

## From the Mail Bag ---

After the September mailout, I received some responses. Portions of several letters follow:

Bonnie Brantley Guest wrote the following:  
....Wish I didn't live so far away and could attend some of these get-togethers. I don't travel alone as I am still a widow (11 years in Nov).



I have a companion but it is not always convenient for him to come with me.

I still have two sisters in Alabama, one in Orange Beach and the other in Foley. I have one brother in Beaumont, Texas.

I'm enclosing a picture for the web site page.

Take care- Bonnie Guest  
(Note: She lives in Paris, TX, NE of Dallas near the Oklahoma border. Other classmates in Texas include Jim Kaechele near Ft. Worth, and Ron Geiger, Joan Fowler Mahon and myself in the Houston area.)

Letter from Beverly Roberts Gabler in September (condensed):



Cropped photo - 2001  
Others on her web page.

Although we are no longer gainfully employed, we stay extremely busy. We are in charge of the religious education program at our church and it is very time consuming. We did not know it was so involved when we said we would do it. Isn't that always the way it is? It is rewarding, but it keeps us tied down.

In addition to running the program, we have to take classes to qualify us to run the program.. These are college level courses and they really tax my old brain.

We spend as much time as we can with our grandchildren. Our son (age 35) and his wife and three daughters live just a half-mile down the road from us, so we get to see them pretty often. The girls are 11, 9 and 3. Our youngest daughter, age 34, had a baby girl on July 13, 2001. Our oldest daughter, 39, has no children.

When you live far away you feel very isolated from the people you knew in school. Lucinda is in northwestern Pennsylvania, about 15 miles from I-80. This is a beautiful part of the country, especially in the fall of the year. We have sixty acres, but we only make hay and about five acres of oats. My husband has horses, which he really enjoys. He has five Haflingers, including a little colt born in July, and one driving horse.

God Bless the Class of '59 - Bev

About a year ago, I received a letter from Clara Kuffskie Wallace, with a photo for her page on my web site.

Since then, Norman passed away (Nov 2000). Clara has been working as an office nurse at a doctors office in Gulf Shores, and retired at the end of Dec. 2001.



During the past year, Clara has had a jucazzi installed and enjoys relaxing at the end of the day in it.

## E-mail from Warren for newsletter--

We have lived in the tiny settlement of Smarr, Georgia since '92. Barbara Ann's parents moved from the house she was born in, to join us on our small farm on her birthday September 19, 1999. They

have their own place just down the road from us and are way ahead of us on landscaping. We are about as centrally located as we can be in terms of family. Between us we have seven children ranging from 33 to 41 and eight grandchildren ranging from one to eight.

We are already harvesting persimmons and apples from trees we planted ourselves and have a grove of very old pecan trees that still produce. We have about 100 animals and birds ... for fun ... not for profit. Chickens, goats, rabbits, pony, donkey and cows. All this on four acres with no significant rainfall for four years really.



Pearl, the Viet Pig Duke, the long horn decorated for Memorial Day

Barbara Ann (known internationally as BaBa) is a full service grandma. Birthday parties, petting zoo, pajama parties at the drop of a hat.

Warren works at the Smarr Recycling Center just 300 yards from home. Best, if not the best paying, job ever. See everyone. Shoot the breeze. First pick of what everyone else is throwing away. Finger on pulse of the community. Plenty of exercise.

We both fool with oxen. Yes working cattle. Next up will be a pair of brindle heifers. They are due to be born in December 2001. Not to count our chickens, but if all goes well we'll have them in yoke by the time you read this.

God has been extra good to us and we have great expectations for the future.



Sitting in an old chair waiting for deer.



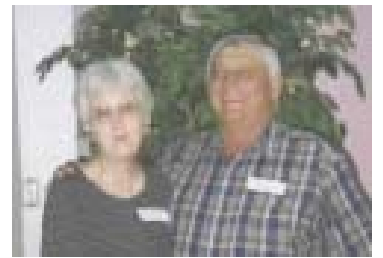
Amison, Kathleen and Dennis



Bemis, Carrie(Etheridge)



Mund, Bobbie (Bemis) and Blackwell, Lynne (Miller)



Bornholt, Jennette and Eddie



Brewer, Opal and Roy



Campbell, Ann and Roger



Clopton, Cynthia (Benson) and Sam



Cousens, James and Elizabeth



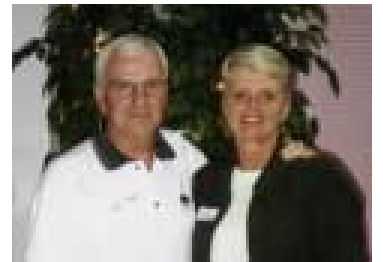
Cousens, Margaret (Krupinski)



Cross, Suzanne and Johnny



Daniels, Bernice (Lindsey) and Bill



Dykema, Betty (Morgan) and Dave



Engel, Walter



Barbara Ann and Warren Faulk



Gebhart, Thomas Lee and Della



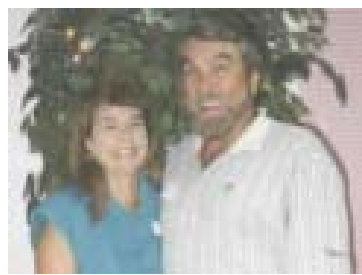
Geiger, Ron



Giles, Margaret (Schaff) & George



Graboski, Diana (Butler) and Carl



Graham, Doug and ?? date



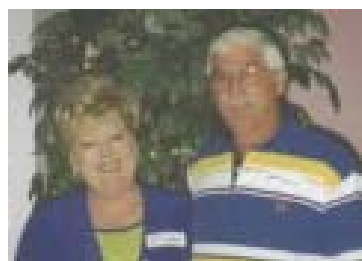
Holz, Mary Ann (Schaff) and John



Hagendolfer, Theresa (Papa) & Henry



Howard, Helena (Harris)



Johnson, James and Ida



Jones, Major and Judy



Kaiser, Kenny and Marie



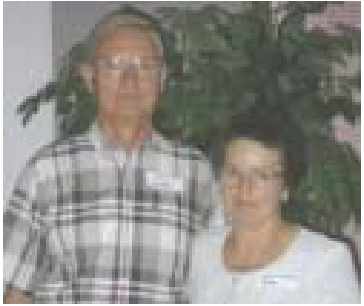
Klemm, Elberta (Jenkins) & Harvey



Koehler, Patrick



Krehling, Clara (Schoen) and Otto



Krieger, JoAnn (Butler) and Don



Lassiter, Eunice (Nordberg)



Lucassen, Joe



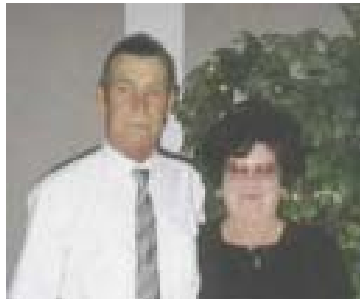
Miceli, Mike and Jeannie Irwin



Nelson, Mickey (Griffeth) and Jack



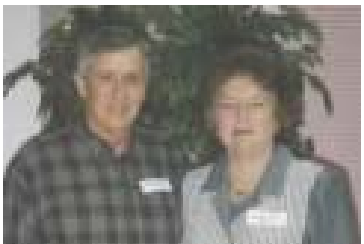
Odom, Don



Padgett, Hill and Earline



Perry, Buddy and Sylvia



Rierner, Bill and Barbara



Robbins, Gene



Scheer, Polly (Koontz) and Charles



Thiem, Bernard and Linda



Caroyln Vance (Cole) and Larry



Walker, Thelma (Frank)



Wiles, Karen (Schurr) and Alfred



Wirth, June (Keelan) and Joseph

### **E-mail from Karen Wiles Schurr about a year ago:**

We moved from Lillian in 1986 to the BIG city of Pensacola, and lived on Bayshore Drive for eleven years. In 1997, we moved almost to the Lillian bridge on highway 98, to be closer to Alfred's mother since her health was failing (died Nov 1998). Our next move will be back to Lillian in the very near future to Alfred's home site. We plan to build a new home almost where the old house stands now.

All four of our daughters are married to wonderful men. At this time, we have four grandchildren, Jason Bartl, Suzanna Bartl, Eric Tillman and Ryan Tillman.

Alfred retired from sailmaking in December of 1999. We have been doing a lot of sailing on our Pearson 365 sailboat. We headed for the Bahamas this spring, but weather was unfavorable for us to cross the gulf at that time. We are going to try again real soon, before the house project.

I stay busy watching grandchildren, sewing and sailing with Alfred.

### **E-mail (Sept) from Jim Kaechele:**

I certainly wish I had been able to make one of the reunions and maybe I can make one in the future. It is amazing that 84% of us are still around!

My parents are 84 & 87 this year and still doing good so maybe there is hope for the future. I have had a few health problems but have weathered them so far. Have gone through some bad bouts with arthritis but can still get on the golf course. I had cancer 5 years ago but that is still gone... Jim Kaechele

### **E-mail from Donna White Hayes**

I am still in Huntsville at a development called Hampton Cove - it is built around a Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. I have a restaurant there and opened another in downtown Huntsville in Sept. (2001)

The hardest English tongue twister?

**The sixth sheik's sixth sheep's sick.**

### **E-mail from Archie Douglas:**

Recently moved from Chattanooga to Ft. Oglethorpe, GA (part of greater Chattanooga). Enclosed is photo of Wilma, our grandson and me.



### **E-mail Addresses**

As of December, 2001, I have on file, 32 classmates with e-mail addresses. They are listed with the mailing addresses.

### **Name Changes**

A number of classmates have, since graduation, changed their names for various reasons. The following are those that I am aware of:

**Betty Ruth** Dykema is now **Betty** or **Elizabeth**.

**Sonny** or **Ronnie** Geiger is now **Ron**.

**Diane** Graboski has always been wrong.

**Diana** is correct and preferred.

**Bubbie** Graham is now **Al** for Alton, and you have a fight on your hands if you say Bubbie.

**Major** Jones is now **Baldy**. No, not really! I just made it up! Sorry Major! Besides, everybody knows bald headed men are lovers, right?

**Jimmy** Kaechele is now **Jim**

**Johnny** Kaiser is now **John**

**Kay** Kaiser is now **Mike** Kaiser

**Pat** Koehler is now **Patrick** and has been since he married a Patricia.

**Billy** Koehler is now **Paul**

**Johanna** Krieger is now **JoAnn**

**Billy** Riemer is now **Bill**

**Billy** Sute is now **Bill**

If there are other preferred names, please let me know.

### **Area Code Change**

For those living away from Baldwin, the phone company has changed the area code for south Alabama from 334 to 251.

All changes on the address list and on the web site have been made.

### **How Many Pilots?**

I think that we have a higher than average number of pilots or wives of pilots in our class. I'm interested because I started at age 15, and am still a student pilot with less than 50 hours!

The following are those that I am aware of, and I'm sure that there are a number more:

**Betty Dykema** married a Marine pilot.

**Al Graham** flew jets in the Marines and recently retired as a 767 captain with Delta.

**Theresa Hagendorfer** married a Navy pilot (later Navy and Air Force Reserve)

**Bill Irwin** flew the Irwin company plane. His wife Jeannie also did some flying. His brother Bob flies with American Airlines.

**Mike Kaiser** has extensive flying spraying crops.

**Patrick Koehler** - lifetime student!

**Paul Koehler** has an A&E license and is a pilot.

**Joe Lucassen** has limited flying time and is building a parasail (parachute with an engine)

**Miles Neumann** has owned several planes.

**Barbara Thomas** married a Navy pilot (high school sweetheart, George Frizzell), who later flew with airlines.

If there are others, please let me know.

### **What Do You Know About Social Security Benefits?**

I knew very little until recently, and since all of this class is approaching that age, I thought that I would mention a few facts that I have learned.

First, I thought that if a spouse died, the surviving spouse would get the benefits of the deceased. Maybe. You must be 60. My brother Paul died last July at 65 years old. His second wife is only in her early 50's, so she will receive no benefits until she is 60.

Secondly, you do not get two social security benefits; your deceased spouse's and your own. You must chose between yours or about 80% of your deceased spouse.

**Start SS at 62 or 65?**

Everyone should contact SS and ask

for a printout, and what the approximate amount would be if started at 62 or 65. Let's assume that it would be \$1200 a month if you started at 62, and \$1400 if you waited until 65. If you start at 62, you would receive \$43,200 in benefits by the time you reach 65. At a differential of \$200 a month, or \$200 less when above 65, it will take \$43,200/200 or 216 months (18 years) before you actually receive more money by waiting until 65. Now, if you expect to live longer than 83 (65+18) in this scenario, then wait until you reach 65 to start your benefits. The above is just an example, so you must get your records and figure it out yourself. In my case, I no longer have that decision, as I am now getting disability.

### How long does it take for disability?

First, you need an attorney. Rules and laws are written by attorneys for the benefit of attorneys. I applied twice in 1999, unsuccessfully. In January 2000, I got an attorney. The fee was 25% or \$4000, whichever was less. Of course, the wait was long enough so the attorney would get the maximum \$4000 because of the retroactive benefits. I saw the judge in May of 2001, and the court had an elderly doctor as expert witness. My attorney read his report with the condition of my kidneys (same lab reports that I gave SS in 1999!), and the judge and doctor agreed. The court determined that based on the blood tests and my kidney condition, that I became eligible in September, 1999. However, they don't pay the first five months, so my benefits were adjusted to February, 2000 and would be retroactive for that period.

I received my first monthly check in July, and I am still waiting for the retroactive payments, eight months after approval, and 24 months since I got an attorney.

Of course, I am sure that the attorney was paid his \$4000 promptly in May.

I often wonder, "how many people with disabilities die before they receive their benefits?"

Another point: Because of my kidney disease, anemia, etc., health benefits are important. Guess what? Even winning my disability, medicare doesn't start

for two years from the time of the benefits (Jan 2000), so my medicare will begin in February. SS will deduct \$50 from my monthly check for that.

### Small World

I worked as a stock broker for about nine months with Morgan Stanley. I spent three weeks in October 1998 sitting by the window about three floors just below the impact of nose of the plane. (I was fired because I just couldn't physically take the long hours.)



### My Most Unforgettable Dream Which Occurred in High School

I want to share a dream from high school.

I am a prolific dreamer, and once, for my stepson's high school project, I recorded 20 dreams in one night.

People have talked about accidents occurring whereas, their life passed before their eyes. Is it possible? Do people dream in compressed time?

The following occurred during PE in high school: A group of us boys were in an area east of the football field. I was knocked out and dreamed the following, which I have clearly remembered all my life, because of its relevance to dream time compression.

I dreamed that I fell to the ground, got up, and walked slowly across the length of the football field toward the dressing room west of the grandstands. About midway, I stopped, blew my nose, and walked back to where the guys were. The actual time would have been at least five minutes, or 300 seconds.

At that point, I woke up, and asked how long I was knocked out. They said "about a second". That means that the dream had to have been at least a 300 to one compression. I have yet to see this

fact on TV regarding dreams.

The opposite of time compression may also be true. When I was seven, I had my tonsils removed. I was put to sleep with ether and was probably asleep about an hour. I dreamed that a merry-go-round started up, speeded up, then slowed down, and I woke up.

### Where, Oh Where Can They Be?

Some of our classmates have been missing since graduation. If *anyone* has a lead, please let me know.

1. **Joann Driver** - My last record was in 1978, when she was in Michigan.
  2. **Robert Gray** - no leads
  3. **Helen Jones** - no leads
  4. **Elberta Klemm** - she was at the 1999 reunion, and now she is lost. I can't find her. I've checked the internet for all Harvey Jenkins in the SE.
  5. **Eugene Linton** - had information in the 70's that he was a peacher in NC.
  6. **George McElroy** - I recently heard that he was in Mobile, but I have checked all of Alabama with no luck.
  6. **Don Odom** - He attended all of the reunions, and was in Fairhope. Now I can not find him.
  7. **Cygni Ott** - She disappeared after graduation. Someone told me that she went into the military. Unfortunately, women are harder to find because of name changes.
  8. **Leonard Steadham** - It has been about 20 years since I have been in contact with Leonard. He was married and divorced, and then married the former Fay Wilson from Bon Secour.
  9. **Larry Sergent** - I recently called every Larry or Lawrence Sergent in the US with no luck. His parents moved to Foley and opened the Dairy Queen. I believe that they sold it after a few years and moved to California.
- Several in our class that didn't graduate with us that I can't find: **Pat Schultz** and **Pat Neal**, aka Fannie Flagg. Fannie was in Fairhope for a while and attended the 1989 reunion. Pat Schultz's father was in the Navy, and they moved to California.
- If you have any leads on these classmates, please let me know.