

Comments from Patrick

Before I forget as I did in the last two newsletters, I want to thank Brother Malcolm (Gilbert) Melcher for loads of stamps. If you wondered where the interesting stamps on the previous mailings came from, it was Bro. Malcolm. His younger brother, Joe, died several years ago, and had collected sheets of stamps. Bro. Malcolm said they had no collection value, and gave about \$80 worth of stamps to me. So, thanks go to Bro. Malcolm.

I have learned that with this class, questionnaires don't work well. Of the 103 on the mailing list, 59 did not respond to my request for contacts in case you move. Obviously, most of the classmates don't take it seriously or care. I know that over the past 35 years, I have personally made well over a thousand phone calls to update the addresses, plus calls made by others.

I'm sure that many say to themselves, "so and so keeps up with me". Well, I might require 5-10 phone calls finding "so and so that keeps up with you".

Or you say to yourself, "I'm not moving". Well, this may come as a shock, but couples do get divorced or a spouse dies, and thus, requires moving.

I will do a mailout in September regarding the 45th reunion. I will again include the questionnaire for those that didn't return it before. Please take a few moments to complete it, for the benefit of the future list keeper, if I'm not around.

Flora Gill



Flora was a classmate until the 11th grade when her family moved to Haines City, FL. She married, and was killed about 1965 in a tornado that hit her mobile home.

source - brother, David Gill

Information on John Kaiser



John and Judy

John farmed with his father from 1959 until 1961. He attended Auburn University from 1961 to 1967 majoring in agricultural business and economics while he continued to farm part time with his father.

In 1967, John married Judy Ard of Robertsdale. They have three daughters, Wendy, Lani and Amanda.

John worked as a sales representative for International Minerals and Chemical Corp., and has owned a custom application business in Robertsdale. In 1972, he began employment with Shell Chemical Company travelling central Arkansas and moved to Memphis, Tennessee. They lived there until 1982 then moved to Gulf Shores and started a landscaping business.

Their daughter Wendy is married to Larry Sargeant (not our classmate) and lives in Memphis. They have a 14 year old son and six year old daughter.

Daughter Lani is not married and is a computer programmer in Mobile.

Daughter Mandi recently finished college and works in Gulf Shores. She has a two year old son, John Paul.

They have travelled to Puerto Rico, Curacao, Cancun, Acapoco, Hawaii and Germany.

John's hobby is "work". Judy likes to read, which is important with her job in Gulf Shores government. She has been on the city council for the past 14 years.

(John was a VP of the Class of 1959)

Leslie Stump

Leslie endured cancer for over ten years, starting with the loss of an eye. He died January 4th, 2003, becoming the 17th graduating classmate that has died.

I contacted those with e-mail, plus word of mouth, and suggested that, instead of flowers or contribution to the hospice, that we collect funds as a gift from the Class of 1959. Fifteen classmates donated a total of \$700, and I presented this to Yvonne on Sunday, Jan. 26th. Checks made out to me were endorsed and given to Yvonne, rather than depositing to my account. She was given a list of contributors and amounts.

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Information on Eddie Bornholt



Eddie and Jeanette, 2002

After graduation, I worked two jobs for a number of years, with Grice Electronics in Pensacola, FL and farming. Jeanette Frank (Class of 60) and I will be married forty-three years, YIPPS! After a few years, I went to farming full time, long hours, hard work and low pay. So what else is new?

Jeanette and I have three children, Debra, Allen and Charles, with 11 grandchildren including those we welcome into the family from previous marriages, and one great-grandson! One of the greatest thrills are the sounds of these young ones, especially calling me "Papa." (except for my sounds when I can't find my tools.)

Both of our sons excelled in welding while in school, winning national and international competitions and scholarships. Allen worked in construction before returning to farm with me. Charles worked his way up and is now supervisor with an industrial fabricator, Southern Erectors of Beulah, FL. Our daughter, Debbie married Kenny Heil, working with her husband on their farm and rearing a family before returning to Pensacola Junior College night classes to finish her education, graduating head of her class.

In 1991, farming had reached its lowest point and we began selling off land and equipment during a depressed time for farmers but the Good Lord helped us sell when it seemed no one would buy. Our oldest son, Allen, took over cattle and

small grain crops and I went to work as Assistant manager with Elberta Farmers Cooperative until an opportunity arose to work with Woerner Development, managing their welding shop and with design of equipment. I am with them today looking forward to retirement.

All those years in FFA under the wise teachings and counseling of Ag teacher, Coles Nix, have returned over and over in my life. I will always value him highly as a teacher.

In the last few years, I have been gradually growing nursery stock to inventory status looking forward to it as a retirement occupation (so I don't drive Jeanette nuts with her greatest fear of me just "sitting around" and going senile.) Just can't get the feel of good soil out of my system so guess it's still farming of a different sort.

We are very blessed with having our children within a few miles of our home. There are other rewards than monetary in life like having grandsons following you in the garden planting potatoes, watching them grow, digging them out of the soil for cooking a nice pot of new potatoes. And you certainly can't beat the sight of their faces picking and eating ripe strawberries. As the commercial says...those things are 'priceless'

Other than having peripheral nerve damage in my hands and feet from some mytery cause, and the usual aches and pains that come with hitting the 60s age, I feel very fortunate God has blessed me with good health.

I really enjoy keeping up with classmates' lives with the newsletters. That's how I found out Alton Graham bought the airfield just down the road from me. Course, neighbor and friend Kenny Kaiser and his wife, Marie, we see all the time and are members of our "old Gang" that meet once a year in roundtable for dinner. Gripes! "Old Gang?"

Always enjoy catching up with 'jokester/prankster' Pat Koehler who still will not admit he switched alternator wires on my car while Jeanette and I were at a school dance. My car stopped just at the curve going east of Foley. I had to have her home in Elberta by midnight or meet her father at the door. Coles Nix came to the rescue that night as we walked in the dark across what was then an empty lot

to his house and he gave me the keys to his truck. Got her home...15 minutes late. Those were the days, huh?

Note: I still don't remember that. Someone had switched my sparkplug wires, and maybe I suspected Eddie. That was a long time ago.
Patrick

E-mail from Judy Ashwander Moore June 19, 2002

Don and I moved from Dallas August '99 and rented a house in Foley while we built our home in Gulf Shores (in the Craft Farms golf development).

We left this area in 1960 for Don to attend the University of AL, Tuscaloosa. After graduation in 1964, we wound up in Birmingham and Anniston for a period, then were transferred to Texas (San Antonio) in 1966 and then later to Dallas in 1971, remaining in the Dallas area until our move back here.

We both are "semi-retired" from the insurance business, but continue to go back to Texas as needed to service client business, hold employee meetings, etc.

We have only one child - a daughter, Sharon, who now lives in Fairhope (moved from Nashville about a year ago); she works in Mobile for a law firm and does some jazz performances in the area with her combo group.

We just love being back "home again" and would recommend it to anyone!

E-Mail from Irene Holman Terry Feb. 8, 2003

I have been out-of-pocket since the first weekend in November 2002. My mother passed away on 07 January 2003, and the before and after are time consuming and emotionally draining. Her loved ones have great memories of her. At age 95, she was still cognizant of everyone and her mind remained as sharp as a tack until the end!

These remain busy times for me at work also. My project may be picked up by the Pentagon. Looks like I may be TDYing to demo it in the not-too-distant future. We'll see what happens!

Airline Rules

Two vultures board an airplane, each carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at them and says, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, but only one carrion per passenger."

Interview with Larry Sergent - Mar. 1

After a great deal of unsuccessful searching for Larry, I found him in January. When I was in Foley for the mini-reunion, I borrowed the 1960, 61 and 62 yearbooks to scan. Kay Irwin, that provided the yearbooks, graduated in 1961. They had a reunion last year and had a list of classmates with addresses. One of those classmates was DeAnn Sergent Durant, sister of Larry. I contacted her and learned that Larry lived nearby, outside of Atlanta.



Larry joined the Navy in 1959 and served for eight years. He was on two aircraft carriers, the USS Intrepid and the US Randolph. He went in as a ship fitter (working with pipes), then a flight yeoman, then a legal yeoman, then communications, operating a teletype machine.

Two years before he got out, he was in Hawaii as a diving instructor - not in the ocean, but in training tanks or chambers.

He spent three months off Vietnam in a destroyer, the Brinkley Bass DD-887, when it was hit by a torpedo, killing 13 men.

After the Navy, he worked with AT&T in California repairing phones for a short time, then moved to Pennsylvania and drove a truck for McLean Trucking. Then he moved to Reno and drove a charter bus 1980-1985.

He spent two years in California "dredging" for gold. (The dredge would fit in a pickup). He found enough gold to buy his own tractor (18 wheeler) and drove it until 1990. He worked with Saddler Brothers 1990-2000 carrying the mail by 18 wheelers.

Larry has problems with circulation in his legs. In 1990, he had a bypass in the main artery to the legs. In 2000 and 2002 he had five more bypasses in his legs. He was declared disabled in 2000.



While in the Navy, he travelled to the Med twice with stops in Italy, France, Greece and Spain. He also travelled to the east while in Vietnam.

Larry's hobby was buying and fixing up cars until his health stopped him.

He has been married five times. He has two children by the first wife; Sherri and Dwayne.

Sherri was born in 1962, lives in Pittsburgh and has a boy and a girl. Dwayne was born in 1969, lives in Pittsburgh and has three boys, including twins.

Note by Patrick:

Regarding his ship being hit by a torpedo in Vietnam. I found a web site that lists all ship accidents since 1945, including fires, collisions, etc.

I found the one for Larry's ship, DD887 Brinkley Bass. It states: "02/04/66 Brinkley Bass DD887 and the destroyer Waddell DD624, were heavily damaged in a collision while forming for operations in the Gulf of Tonkin." Yeh, right! So much for 1966 control of military information by McNamara and Johnson.

Interview with Mary Ann Holz Schaff



April 2003

Mary Ann was born and raised in Cleveland, OH and moved to Elberta in 1957. (Her dad was here until he was 15, then moved to Connecticut, then Cleveland.) Her first year at Foley HS was the 11th grade.

Johnny had been in the Air Force for four years, two in Japan, plus time in California and Texas. The first Sunday back, Mary Ann met him at their church. This was during Mary Ann's senior year, and they were married Nov. 21, 1959.

Johnny first worked at a Ford Tractor dealer in Pensacola, then John Deere in Foley in 1967. He slowly acquired the business, and a number of their children presently work there.

They have six children:

1. Andy - bought Wright Drugs in Foley. He married Chrisine Merchant, has two boys, Drew and Carson.
2. Pam - married Danny Guidry, has two sons, Brandie and Colt. They live in LaFayette, LA. Brandie has two children, Macie and Gab.
3. Mike - married Leila Rawls; has two children, Joel and Justin. Mike works with John in Foley.
4. Ginny - married Larry Blackmon; has a daughter, Brook, and two sons, Tripp and Chantz. They both work with Johnny.
5. Mitchell - married Angie Neitteberg, and has a daughter named Bailey. Mitchell works with Johnny.
6. JoAnn - married Darren Kaiser and he works with Johnny. JoAnn is a teacher with Special Ed at Elberta Middle School.

Mary Ann and Johnny have travelled to most of the countries in Europe, including Greece and Turkey, and to Hawaii three times. They have been to many lower South American Countries and the Falkland Islands.

Mary Ann's hobbies include painting, teaching painting, travelling, and working with children at church. (Her painting and drawings are very good!)

Johnny's hobbies include hunting, golf, working with kids at church, and is starting to work on a book.

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

Interview with James Everage March 5th



James joined the Army Guard in 1958, with George McElroy and Jack Kelly. They took basic training immediately after graduation.

He went to Livingston College to play football, as Doug Graham did. However, they put him on defense, and he “wanted to be the man what carries the ball”. One year was enough.

He was called into active service during the Berlin Crisis, then after that, tried football in North Carolina, then back to Foley. James worked for REA for awhile, then started his own plumbing business.

James moved to Dallas in 1965 for several years, working in the plumbing business, then back to Foley.

He got a divorce about 1982, and moved back to Dallas. There, he met Sandra (originally from New Mexico) and was married in 1985. He returned to Foley again, then back to Dallas around 1995. From there, they went to Melrose, NM, then Bremerton, WA, then California and finally back to Melrose, NM. He would like to retire to the Foley area.

James presently does estimating for a contractor, and Sandra has a business on the internet.

While in Foley, James studied blacksmithing, and makes knives, door knockers, etc., as a hobby. Sandra sells those plus antiques on the internet.

They both enjoy hunting and fishing, but never seems to have the time.

James has two children by his first marriage. A daughter, Lesley (Gilley) has two children. The other daughter, Michelle (Missy) has two children.

Lesley and Missy live in the Foley area.

Sandra has two boys by the previous marriage, Rick and Scott. Rick lives in Hobbs, NM and Scott lives in Phoenix, AZ.

Interview with Velma Waters Thames



April 26, 2003

Velma was the third child of 14. She has seven brothers and five sisters living.

Shortly after graduation, Velma married Robert Campbell of Foley, and they moved to Cleveland, OH for a year or so. They returned to Magnolia Springs for a year or two, and she worked at Vanity Fair. They then moved to Detroit, MI where his family lived. Robert worked with General Motors and Velma worked with A&P.

They moved back to Robertsdale in 1970 and bought a Seafood Market. They were divorced in 1976.

Velma met Billy Thames and they were married Sept 18, 1978, and in 1979, they bought a home by Robertsdale (Elsanor).

Billy graduated from Robertsdale in 1949, and was in the Marines 1950-54 and served in Korea. He worked with Greyhound in Pensacola, then drove a bus in Washington, DC until 1972 when he was disabled from driving a bus. When he returned to Baldwin, he drove a gas truck for Paul Schultz (Chevron) for a while.

He had a plumbing business from 1985 until 1993.

Velma worked with Farm Fresh Meats in Robertsdale from November 1976 until 1995, then five and a half years at Rohr (now Goddard) Aircraft. She worked with inventory control and as dispatcher.

They both enjoy fishing. They previously enjoyed dove hunting until they got a bird feeder, and are now bird watchers.

They have no schedules and no pressures. They go and do what they want, and just enjoy life.

Velma's only medical problem has been a recent bout of shingles, but she is getting over them.

Velma has no children of her own. When they married, Billy's four children were grown. There are ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Johanna (JoAnn) Krieger Butler



Johanna (now goes by JoAnn) married Don Butler May 9th, 1959. Don was a career Navy man (26+ years), retiring as E9. They travelled frequently with assignments. That included living in Virginia, Washington St., Montana, Tennessee, California several times, and Florida.

She also visited Japan and Hong Kong while Don was overseas. She also enjoyed a trip in 1987 to Italy and Germany with friends.

JoAnn and Don have two children: Donna is medically disabled and not married; Donnie works at Eglin AFB with a government contractor.

She was a full time mom until 1973 when they returned to Pensacola. She worked in a doctor's office.

She had some medical problems 1989 to 1993 and didn't work for two years. She had a complete right knee replacement on March 10th, so she is still hobbling around some, and not able to drive.

Don and a partner formerly owned a Penske truck rental, and he still works two days a week with the new owners.

They have one granddaughter and a step-granddaughter.

JoAnn's hobbies include reading, sewing, cooking and gardening. Don's hobbies are sailing and woodwork.

They do volunteer work with Grace Lutheran Church in Pensacola, and she is in the choir.

Three old pilots are walking on the airport ramp of the airfield. First one says, “Windy, isn't it?” Second one says, “No, its Thursday!” Third one says, “So am I. Let's go get a beer.”

Pat Smoote Information



1957 yearbook

After leaving Foley in 1957, I married Malcolm "Mack" McAliley. We moved to California and I attended El Camino Jr. College while he attended the University of Southern California. I received an associate's degree in business and Mack received a BS degree in industrial engineering. Mack worked for the government for several years and we traveled quite a bit - Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Florida, Nebraska and Long Island, NY to name a few. We eventually ended up in Sylacauga, AL and were divorced later on that year.

I remained in Sylacauga for several years with our four children, Laura, Karen, Elaine and Robert. My oldest daughter, Laura, graduated from high school in Sylacauga and was selected as the first female from Alabama to attend the West Point Academy. She attended the Academy for a year before deciding the Army was not for her. She now resides in Daphne, AL and is a Rehabilitation Specialist specializing in special seating for the handicapped.

My other three children and I moved to Birmingham (Homewood) in 1976 and I have lived here ever since. I initially worked for the Financial Director of OB/GYN at UAB as his assistant. I attended many classes (computer and business) while employed there. I worked there until 1984 when I married Charles Beard.

We lived in Homewood and owned and operated a durable medical equipment company together until our divorce three years ago. We sold our home in Homewood and I purchased a condo in Vestavia Hills where I currently reside.

My second daughter, Karen, attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham

and graduated with a degree in Marketing. She and her husband, Greg Otwell, live in Nashville, TN and both are Rehab Specialists specializing in handicapped children's seating. They are both vice-presidents of National Seating & Mobility, Inc.

My third daughter, Elaine, attended Milsaps College in Jackson, MS and currently lives in Birmingham. She works in the office of Homewood High School. She and her husband, Clay Bryan, have two children - Jeremy, 9 years old and Lauren, 4 years old. Needless to say, the two grandchildren are the apples of their grandmother's eye!



My son, Robert, graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, DC and was working on his graduate degree from Columbia University in New York City when he became ill. He died in 1991 after a brief illness. He was a playwright and had written several plays; some of which were "read" and produced in New York off-Broadway. I plan to pursue the production of his plays eventually.

I currently work at Regions Operations Center in Birmingham as an Executive Assistant to the senior Vice-president and Regional Financial Officer of the Support Group Financial Management Department. Our department manages Regions' money (budgeting, financial reporting and tracking).

My interests include reading, visiting the beach as often as I can, travelling and my grandchildren.

I plan to retire in the next few years and want to settle near Foley - perhaps Daphne/Fairhope area. As I stated above, my life has been rather routine and mundane; however, I have enjoyed most of it and am glad to be alive and fairly healthy.

I just cannot believe so much time has passed so quickly! I hope to see everyone at the reunion in November!

E-mail from Donald Dukes - May 2003



April 2003

1957 yearbook

I was born July 14, 1941 at Bon Secour, son of Roy & Rhinetta Dukes. I have two older brothers: Thomas R. & Charles G.

I joined the United States Marine Corps August 13, 1958 and completed basic training at Parris Island, S.C. I was transferred to MCAS New River, North Carolina;

Feb. 1960, transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 16, Futema, Okinawa, Japan; March 1961 sent to Udorn, Thailand;

July 1961 transferred to MCAS, Cherry Point, N.C.;

January 1962 transferred to Marine Air Reserved Training Detachment, Willow Grove, Pa., where I met Winifred Mary Mellor from Manchester, England. We were married in Philadelphia, Pa..

January 30, 1963 our first daughter Donna Marie was born on a snowy night at the US Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, and our second Daughter Paula Ann was born Dec 6, 1964.

January 1965 transferred to Marine Aircraft Group 11, Atsugi, Japan;

March 1965 transferred to Da Nang Republic of Vietnam with VMFA-541;

April 1966 transferred to MAG-31, MCAS Beaufort, S. C.;

January 1967 transferred to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.;

December 1968 transferred to MAG-11, Chu Lai, Vietnam;

January 1969 transferred to MCAS, Cherry Point, N.C.;

February 1973 transferred to MAG-36, Futema, Okinawa, Japan;

March 1974 transferred to MCDet, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Va., where our son Steven P. was born Sept. 1974.

I retired from the Marine Corps in August 1978 as a SSgt.

(continued next page)

(Donald Dukes continued)

I returned to Baldwin County and bought a house in Daphne, and in 1984 opened my own heating and air conditioning company (BALDWIN HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.) in Bay Minette. In 1995 we moved the company to Hwy 64 in Daphne, where we have 25 employees.

Win and I like to travel and have been to England twice, three Caribbean cruises, one Alaskan cruise, several South American fishing trips including two to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. We like to travel in the U.S. as well.

My Hobbies include deep sea fishing, boating, golf and hunting.

Interview with Dwight Miller - Feb. 22



Dwight went into the Army after high school for three years. He was stationed in Korea for a year. To and from, he saw Hawaii and Wake Island.

After the service, he returned to Baldwin and worked briefly at Monsanto. He then worked as a captain on an 86ft steel hull Gulf shrimp boat named Wahnella Ann.

He had to stop that because of blood pressure. After that, he worked about 14 years at Bon Secour Fisheries. He was injured and went on disability a year ago. He recently had four stents put in, and has a pacemaker.

He was married until about six years ago, and has two sons, Shawn and Dwayne. He has two granddaughters and a grandson All live in South Baldwin.

He enjoys playing the guitar every day and has two new ones, and since school days played duets with Tony Moore until Tony's death. He also enjoys fishing.

A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.

Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.

Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!

I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.

Loretta Postak Goforth



Two weeks after graduation, Loretta married Eugene Tindal. She worked with the phone company from the time she was 17, off and on for 20 years.

During that time, she had three children: Cindy (now a mail carrier in the Foley), David and Darryl.

Loretta had a sister in New Orleans, so she moved there after the divorce from Eugene, and obtained a job with a meat packing company.

She has endured many medical problems; Hodgkins Disease, cancer, ten months of chemo treatment, spleen removal, four stomach operations, shingles (head to foot), and heart problems that can't be fixed. She has had so many blood clots that they put two filters in her arteries to help avoid a clot going to the brain (to avoid a stroke). She has been near death four times.

She became disabled about 1989. That year, she married Howard Goforth. Between the two, they have six children and ten grandchildren.

Loretta's sister is now in Milton, so she travels to Milton and the Foley area for visits.

Mrs. Gene Thompson Glisson



I visited with Mrs Glisson when I was in Foley in April.

She had recently had her 80th birthday,

and had worked three days that week as a substitute teacher. She has plenty of energy and stays busy.

She has been in the choir at the First Presbyterian Church (my former church) in Foley since the '50s.

Interesting restaurant names in Baldwin

Recently, as I drove around the Foley area, several restaurant names caught my attention. In Gulf Shores, there is one named "Mud Bugs", I guess for crawfish.



However, the prize must go to the cafe in Elberta named "Roadkill Cafe" with a mural on the side. The mural is a road with a truck coming down the road, roadkill in the road, and a guy with a BBQ grill at the side of the road!

Godbee's Love for Boats

When Godbee started out, times were tough, so he started out simple with the boat below: (nothing like a handy table)



As he moved up the financial ladder, he advanced to the "Redneck Yacht", shown below:



Actually, the photos were found on the internet, and I'm just having fun at Godbee's expense (with his permission)

January Mini-reunion at Betty Dykema Morgan's



Johnny Schaff, Thomas Lee Gebhart, James Johnson, Godbee Smith



Jack and Mickey (Nelson) Griffeth
Gloria (Daughtery) Schlieper and Norman Schlieper



January 2003
The way that I made my first million....

Another Lewis Grizzard Joke

A guy is walking along the street one day.

He sees a guy standing by a dog, and he says "I love dogs. Does your dog bite?"

The man by the dog said "No"

The dog lover leaned over to pet the dog and the dog bit him and took two fingers off!

"I thought that your dog didn't bite"

"He doesn't. This ain't my dog!"

A day without sunshine is like, night. On the other hand, you have different fingers.

Ninety-nine percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

April Mini-reunion at Godbee and Judie Smith's



Bill Riemer looking well with weight gained since his heart transplant.



Some of the guys sitting outside.



Roy Brewer, Judie Smith, Jeannie Irwin, Gilbert Melcher

July Mini-reunion

The July 26th mini-reunion will be hosted by me at the old Foley High School. While in Foley in April, I visited the principal of the now Middle School and asked if we could meet on the school grounds. He suggested a meeting room, and he showed me to Mr. McSpadden's old room. I thought that some classmates like myself, that haven't been around the school in 45 years, would like to see it.

I suggest that we meet with no snacks or drinks in the room. However, I propose that we walk around the campus as we visit, and maybe find a nice shade tree or place to sit down and chat. I will get tea and ice from the car, and maybe some other snacks.

If it is too hot or inclement, we can go back inside to the air conditioning. If we sit on the ground outside, you might like to bring a blanket or something to sit on.

I suggest no mini-reunion in October as the big one will be Thanksgiving Friday.

I Love My Airplanes!

In January of this year, my brother saw an ad for Warbird rides in Houston. Ironically, in January the Onlooker had an insert, American Profile, that had this aircraft and Gina on the cover. That week in Houston, I flew in her SNJ below, and got to fly it.



SNJ/AT6 that I got to fly in Houston.

A few days later, I drove to Foley for the mini-reunion. Lo, and behold, another barnstormer had an SNJ painted in Marine colors, flying at Jack Edwards airport. I was in my motel room when I heard it fly over and I recognized the very distinctive sound. I drove to the airport, and went flying again! The owner/pilot let me do all of the flying except the takeoff and landing. I flew to Al Graham's airstrip and saw him below at his hangar. Ott (the pilot) took over, and let's just say that we had a "high speed approach" below tree-top. I don't want to use the word "buzz".

Al (former Marine fighter pilot) went flying the following day, and is in the photo below:



Al Graham by SNJ at Jack Edwards Airport.

I had planned to fly in a two seater P-51 WWII fighter, but decided to spend the money on flying and photographing South Baldwin.

This is the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brother's flight, so there will be big airshows this year. I will try to attend some of them, but walking is a problem.

A personal request to all.

No beating around the bush. I was given an award at the 1978 reunion and at the 1989 reunion. I know some friend of mine will want to do something at this one, for the newsletter or class unity, etc. Please don't.

I have taken Prednisone for seven years now, which is a steroid and increases my emotions. I cry over small things, i.e., most old movies.

If anyone tries to present something to me at the reunion, including just verbally, it would be very embarrassing to me. I enjoy what I do. That is enough.

Trivia

I am always pursuing trivia of little value to most. People speak of what things cost in 1959, but how does it really compare to prices today?

I found a government CPI table on the internet, and found the compounded inflation since 1959 is a factor of 6.2.

The salary on the potato sheds in 1959 was one dollar an hour. That times 6.2 makes it \$6.20 per hour, close to today's minimum wage.

I told you that it was trivia.

A Lewis Grizzard Joke

A Georgia man walks into a place and orders an RC Cola and a Moon Pie.

The clerk says "You must be from Georgia."

The man says "I resent that allegation."

The clerk says "I resent the allegation."

The man says "Just because I come in here and order an RC Cola and a Moon Pie, you stereotype me and you think that I am from Georgia." "Let me ask you this: If a guy walked in here and ordered Vodka, would you assume that I was Russian?"

The clerk says, "I don't know, it has never come up."

Let me ask you this: "If a guy walked in here and ordered Sausage, would you assume that I was Polish?"

The clerk says, "I don't know, it has never come up."

"So why in the world that just because someone comes in here and orders an RC Cola and Moon Pie, that you think that he is from Georgia?"

Because this is a hardware store!

I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.

Digital Camera Information

Don't know what a megapixel is? What is a pixel? How much memory is required? How long do batteries last? What is the quality of a print?

The computer and digital world talks in pixels (or dots per inch).

Let's cover pixels. Most people with computers have the monitor set on 800x600 pixels. That means 800 dots across and 600 dots vertically. A photo that has 1280x960 pixels at a one to one resolution will be 50% bigger than the monitor screen.

However, when it comes to printing, you would like the resolution be at least 300dpi (dots per inch). The enclosed photo with the newsletter was a 1280x960 pixel image (1.3 megapixel camera), and when printed at 4x6 inches is (1280 pixels/6 inches) or 213 dots per inch. So it is not quite as clear as a regular camera photo.

A more expensive 3.2 megapixel (3.2 million effective pixels), produces images up to 2048 x 1536 pixels. A 4x6 print would be 2048/6 or 341 dots per inch.

Note that the much more expensive 3.2 megapixel camera has only 50% more dots per inch, or pixels, than my 1.3 meg camera.

Price of digital cameras are falling rapidly. My 1.3 megapixel camera in January 2002 was \$300 at Walmart, and I bought it for \$189 on the internet. Now they are about \$125. A 3 megapixel camera can now be bought for as little as \$250.

Of course, the biggest advantage of digital, is that all photos are free until you make prints. You can take 100 photos, and print only those that you select.

Memory is the next question. It depends on the image size and if you are using a flash. Even if you buy a 3 or 4 megapixel camera, you may select the lower pixel size to get more photos. My 1.3 meg camera at the highest resolution requires about 700k per photo. That is 179 photos with my 128 meg memory. Cameras normally come with a low memory size chip and you have to buy more memory. My camera came with 8 meg, and that is only 11 high resolution photos.

I have shopped a lot for memory, and there are specials sometimes at BestBuy or other stores. I bought mine from a major US manufacturer on the internet, (www.crucial.com) and with no shipping

charges. An example of prices in March were as follows for Compact Flash:

64 meg - \$28

128 meg - \$36

256 meg - \$73

I recently saw a special on the internet at www.tigerdirect.com for 256 meg at \$40.

I recommend at least 128 meg chip. Again, I can take 179 photos at 1280x960 pixels, on the 128 meg chip.

The next question is batteries. Again, no surprise what comes with the camera. My Canon A10 came with four Alkaline batteries. They were dead after 20 photos! The cameras eat batteries and there is only one way to go, and that is Nickel Metal Hydride rechargeable batteries. NiMH have at least twice the power of NiCds. The NiMH come in strengths of 1200 to 1850mAh. About the best buy that I have found, are Rayovac 1800mAh NiMH batteries, 4 for \$11. I have taken over 150 photos outdoors without flash, on one set of batteries.

Another advantage that I love with the digital, is that it is so smart! Last year when I took the aerial photos that I gave you on a CD (969x480 pixel images), all photos came out great, even though the Cessna was bouncing in the wind. My expensive 35mm camera would never have had photos that good. The camera figures out the necessary speed and shutter automatically. It takes two photos in an instant. The first time is to check settings, then adjusts the settings, and takes the final photo. All in a fraction of a second. In fact, some of the aerial photos were at 1/1000 of a second speed. Likewise, I think that indoor photos are better. The 35mm with flash does not give detail in the distance. Look at the enclosed photo that I gave you, and notice the detail in the distance. The camera has reduced the flash, and increased the lens opening, thereby not making an intense light on the near objects/people, yet picking up the distant detail.

I am so sold on digital that I gave away my expensive 35mm and lens.

Are you ready for digital? A good source for cameras and memory on the internet: www.tigerdirect.com

Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.

Blue Angels and the Naval Aviation Museum

What do you know about the museum? Those that live at the beach, seldom go to the beach. Those that live in the mountains don't take advantage of it. Likewise, many of our classmates live near Pensacola NAS and don't go to the museum, or know much about it, or go see the Blue Angels.

Did you know that you can see the Blue Angels about 46 times a year in Pensacola? The four formal performances this year are:

July 11,12 Pensacola Beach

Nov. 7,8 Pensacola NAS

Practice dates include the day before above dates (on site), plus the following 2003 dates at Sherman Field (Pensacola NAS) about 8:30am.

Mar. 19, 25, 26

Apr. 2,8,9,17,18,22,23,29,30

May 6,7, 13,14,27,28

June 3,4,10,11,17,18,24,25

July 1

Aug. 13,19,20,26,27

Sept. 9,10,16,17,23,24,30

Oct. 22, 28,29

All dates and information can be found at www.blueangels.org or a link to it on my web site.

The museum, of course, has a lot of Navy (and Marine) aircraft on static display. However, did you know that they also have an F-18 flight simulator ride (with movement) every 15 minutes? (up to 15 people - not a cockpit simulator)

Did you know they have an IMAX theater, normally showing aviation films, like "The Magic of Flight"?

They also have a section of the building on cockpit trainers. You can actually get in the cockpits and "get the feel" of the following aircraft: Cobra helicopter, F11F "Tiger", A-7 "Corsair II", AV-8 "Harrier", F-8 "Crusader" and many others.

A link to the museum web site is on my web site, or www.naval-air.org/

So..... go see the Blue Angels, then to the museum, see a movie, crawl into a cockpit, try the simulator, and see the static displays.

The museum is free. The IMAX is \$5.75 for seniors (62+) and the simulator is \$3.50 per person.

The 45th Reunion Schedule & Photos

I observed that in the previous reunions, a "sit-down" dinner and long speeches locked people at the tables for as long as three hours, and classmates wound up visiting only with six people sitting around them.

Therefore, I have planned to have hors d'oeuvres (can't spell that without a dictionary!-) or finger foods, so people can circulate and visit.

I suggest that you don't sit all night with a good friend that you see often. Circulate and visit with those that you haven't seen in many years.

We will formally start about 6:30, but anyone can come early and mingle. I will be there as early as 2pm. I will probably have my keyboard, play some music and maybe sing with others. I will have my computer which will serve as a jukebox with the oldies, and reviewing photos later. We will do some decorating and anyone is invited.

I will speak only about ten minutes to get things started, then hit the food and mingle.

I don't want to waste my time taking hundreds of photos, because I want to mingle. Therefore, as classmates arrive,

Joe Lucassen's wife, Linda, will be taking photos. If you want a photo with someone, just contact her.

In the past, some left early and were not in the group photos. This time, I would like to get the group photos about 7pm.

I would like two photos of each classmate as they arrive, the group photos and at least another 100 at the tables and mingling, or a total of around 300 photos.

The photos will be with a digital camera shooting at 1280 x 960 pixels which should yield good prints. I will use my computer to enhance the contrast, lighten or darken the photos before distributing them.

I will transfer the photos to the computer and review them that evening.

CD's, after discounts and rebates, only cost me about 10 cents, so the cost is next to nothing. (The envelopes cost more than the CD!) I will give all of you a CD and a list of the photo numbers, and what is on each photo. You can then take the CD to WalMart and give them the list with those marked that you want printed. It will cost you about 26 cents per print. An example of the quality of the print is seen with the photo enclosed with this newsletter. Not the best, but it will do.

Pensacola NAS and Sherman Field - Satellite image from internet. Links to it on my web site.



Blue Angel Parkway

Park at the museum in the rear to watch the Blue Angels. The show centerpoint is directly behind the museum.

For the Genealogist and South Baldwin History Buffs

There are two great books on the area; *When Foley Was Very Young 1900-1921* by Doris Rich, and *Land of Milk and Honey* by John Haupt. They are available at the Railroad Museum or Baldwin County Museum in Elberta. From the Foley book is the following of the school about 1922.



The photo is looking NW. Those of us that attended Foley in the first few grades will remember that Miss Howell's first grade class was on the first floor, photographer's front left, and Miss Jewell's 1st grade class, I believe, was first floor, front right.

Mrs. Knowles third grade class was second floor, front left, and Mrs. Donally's third grade class, second floor, photographers front right.

Some Eberta History

A land company was founded in 1903 by some Germans from Chicago, to form a German colony. They bought 55,000 acres of land, and contracted the L&N Railroad to take excursions to this "promised land".

The L&N completed a track to Foley in 1906. The land was marketed to Germans in the midwest, and most of the Elberta German descendants in our class are children of Germans born in the midwest, not Germany. For instance, John Kaiser's father was from Chicago. My father was born in Colorado, and the family was living in Nebraska just prior to moving to Elberta.

A round trip ticket from Chicago to Foley, around 1906, was \$30.65. Pastors rode free. My grandfather was a Lutheran pastor, and came to Elberta on a trip in 1906. A 50% deposit on land was required, with the balance in five years. He purchased 80 acres, paying half, then five years later, in October, 1911, my grandparents loaded all of their belongings and

animals into two boxcars and headed for Elberta. Leaving Foley for the ten mile trip east through Elberta, they would have taken the road below:



Piney Woods road in Elberta in 1904, now US98. Note, that unlike the western movies where the roads have two ruts, the real roads with horse and buggy had *three* ruts; two for the wheels and one for the horse.



Looking NW in Elberta in 1914.

The Koehler family arrived at the property five miles east of Elberta. (My grandfather had paid the balance on the first 80 acres and purchased another 80 acres at \$20/acre.)

The immediate need was shelter. They quickly put up a frame building covered with a tarp, as seen below. They lived only several weeks in this, then a wooden structure seen in the top right photo, that had a dirt floor, and half was shared by the chickens.



Frame building with tarp at the end of October, 1911. Note weights holding tarp in place. The mules, Donna and Bella came from Nebraska with the family.



Photo looking NW from about present day US98. The first tarp building is at the right, and the second building in the center. A third building quickly followed with a wooden floor. In the clearing the final house which still exists was build, seen below.



Koehler house finished in 1915. It is presently owned by Adam Frank, and bricked. It is on the north side of Hwy 98, five miles east of Elberta. I was born in this house.



Modern tractor, circa 1920. My father, Albert Koehler is sitting on top.



My mothers's family was living above Atmore in the country. Photo was taken about Easter 1917 (an event to dress up for). Mode of travel was a wagon with two oxen.

The two Elberta photos top center, are from the book *Land of Milk and Honey* by John Haupt.

Alabama Duck Hunting

A Yankee lawyer went duck hunting in southern Alabama. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer's field on the other side of a fence.

As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly gentleman asked him what he was doing. The lawyer responded, "I shot a duck and it fell in this field, I'm going in to retrieve it."

The old farmer replied. "This is my property, and you are not coming over here."

The indignant lawyer said, "I am one of the best trial attorneys in the U.S. and, if you don't let me get that duck, I'll sue you and take everything!"

The old farmer smiled and said, "Apparently, you don't know how we do things here in Alabama. We settle small disagreements like this with the Three-Kick Rule."

The lawyer asked, "What is the Three-Kick Rule?"

The Farmer replied. "Well, first I kick you three times and then you kick me three times, and so on, back and forth, until someone gives up."

The Yankee attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old southerner. He agreed to abide by the local custom.

The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the city feller. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy work boot into the Yankee lawyer's groin and dropped him to his knees. His second kick nearly wiped the man's nose off his face. The barrister was flat on his belly when the farmer's third kick to a kidney nearly caused him to give up.

The Yankee lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet and said, "Okay, you old redneck southerner, now it's my turn."

The old Alabama farmer smiled and said, "Naw, I give up. You can have the duck."

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1. Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.
 2. If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.
 3. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.

It takes a Rocket Scientist!!

Scientists at NASA built a gun specifically to launch dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity. The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers.

When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's backrest in two and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the US scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo: "Defrost the chicken."

What kind of track is it?

Three hunters were walking through the forest when they came upon a set of tracks.

The first hunter said, "Those are deer tracks."

The second hunter said, "No, those are elk tracks."

The third hunter said, "You're both wrong, those are moose tracks."

The hunters were still arguing when the train hit them.

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1. He who laughs last thinks slowest.
 2. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
 3. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
 4. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
 5. Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.
 6. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
 7. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the heck happened.

The Ferrari and the Moped

A hip young man goes out and buys a new Ferrari GTO. It is the best and most expensive car available in the world, costing about \$500,000. He takes it out for a spin and while stopping for a red light, an old man on a moped (both looking about 90 years old) pulls up next to him.

The old man looks over the sleek, shiny surface of the car and asks, "What kind of car ya' got there, sonny?"

The young man replies, "A Ferrari GTO. They cost about a half million dollars!"

"That's a lot of money," says the old man, shocked. "Why does it cost so much?"

"Because this car can do up to 220 miles an hour!" states the cool dude proudly.

The moped driver asks, "Can I take a look inside?"

"Sure," replies the owner.

So the old man pokes his head in the window and looks around. Leaning back on his moped, the old man says, "That's a pretty nice car, all right!"

Just then the light changes so the guy decides to show the old man what his car can do. He floors it, and within 30 seconds the speedometer reads 220 mph. Suddenly, he notices a dot in his rear view mirror. It seems to be getting closer! He slows down to see what it could be and suddenly, whhhooooosshhh! Something whips by him, going much faster!

"What on earth could be going faster than my Ferrari?!" the young man asks himself. Then, ahead of him, he sees a dot coming toward him. Whoooooosh! It goes by again, heading the opposite direction! And it almost looked like the old man on the moped! "Couldn't be," thinks the guy. "How could a moped outrun a Ferrari?!" Again, he sees a dot in his rear view mirror!

Whooooosh Ka-BbblaMMM! It plows into the back of his car, demolishing the rear end.

The young man jumps out, and it IS the old man!!! Of course, the moped and the old man are hurting for certain. He runs up to the dying old man and says, "You're badly hurt! Is there anything I can do for you?"

The old man moans and replies, "Yes, Unhook my suspenders from your side-view mirror!"

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?