



HOOFBEATiNG

Class of 1963

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Spring/Summer, 2008

Class Members Hear Wedding Bells



Patricia Hatch Palmer marries Anthony Monk.



Elizabeth Salter Tumlinson Houck marries Robert Brundage Rall.



Bob Rall and Elizabeth “Betsy” Tumlinson Houck at their engagement celebration hosted by the Lacys and the Bennetts.

Photo is courtesy of Jim Carrington Photography.

Class members Elizabeth “**Betsy**” **Tumlinson** Houck, **Pat Hatch** Palmer, and **Tony Monk** each heard church bells ring for them in May.

Betsy, who is now called Elizabeth by most people who can remember not to call her Betsy, wed long time friend, love, and radio personality Bob “Chopper Bob” Rall in a formal celebration and blessing of marriage at the Parish Church of St. Philip in Jackson, Mississippi. The nuptials took place on Friday, May 23, 2008, at seven o’clock in the evening and were followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. The couple plans a fall honeymoon with a trip up the east coast when the weather is cooler and the leaves are turning.

Bob and Elizabeth pose with their engagement party hosts Judy and Don Lacy (left) and Kenneth and Lucette Bennett (right).

Photo is courtesy of Jim Carrington Photography.



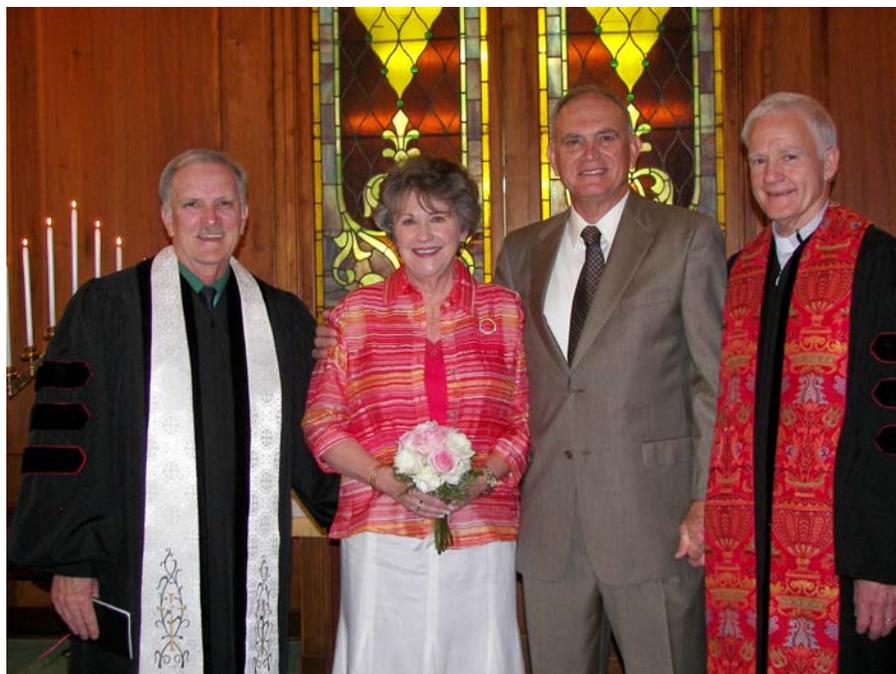


Pat and Tony are pictured with her son William Palmer and William's wife Beaumont.

As for Pat and Tony, we received the following email from the second lucky couple: "Anthony Monk and Patricia Hatch Palmer were married May 18, 2008, at the Chapel of Grace United Methodist Church in North Augusta, South Carolina. Her son, William Palmer, and his wife, Beaumont, gave the bride in marriage. The Reverends James Adams and Joe Lusk performed the ceremony with piano music provided by Laura Lusk."

According to Pat, "IT TOOK ALL OF 15 MINUTES" and was followed by a small wedding luncheon at the Partridge Inn in Augusta. Pat and Tony traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, for their honeymoon. Again from Pat, she says "Tony and I, [otherwise known as, 'this young couple'] will reside in Brandon, Mississippi, so that now, [I] can be a regular part of the First Thursday lunches. WOW!! Sometimes 'truth is stranger than fiction' and a lot more terrific."

Pat and Tony pose with the ministers, the Reverends James Adams and Joe Lusk.



Kathy Butts Hayes Announces Book Publication



Kathy Butts Hayes' probable jacket photo was done by Lonnie Kees Photography.

Years ago I started writing poetry.... not the pretty flowery kind ... but words from the soul that expressed some of the pain of depression and the hopelessness one sometimes feels. It was more therapy, like journaling or writing in your diary as a pre-teen or teenager. Actually I never even let anyone read them because of the exposure to my soul.

As the years went by and my healing began, the poems became more of a success story, so to speak. I began to rejoice at my healing and smile at the joys of being a wife, mother, daughter, woman.

I allowed only a select few in my family and very close friends to read the progression and everyone that read them told me they could help others who are dealing with depression ... help them know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel ... and it isn't a train and it isn't God beckoning to us, but it's there if you really want it.

Occasionally I'd send one poem in or one photograph in to a publisher to see if I could get published and a few did to

my surprise. Then one day I put the whole thing together ... all my poems with photographs that defined the poems or enhanced the poems. I called it "The Journey". I sent an inquiry to a couple of publishers, and received some interest back, one in particular wanted to see the whole manuscript.

But ... I always found a reason why it wasn't ready to be sent off. Newer photographs or chapter breaks ... I just wasn't ready. My life was on those pages.

Finally, I asked a friend to read them all ... from beginning to end with the photographs ... and she cried and laughed and rejoiced ... the reaction I'd prayed for from someone outside my family. So I bit the bullet and put it in the mail. And, lo and behold, I got a letter back via email saying they wanted to publish it. And it was a real publisher, not vanity press, or anything that was going to cost me anything.

I do have to change the title as another book was recently released with a similar title, but that's okay. I'm thinking "To Anyone At All".



So watch for it ... "To Anyone At All" by Kathy Butts Hayes. It may be six months or so before it's released, but believe me, I'll let you know.



Classmates' or Teachers' Family-Deaths

Dianne Allen Graham's mother, Lavinia Blanks Allen, 83, died July 7, 2008, in Monroe, Louisiana. Born in Blackstone, Virginia, she was married to the late Grover N. Allen for fifty-three years. Not only was Mrs. Allen a devoted wife, mother, and homemaker, she was a long-time member of Trinity Presbyterian Church and the manager of twenty-five years for the Town and Country Cleaners next to Briarwood Pet Clinic on Canton Mart Road. Her survivors include her daughter Dianne, her son Robert N. Allen of Greenwood, Mississippi, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. In addition, she has a sister Jane Daniel who lives with her husband Tommy in Blackstone.

Marsha Burks McGehee's father Delos Hudson Burks, 91, died Tuesday, July 8, 2008, in Carriere, Mississippi. He was born in Picayune to William H. and Alice Burks. Following graduation from Industrial High School, he taught at the high school for several years before enrolling as an Aviation Cadet. He got his navigator rating and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Two days later he married his high school sweetheart Melva Rester. During World War II, he flew anti-submarine patrols in the Gulf of Mexico, taught navigation, flew as navigator (rescue squadron in the Philippine Theater), and with his crew flew 35 combat missions in the Pacific. After the war Captain Burk was promoted to major, leaving the service in November 1945 to pursue his degree from Mississippi Southern followed by study at the Jackson School of Law. He was national VFW Press Officer in the early 1950s. General Burk was admitted to the bar in 1954. He served in the state legislature from 1952 until 1960, was assistant attorney general from 1960 to 1969, and served as Mississippi's first deputy attorney general from 1969 until 1972 under Joe Patterson then Al Sumner. In addition, Burks was Major General, Mississippi Air National Guard, retired. His parents, eight brothers and sisters, and wife Melva predeceased him. Major General Burks is survived by his children Michael Hudson Burks, Marsha Burks McGehee, and Gail Burks Pace; seven grandchildren; six great grandchildren; and one great, great grandchild

Larry Kerr's father-in-law, Dr. James B. Moore, 78, of Jackson died at Highland Home on Friday, June 27, 2008. He served in the U. S. Army during the Korean Conflict and in the National Guard during the Vietnam War. Dr. Moore either taught or worked with schools in Tupelo and Aberdeen, Mississippi, and Suttle, Alabama, as well as the University of Mississippi in both Oxford and Jackson, Mississippi College, Belhaven College, East Mississippi Community College, the University of South Alabama, and the University of Alabama. He was a former Sunday school teacher and Deacon at Jackson's First Baptist Church. Dr. Moore was preceded in death by his wife, Sarah Ann Moore, and is survived by his wife, Bettye Moore. Other survivors include his son, Dr. Bill Moore of Madison, and daughters, Kathy Kerr of Jackson; Karen Hicks of Meridian; and Alice Elkins of Ridgeland. In addition ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren survive him.

Jean Magee Cox' brother, Ewell Durwood "Woody" Magee, 64, died of a heart attack at his home in Brandon, Mississippi, on May 22, 2008. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, he had lived most of his life in the Metro area, either in Hinds or Rankin Counties. Woody graduated from



Murrah High School in 1962. He was a member of the Baptist Church and was formerly employed at Gray-Daniels Ford in Brandon. More recently he had been the primary caregiver for his father who died July 31, 2007. His parents Ewell and Mary Bond Magee as well as his children Mary Magee and Michael Durwood “Mickey” Magee predeceased Woody. Survivors include his wife Rita Mae Magee of Las Vegas, Nevada; step-daughter Autumn Vollberg; sisters, Rev. Beth Williams of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Jean Cox of Star, Mississippi, Maggie Clark of Brandon, and Evelyn Magee of Jackson; and two step-grandchildren.

Bill Ross’ father-in-law Freeman Lamar Evans, 86, died Friday, May 30, 2008. His parents were the late Lamar and Delia Evans of Philadelphia, Mississippi. A graduate of LSU, Mr. Evans also attended Mississippi State University. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy and was a decorated Chief Petty Officer. Professionally, he was Executive Director of the Mississippi Safety Council, later working as a Hinds County District Forester until his retirement. A devoted family man, Mr. Evans was also charter member of North Park Presbyterian Church and an avid outdoorsman. His wife Martha predeceased him. Survivors include his son Allan Evans of Jackson (MHS ’64); daughters, Kathy Evans Ross (MHS ’66, married to Dr. Bill Ross) of Corinth and Marabeth Evans Brooks (husband Wally Brooks) of Alpharetta, Georgia; and five grandchildren. In addition, a brother and a sister survive him.

Sandra Scott Salvo’s mother-in-law, Gertrude Burke “Trudy” Salvo, 88, died Monday, June 23, 2008. She was born in Natchez, Mississippi, and graduated from Natchez St. Joe, now known as Natchez Cathedral School. While a student in high school there, she excelled in creative writing and won a journalism contest sponsored by the New Orleans *Times Picayune* and helped compose the spirit song for the school’s Green Wave athletic teams. Before her retirement, Mrs. Salvo worked for many years as bookkeeper for Miss-Lou Oil Producers. She enjoyed playing bridge, reading newspapers, and cooking; but she was best known for her devotion to her family and loyalty to her friends. Her husband, Frederick Natale “Fritz” Salvo, preceded Mrs. Salvo in death. Four children survive her: Fred N. Salvo and Paul J. Salvo, both of Jackson; Lou Salvo Jordan of Madison, and Sheila Salvo Atwood of Lake St. John, Louisiana. In addition, there are nine grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Teachers’ Deaths

Sara Stone Brister, 92, died Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at Hospice Ministries in Ridgeland, Mississippi. Mrs. Brister, the youngest of three children, was born to Edren and Maud Baskin Stone on February 7, 1916, and grew up in the town of Newton in central Mississippi west of Meridian. She attended Clarke College, a Baptist junior college formerly located in Newton, and graduated from Southern Mississippi Teachers College (now the University of Southern Mississippi) in Hattiesburg. Sara Stone married Benjamin Borden “Bennie” Brister, Jr. on February 11, 1942. She taught school in Mississippi for forty years, most of which was spent in the Jackson Separate School District’s Boyd Elementary School, retiring in 1975. She and her husband were longtime active members of Broadmeadow Methodist Church. Mrs. Brister was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, and her two older brothers (John Stone and Edwin Stone). Her daughter Sara Katherine Brister and her son Benjamin Borden Brister III as well as four grandchildren and four great grandchildren survive her.

Ellis Haddad's Brother Sends Email to Class of 1963

We received the following email from Pete Haddad shortly after the last newsletter was published:

I just wanted to thank you so much for the Memoriam on Ellis Haddad that you published in your newsletter.

Ellis was my brother and I miss him very much. I have many fond memories of growing up in Jackson and being Ellis' annoying little brother...ha... I still remember many of his friends, as I was only two years behind him in school.

I also remember Jean Shamburger. I was attending school at Bailey when she recruited some of the band members there to be in the Music Man. That was a blast of a time. Very enjoyable, and I can still remember some lines from the play. It was so much fun. It is very sad to hear of her passing. There are quite a few names of others in the newsletter that I also remember.

I left Jackson in 1964 while I was attending Central High School and joined the Navy. I retired from the Naval Submarine Force after 26 years as a Master Chief Radioman (E-9). I have been a Nuclear Medicine Field Service Engineer since that time and I am working with Philips Medical Systems (Philips Electronics) in Houston, TX.

I am heavily involved with Amateur Radio. It is a wonderful hobby and I just can't seem to get enough of sending and receiving Morse Code as I did in the Navy for so many years as one of my duties as a Radioman.

<http://www.qrz.com/callsign/w5peh>

I would love to hear from anyone that remembers Ellis or me and you are welcome to post this desire in a future newsletter if you so desire.

Ellis' death was a very unexpected and sudden thing. My wife and I were traveling over to visit with him and his family for the weekend on the day that it happened. You can imagine how devastating that was.....and still is....it totally broke my heart. He was a great guy and we all miss him so very much.

If you like you can make my email address available to anyone who wants it and I welcome any and all responses. Email is cameldriver777@aol.com

Once again thanks and the very best to you and your family; I am very pleased to see how well the Murrah class has been trying to stay in touch. I admire you for your time and efforts.

Best Regards,

Pete Haddad (formerly of Hanging Moss Rd.)

Bio Updates

Kit Davis Barksdale's son Russell was married December 29, 2007, in Cleveland, Mississippi, to Chasity Skeen. In addition, Kit's other son Edward and his wife Susan recently welcomed their second child, Catherine Ruth (Katie) Gibson, 6 pounds four ounces. Older sister Ellen loves the addition to her little family.

Babs Melvin Knieriem still lives in Franklin, Tennessee, and says that she is retired and "getting her check". She is now a full-time quilter and smocker, grandmother of six (they all live in the same area code as she and her husband do), traveler (she and George have been to England and Ireland five times and recently visited Alaska and Cape Cod). They were in Jackson just before Christmas and were amazed at how it has grown. She says that she didn't recognize anything except the street names! She must not have passed Bailey Junior High – talk about unchanging! And in the realm of coincidence, Babs says that her mother, Marguerite Melvin, recently moved from Fort Myers, Florida, to a lovely retirement home near her in Franklin. The first person that she and her mother saw when they got there was Mildred Orr, mother of classmate **Jane Orr** Bryant. When Jane was in Franklin for her mother's birthday, she and Babs had a great "catching up with each other" visit.

Barbara Miller Marshall has good news to report. After four and a half months in the hospital, following complications from surgery, she is at home in Clinton and doing well. She hopes to be back "up to speed" shortly and is now enjoying her granddaughter Caylen who along with mom Erin and dad David is visiting from North Carolina.

Mike Nicholson writes that he and his wife Marilyn traveled to Florida in March. Their original plans were to leave Meridian on March 7, break the trip in Tallahassee, and then drive on to daughter April's house the following day. April (mother of Connor and wife of Mike DeForest) was scheduled for a C-section on March 12. However, as is often the case, *Cole Michael DeForest* was born March 6, 2008. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches in length. April and baby, as well as her husband, Mike, are fine. The 1,400-mile roundtrip drive to Florida and back was a bit rough. Marilyn and Mike Nicholson were away from home for about two weeks. It was their first 'big' trip since Mike's surgery last October.

On a sad note... April's 13-year-old basset hound, Lizzie, had a large tumor removed from inside her mouth (jowl) about 6 weeks before April's delivery. The pathology report was returned as "Canine Malignant Melanoma". The week before she gave birth, April had to take her dog that she had owned and loved for 13 years to be put to sleep. And young Connor has been devastated. If you remember the pictures for the last few years, Lizzie has been the only trick-or-treat partner Connor has ever had.

Suzanne Riley Brown and husband Jim (MHS '62) traveled to the Arkansas and the Georgia mountains during April with their sons Riley and Matt as well as their wives and children.

Walter Shellshear is the General Manager for Post Oak Motor Cars, Ltd. of Houston, the exclusive Factory Authorized dealer in south Texas for both Rolls Royce and Bentley Motor Cars. With one of the largest inventories in North America, Post Oak always has an exceptional selection of these fine motorcars available for immediate delivery.

Great Things Are Happening At Murrah

Murrah Senior Impresses the Science World

La'Mont Sutton, 2008 Murrah graduate, was named a semifinalist in the Siemens Foundation Competition in math, science and technology.



**Dr. Parminder Vig (left)
and
La'Mont Sutton (right)**

Siemens funds the prestigious science and mathematics research-based scholarships for high school students. Sutton was one of 295 national semifinalists out of a record 1,600 entries. His submission, involving a rare neurodegenerative disorder called spinocerebellar ataxia, was based on his work with Dr. Parminder Vig, professor of neurology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "Dr. Vig's research deals with brain cell closure," Sutton said, "and I'm very interested in the brain because it's something that we don't know much about."

Sutton became involved in his project through Base Pair, a biomedical research mentoring program that pairs faculty from UMC with high school students and educators from the Jackson Public Schools. Funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the program allows students to work hands-on in a laboratory under the guidance and supervision of researchers at UMC. The idea of Base Pair is to let students discover how important research is.

Last year Sutton placed in the Region II Science Fair competition and won an \$8,000 scholarship at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. He was also awarded a scholarship in a statewide science-engineering-mathematics poster competition sponsored by the Mississippi Junior Academy of Science. **This article is a heavily edited version of one by Jesse Yancy and written as a Special to Northeast Ledger.**

The Answer Is ... Which Murrah Student Was on *Jeopardy*?

Katie Gill admitted, as a 13-year-old, to snickering as older contestants on *Teen Jeopardy!* struggled with questions on the show. Gill is not laughing now. The 15-year-old Murrah High sophomore has finished taping her appearance on the popular game show *Teen Jeopardy!*, which broadcast nationally February 11-22, 2008.

She got her experience in the area of such contests thanks to participation in the Challenge Bowl while a student at Chastain Middle School and on the Quiz Bowl team at Murrah. The format of the competition was ideal for Katie's preparation. "Quiz Bowl ... really helped, because they just [threw] random questions at you," she said. There would be a calculus question and then Marie Curie.

All of this started because of Katie's interest in being on the show. She subscribed to the online *Jeopardy!* Newsletter. When an issue said that the show was going to begin testing for the



youth edition, she applied (along with 10,000 others) and took the initial online written test. She did well enough to earn a trip to Nashville for live testing and interviews, and then was tabbed for a spot on the show itself. The lure of the spotlight didn't override her desire to succeed in school. "I was sitting around making flash cards, but she didn't even want to think about it until after semester exams" in December, said Liz Gill, Katie's mother. But Liz also said, "This isn't really something you can study for, because it's everything." Katie had one major hurdle remaining before she left Jackson, and that was learning to phrase her responses in true *Jeopardy!* style: in the form of a question.



The Murrah High School student's run during the *Jeopardy! Teen Tournament* ended during the semifinals. Getting the final *Jeopardy!* question correct just wasn't enough. Katie knew that Annapolis is one of two state capitals whose names end with the Greek word for city. But her \$2,000 wager just wasn't enough to win in that day's game. However, she did not walk away empty-handed; she was guaranteed \$5,000 for winning her preliminary match and another \$5,000 for appearing in the semifinals. *Jeopardy!* flew Gill and her parents to Los Angeles in January for the show's taping.

There, Katie said she made fast friends with the 14 other students who were competing on the show. She described the Sony Pictures studio where *Jeopardy!* is filmed as "small and it was cold....You're already nervous, there's all these cameras in front of you." But it helped, she said, that she was thinking of *Saturday Night Live*'s famous mock version of *Celebrity Jeopardy!*, where Will Ferrell played Alex Trebek. **This article is a heavily edited version of two articles by Raymond Reeves, which were published in *The Clarion-Ledger* newspaper in January and February 2008.**

Murrah, Students Reap Honors

For the third straight year, Murrah has been designated by *Newsweek* magazine (May 26 issue) as "one of the 1,300 U.S. top high schools based on college level test participation." Murrah was ranked number 604. Students flock to the school's Advanced Placement courses (AP), which are considered college level in content. The faculty boasts more than ten members certified to teach AP course work. Murrah's graduating class for 2008 received more than \$3.3 million in scholarships, including offers from such prestigious schools as Cornell, Georgetown, New York University, and St. Louis' Washington University. (This article is based on one written as a special to the *Northeast Ledger* by Dani Edmonson on June 11, 2008.)



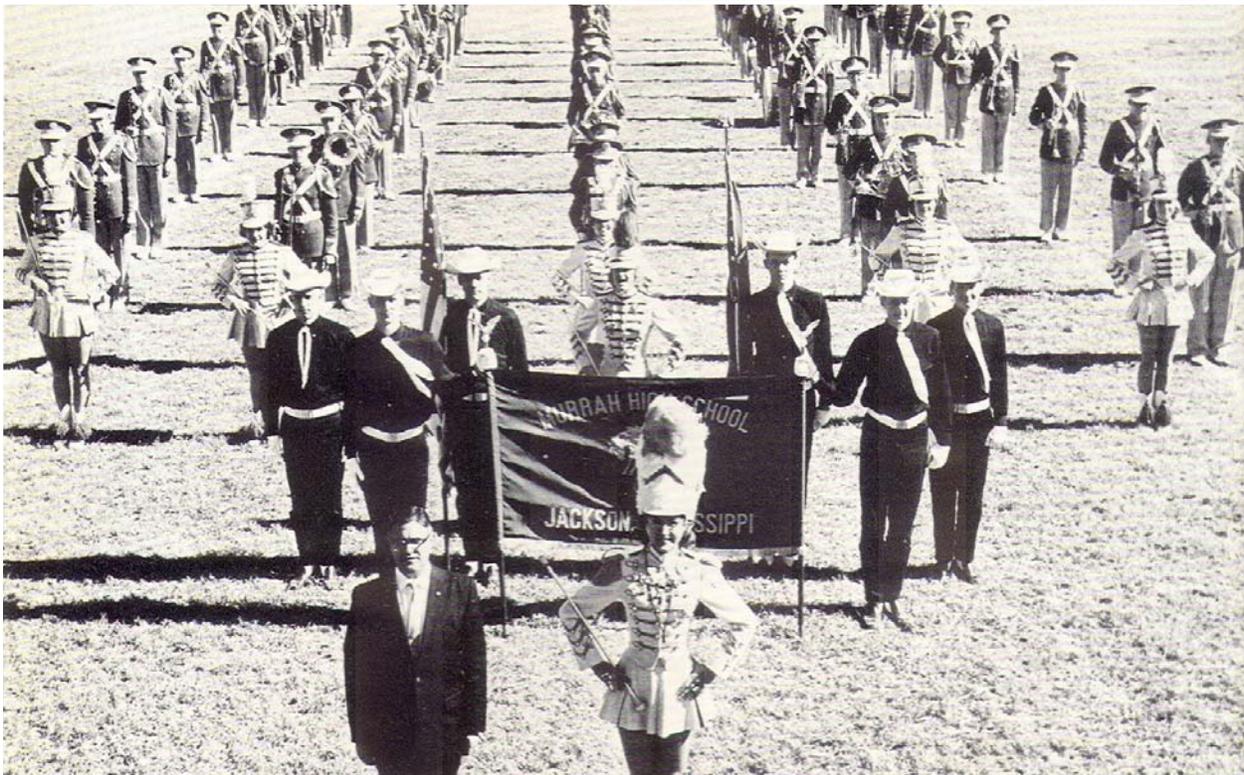
Stanley Blackmon (left), Murrah High salutatorian, will major in the biological sciences at Mississippi State. He's a National Merit and National Achievement finalist. Chris Pigott (right), eighth in the class, will study political science and comparative government at Georgetown.

Whatever Happened to...?

Remember, Drum Major Bunny Cobb and Coach “Scooter” Purvis?

Well, they are alive and well, happily married to each other, and living in Baton Rouge. But the reason for this ‘trip down memory lane’ is an interesting piece of trivia about their granddaughter Bailey Purvis. It seems that Bailey will be seen on Disney’s new reality show, *High School Musical: Get in the Picture* which premieres Sunday, July 20 on ABC at 8:00 EDT and 7:00 CDT. Bailey will compete and perform in areas of singing, dancing, and acting. Since this show involves young people from ages 16 to 22, she will be one of the youngest (Bailey is 16.) The series will start by showing open casting calls for the first several shows and then settle on twelve finalists who will perform and compete at a musical conservatory. Promos for the show have begun on ABC. Bailey is the one who says “I am sharpay... all the way.” Disney is not releasing much more information that this – more excitement and suspense this way – ratings too!

**Coaches: Merritt, Purvis,
McDaniel, Davis, and Rugg**



Class of 1963 Photo Gallery

Mississippi State Veterans Memorial May Day Celebration

Photos by Brian Albert Broom/The Clarion-Ledger



Flags wave outside the Mississippi State Veterans Home in Jackson for the State Veterans Memorial May Day Celebration.

Tom Pleasant of Clinton, (right) holds his father's hand during the ceremony. *Bill Pleasant* served in the U.S. Air Force from 1939 until 1961.



Wal-Mart employees light candles for the residents of the State Veterans Home who have passed away.

Dr. Bryant Boswell reenacted the role of Capt. Meriwether Lewis for a DAR meeting (Chief Red Jacket Chapter). Pictured with Dr. Boswell is a youngster who attended. She is wearing a tippet like one given to Meriwether Lewis by Sacagawea's brother, Cameahwait, and a 100-year-old cedar bark hat representing one owned by Lewis.



Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



Jackson Academy's choral music department presented a dinner concert recently. In attendance was JA teacher and MHS Class of 1963 graduate *Bruce Sumrall*.



Bobby Lane's widow Mary Jane (nee Fitch) periodically comes to Mississippi to attend her reunion at The W, visit with some of Bobby's friends, and go by to see Bobby at Lakewood. She has remarried (Gerald Simmons) and lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Connie (Redd) and Bobbie Barefield attended the book signing for *Angels of Lockhart*, that author Tom Wiley and his wife Merrie hosted in their home. ("NorthsideSun Magazine" photo)

George Donovan and his wife Ann attended the Commemorative Air Force's annual Christmas party, which was hosted by Dr. Danny and Suzanne O'Keefe. ("NothsideSun Magazine" photo)





The Brown Family: pictured are *Suzanne Riley Brown* and her husband *Jim* (back row center). Son *Riley* is on the back row left next to his wife *Amanda* while son *Matt* and his wife *Paula* are back right.



Connor and Cole

Mike and Marilyn Nicholson with grandsons *Connor* and *Connor's* baby brother *Cole*



Did You Go on the Mississippi Youth Tour?

What wonderful trips those were!
Beth Cleland Harper's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Cleland, were our fearless directors, and
Jean Magee Cox's father, Mr. Ewell "Mac" Magee was our beloved bus driver.
 Jean says that she has all those group photos (in wonderful condition), like the one taken on the eastern tour in front of the U.S. Capitol Building.
 If you would be interested in the possibility of getting a copy (or copies if you went both east and west), please email to estelle@ongulf.com so we can see how much interest there is.

Address, Phone, and Email Changes

Jack Harris
 Apartment 240
 6110 Fairdale Lane
 Houston TX 77057-6136
 713-785-0324

Pat Hatch Palmer Monk
 58 Woodbridge Road
 Brandon MS 39042
 601-825-8451

Bill Hemphill
 520 Patrick Farms Drive
 Pearl MS 39208
 601-420-0888
billhemphill@bellsouth.net

Walter Shellshear
 305 Forestcrest Lane
 Coppell TX 75019
 972-393-3942
w.shellshear@pomcltd.com

Elizabeth (**Betsy**) **Tumlinson** Houck Rall
 Name change only

Class Member Websites

www.hayesjewelersonline.com

Charles and Kathy Butts Hayes

www.myttv.com/elizabeth11606

Elizabeth (Betty Charles) Baryshev

www.cedarwoodraymond.com

Bob and Jeannie Johnson Chunn's bed and breakfast in Raymond, Mississippi

www.galejohnson.com

Gale Johnson's photography, etc.

www.mississippideltabluesinfo.com

Ron and Carol Marble

www.refluxgoneforever.com

Charles Richey

www.westmesawoods.com

James "Jimmy" Squires handcrafted furniture

www.poorjuliaart.com

Julia Walter Allen's scrap metal art

Hoofbeating is published quarterly on-line by the Murrah High School Class of 1963.

The following classmates contributed to this issue:

Kathy Butts Hayes
 Pat Hatch Monk
 Photos by Jim Carrington Photography
 601-573-1990 cell/601-957-1956 home
 44 Moss Forest Circle
 Jackson, MS 39211
jcarrington42@comcast.net

Send information to be published in *Hoofbeating* to

Estelle Mockbee
 1404 Roxbury Place
 Jackson, MS 39211

email: Estelle@ongulf.com

Visit the Class of '63 website:
www.ongulf.com/mhs