

# **Hot Springs High School Newsletter**

**Classes of the 50's and 60's**

**September 17,2002**

Edited by Alice Keith Collier Published by Don Short

Note: This is LONG!! There are pictures attached! Don't stop reading until you come to the words "THE END"! Hope you didn't get too impatient waiting for it to download!  
Alice

**Dates to remember:** Ladies Out to Lunch Bunch

Oct. 5 at Janet Spurlock's Home 767-7726 Noon

Bring a Mexican dish

Nov.2 Colton's Steak House Crawford Dr. Noon

Dec. 7 Sharon Short's Home Noon

Call 525-1607 or 767-6703 for Info

**December Mini Reunion** for Class of 1959 and Neighboring Classes

December 14 Elks Lodge See Nancy Harris' Letter Below

## **From the class of 1958**

**From Pat Berryhill Muse:**

I have enjoyed reading the class newsletter. Alice Keith Collier is devoting many hours towards making this newsletter a success. THANKS ALICE! I have been neglectful in sending any information about our '58 class.

There has been talk of having a 45th reunion in the fall of 2003. All '58 classmates need to send their present mailing address, and e-mail address to: Charles Walker, 217 Lookout Pt, Hot Springs, AR 71913.

We have located two classmates that have been on our lost list for over 40 years: Don Barnett and George "Lee" Stone. We do not discriminate: we have tried to find everyone who attended school with us, even those who were with us only briefly in grade school!

To my knowledge, since the 40th reunion, there have been three marriages: George Lasky to Charlotte; Carolyn Mooney Ridley to Lloyd Black; LaVerne Burton Geurin to Buddy Black.

We have lost ten (10) classmates that I am aware of since our 40th reunion:

James Randy Kirschner - heart

Patsy Staggs - heart

Lou Nell Cox Cook - cancer

Cecil Weatherred - leukemia

Lawrence Trammel - heart

Larry Wilson - cancer  
Billy Bayles - cancer  
Bob Compton - heart/diabetes  
Herbie Cook - pancreas  
Jerry Walters - liver disease

DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC IN THE LAST CATEGORY!

Pat Berryhill Muse  
220 Burroughs St  
Hot Springs AR 71913  
(501) 623-6129

Sad to report that our Band Director, [Virgil Spurlin](#) died Saturday, Sept. 14, 2002 at St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center. He was laid to rest Tuesday, Sept. 17, in Greenwood Cemetery (In Hot Springs) with full Military Honors. Alice

**From Bob Anderson**

Still working in our staffing business. Volunteered for the Georgia State Defense Force after 9/11 and am serving as a Battalion Executive Officer. We do lots of training and missions as part of the governor's Homeland Security initiative. My daughter Amberly is getting married in February. Her twin brother, Brad, is successfully working in the web development field, and their brother Ashley is working as an attorney in San Francisco.

**From Bob Ferguson**

For all of those eagerly awaiting the news -- Bob Ferguson '58 and Nora Donna Dunson '59 were married almost 40 years ago. They are still married. Neither has killed the other yet. Two sons have grown up reasonably normal. One son, Pete, is a firefighter in Benton and was married in May to Laura Hutcheson, , who is a nurse for the Easter Seals Center in Little Rock. .Our older son, Jason, continues to elude the matrimonial snare. He is leaving his job with a Little Rock political consulting firm to move to Junction City, Kansas. where he will on Aug. 25 become the pastor of a small church while he is attending St. Paul's Methodist Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

**From Lee Stone (George Lee Stone)**

I don't really have much. I retired from one federal job and now I am working on a second retirement (just another two years). Don't know that I will actually retire though. I rather enjoy what I am doing.

I still live in the New Orleans area. Moved down here from Lonoke, Arkansas in the fall of 1970 (I loved teaching Biology and Chemistry there in Lonoke, just couldn't afford it). So, this part of the world is home now. My kid and grandkids live here so I am not likely to leave. I do enjoy going back

up to Hot Springs to visit my sister and her great husband.

From Whitney McFarlin  
And Gail Smith (class of '60)

Greetings from Florida where it is very hot this time of year (August) but will be cooling down by the time the newsletter gets published. Gail and I recently had a great visit from Bob and Nora Ferguson after his Marine Corps reunion in Tampa. They came over to Lakeland to spend the night and catch us up on all the Arkansas news. It was great to see them and, as usual, we had a blast.

Things are fairly quiet down here for two old retirees, although we stay busier than we ever believed possible. I have taken up painting and have proven to be fairly good at it, for an old engineer. I'm also restoring a 1952 Jaguar XK 120 with my brother, who lives nearby. There may still be a few folks out there who remember what that car looks like.

I travel frequently to Minnesota for board meetings but I rarely get back to Arkansas and we miss that. I heard from Ken and Lynne Lambert that they just moved back to Hot Springs. They are out on Lake Hamilton and Ken is retired. He can't get Lynne to let go of working yet but he's got her committed to a retirement date after the first of the year.

Our kids are in California (one family) and Minnesota (one family and one single) so we spend time in both places. We miss the old friends from our High School days but are pleased with your efforts, Don, to keep everyone in touch. If anyone comes to Florida and wants to look us up, we would be glad to see you again. We live 45 minutes from the Disney World area and one hour from the Gulf beaches.

From Viki Ensminger Teague

I just returned from D.C. and other points east of Arkansas. Left my husband, Warfield, in D.C. where he will spend the next 12 months or more as an employee of NASA. Hendrix College allows sabbaticals and Warfield has always taken advantage of this unique opportunity to go in a different direction from teaching and doing research. He is working with the NASA Space Grant Administration. In his position he will review and oversee Space Grant Programs in all of the states. He will also go "to the hill" for meetings with Congress and who knows, maybe Jr. himself. (I am sure W. would just as soon skip any meeting with the President, they would definitely have a hard time carrying on a meaningful conversation. Jr's pronunciation of "nuclear" sort of tips us off as to his knowledge of technology). Apologies to those of you who revere Jr. We don't.

Anyway we have a nice, clean, very small and very expensive apartment on Dupont Circle. I spent one night there before I had to return to Conway to rescue my abandoned dogs. (dog sitters just aren't what they used to be). I will remain in Conway until cooler weather, then go to D.C. and Philly for a week or two. I am having a really hard time imagining myself confined to that small apartment anyway. I have never relished the thought of living in the city, especially one like D.C. The inconveniences of living in a high rise, the dirt, constant crowds, traffic, noise and now the danger of terrorists gives me no comfort. If any of you that know Warfield are going to be in D.C. let me know. He would love to play host.

I am in an artistic mode, or was before I had to put the lids on the paint cans and clean up my messes in order to go east. I had almost completed decoupage and faux painting my kitchen. It is turning out really pretty and as W. always says about my work, "very bright!" I stopped at flea markets all along the way home from D.C. purchasing painted and/or colored china to "smash" for mosaic counter tops in the kitchen. I have tons of projects for the weeks and months when I will be alone in Conway. I also visited a great ceramic tile outlet in Crossville, Tennessee to get samples and prices for my new floors in the kitchen, dining room and family room. I should know by the time I drive that way again if I am going to be successful with laying tile. I purchased a large stained glass church window that I will have installed in the family room this fall.

Won't Warfield be surprised when he comes home later this year? Not really. In the 40 years we have been married he has spent many, many months away from home doing research, Army duty, and so on. He never knew where the bed might be when he came home. I used to change rooms like others change table cloths. I have been known to tear out kitchen bars/counters, wall to wall carpet, refinish floors and change family member's rooms from one end of the house to the other (not the actual room!...the objects in the rooms).

I suspect I have managed to bore most of you to death with all of this. He \_\_\_, I think I did pretty good for a 61 year old.

## **From the class of 1959**

### **From Paul Johnson**

Hal Melton, Ed McAvoy and Paul Johnson (all Class of '59), Judy Chitwood Johnson ('58) and Bob Ferguson ('58) and Nora Dunson Ferguson ('59) all gathered with spouses in Northwest Arkansas for a mini-reunion. Hal is retired in Tulsa, McAvoy is still with Caterpillar in Peoria, Ill., the Johnsons and Fergusons are in Little Rock and Benton, respectively. Amidst a lot of good eating at James at the Mill, quaffing some good red wine and bald-faced lying about their exploits, the group had such a good time they vowed to get together more often than every 43 years.

The Johnsons were able to ambush the McAvoy's and force them to look at a zillion photos of their just-completed trip to Tuscany, but the Meltons and Fergusons were able to dodge the photos.

### **From Judy White Collier**

As most of you probably know I wrote a book **Quit Kissing My Ashes: A Mother's Journey Through Grief**. What a learning endeavor. I took a trip to New York City in May of this year so that I could attend BookExpo. Over 35,000 people from every country in the universe were there--lots of well-known authors, publishers, etc. I had no clue what I was doing there, but I walked miles in the Jacob Javits Center, carrying my book and smiling at everyone. (I was told to do this.) Anyway, I guess it all paid off, cause I got to meet a lot of neat people including Marlo Thomas, Jack Canfield of Chicken Soup for the Soul, and many others as well. I also had my book accepted for distribution and sales to libraries nationwide. I met with the producers of "48 Hours," "Good Morning America," "Today Show," and Barry Farber a syndicated radio show host. Most were interested in my story of my son, Kyle, and his ability to

communicate with me from the spirit world. I was on Barry's radio show from New York a few days ago. Things are picking up, and I have been on radio shows throughout the country-from Kansas City to Denver to California. (13 times the past 2 weeks) This is all mind-boggling to me, but very exciting. Best of all, I have been receiving such positive response from those who have read *Quit Kissing My Ashes*. One lady whom I don't know bought one copy and after reading it, she bought 6 more copies to give to others. I was on a TV program in New Orleans this morning and since I arrived home, I have received 37 phone calls. Mostly from people who are in grief over the death of a loved one. I feel like "Dear Abby" cause they keep asking my advice.

Because of all this book stuff (I've appeared in Dallas 3 different weekends), I had to take a sabbatical from teaching this year. I miss my students, but feel I am helping a lot more people with my book. If you want to find out a little more about my book you can go to my website: [www.quitkissingmyashes.com](http://www.quitkissingmyashes.com). The site needs major revamping, but I haven't had the time to get to it. Maybe some of my fellow classmates can give me some input as to how I should change it. (Free advice!!)

I do have a chapter in my book about our 40th reunion. Often people who don't know any of us comment about that chapter. I guess they can relate because of their own reunions. Hope all of you are doing well. I look forward to receiving the newsletter and catching up on some of you. I'd love to hear from you. My email is [JKC42@aol.com](mailto:JKC42@aol.com). Blessings to all of you.

#### From Susan Whittington Batterton

I think it is wonderful that you are doing this. I retired from Lake Hamilton High School in 1997 and still live in Hot Springs. I have spent most of the last five years traveling. I have a son and daughter but no grandchildren...only granddogs. Life is good.

#### From Nancy Hunter Warren

Not much happening in Pecan Plantation. This is the time of the year in Texas that we rise early, play golf, swim, or walk then stay inside during the heat of the day. Have been quilting a quilt made of squares that were given to my parents when they married. They were married for 56 years. Hope to complete it soon. Charlie and I are both well. Looking forward to a reunion in Hot Springs in September with some of Charlie's classmates from Lakeside.

#### From Nancy Harris

I would like to thank the Class of '60 for the help in our get-together we had on June 15 at the Back Porch Grill. Even with the mix up on our seating arrangements we had a very enjoyable time and look forward to our next event. It is always nice to visit with our classmates and see what is going on in their lives. Even though most of us who attend live in and around Hot Springs we may not see each other except at the get-togethers. I think there were about 30 people in attendance and 1 teacher, Mr. Nooner and his wife. We (the Class of 59) really appreciate everyone who attended and helped get it together.

The Class of 59 has reserved the Elks Lodge for Dec. 14 for our Annual Christmas Party. Please let everyone know that anyone from HSHS is welcome to come. We will be sending out flyers in October and we will need to know how many are coming. If anyone wants to come and

isn't on our mailing list, please let me know. We enjoyed our summer dinner at Back Porch Grill and look forward to another class get-together. We will have a buffet with a couple of choices of entrees, but haven't gotten a price figured out. We will try to have some music for those who can still "Step Around the Dance Floor."

We appreciate all your efforts to keep us informed about what is going on in several classes.

**From Lynee McAdoo**

**And Ken Lambert (57)**

Ken and I are slowly relocating to Hot Springs. We recently purchased a home on the corner of Marion Anderson Road and Mallard Point and will slowly move into it. We are taking our time on this move but are looking forward to returning to Hot Springs after having lived in Texas since 1964.

Ken's class (1957) had its 45<sup>th</sup> reunion on June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had a lot of fun visiting with friends at the Park Hotel social on the 21<sup>st</sup> and then had a nice banquet at the Belvedere Country Club on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Ken retired last August but I am still working in the oil and gas exploration business in Nacogdoches, TX. I am considering joining Ken in retirement sometime later this year. Our best regards to all of you.

**From Milton Brown**

First a quick review: college at Arkansas, 5 years with GE, 6 years with Litton Industries, 6 years with two small computer reseller companies, 10 years with Texas Instruments, 10 years with MOCA, a division of Arrow Electronics. I have always been in the computer industry, either in sales, sales management, or marketing. Married in 1968 to Donna Gready, a Houston native. Kids: Our oldest son, David, died at age 16 in 1988. Amy is a risk analyst (accountant) for Reliant Resources and Mikey is in the management training program with Enterprise Rent a Car. Both are Texas A&M graduates and both are in Houston. Both are single, so no grandkids in sight for a while. One of the most laughable memories from HSHS was when Jim Chesnutt, Robert Vann and I ran Coach Brooks' wooden sliderule through the water fountain while he went out to assume his position in the hall. On his return to class, the sliderule was stuck tight and he was unable to teach us the fine points of arithmetical calculation. I also recall a number of us working feverishly to unscrew all the desks in Coach Brooks' room from the floor and moving all of them to one side of the room.

Today, I am still Regional Manager for Arrow and plan to work a few more years. Donna has retired from teaching after 29 years and is looking for her next career. We are both active in Tallowood Baptist Church. We plan to stay in Houston because our kids are here.

**From Robert Vann**

I close out a thirty year career in education in January '03. Most of it has been with the inmate population in Texas. It has been intensely rewarding and an area of teaching that gets little recognition. Without it, the criminals go back into society just as ignorant and untrained as before, and just as likely to do what they did before. With an academic and

vocational/technological education, they can become fellow tax-payers, responsible parents and neighbors, and those who work for the good of society. (Soap box mode off)

I started doing genealogy many years ago and found that I am the direct descendant of William Vann and Wah Li Otterlifter. There were the foreparents of the Cherokee Vann dynasty in North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Oklahoma. I have spent the past ten years or so immersing myself in the heritage of the culture. I have been accepted to the rolls of the Northern Cherokee Tribe and the Texas Gulf Coast Cherokee. I am serving as elected Principal Chief of that organization. We demonstrate the culture of our ancestors over much of East Texas, in schools, museums, libraries, and festivals.

I have also started a second, retirement, career as a professional storyteller and re-enactor. I am a member of the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, the Texas Storytelling Association, the Go La Nv Storytelling Guild, and other groups. I am booking the 2003 year, after having good success as a part-time teller in 2002.

I was in Hot Springs last month, on a genealogy mission from Yellville down to Sparkman, with several nights in Hot Springs with my brother, David. He recently retired from the Sentinel Record as photographer and will soon have a shooting range open on Blacksnake Road, close to the Mid-American museum.

I didn't like Hot Springs when I was there. It was like a once beautiful bell of the cotillion who has fallen on hard times, and is just one bad break from becoming a bad-lady, sleeping under the bridge. Of course, thirty years of separation can do that to one's perception. I found the urban and commercial sprawl from the Garland County line north to Oaklawn Park cheap, tawdry, and almost shameful. Park Avenue has hit bottom in many places and the areas that were so attractive have gone to seed.

I was amazed to not find the old football field and Rix School gone. Robert e. Lee elementary school is now an artist's studio?? What ever happened to "Lee School Forever"?

Maybe for those of you who have lived there continually, the cancer of "progress" has been so gentle that you haven't noticed it. But from my eyes it will never again be "home". It took forever to find my way to Lakeshore Drive from the west and then get to the old homeplace. And of the triumverate of taste sensations on Albert Pike (McClard's Bar-B-Q, Cook's Ice Cream and McBride's Root Beer Drive-In), only one remains. And the huge drive-in on Central Avenue has also been swallowed up into suburbia. Only one bathhouse remains open and the "real" Hot Springs High School sits forelorn, overlooking the flats.

Best wishes to all, and if you need a good entertainer for a business seminar, convention, etc. think of me. I promise I won't bring my camera and make you pose for Old Gold pictures.

I'll wait for the next issue to see if any of you other "local yokels" respond to Robert's views on the condition of today's Hot Springs. Alice

## **From the class of 1960**

**From Terrell Bledsoe**

We're still in Breckenridge, CO., even though it reached a sweltering 80 degrees recently. It's usually more comfortable in the 70's. How's the weather in Hot Springs? We did go to Dallas for the grand appearance of our grandchild. Sorry everyone, she's the cutest. Working out on

my leg, and already bought my season ski ticket. Hard life, even though I really do miss working and the CIA (Sandi thinks I'm nuts, but anyone that knew me in High School is way--y ahead of her.) Come see us anytime (970) 547-4923. I still do a little work, but nothing that can't be put off a week, or two weeks, or a month or so. Work is primarily legal and anyone that has had the misfortune to deal with our legal system knows that soon means this year, or next, or "whenever". Enjoyed the last reunion, figure if our 40<sup>th</sup> was that wild, wait until the 50<sup>th</sup>!!

#### From Vikiann Clark Gunter

Vikiann Gunter, alive and well and LOVING Ft. Worth. Have begun volunteer work at Cook Childrens Hospital with my book, You Ought to Write That Down, working with parents there for long term stay children. Am also starting to work with teens with cancer to do journaling. Expecting grandbaby #6. Life is gate, jus' gate. Hope all is well with everyone.

#### From Doug Rather

Greeting to everyone. Just a short note to say that the last newsletter was very good and I appreciate all the work done by the publishers. Just retired in May after 30+ years with the Dept. of Veterans Affairs medical system. The last 14 were spent at the VA Medical Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas (Home of those ever lovable 'HOGS') Actually live in Rogers, Ark. Just next door to Bentonville and the home of WalMart. My daughter and her family are nearby and make visits with the grand kids an almost daily affair.

Since retiring we have travelled a little, but always look forward to the return to NWA and the grand kids. Ran into John Massey at the airport last Sunday. Time has taken its toll on us both, but we are holding our own. There are other class mates in the area and we need to start a chapter up here. Hopes this finds everyone wrinkle free and having a cool summer. Thanks again to the publishers.

#### From Jack Richardson

Brenda and I are still enjoying our retirement back in Hot Springs. This is three years of full-time retirement and so far I haven't felt any desire to go back to work. We still travel some but no big trips this year. We are still recovering from the wedding of our youngest daught, Joy. She was married March 9 at the new Garvan Woodland Gardens here in Hot Springs. Incidentally, if you haven't been to the Gardens you need to do so. This is really a great addition for Hot Springs. It is 200+ acres located on Lake Hamilton off Carpenter Dam Road. The U of A Dept. of Architecture is developing the property and they are doing a first-class job.

#### From Grace (Ferguson) Woodall

I have been living in Springfield, Mo. since Aug. of 1962 after meeting my husband through some mutual friends. We were married in Aug. of 1963, and will celebrate our 39th anniversary the 30th of this month. We have 3 daughters and now have 8 grandchildren.

I worked for the Frisco Railroad for 10 years in the car accounting dept., resigning in 1974 after my husband was able to get our graphics arts prepress business going good. We sold our business in Jan. of this year, and are now both retired.

My husband and I are both avid golfers and spend as much time as we can on the golf course. I also keep some of the grandchildren during the summer and after school. Two of our daughters live in Springfield and five grandchildren. Our youngest daughter lives in the Denver, Co area. She has three children. We visited them in June of this year and were able to play several golf courses there and in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma on our way home which was a lot of fun. We hope to be able to take trips like this a lot, and play as many different golf courses as we can (I mentioned that we were avid golfers). It is something that we really enjoy doing together. I don't know if too many will remember me as I didn't make too big a splash when I was in high school. I haven't been to Hot Springs for several years, since my mother passed away in 1991. I have two sisters still living there however so we are planning to visit again sometime when we can.

#### From Sue Rachilla Sorrells

- Well, I'm still at Wal-Mart [20years in Oct.] Still married and still enjoying each day as much as possible. We all have our aches and pains [that way we know we are still alive] Planning a trip to the Smokies in Sept. If you've never been ,I recommend it, it's beautiful and at Cade's Cove the deer practically run over you! Always enjoy hearing from all of you. Still haven't figured out why when us ladies get wrinkles and gray hair we look older but you guys its character lines and maturing and handsome???

Sue has a suggestion for us. She would like for those of us who would like to---to send any old pictures that were taken down on Central Avenue in front of the camera shops to Don and see if we can get a collection together. If you don't want to part with the original---you can take it to your local Walgreen's and copy it on one of the new machines very inexpensively. I have been copying so many old pictures the last year at our Walgreen's they now know me by name! Alice

#### From Pat Sanders Braswell

Sorry this is so late. Been out of town for three weeks. Two weeks in Dallas with our son who had knee surgery and needed mom's TLC. Then off to Alaska for a week's cruise - dream trip for us and absolutely wonderful!!!! If anyone has not gone - don't miss it! Say, this would be a great idea for a reunion!!! Just got back late last night. Thanks to all who send emails. I know I don't respond very well - been a busy summer - but I do enjoy getting them. Have also been having problems with my computer and can't always read the attachments, but keep sending them. Just got a new one, and we are installing it today. Take care everyone.

#### From Bonnie Jo Connelly Thompson

Dear Class:

Seems like when Donald first began this newsletter, "humpteen" years ago, I had 100's of things to relate. Basically, what was going on in Hot Springs and who I had seen in Wal-Mart, Krogers, Lowes, K-Mart, etc. I still see a few of the "local yokels" at our monthly luncheons and wish more of you would come once in awhile!

Nicole, my daughter, is the Visual Art Educator (we used to call it art teacher) in Texarkana, TX (Pleasant Grove School District). She was recently appointed to the position of Visual Art Scholastic Event Director for her region in Texas. She was also just notified that she is to be included in "Who's Who Among American Teachers". Her most recent accomplishment was to win "Best in Show" honors (\$1,000 for first place) at Texarkana's Annual Juried Regional Art Exhibition, which was jurored by a New York artist. In her last 4 years of teaching, (now beginning her 5th), she has encouraged her students to submit their art work in this exhibition and they have done well with prizes, ribbons, etc. The last 2 years she has seen 2 of her AP students go to Savannah, GA (a prestigious/elite art college). This speaks very well for their teacher. I am so very proud of her and I have to pinch myself and say, "does she really belong to me"?!

Well, to move on and relate something more class oriented, Dot (Rushing) Gilbert, Helen (Kidd) Mosley and I had a 3 hour lunch today. We didn't order for an hour because of yaking. I don't think any of us finished a sentence, as there was too much to discuss! And, to say what we discussed, I don't have a clue, we will probably have to call each other and say "what did you say and who were you talking about?" I loved it! I wouldn't trade my old friends for anything in the world. I feel so blessed to have my health, mind, and "old friends"!!! Aside from my daughter, I have always felt that, "my friends" are the most important assets in my life. When all of your family is gone, life can get pretty lonesome. Friends can sure help to fill that void, so call an old friend and renew a friendship! Hope everyone is well and enjoying life!

#### From Richard Parker

The only interesting thing going on with me these days, John, is my flamenco involvement. My dancer and I and two of her dance students will be performing at a big dinner at a local hall on September 20th, and three days later I leave for a month in Spain, studying flamenco in general and taking guitar lessons. Other than that, same old stuff.

#### From Linda Lewis Jester

In June I had a visit from my daughter and son in law and two of the grand kids from Ocala, Fla. These two got to bond with the two that live here and did they ever have a good time, They are now 12, 8 , 5 and 3. They are growing up to fast. I then went to Virginia to see my mother. My sister Susan and Mom and I then traveled to Orange County Virginia to the Montpelier home of President James Madison and his wife Dolly for a Madison family reunion. At the 55 room mansion we had about 100 family members in attendance from all over the USA..I got to know a lot of cousins. The weather was perfect and there were all kinds of things planned for us to do at the mansion. We had a work shop in genealogy and a program at the original home spot where they have found wine bottles that had my great, great, great, great, grandfather's name Ambroise Madison on them, plus dinner at the mansion and lunch at the pony barns and a picnic. We had a memorial at the family cemetery where James and Dolly Madison are both buried. Mom and Susan and I stayed at a bed and

Breakfast done in the old style and I felt like I had gone back in time 250 years over the weekend. We even went to the church where the Madison's had attended for the Sunday morning service. It was a remarkable weekend. The family has a reunion every three years and this is the first time I have been able to take in the whole weekend. It was awesome. I had Cataract surgery the 4th of September and will have the other eye done in Oct. I love hearing from everyone including the Doctor I'm too young for cataracts. At our age it is good to know we are too young for something.

#### From Ellen Hickey

Hello from San Diego! Everything is super on this front, with the end of 2002 looking very busy. My real estate business is great, property values are excellent and, best of all, Bill Walker and I are getting married on December 29. Following the reception, we are boarding a Holland America New Years' cruise out of San Diego for the Sea of Cortez. Several couples are joining us, so it should be great fun. (Come join us!) Other than that, am remodeling my house, traveling to Palm Springs in September, Daytona Beach in October, an 11-day Hawaiian Island cruise in November and the wedding and Mexico cruise in December. I am slated to serve on a federal grand jury in January, so will be staying put for it's duration. Plan to visit Hot Springs next spring after or prior to the Kentucky Derby in May, so hope to see some of you then. Best regards to all...Ellen Hickey.

#### From Wanda Hardy Smurl

Sorry I've been so long getting back to you. I have a new grandson on the way in Nov. (My daughter) Shannon and Scott are having their 3rd son. The others are 9 & 7 so they are all really excited about baby Jake. Scott has taken a new job in Richmond, VA which will enable Shannon to be a stay at home Mom and that is a true blessing with the new one on the way. They will be moving in the next month, but a relocation company is taking of everything so the move won't be so hard. They are trying to get John Thomas and Seth out there by the time school starts are shortly thereafter. I'll have a new place to visit. Larry and I are looking forward to our first trip out in Nov. when the baby comes. You know I love the beach and that's not far from the Atlantic ocean so I'll spend some time in that area in the future. Our son Michael is in Ouagadougou, Burkina Fasa, Africa. He is working for Brown and Root as an engineer and is overseeing an upgrade on the American Embassy there. He will finish that project in late Oct. and will get another assignment, we don't know where yet. He is going on a trip to Amrsterdam for 10 days in early Sept. for a little rest. Please shorten this for the newsletter, just wanted to fill you in on a few things. We get email from Africa everyday, how times have changed since we were in school. It seems a lot closer since we can stay in touch on a regular basis.

#### From Dot Rushing Gilbert

We have been retired two years now in Hot Springs. We love it! I sure hope the Stock Market gets back on its feet or guess who is going to have to go back to work???? We have just been enjoying being home! I really enjoy going to the luncheon's we have been having here in Hot Springs. I just wish more of you would join us! It is so refreshing talking about our school days, funny stories, none of the bad stuff, Ha Ha. and seeing everyone. We go to Plano, Tx to visit Rick and his family whenever we want to. That is really nice. Rod is still in Oldwick, N.J. teaching school in Elizabeth, N.J. (Music) and loves it. He teaches private voice lessons for extra monies! It is expensive living in N.J. but teachers pay is much better than Arkansas. Hope to see a lot of you at our next reunion! May God Bless All Of You and God Bless America!!!!

#### From Darrell Newkirk

It was great to see so many classmates during the 40th reunion in Hot Springs. I'm doing very well. I'm semi-retired working in a clinic 2 days a week, and off 5 days. I keep busy doing some nature photography, and with getting a national business and some of my inventions off the ground. My wife June and I look forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary next year. We have one actress/model daughter in New York City and the other daughter is an equity manager for the state of West Virginia Public Employees Pension Fund. June and I are looking forward to a trip to Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia this October which will complete one of our goals to visit all 7 continents. I really enjoy the newsletters and hearing from all of you.

#### From Buddy Greenberg

Here's what's happening, or not happening, at the Greenberg household; consisting of Irv (Buddy), Gail & Robert Greenberg. I'm still retired and my wife, Gail, still works for the Downtown Rotary Club and also for Louis Kleinman as his executive secretary. Our son, Robert, is still at Mt. Sinai Medical School in NYC and will graduate next May (when I hope to finally start spending my own money instead of sending it to colleges).

I manage to fill my days doing various volunteer things and taking care of our home here in HS (the one I grew up in on Crestwood) and our small 'A' frame cottage out highway 270 on Lake Hamilton. I work a lot with the Hot Springs Music Festival (classical music), the first 2 weeks in June, and the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival, 10 days in the middle of October. I also do volunteer tutoring in math at Summit School (the alternative school that used to be Greenwood Elementary).

The Music Festival is great because many of the concerts are held at the old field house. It's now air conditioned and called the Hot Springs Youth Center but not much else has changed and I love working in there setting up for the concerts. It really takes me back to the basketball games, the pep band, the cheerleaders, and the sock hops on the fourth floor after the games.

All in all, it's a relaxed and very enjoyable lifestyle here in beautiful Hot Springs; great lakes, great restaurants, great shopping, and many many old friends. (I think I'll send the Chamber of Commerce a bill for that last sentence.) See you all at the reunion; ohmygod it'll be the 45th!!!

#### From Leroy Terry

I AM STILL ALIVE BUT THINKING ABOUT ALL THE ONES THAT HAVE PASSED I WISH I HAD SOMETHING GOOD TO SAY -- OH -- I HAVE 4 GREAT GRAND KIDDS AND -- I STILL HANG AROUND HOT SPRINGS

AND HAVE A LITTLE PLACE IN DESTIN FL – BEING SINGLE IS SOME TIMES A BORE -- AND MY DAD JUST PASSED --- I AM IN LOVE WITH A VERY SWEET YOUNG LADY MONICA MITCHEL (ROBERT MITCHELS) baby --- I AM TRYING TO HELP HER GET THROUGH COLLEGE -- SHE IS A LITTLE OLDER THAN I LIKE BUT I THINK SHE LIKES ME --ANYWAY YOU WILL HAVE TO CORRECT MY ENGLISH -- CAUSE I FAILED IT IN SCHOOL.--I am looking forward to seeing every one -- we only have one time around --- and I intend to use my time -----  
GOD BLESS AMERICA

**From Jerry Gunter**

The Gunters are fine.

**From Ronnie Mooney**

We have been doing what we do best, Traveling. Lake O' The Pines in Jefferson, Texas, for a week. A very nice little place. Vicksburg, MS for a week. Texarkana, AR for a week, it was for the Arkansas Spring Goodsam Samboree. There was 448 motorhomes, 5<sup>th</sup> wheels and pull trailers there, a lot of camaraderie and friendship. Toad Suck for a week, and it was pretty nice. The Smokies, then North Carolina for two weeks. For the rest of the year, we still have Bull Shoals, AR for a week, New Orleans for two weeks, Ft. Smith (fall Goodsams Samboree) for a week, and Branson, MO for a week.

**From Judy Bond**

John and I have been busy doing some traveling. In May we went to the Galapagos Islands which are located 600 miles off the coast of Equador. We went out west for a couple of weeks in July...everyone out there told us that they were breaking all heat records!!! Leave it to the Adamsons to do during such a heat wave!!! This fall we are off to Italy. We decided to have three special trips to commemorate both John's and my "Big 60" and also our 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

We enjoy our small village of Flat Rock, NC. We're about 30 minutes from Asheville, so we're close to both of our sons and our four grandchildren. This winter we'll be down in the Ft. Myers area for about two months. We don't get back to Hot Springs very often, unfortunately. We'd love to see you all if you get up this way.

**From Betty Carol Morgan**

Well, not so much to tell, but I was selected to be part of an event in Shreveport, La. Called "Artport 2002". There were 100 artists from the Texas/Louisiana area chosen to paint a 3' x 3' canvas to be exhibited in a permanent gallery in the Shreveport Regional Airport...for 5 years. It was quite a nice compliment to be part of such a project. They also had an auction of handpainted tiles, by the artists, to benefit the Philidelphia House which helps those with Aids. It was a real nice event. I've been working at the flower shop and painting after hours. One of the potteries in town has bought some of my paintings to sell prings of them. They are doing a

patriotic Christmas theme and I had a series of "Statue of Liberty" paintings. They will go on sale here and then hope to send them to their Texarkana stores and 5 move locations. It is fun to see your work appreciated.

My children are all doing well...they gave me a big celebration for the big 60 this last month (guess we're all in that boat). My grandchildren are all getting bigger and are the greatest blessing in life....the youngest can now talk on the phone and now they all can say "I love you, Mimi"....Isn't life good?

My husband is loving retirement and I love sending him on errands. If we need something done we just call him (just not during his soaps!) I wanted to make the lunch bunch this time but my neighbor decided to get married then. Maybe next time. Sure miss getting to see everyone. Hope all is well with everyone.

### From Henry Meinecke

Still busy with my solo surgical practice in Murphy NC, where we've been for 13 years. I am getting in a little bit of tuba playing although my main musical outlet is with handbells, both in two handbell choirs and solo/small ensemble ringing. Pat, my wife of 38 years (a Gillett AR girl) is the handbell director and we are duet partners.

Kimberly, our younger daughter was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on 14 Sept 02, and now is Pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Goldendale WA.

Tamara continues as a full-time first violinist with the Louisville Symphony Orchestra.

No grandkids yet;

Recently acquired a small tractor (big toy for big boys);

Mom and Stepdad have moved to Fayetteville to a retirement center - small apartment for now.

### From Alice Keith Collier

I have spent the afternoon editing and getting this newsletter ready for Don to send out and I am just astounded at the energy, creativity, optimism, philosophy, and courage that I have found in your correspondence. I feel so lazy by comparison. I am still doing the same things: taking care of my mother and helping Martin with my mother-in-law, working with Martin some in the Coin/Antique shop and doing the coin shows about once a month. We had some good times with the grandchildren over the summer, but now they are all back in school. They range in age from 8 – 12. Cammi and Cody, my son's two are in public school in Mena and my daughter, Alison, is homeschooling her three, Seth, Laura, and Abby. They now live in Benton and love it there. Martin and I went with our son, James, to Reno, Nevada, in July to the Independent Jewelers Association Convention. Had a great time! At one of the receptions, a young man (who knew my son) walked up to me, looked at the name tag and said "Alice, Betty Corder Wilson sends her regards!" He had known Betty for years! Small world, isn't it? One of the funniest moments of the trip was when they singled me out at the Reno Airport for the wave wand and shoe search. I guess they have to show that they will search unlikely candidates (even little old grandmotherly types).

Martin and I celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August with a romantic, nostalgic trip to Northeast Arkansas where we lived 25 years ago.

One of my projects for this year is getting scrapbooks put together. I have collected old pictures from my mother's collection, my brother's collection and from any other relative who was willing

to share. As I mentioned earlier I have kept the Kodak copying machine busy at Walgreen's. I also want to spend time during the coming winter to work on genealogy projects. I have read Judy White Collier's book, Quit Kissing My Ashes and highly recommend it! I could not put it down. If you don't believe in an Afterlife, this will blow your mind! Our luncheons are really taking off. We have had from 10 to 15 at each one the last few months. I am attaching pictures taken at the last two lunches. Take good care of yourselves, if you travel—be careful, and May God Hold you in the hollow of His Hand!



Kay Brian ('60) and Sharon Beasley ('59) Out to Lunch Bunch August, 2002



Cyndy Carroll (59) Janet Spurlock and Dee Wheeler (both '60) Foreground  
Background: Mary Ellen Benson, Pat Berryhill (hidden) (both '58) Fran Graves and Bonnie  
Jo Connelly (both '60) Sharon Short (hidden) Not pictured: Alice Keith (photographer)  
August, 2002, Out to Lunch Bunch



Sharon Beasley ('59) Renee Lambert, DeAnna Brown, Linda Lewis, Margaret Connelly, and Kay Brian (all '60) August, 2002, Out to Lunch Bunch



Bonnie Jo Connelly, Sharon Short, (Fran Graves in background) All class of '60  
August, 2002 Out to Lunch Bunch



Fran Graves and Bonnie Jo Connelly (class of '60)



Sharon Short ('60) Mary Moran (61) Jeanne Melton (60) Rosemary Pinson (61) and Sharon Beasley (59) Out to Lunch Bunch, Sept, 2002



Nevada Penny, Margaret Connelly, B.J. Connelly (all of '60) Mary Ellen Benson and Pat Berryhill (both of '58) Not pictured: DeAnna Brown (that's her arm) and Alice Keith (photographer)

## **From the class of 1961**

### **From Patty Jones Atchley**

This has been a busy year. I was unable to attend 61's 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion due to work and it was the first one I've missed—I was so disappointed!

I have been at University of Texas at Dallas for 13 years and serve as Director for Student Development; that means I work with co-curricular activities like the Student Government, Greek Life, etc.

Jim and I celebrated our 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer. We have 2 sons and 7 (soon to be 8) grandchildren. We still live in the Dallas area. I look forward to retirement in a few years so that we can travel and see more of the kids.

Patty Jones 61

Director of Student Development

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### From Don Cheek

Hello all, Don Cheek here, just glad to still be alive, thank the Good Lord. I am still retired, fishing a little (TOO HOT RIGHT NOW) bowling a lot and riding my motorcycle again. It sat up for 4 years after my open-heart surgery so I had to spend a bit of money getting it going again, worth every penny. I have been told I was too old to be riding but as I say, when I think I am too old, I will be too old so I choose to keep on trucking (another old Trucker's saying, my 2<sup>nd</sup> job all my life) as long as I can, thank you.

I am finally in the process of getting my old '66 Chevy Pick Up fixed back up. It is looking very good, Chrome and all. The body and paint man should be through with it in a few days, I can hardly wait.

My wife, Paula, is still a nurse at St. Joseph Hospital here in good old Hot Spring, 17 years this month. I thought I had a tough job on the Fire Dept. what with all the gory things I saw and did but I do not think I would want to be a nurse, Bless them!

We now have seven grandchildren between us so we stay fairly busy with them, especially the four younger ones. They range in age from 11 months to 14 years so we deal with it all. Whoever thought when we were 18 (a couple of years ago) that we would experience all the wonders of children and grandchildren, the wonderful and heartbreaking moments that comes with the territory. As I stated earlier, I thank God that I have been able to do what I have done in life. I look forward to seeing a lot of you at the December get together, as for those of you who have never been able to attend one of these, either in December or June you do not know what you are missing. Please try to attend. I do not think you will be disappointed. Hope everyone has had a great summer. Be safe and may God Bless You All.

Don Cheek

105 Elmhurst

Hot Springs, AR 71913

### From Rick Witherspoon

Bonjour Don et à tous,

Many know Evelyn (my beautiful wife) and I have been living in France since 1998. We are enjoying ourselves, taking in the history, different cultures and general sights & sounds of this great continent. How fortunate we are to have this opportunity. However, in 2003 (mid-year) we will be moving back to the USA - most likely to St. Louis, MO. This is the location of Sara Lee Bakery Group HQ, and probably where my job and office will be until we retire.

Our best wishes to all of the Hot Spring-ers, everywhere.

### From Imogene Coburn Gordon

Everything is fine in my house. My son is stationed in Okinawa, Japan until Feb. So while he is gone I have the boys, Carl Jr., eight, and Chase, four. They love the small community where everyone calls you by your first name and all kids are treated special. I still keep up with my real

buddies, Carolyn and Paulette and of course, Jimmy H. Hello to everyone and be happy!  
Anyone happen to know where Alice Jean Lewis or Connie Stokley are?

#### From Nick Utyesonich

I still live in HS & I currently work for St. Joseph's Mercy Health Center. I am the Director of Pharmacy Services & have been since '81. I am married to **Judy Breitenberg (class of 62)** and have been since '67. We both have a wonderful relationship and we both attended college in Monroe, La. I was in pharmacy school and Judy in medical technology training. School days in HS were great, the 50's era will never be forgotten. Working at the paper office for 7 years, setting pins at the Royal Crown Bowling Alley, riding motorcycles to driving fast cars and hanging out at Bob's Drive Inn and being around a bunch of nice kids was neat. Judy and I have one son, Mark who has a BS in Electrical Engineering and an MBA from the U of A. Mark currently owns a business (Blue Sky Wireless) in Maumelle, Ar. & is a Tennis Pro at Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock. Mark is married to a Benton girl, Missy, who is a State Farm Agent in Little Rock. Mark and I have won the State Father & Son Tennis Tournament 3 times in Ar. We are currently ranked second in the 4.5 open division for 2001. As we all know, Father Time will be moving me to the Super 60's for 2002. I have enjoyed reading about the many classmates who attended HSHS and I hope many more will continue to write.

#### From Paulette (Horne) Grills

Not so sure you'd like to hear from me again, ☺, but wanted to say thanks to all those who contacted me after the last newsletter. Those notes did touch my heart. I'm just starting out on a new adventure. I've retired from my job at Social Security, bought a truck and 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer and plan to travel around the country indefinitely. Since I'm single and never camped before I know I'll have lots of new experiences. Would love to hear from any other RV'ers for tips and advice. Best regards!

#### From Jim Husbands

After graduation from HSHS in 1961 my Dad retired from the Air Force and we returned to Panama City, Florida where we had lived prior to coming to Hot Springs in 1957. I was heart broken to leave HS since I had loved my high school years and all the people in HS. Mike Snyder came to visit me right after returning to Florida and got so sunburned that he stayed in bed for a week. He never came back. As you may know, Mike died a while back and I was devastated. I attended Community College one year in Panama City before transferring to Florida State in Tallahassee. Carl Ford was still there and so were Danny Goldman and Cindy. Danny and Cindy left and went back to Arkansas. I lost track of Carl.

I graduated from FSU with a degree in finance and was commissioned in the Air Force. For four long years I was a missile launch control officer in the frozen tundra of North Dakota. Yes, the government was dumb enough to trust me with the capability to start World War III from my missile silo. Obviously, I never pulled the trigger. I spent many boring nights in my silo with nothing to do but think of Sandra Terry and Sharol Holt (that wasn't bad, actually). Started law school at Sanford University in Birmingham, Alabama, after leaving the USAF. I came back to practice law in Panama City in 1974. I do only criminal defense and bankruptcy. I keep in touch with Tony Mosier and his Karen. Nick Utyesonich (Never could spell his name) and

Judy, and I correspond frequently with my long lost friend Imogen Coburn. I found Imogene's name on one of the classmate internet sites. I was never so thrilled as to be able to renew our friendship. I will talk her into coming to the next reunion. I wish I could tell you some exotic tales about what I'm doing now but I can't top Sharon Holt's motorcycle riding tour. I did represent a stripper in a barroom brawl case and won it several months ago. I won't bore you with tales of my four marriages (two marriages were to former nuns.) I may hold the record on that. I have been married to my present wife for 23 years. We have two boys, one 19 and one 15. That's what happens when you marry a woman fifteen years younger. I know, most of y'all have grandchildren. I like to fish, walk, travel, ride bicycles, drink beer and I'm an FSU football nut. I also love to hear from my old friends in Arkansas. Hope to see you at the next reunion and I'll tell you the story about me passing gas in the field house and almost asphyxiating the whole school.

And I guess I will leave you thinking about that as I end this newsletter!! Alice

THE END