in '67, went to Biloxi, Miss. for more communications training. While there taught in Pass Christian High School on my off time, as there was a great shortage of teachers. Taught Physical Science and Physics. Then to RAF Chicksands, another Security Service site who monitored Soviet aircraft movement. Ran the largest teletype relay operation in the free world. Then became asst. Squadron Commander for the 2166th Comm Squadron in RAF Alconbury, England. Back to the States to Ellsworth AFB, S.D., where I was a Minuteman ICBM crew commander, command post crew commander, and Aide to the Wing Commander. Left the AF in 1975 after mother died in Hot Springs, and moved back to Texas, where I got 2 Masters in Education and History. Taught 5 years in Center, Texas, then to TDC. Have raised two sons and two daughters. The boys became Eagle scouts and the daughters earned honors in Girl Scouts too. The younger daughter is the Academic Advisor at the Texas Academy of Math and Science, a two year residential high school/university for the extremely gifted and talented, that takes 200 high school juniors and two years later gives them a high school diploma, 66-72 hours of rigorous university, membership in the highest National Merit Scholars group in the country, and \$10,000,000 worth of scholarships a year to Ivy, West Coast, Big 12, Service academies, etc. Oldest son is crew chief for the C-5's flying supplies to Afghanistan, Bosnia, and other hot spots.

I am president of the Windham chapter of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, 100,000 strong, and the largest independent teacher organizations in the US.

After doing a great deal of genealogy, I discovered that I was a descendant of Chief Joe Vann, of the Cherokee, whose home, the Vann mansion, is now a Georgia State Park. I have enrolled with the Texas Gulf Coast Cherokee, and was elected Principal Chief two years ago. I do native crafts, flintknapping, carve ceremonial pipes and serve as a Native American advisor at the Bryan Federal Correctional Facility.

I am still married to my beautiful bride for over thirty six years. I am a member of the Tejas Storytellers Association and the Golanv Storytellers Guild. (This is a skill I learned from my time in Ms. Mackey's office, especially after the call I made to the radio station!) And I also survived Virgil Spurlin.

## **Verna Hicks**

Hi everyone,

I am writing from Little Rock. Some history to catch up—I worked at National Rejectors for 21 years, but when I realized the plant was probably going to shut down, I got busy and obtained an Associate in Electronic Technology at GCCC. Although I said I would never live in Little Rock, I moved here in 1983 to work at the Teletype plant as an inspector on computer networks and equipment. In 1988, I went to work with IBM as a Customer Engineer working on computers and point-of-sale equipment for customers in Little Rock and North Little Rock. After their first layoff ever in 1993, I found myself looking for another job. I wound up working for UAMS on their helpdesk for 2 years. In 1995, I went into the UAMS Finance department as their LAN administrator and computer support person. There have been several departmental reorganizations (don't you love those?) and at present, I am writing technical manuals for the new SAP finance system we implemented July 2, 2001. FYI: this is NOT the finance system that the state is having so many problems with—ours is the same software, but ours actually works. Enough of work, except to say I plan to retire in 2 years. Where to? Haven't decided.

I have one daughter, Jennifer, who is 31. Unlike her mom, who stayed around home for years and years, she has been to Europe and then lived in New Zealand for 6 months. While there, she worked in a Bed and Breakfast that catered to the Sheep Farmer's Association members who came into Wellington on business. It is similar to our Cattlemen's Association. On the way home, she spent a week in Fiji, scuba diving. After getting the wanderlust taken care of, she came home and put down roots—bought a 130-year-old house to fix up. At present, she is finishing up a Psychology degree at UALR and plans to go for her Masters next year. She hasn't married so I have no grandchildren. But she has dated the same young man for over a year so things are looking promising... I have bought all the Disney movies, just in case...

Probably the most exciting thing (if you want to call it that) to happen to me in the past few years is that I have survived two tornadoes...I was there—Literally. On March 1, 1997 and January 21, 1999. The first one just damaged, but the second one destroyed my home. So I moved—you don't have to hit me with a 2 by 4. I bought an older house in Hillcrest and am in the process of remodeling it. But I am very comfortable there—it is not in the path of anything sinister—so far. I live with two 8-year-old Siamese cats, Kubi and Suki, who are spoiled rotten. I attend Holly Springs Baptist church and am pianist there. I occasionally take classes at UALR—the most recent one being a Personal Finance class, which was great and gave me lots of pointers for retirement. Our teacher was Mary Ann Campbell, who is on Daybreak every Saturday morning. Our class has a reunion every six months to “catch up” with each other. We have thought of starting an investment club, which would be lots of fun. I plan to take a class on Investing in Stocks and Bonds in a couple of weeks. One can never be too knowledgeable about the market, can one?

I do come to Hot Springs quite often as I have friends and family there. So, to end this meandering, I would say that I am happy and doing well but looking forward to retirement so I can travel and have even more fun.

## **Bob McClung**

I live in Chadds Ford, PA and have been working for the DuPont Co. for almost 37 years. I joined them after college and after military service. I was married to Linda Lewallen, class of 1959 for 35 years. She died on Valentine's Day, 1998. She was the only girl friend I had, beginning with our first date on an October, 1957 Saturday night the day after we beat Nashville 35-7. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and teacher, raising a son and a daughter. Both are married and each have 2 children. Linda was a dynamic personality.

She taught me a lot and I give her primary credit for who I am today. I still travel to Hot Springs on occasion to visit with Linda's family and with my brother Lynn, who lives in Tulsa, and my sister, Beth, who lives in Texarkana.

I began my next life just over a year ago, when I married Linda's best

friend, Lucy. Lucy is from North Carolina, and has 2 children and 2 grandchildren, so together we have 4 children, 4 in-law children, and 6 grandchildren, all of whom live within an easy driving distance from us. We expect to live in this area after retirement, and continue our travels up and down the east coast and around the world. I'll look forward to future interactions with former classmates and again, I appreciate your inquiry.

### **Ed McAvoy**

is recuperating nicely from surgery at his home in Peoria, Illinois, where he is an executive with Caterpillar Tractor.

## **From the class of 1960**

**Happy "Big 60" Birthday to the class of 60. If you haven't already turned 60, you are probably close to it!!**

### **Jerry Hatfield**

Just a short update. We lost my brother Bob to cancer 12/31/00 so the trips to Hot Springs will be fewer than in the past. Brother Ted is in Knoxville, TN with Regal Cinemas.

My wife, Joetta and I have been married 32 years, with two sons, Chad (31) and Ryan (28). I retired for three days in April, 2000...but my wife kicked me out and made me go back to work. The plan now is July, 2005. We are considering a move to California when I retire to be near our youngest son.

### **Darel Edds**

WHAT HAS DAREL EDDS DONE FOR THE LAST 42 YEARS? It doesn't seem so long when you say it fast. After High School I enlisted in the Air Force, where I spent my time defending our great country as a Nuclear Weapons Fusing and Firing Specialist ( translation: I painted big bombs for 5 years ). Assignments were Denver, Northern Maine and Roswell,NM.

When I left the AF in 1965 I got a job with NCR ( National Cash Register at the time ) in Albuquerque as an apprentice technician for \$62.50 a week. Talk about being on the cutting edge of Technology, in 1966 NCR sent me to training on a Computer system. The training was 56 weeks long, 8 hours a day, 5 days a week and every Friday was BYJD (bet your job day). I don't care what you do for this long, it is going to get Boring as Hell. So what do you do when your bored as hell, well I got married to a Yankee.

After 22 years in Albuquerque working on Computers and getting into Management ( also adopted my step-son Curtis, my son Kelly was born 1968, divorced from Jody in 1972 and remarried Kathy Bott 1973 (another Yankee), she had two small boys Michael & Kevin) I was promoted to Omaha,NE as the District Service Manager 1986.

We found Omaha a great place to raise children and an awful lot of very nice people. If you are ever up that way don't miss the Henry Doorley Zoo, it is the best bar none. I even learned how to play Golf, although not very well. My son Curtis passed away he was 25 years old. We (Kathy and I) left Omaha in 1992 bound for Chicago (another promotion), our sons Michael and Kevin stayed in Omaha and are still there.

At first the Chicago area was a bit frightening to a hick from Arkansas, but we lived about 35 miles northwest of Chicago downtown, we were far enough away from the city that we could ignore it if we wished. We found the majority of the people very nice, except most of them talked funny. Chicago is a melting pot of humanity and every group has it own area, meaning you should who's area you don't want to be in. We loved the summers and hated the winters, they were to long.

In 1999 I was promoted to Region Director of Customer Services in Kansas City, which I thought would be a nice place to spend the last 5 to 7 years of my career with NCR. However I

found I was having to do things to the people that worked for me that I was not very proud of. The Corporate rat race had finally caught up with me and I could no longer justify their actions. I retired from NCR after 36 years in 2001.

Kathy and I decide Colorado would be a nice place to retire, so we moved to Colorado Springs last fall, however we're too young to retire, hey I'm only 59. So I got a job with another company where they think the most important asset they have is the people that work for them.

As I look back over the years since I left Hot Springs, I owe my successes to something my father once said " Give every person you meet a clean slate, let their actions be their judge."

My Mom still lives on Garland Ave; she is 87 this year, both my brothers Chet & Eddie still live in the area.

### **Jerry Gunter**

I have recovered from my disk fusion surgery and continue to improve, if you can believe that. Christine is still teaching, Alan is working and Claire is a junior at Brandeis. I drove her back to leave vehicle. 1800 miles, she played a cd then I played a cd, etc. We had a great trip.

I incorporated last year and began Backflow Inspections. Pretty much describes what we do.

I've decided to run for Chief of the Cherokee Nation. My first ad is being designed, but my campaign slogan has been selected. "I've never stolen a nickel, and all I want is a chance." If anyone would like to lend support contact [gunch@swbell.net](mailto:gunch@swbell.net).

Wa-do

Chief Jerry

### **Betty Carol Morgan**

We just returned from Kansas where we spent a week with our three grands while our daughter and husband went to Jamacia. They are now nearly 5, 3, and 1.....this is what's known as a handful. We prayed for night to come. I am now working again in a flower shop where I worked one time before; I needed to get some quarters to finish my SS time. I jumped in at Homecoming time and now I'm facing Valentine's Day. It's been busy but I enjoy it for the most part.

I've been selling some paintings lately. It goes in spurts and then stops.

The city bought my cards again to sell at the Christmas festival. My art is becoming better known little by little. I have a nice showing of my work in Wichita, Ks right now and was chosen at Christmas as one of the artists featured to do paintings for the Nutcracker Suite Ballet. They sold note cards made from our paintings. It's been a fun year.

Hope all is well with our classmates . Love, BC

### **More from Betty Carol**

this is the scoop.....

I was chosen among the top 100 artists in this area by the Artport

Committee to be included in the permanent collection on exhibit at the Shreveport airport..There will be a full color book made with each artists'

portrait and their work tied into the 50th anniversary of the airport.

There will be a grand event to open the exhibit on June 27th...with invitations and programs and such. They will have a tile auction at the

event to raise money for the Phillidelphia Center. Each artist will have a sponsor to defray the cost of the book....Goldsmith's will be mine .

The sponsor's name will be on a plaque in the gallery. So.....it's exciting.

As I always say this will get you a cup of coffee with a dollar bill.

### **Doris Nichols**

My news is that after 42 years of working, I will be retiring 12-31-02. I worked 19 years at Ark. Bank and Trust in Hot Springs (now Regions) and changed to Government employment with the Forest Service and transferred to Corps of Engineers, DeGray Lake at Arkadelphia where I have been since 1987. I feel like I have worked all of my life so I am ready to enjoy doing nothing.

### **Terrel Bledsoe**

We had a major snowstorm which we sorely needed so after I get everything plowed, will be hitting the slopes. Leg that I broke in May has finally healed to the numb stage (they had to cut some nerves) so I'm back on the black runs.

Our new (10 months old) Golden Retriever is fun, but requires about as much attention as a 2 year old. So while I recommend a big dog for us retired folks, also need patience.

### **Virginia Lane**

I still live in Hot Springs and I currently work at the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center which is a state job, but, that doesn't really mean anything any more. I have only one daughter whom I brought with me to our 40th class reunion at the Majestic. She was surprised to find out that one of our classmates had been one of her teachers. I am very proud of her. Her name is Kyara. She graduated from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia in December 2000 and now is living, working and going to school part-time at LSU in Baton Rouge, La. so she can get her masters in Library and Information Sciences. She is to graduate from there in December 2003. She is the love of my life and my anchor.

I found one of our classmates, working here at the Center where I work. His name is Walter Powell. He works in the Maintenance Dept. He hasn't changed much over the years.

There is a group of us girls or ladies from our class who still live in Hot Springs that gets together once in awhile, whether in someone's home or at a local restaurant. It is nice to see them again after so many years. We just kind of catch up on what has been happening in each others lives. Even though it has been 42 years since we graduated from ole HSHS, they haven't changed much and there is still that little feature or smile that tells you hey! this is so and so.

I am fastly approaching my 60th birthday in July and that really makes me feel old. It is hard to believe that we have been out of school that long, but, we have. Hot Springs has grown by leaps and bounds and is definitely no longer the 32,000 population they have on the city limit signs. We really are starting to look like a big metropolis with all of the overpasses, new businesses, etc. The school grounds at old HSHS, that run along Broadway, are now covered by a fire station and they are trying to make our ole alma mater into a Clinton Memorial Bldg. The new HSHS is nice but it doesn't have the memories that our school had when we went there, but, none the less our class picture is hung with the others in the big circle in the middle of the building right along with the other past graduates

### **Bonnie Jo Connelly**

NEWS FLASH (MEMORIES)

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS February 6,2002

The BJT Press

About 6 inches of snow fell in Hot Springs and surrounding areas on Tuesday, 02/05. It began snowing at 1:30PM and continued throughout the night until 3 - 4AM. It must have snowed again after my newspaper was delivered (6AM), because when I went to retrieve The Sentinel Record (still the name of our local newspaper) at 7AM I couldn't find it, but it was there under a pile of fluffy snow!

This was probably one of the prettiest snows I have ever seen in Hot Springs!! It only made me wish that my daughter was a little girl again, still home, and we could go out and make a huge snowman, or just go outside and stare at the beauty and quietness. It is so strange how quiet it gets after a big snow.

As I was driving home yesterday evening, the snow was falling really heavy, but it had not become a hazard yet and was barely sticking to the ground. When I stopped at the 4 way stop at 7th Street and Woodlawn, I looked over at the house on my right and there was a mother and father (I assume) with their 1 1/2 - 2 year old daughter putting a "blob" of snow on her nose. I sat there looking at the expression on her, that precious little innocent face, awe, joy, surprise and fun. It couldn't have been a matter of seconds, but it seemed like an eternity while thinking of my own daughter. It was like 26 1/2 years flashed before my life! As I drove the 3 plus more blocks

to my home, I must admit I was grumbling a bit about the "yukky weather and the inconsiderate drivers". But, after seeing those parents with that little child and probably her first snow made me forget the bad weather, ill tempered people, inconsiderate drivers, poor economy, high insurance, terrorists, "911", (which no one will ever forget), and just every bad thing that we live with each day, I seemed to forget all the bad things and just remembered the good! Thank God for good MEMORIES, which you can never take those away!! I am sure we all have some, whether it be with our children, our parents, siblings, etc.!

Just set aside one day to remember those Good Memories and smile as I did!! It will make you feel good.

Thank goodness today was nothing like last year, no ice or sleet! No electrical outages, water shortages, or fallen trees, just a little sprinkler of MEMORIES!

To all my friends sharing the big "60" this year, (I have already said Happy Birthday to 4 of you), Happy, happy birthday, be well, be happy and hopefully, stay healthy!!

Hope to see you at the next reunion, (or Kroger's, Wal-Mart, K-Mart or Lowe's, that's my route).

### **Ellen Hickey**

Sorry not to have responded earlier to your request but I have been incredibly busy with my real estate business, closing more than two million worth of business since the beginning of 2002. This is definitely a seller's market and we have more buyers than we do available houses.

I am leaving on a cruise down the Mexican Riviera day after tomorrow, so will make this brief and just send my best regards to all.

### **Ed Olds**

Ed and Lynda Olds are moving to Ft. Myers Florida and would like to hear from any former classmates

### **Louis Kleinman**

Betty & Louis Kleinman had their first grandchild on July 24, 2001. Reece Maxwell Parker lives in Plano, Texas. Louis got a promotion to Chairman of Falk Plumbing Supply when John Newman came aboard as Falk's president. Our youngest child, Rachel, now works for Congressman Mike Ross in Washington. Be sure and call her if you have any government problems.

### **Pat Sanders**

We missed the June mini-reunion because we returned that day from a 19 day trip that included 8 days in Israel and 11 day extension to Greece. This trip was one of our lifetime dreams fulfilled. Our former pastor has been taking people to Israel for over 20 years, and we have always wanted to go with him. What with raising two boys and sending them to college, we couldn't fit it into our budget. After 8 wonderful days walking the land Jesus walked and seeing the places we have studied about in Bible study come alive, we flew onto Greece and followed Paul's missionary journey through Greece, ending in Athens for several days. While in Athens we went to the Acropolis, had a wonderful view of it from our hotel balcony, and were only a few blocks from the Olympic stadium where the summer Olympics will be held again in a few years. Also got to see the changing of the guard at the Greek Parliament building - the guards were dressed in their traditional Greek uniform and we learned later they wear this uniform only on weekends. During the week they wear the current khaki uniform. Following several days in Athens we boarded a ship and sailed around the Greek Isles for 4 days, seeing more places where Biblical and Greek history occurred - Rhodes where we saw the site of the Colossus of Rhodes; Patmos where we saw the grotto where John wrote Revelation; Crete and several other islands. One of the most interesting was the island of Santorini which is an active volcano. Hundreds of years ago the volcano erupted, blowing out one side of the volcano and allowing the ocean to enter the crater, forming a natural harbor. The city itself is on the top of the cliff above the harbor. We were really glad we went on this trip as tourism was nearly nonexistent in June, and now no one is going to Israel. Hopefully, one day we will get to go again. Did miss the mini-reunion but while you were getting together Saturday night, we were deplaning after being up

nearly 30 hours and finishing a 15 hour plane flight from Athens to Little Rock. Said in my first email to you today that nothing much is going on at our house, but that's not really true - you would not believe that I am teaching a computer skills class. Am volunteering with Baptist Health SeniorNet and teach computer skills to senior adults. Am loving every minute of it. Glynn helps when he can but stays busy at work. Well, gotta go, but did want to send you this. Hope it isn't too much of a travelog.

### **Richard Parker**

Here's the news from my end of Lake Wobegon.

I've settled into the house I bought last spring here in Chico in Superior California. My retirement from the California State University System began last June, the result of something called "FERP" (which sounds like halfway between a burp and something worse, but is actually much nicer). The arrangement calls for me to come back and teach one semester a year (from late January until late May) for the next five years. The financial arrangements are very nice so I jumped on the chance.

I don't understand folks who retire and don't know what to do with themselves. I seem to be entirely busy whether I'm at work or not. (Of course, my level of busy may not match up with some of the rest of yours--I've never been accused of high-level industriousness.)

The best thing that's happened lately is my teaming up with a flamenco dancer, a Mexican woman of Spanish extraction who began studying flamenco dance 18 years ago, at the age of fifteen at an academy in Guadalajara. I accompany her on the guitar, and we have a helluva time. We've played in auditoria in front of several hundred and in clubs in front of a couple of dozen. Usually do about one performance a month. Just great fun. Practically a second adolescence--or, more likely, the continuation of my first.

My son, Alex, lives in Portland. He works around the fringes of high-tech industries (he studied physics in college but I've never figured out quite what he does now--something computerish).

Anyhow, I'm looking forward to a good year, and I certainly wish the same for all my classmates and near-classmates at HSHS. I'm delighted to belong to such a nifty bunch.

Best regards,

Richard Parker

[rparker@csuchico.edu](mailto:rparker@csuchico.edu)

### **Loretta Anderson**

I MADE A DECISIONS IN JULY LAST SUMMER TO LEAVE HOT SPRINGS AND MOVE TO AUGUSTA TO BE NEAR MY DAUGHTERS. IT WAS REALLY SCARY TO QUIT MY JOB AND BASICALLY START OVER, BUT I DID IT. I LEFT HOT SPRINGS ON AUGUST 28 AND A FEW WEEKS LATER ON , OCTOBER 1, I STARTED A JOB WITH AN ATTORNEY IN AUGUSTA. I STAYED WITH ONE OF MY DAUGHTERS UNTIL NOVEMBER WHEN I WAS ABLE TO GET MY OWN APARTMENT. MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE LIVE IN THE ATLANTA AREA SO I HAVE SPENT A LOT OF WONDERFUL WEEKENDS THERE. IT HAS BEEN A HAPPY TIME.

OF COURSE, IT HASN'T BEEN ALL EASY. I'VE HAD A LOT OF PROBLEMS LEARNING A NEW JOB. LAW IN GEORGIA IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN ARKANSAS, SO IT IS BASICALLY LIKE STARTING OVER. BUT, I AM LEARNING.

I THINK THE HARDEST PART IS NEVER SEEING ANYONE YOU KNOW!!! USUSALLY WHEN I WALK INTO A RESTAURANT OR A SUPERMARKET I WILL SEE PEOPLE I KNOW. NOT NOW. IT IS VERY HARD TO GET USED TO! SO, IT DOES GET LONELY AT TIMES. I HAVE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU IF ANY OF OUR CLASSMATES ARE IN THIS AREA.

MY GIRLS ARE WONDERFUL AND I GET TO SPEND TIME WITH MY GRANDSON, SO LIFE IS GOOD.

SOMETIMES I SIT AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I LEFT HOT SPRINGS WHEN I WAS 58 YEARS

OLD TO START OVER. BUT I AM HAPPY I DID. AND, IF THINGS CHANGE, I CAN ALWAYS GO BACK! BUT, I THINK I WILL STICK THIS OUT. ONCE I MEET PEOPLE I THINK I WILL LIKE IT A LOT MORE. I DON'T LIKE TO FORCE MYSELF ON THE GIRLS TOO MUCH. DON'T WANT THEM TO GET TIRED OF ME!  
ANYWAY, THAT CATCHES ME UP ON THE NEWS. I HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE WELL AND I LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEWSLETTER.

### **Linda Lewis**

Hello every one in the classes. This is Linda Lewis Jester. For you ladies who are not joining us on the first Saturday of each month for lunch you are missing out on a good time. Please try to come and visit with us. I am now divorced after 40 years of marriage, it has been hard to adjust but I will make it. I work at National Park Medical Center in the Medical records department. I have four grand children, three boys and one girl. They range in age from two years to eleven. Of course their "Mimi" spoils them every chance she can. The two little ones live here in Hot springs with my son Mike and his wife Tracy and the two older ones live in Ocala Fla. with my daughter Toni and her Husband Scott. I keep busy with my Quilting and work. I still like to garden but the heat gets to me so do not have as big a garden as I once did. I'm ready to get the tomatoes and okra planted for this summer but will wait as it is only February. A big thanks to Short for keeping us all in touch.

### **Jim Myers wife (Connie)**

Jim won't write, so I will do it for him. We have been married 35 years, so this is not unusual.

We both work together in Real Estate and much to our surprise, it is working very well! We welcomed a new grandson in January, Samuel Loggie (mom is daughter Jeanne, Dad is John and big sister is Alexandra.) They currently live in Sudbury, MA. This is our seventh grandchild - we are so blessed.

### **Jim Austin**

not a hell of a lot to say on my part. still playing in the traffic [trucking] still have the 97 pete large car running a lot of fla. some northwest, mainly where the bucke are best. still riding my 65 harley when time permitts. will probably bring.[ no will ride it down to hs for the spring or summer thing about all

### **Peggy Rogers**

Hello to all, Don has been very persistent in encouraging all of us to share new happenings in our lives and with our families.

Well, as it turns out my husband, Bob Bales, has just written a book about his uncle, Ernie Pyle. Ernie Pyle was a famous WW11 war correspondent and journalist from Indiana. All our parents remember Ernie Pyle. He was loved by all GI's and the American public in general. Before we had television and the nightly news the folks at home had to rely on war correspondents for their information on the front lines during the war. Ernie lived with the troops and wrote a daily news column for Scripps Howard. Bob's book covers Ernie's life from his birth to his high school graduation. It is primarily for young people and will be included in the American Childhoods series. You can view the book on [www.americanchildhoods.com](http://www.americanchildhoods.com) The American Legion has invited Bob to speak at their national convention and they will be using this book as a fund raiser for scholships for children of veterans. Our family is very proud of Bob for this accomplishment. Bob was also a former Disney artist in Los Angelas and has done all the illustrations in the book. We have been busy with book signings and general promotion and its been alot of fun for the whole family. My parents are still managing in an assisted living facility

and my Uncle Nathan McCauley (Coach) sends his regards for all our classmates. He and Ruth still live in Hooks, Tx. (Gary Farmer's mother) My love to all of you and I hope to see you at a future class reunion.

### **Mary Jane Kniepkamp**

I have lived in Houston for 34 years (WOW) Can't wait for hubby to retire

so I can move back to Springdale or somewhere in Ark. It has always been "home" to me. I have a 22yr old daughter Erika, who is attending Houston Community College. After many years in the Commercial Insurance Bus. I retired 6 years ago. Now I work part-time for Eckerd Drugs. Have to support the craft and reading habits.

Thanks again for the great site.

### **Judy Bond**

Our biggest news is that we have a new grandbaby born on Feb. 11th...Bryce Bond Adamson.

Our son Stephen and his wife Wendy live in Asheville just 40 minutes from us. Bryce has an older brother Tyler who is developmentally delayed so this new one will be a challenge for Wendy and Stephen.

Our other son David with wife Libby and their two children also live close by.

John and I were in Florida for six weeks this winter...after sixteen years in Orlando, my blood is too thin for the winter in the NC mountains. We were in Ft. Myers...do any of you spend any time there???

In May we are going to the Galapagos Islands to see lots of unusual sea life and unusual birds, etc. This summer we plan to spend a couple of weeks out west and then in Sept. we are going to Italy for my big 60 birthday. I don't know if I will be able to adjust to this next big decade. We decided to do a lot of traveling while we are still blessed with good health. This August we will have been married 40 years...where does the time go???

### **Sue Rachilla**

Sue is happy to report that her son, Andy, was a member of a group from Hot Springs Baptist Church who went on a mission trip in February to Gualcinse, Honduras. Working in a hospital being built by mission groups, the dental and medical team provided care for children from two schools. The children had to walk for hours to reach the hospital. For most of the children this was the first medical care any had ever received. During their week there, the medical team recorded attending more than 350 children and some adults. The group worked with two local missionaries during their tour. Dr. Craig Price, pastor of Hot Springs Baptist Church, preached in several mission churches, using an interpreter. Prior to returning to Hot Springs, the group visited the Ruinas de Copan, ruins of the Mayan Indians in Honduras.

### **Margaret Ruiz**

Hello to everyone.

Not much going on here except caring for my Mother-in-law and now I'm off to care for my daughter who is having surgery.

Otherwise life is treating me great. I still wake up every morning and for that I am very grateful.

We could use some prayers for our family members.

Did make contact with a grade school classmate.

Take care and God Bless everyone.

### **Dot Rushing**

Well folks I am still happily retired in Hot Springs. It is wonderful to go to McClard's whenever I want to and drive over West Mountain, go out on the lake (Hamilton) or drive to Ouachita. In other words, IT IS GOOD TO BE HOME! I have been going to the lunches on the first Saturday of every month and it is a joy to see so many of the girls we went to school with. We all have funny stories to tell about high school days. It was in the Hot Springs paper this year that the T-

STEPPERS are disbanding. I could not believe it. Remember, Roger Lynn Brown was the first Captain of the T-STEPPERS and there was a lot of us in the beginning. Hope to see a lot of you this summer at our Mini-Reunion.

### **Roy Coulter**

I have put off writing a response to your request for "News". Just reflecting for a few moments about high school, all the people, and wondering where did they all go, can give you some very heavy thoughts. Would any of them really care to hear my story? If I could, would I change anything? Have I invested my life in worthy efforts and people? Would people, who know me from way back, understand or care? Maybe we can't help wanting to put a little positive spin on our story? Why should I even try to communicate?

I have the benefit of working at Hot Springs High School. Our class picture hangs in the hall on the way to the cafeteria. Almost weekly I look up at it. Today I stopped and really looked at it. Looked at every picture.

High school was the end of childhood for me, the transition from life defined by choices others made for me, to life defined by choices I made. Being "at home" ended with graduation 1960. High school was a time of major changes: first car date, the quartet, first real love, high school politics, watching other "personalities develop" - being intimidated by some-envious of others, state-wide student conventions, singing with D.J. and the chorus, Mr Mears, Mrs. Mackey, planning a career and selecting a college. When I left town I did not every intend to look back, or for that matter, ever come back. The years after Ouachita Baptist College were spent as: A flight officer in the Navy - including combat missions in Vietnam and once around the world, a banker engaged in international commerce and debt syndicating - fifty countries and 2nd time around the world (11 Yrs.), a small businessman - marina and boat dealer on Lake Hamilton (11 Yrs.), a business consultant (10 Yrs.), and currently the Career and Technical Education Coordinator at Hot Springs High School. A twenty-four year marriage produced three wonderful sons and two perfect grand-kids. Ten years alone helped me understand life. For me, the Lord saved the best for last. The Trojan Chorus was called out of retirement to sing the Christmas Candle Light Service. After standing behind her for two years, I was introduced to Margaret Chaney/Harris. Margaret recruits for the FBI and, as such, was making a presentation to the Hot Springs school system. During that event, I had the chance to renew a college friendship with Roy Rowe, Superintendent. That conversation resulted in my being recruited to set up a program to introduce students to the real world of work through job shadowing, facility tours, and guest speakers. The need is so obvious and when a student gets focused, you experience so much satisfaction. The school organization is now being changed into a group of career academies. Wall to wall, we are how focused on career preparation. I have a great job. Who would have thought I would finish back at Hot Springs High School? Who could have predicted that singing with the chorus in the 50's would forty years later afford me the opportunity to meet a beautiful, vivacious young thing? Margaret and I married on September 22, 2001 and now live in Hot Springs Village. God is good!

So what was our purpose? What have we learned?

I know that God exists, that Jesus knew my name when He was on the cross, that the challenge contained in the Book of Job - curse God and die or put all your faith in God - is the short of it! I know

the Hot Springs High School class of 1960 is somehow very connected to who I am. What deep sadness I feel when another name is added to the departed list. If any of you read this, please let your spirit hear my prayer for you and God Bless You and Your Family.

### **Alice Keith**

Not much new with us. I am still enjoying retired life---not setting that alarm clock!! We try to attend the athletic events and special programs the grandchildren are in and we are still taking care of our mothers. We still enjoy going to the coin shows about once a month. Next month we are going to one in Wichita Falls, Texas. We have never been to that one before. My son has bought another jewelry store in Mena, Arkansas (that is where he is living now) and until he hires someone else I may be working one or two afternoons a week at the store here in Hot Springs. We have been visiting First Baptist Church and have decided to move our membership there. They have a very large congregation now and lots of activities going on. Vickie's sudden death was a big shock but she is still teaching me even in her death. Her funeral was attended by more people than the chapel could hold and it was very evident that she had touched many, many lives. I am going to try my best to be more like her and so I am going to tell you now how much you all mean to me. My school day memories are very precious and I hold our friendships close to my heart. May God bless each and every one of you.

### **In Honor of Vickie**

On March 1, 2002, one of the closest friends I have ever had passed on to a better place. **Vickie Ruth Sanders Elliott** was born in Hot Springs in 1942 to Herman and Ruth (Hassin) Sanders. She was the only child born to this marriage.

I met Vickie in Mrs. Farr's first grade class at Jones School in 1948. We spent 6 years at Jones School doing the usual elementary school things: birthday parties, brownie troop meetings, class holiday and end-of-the-year parties....all the things kids love to do. We had great fun. When we went on to Hot Springs Junior High, Vickie and I became the best of friends. We had lunch together at Pappas Brothers, had sleepovers at each other's home, spent hours on the telephone talking mainly about the subject that interested us most: boys! We had nicknames for each other, special codes for secret messages in notes passed in the halls between classes...all the silly things that teenage girls do. We shared our secrets, our desires, our ambitions, our fears, frustrations and our heartaches. She lovingly shared her large family with me. She called her Grandmother Hassin "Memis". "Memis" made a food I had never heard of called kibbie. It was delicious. She had aunts with nicknames like Nuna and Doodle Bug. She had cousins who seemed as close to her as siblings and I loved being in her home and around her relatives. I will always remember the fun and the laughter we shared there.

Vickie was always the one I could turn to for advice or for an ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on and over the years that never changed. I have always known that if I needed a friend all I had to do was pick up that phone.

Vickie met life head on and faced every difficulty (and there were several in her lifetime) with courage and determination. She learned the lesson of life and moved on. She loved her family and friends proudly and fiercely and she told them so every chance she had. Raised an only child she raised five children and was blessed with twelve grandchildren.

During our adult years Vickie and I both became the mothers and grandmothers we had always wanted to be and she and I were lucky if we saw each other once or twice a year, but when we did we made up for lost time. We did talk on the phone quite often and I am thankful that I called her on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. She promised to do her best to come to our HSHS class lunch the next day, but God had other plans for her. He had a place set for her at His table. Vickie went home from work that day and died suddenly of a massive heart attack. When I had talked to her earlier that day her last words to me were "I love you." In honor of Vickie Ruth Sanders Elliott, if you have friends who mean the world to you, pick up the phone and tell them

you love them. ( This was published in the "Letters to the Editor section of the Sentinel Record, submitted by Alice Keith Collier)

## [From the class of 1961](#)

### **Imogene Gordon**

Just a short update. I am retired and enjoying life in Mountain Pine Arkansas. I have four grown kids, Liz Ann, 43, is a mental health counselor with one child Ashley, 7 years. Renee, 33, single, a computer tech. Carl, 30, who is a Gunny Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps. He has two sons, Carl Jr., 8 years and Chase, 4 years. And my "baby" Virginia Leighetta 27, married with no kids yet. I have been single for 20 years, and have finally figured out how to be friends with my ex. This is good because the grand kids love us both and need the family security. My first husband died when he was fairly young (42). Life is good and I am very happy. The best things in my life after the family are old friends that I have renewed contact with, Carolyn Willett Bonds, and Jimmy Husbands. I hope you all are happy and healthy and as content as I am. I am sitting here marveling at miracles. My oldest daughter, Ann, has given me a beautiful grand daughter named Ashley, who is 7 yrs old. Now she has found out she is expecting again. This time it is a boy. All is going well, thank God. I also have two grandsons from my son, Carl. They are Carl jr. and Chase. It has snowed for the last two days, and the country is beautiful. Life is swell.

### **Jim Back**

I left HS for the Army 2 days after graduation. I spent 9 years active duty (Viet Nam 65-66) and 21 years in the active Reserves. At the same time, after my active duty with the Army, I went to work as a civilian with the Army as an Instructor at the Army Engineer School. After a few years of that I went to college at night for about 5 years and earned my BA and MA in Human Resources Management. I worked until 1998 for the US government and retired after almost 37 years as a Human Resources Manager for the Department of Commerce, Office of the Inspector General.

I am married to the former June Horton from Hot Springs and we are retired and live just north of Orlando, Florida. I have two children and 3 grandchildren. I share 2 children and 2 grandchildren with June.

### **Sharon Holt**

All I have to report is that I am happily married, and we ride Harley Davidson's all over the country. We are leaving on Feb 22 to ride to the Florida Keys and the only part I dread is washing the bike to make the trip. I have a Heritage Softail Springer if anyone out there rides, they'll know the bike. Here in Little Rock the men refer to it as the Tiajuana Taxi as it has fringe from top to bottom. I'm the 2nd Grandmother I know who rides. What fun! Enjoyed the last newsletter. We hope to see June Horton and Jim Back on this trip.

### **Charmayne Kimball**

Greetings from Colorado. I am a college professor at the Monfort College of Business. I teach in Computer Information Systems and my specialty courses are e-commerce and systems analysis and design. We have been in Colorado for 15 years having moved here from the Washington, DC area where I directed a masters program in computer systems management at the University of Maryland - University College Graduate School. We have two grown sons and five wonderful grandchildren. Starting this summer, we plan on spending our summers in Hot Springs on Lake Ouachita. We just purchased a house boat for that purpose.

(PS) My mother, Bonnie McGuire Kimball, also a graduate of Hot Springs High, just celebrated her 84th birthday. She and my dad are very active and in great health. Daddy was 88 in January.

### **Judy Beason**

So sorry we missed the reunion!

Marshall and I have been blessed with children & three grandchildren who live near us. We have lived in Memphis since 1964. He is an architect with Allen & Hoshall and I am full time wife, mom and grandmama. I direct a conversation English class at our church. We have enrolled over 100 since September from 25 nations. This is a joy and is never dull! Marshall is a deacon at our church(Bellevue Baptist). We have participated in ministry in Romania, China and Navajo Indian Reservation through the years.

I pray that each of you are healthy, content and full of peace.

Does anyone know where Sue Kallsnick is or her married name?

Marshall and Judy Beason Goins

### **Paulette Horne**

You asked for it. I have something to say and I hope it will be received in a positive manner. When I joined Classmates, in my info I mentioned that I hoped it was ok to join as I had not walked down the aisle with the rest of my classmates. I received a negative email from someone who "didn't" think it was ok. That's ok, each to his own point of view. But I would like the opportunity to explain why I feel I deserve to count myself as a graduate.

Ten years after leaving high school, I was a single mother with two children ages 5 and 6, living in California. I had the opportunity to go back to school get my GED, earn 60 college credits towards an AA degree and a secretarial certificate. To do this, I had to get my kids up and ready for school, take them to a sitter, and meet my carpool buddies at 6:30am for a 45 minute drive to a nearby town. Spend 8 hours in school arriving back home at 6:30pm. Pickup kids, cook dinner, do homework, fall into bed and start all over again the next day. It took 6 months to get my certificate. During this time my father became ill and passed away. I spoke to him by phone and it was our decision that I would not return home. That would mean giving up the opportunity to better my life. Now I haven't revealed this to get a pat on the back or to brag or for sympathy but only to say that no matter what someone else may think, I paid for my mistake of dropping out of school in spades and "earned" my high school diploma.

So what am I up to now. I'm single, will be retiring in September and planning a new adventure to follow my dream of traveling around the U.S. via an RV. Any other RV'ers in the group? I'd be interested in hearing from you. Also, has anyone setup their own website? Would love to see that as part of the newsletter.

Best Regards,

Paulette (Horne) Grills

Sherwood AR

