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Spring 2009

## Classmate Johnny Jones Discovers Jelly Making



Some of the jellies that friends Johnny Jones (left) and Rick Hickman have made.

Classmate **Johnny Jones** of northeast Jackson and his friend Rick Hickman of Flowood have teamed up to make jelly. This is no small scale operation either. They deal with 25-pound bags of sugar, 40 dozen jars, and a big pot on an outdoor gas cooker.

Johnny's wife Fran has been designated as chief shopper for the jelly-making team. "I get 50 pounds of sugar at a time," said Fran. "If somebody had been watching they might have thought I was making moonshine."

What did the men do with all these provisions Fran provided? They produced 130 jars of muscadine jelly, 80 jars of blackberry jelly, 41 jars of hot pepper jelly, 35 jars of scuppernong jelly, 30 jars of muscadine jelly with hot peppers, 31 jars of mild pepper jelly, 28 jars of medium hot pepper jelly, and 27 jars of super hot pepper jelly. In addition, they diversified. That's the only explanation for the mere 19 jars of sweet pickles. That or they vetoed the idea of cucumber jelly.

What did they do with all that jelly? They ate some. They kept some. They gave some away, and they sold some at a fundraiser sponsored by their church, St. Luke's United Methodist Church on Duling Avenue: two cases each of muscadine, blackberry, scuppernong and hot pepper jelly were put out for "A Day on Duling," this past fall. Actually, the date coincided with the Class of 1963's Forty-Fifth Reunion, so the '63 Mustangs reluctantly gave their classmate an excused absence.

And that's not all for these two. Johnny Jones and Rick Hickman contributed more than just jelly to "A Day on Duling". The two men spearheaded a shrimp boil that day, cooking 300 pounds of shrimp.

Johnny and Rick say that "A Day on Duling" motivated them to increase their jelly production. They started about the first of June and continued for about three months. They picked the blueberries, muscadines and scuppernongs at Locust Grove Berry Farm in the Jackson metro area. "We'd go pick two or three days and come back and make jelly," Rick said. "One day we made 80 jars of blackberry jelly."

Johnny and Rick came up with their own recipe for pepper jelly to which they added chopped habanero peppers, seeds and all, to make it super hot. For Johnny and Rick's tastes, it is "no hotter is no better." Next year they hope to use some Indian peppers reputed to be hotter than habaneros. According to Johnny and an Hispanic friend of his, if your hands burn from chopping hot peppers, cool the burn by licking the area, pouring salt on it, and licking off the salt.

As far as the actual cooking process was concerned Johnny and Rick began using a big pot over an outdoor gas cooker, deciding that the cooking time was be quicker than on a kitchen stove. They generally cooked a double batch of each flavor of jelly. New this year was the addition of a custom label for the jelly jars, designed by Fran Jones. There were script letters denoting J&R with the names Johnny and Rick below. Fran says that her husband and Rick were so committed and professional in their jelly-making that they could work in silence. They hardly had to say a word.

**This article is a heavily edited version of one written by Nell Luter Floyd for the *Northeast Ledger*. The photo was taken by Alison Mazurak.**

### Address, Phone, and Email Changes

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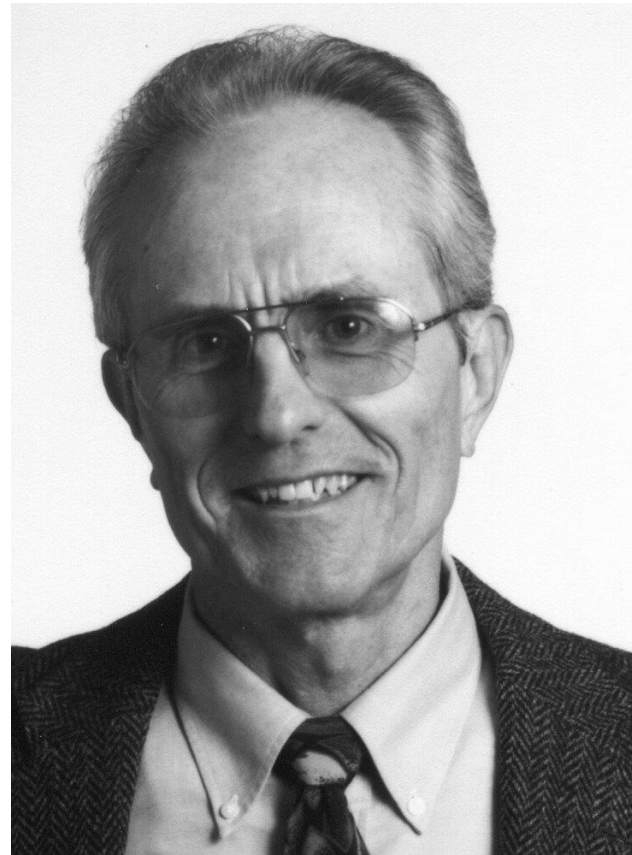
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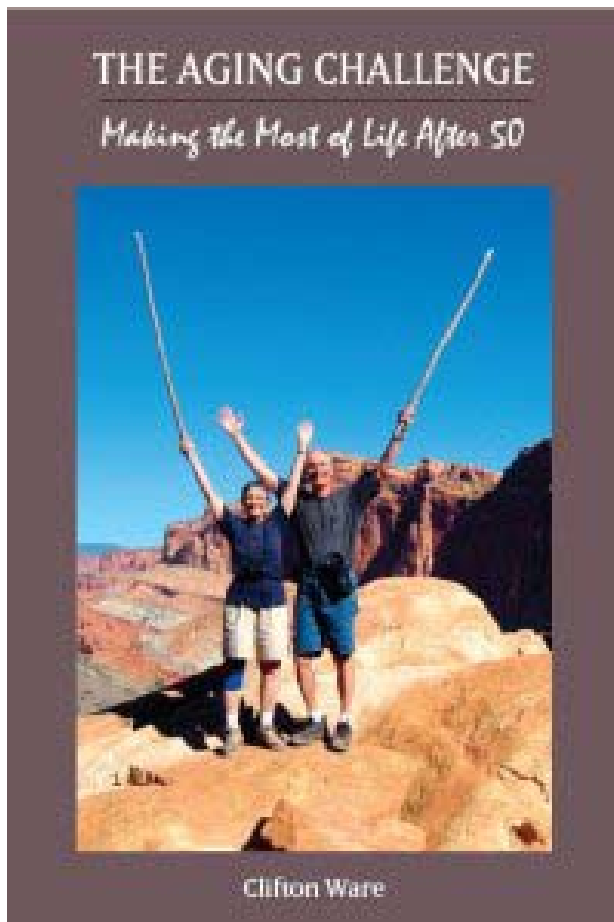
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## Murrah Teacher Authors Book

**Dr. Clifton Ware** (choral music sponsor and director of the Murrah Singers during our senior year), a distinguished singer and retired Professor of Vocal Pedagogy and Pedagogy Chair of the Schuessler Vocal Arts Center at the University of Minnesota, has spent 57 of his 72 years advocating holistic self-care to thousands of students. In *The Aging Challenge* (Birch Grove Publishing, 2009), Dr. Ware relates personal stories and lessons from many sources in addressing the choices, crises, and opportunities most of us face after the age of 50. His goal as a voice coach and life coach: to help us make the most of what we've been given. This book follows his *The Singer's Life: Goals and Roles* (Birch Grove Publishing, 2005) He has performed as tenor soloist with more than sixty major music organizations in



**Dr. Clifton Ware**



North America and Europe in a repertoire that includes fifty-three opera, operetta, and musical theater roles, seventy-six major works with orchestra and chorus, more than twenty solo recitals, and several chamber music recitals. Ware can be heard in recordings of Benjamin Britten's *St. Nicolas* (MHS) and *Paul Bunyan* (Virgin Records), and *Vocal Explorations: The Bad, the Good, and the "Other"*, featuring all original material. Dr. Ware has written two prominent textbooks on singing: *Adventures in Singing* (3rd edition, McGraw-Hill, 2004), an introductory text/song anthology with recorded piano accompaniments; and *Basics of Vocal Pedagogy* (McGraw-Hill, 1998). He has also produced and presented more than one hundred clinics and master classes in the U.S. and abroad.

## In Memoriam



**Walter Andrew Shellshear III**, 63, passed away Sunday, February 8, 2009, from a malignant abdominal tumor which had spread to the liver. A celebration of Walter's life was held Saturday, April 18, 2009, at his home in Coppell, Texas.

Walter was born July 20, 1945, in Lake Charles, Louisiana, to Walter Andrew Shellshear, Jr. and Kathleen Marie Gennuso Shellshear. His father was British, and his mother was Italian. Because his father was associated with Gulf Oil Corporation, the family moved to areas known for their oil and gas production. Walter attended elementary school in Houston, Texas, and both junior and senior high school in Roswell, New Mexico, until moving to Jackson, Mississippi, where he graduated from Murrah High School. He first attended Tulane University, planning to study architecture. His family moved from Jackson much sooner than they had originally planned, because Gulf Oil had acquired Tulsa-based Warren Petroleum in 1953 and wanted Mr. Shellshear to take charge of that acquisition.

Walter then transferred to the University of Tulsa. It was during the time that Walter was in Tulsa that he met Steve Byars, who would become his life partner of 43½ years. Walter's interests included gardening, animals (At the time of his death, he and Steve had three pets: Molly, Jake and Buster.), travel, reading, music, history, art, architecture and design, movies, theater and politics. His sense of humor made him a wonderful storyteller as well. Such passions along with his winning smile and keen intelligence combined to open the door to a career in high-end luxury sales ending as General Manager of Post Oak Motorcars Ltd. of Houston, one of the nation's largest Bentley-Rolls Royce Dealerships. He also had a long and successful sales and management career at both Park Place Motor Cars of Dallas and Neiman Marcus where many lasting personal and professional relationships were forged.

Walter is preceded in death by his parents, Walter Andrew and Kathleen Marie Shellshear, and his nephew, Brian Christopher Shellshear, all of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is survived by Stephen C. Byars of Coppell, Texas; sister, Mary K. Strickland and her husband, George, of Beaumont, Texas; nephew, Michael Strickland and his wife, Linda; great-nephew, Aiden; brother, Billy Shellshear and wife, Christy of Tulsa; niece, Angela; and sister, Elizabeth Blair and husband, Craig, of Tulsa; niece, Meghan Blair-Elledge and her husband, Jake.

The class sent an arrangement of fresh flowers to the Celebration of Walter's Life held in April at his home in Coppell, Texas. In addition, there is a memorial website honoring Walter. It includes a power point presentation: <http://www.stevebyars.com/>.



**Walter Shellshear**  
**(left)**  
**and**  
**Stephen C. Byars**



## Classmate Forges New Career



*Hallie Kennington Hull and her husband C.G.*

The following is an example of an email that turned into a *HOOFBEATING* article, complete with photographs. **Hallie Kennington** Hull was responding to our email announcement of the date for the “Class of ’63 Turns 63” reunion celebration and included some cryptic remarks referring to family visits and the University of Alabama and flowers and sky boxes. We couldn’t let this pass by, so we emailed back and asked “What in the world are you (a “W” graduate who lived a year in Perth, Australia; returned to Jackson, Mississippi, to work for about three years; married and moved to Laurel, Mississippi, and raised a family; retired to Branson, Missouri; and moved back south to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to be nearer to children and grandchildren)

talking about?” Well, what Hallie emailed back made perfect sense and just goes to show that being in the right place at the right time can really pay off.

She said that when she moved to Tuscaloosa, a new friend discovered how much she loved arranging flowers. This friend talked Hallie into joining a group called the VIP Ladies, who volunteer at many of the functions for the University of Alabama’s President’s Mansion. They set up the home for football game events, doing flowers for the tabletops, the buffet, and inside the house in general. Also, they decorate the President’s skybox at the stadium with a large floral arrangement. But they don’t just handle football season, they decorate the Mansion for Christmas. Hallie says that it has been great fun to volunteer, and she has been able to meet lots of wonderful people associated with the University. She still loves being a part of this group but has expanded her floral interests professionally. From that volunteer work, Hallie became asso-



*Hallie’s workplace*



**Hallie worked on arrangements for the University of Alabama skybox.**

ciated with a young designer who left the employment of the University and went out on his own. He now has an interior design store on Paul Bryant Drive as well as a business for event planning and florals. Hallie has been working with Matt Clinton Designs for the last two years. She says, “I have had a ton of fun with this. As young as he is (just had his twenty-fourth birthday), he is tremendously creative and loaded with talent. As I told him when we first started working together, I have a grandson (Forrest) his age!!!!”



**Hallie’s large arrangements for table service**



## UMC Research Center Dedicated to Dr. Guyton



The late **Dr. Arthur C. Guyton** is remembered and honored for his work in physiology, but his children also remember him for his work with electronic circuits and washing machines. In fact, the eminent Jackson physician might have been able to wire the building being dedicated in his name at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson. Or, at least, he could have gotten his children to wire it for him." There's probably no part of my house that I haven't worked on. I've re-

wired houses. I've, unfortunately, redone septic systems," said Dr. Tom Guyton, a Memphis anesthesiologist. "Certainly, the ability to do that comes from having done that as a child with my father."

The legacy of Arthur Guyton, who died in an April 2003, vehicle accident that mortally injured his wife, Ruth, lives on in every aspect of his children's lives, influencing their knack for fixing things that need it, in the home and in the hospital bed. All 10 of Arthur and Ruth Guyton's children are physicians. "We wanted to be like him, we all had such respect for him," said Dr. David Guyton, an ophthalmologist in Baltimore.

And so, besides Tom and David Guyton (married to MHS Class of 1963 member Janet Singletary), there are Dr. Robert A. Guyton (MHS Class of 1963), cardiothoracic surgery; Dr. John R. Guyton, family medicine; Dr. Steven W. Guyton, cardiothoracic surgery; Dr. Cathy Greenberger, internal medicine; Dr. Jean Gispen, rheumatology; Dr. Douglas C. Guyton, anesthesiology; Dr. James L. Guyton, orthopedic surgery; and Dr. Gregory P. Guyton, orthopedics.

Two are still in Mississippi: Jean Gispen of Oxford and Douglas Guyton, who lives in the Jackson area. Seven of the ten children attended the dedication.

"There is a wonderful bond between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the Guyton family," said Dr. Dan Jones, UMC's vice chancellor for health affairs. "Dr. Guyton's father, Dr.



(Photo by Jay Ferchaud)

**A nighttime view of the new Arthur C. Guyton Research Center**



Billy Guyton, joined the faculty in 1915, when the school was a two-year medical school on the Oxford campus. He served until the new, four-year school opened in Jackson in 1955. "Arthur Guyton joined the faculty in 1947 in Oxford, then moved here to Jackson in 1955 and remained here until his death in 2003. For 88 consecutive years, every medical student in Mississippi was taught by one of those two Guytons."

But Arthur Guyton's influence spread well beyond the borders of UMC, reaching the far corners of the world of medicine. Among those scheduled to speak at the dedication were Dr. John Hall, UMC's Arthur C. Guyton chair of physiology and biophysics, who planned to say, "Being from the University of Mississippi carries a cachet that it did not have before Arthur Guyton. This new building will be a way to honor the memory of Dr. Guyton and build on his legacy of scholarship."

When completed, this \$60 million building will be an eight-story, 191,000-square foot monument to the man who wrote *Textbook of Medical Physiology*, now in its eleventh printing, translated into at least 13 languages, and the most widely used text on the subject.

The building upon completion represents the moment UMC researchers and officials have hoped for since around 1993. That was the year that the original Arthur C. Guyton Laboratory Research building was dedicated. "But as soon as it opened, it was filled to capacity," said Dr. David Dzielak, associate vice chancellor for strategic research alliances at UMC. "While the new lab helped, we knew that if we were going to continue to expand our research mission, we'd have to find more space." The push to do so began in 1999, in a cause taken up by the state's congressional delegation. It culminated in a design that drew for inspiration on "the coolest and best" existing labs in the country, Dzielak said. This new space, connected to the existing Guyton building and considered an expansion of it, is needed for at least two reasons, Hall said. We're extremely cramped right now. And, second thing, we're trying to recruit researchers, especially in the fields of cancer, diabetes and obesity. In order to do that, we need a really good faculty to be competitive. Some of these investigators we are seeking certainly have opportunities elsewhere. It's important to attract these researchers, not only for UMC, but also for Mississippi," Hall said. "Because, of course, we are the most obese state in the country."

Diabetes and heart disease are also prevalent in the state.

UMC's prize recruits will work in a lab built to "maximize collaboration," Dzielak said. "The labs are open to each other, and an atrium space goes all the way up through the eight stories. We wanted to make it a very attractive work environment." That environment, UMC officials hope, also will spark breakthroughs in immunology, vaccine development, microbiology, neuro-science and cardiovascular physiology, where Guyton particularly made his mark. Generated in the building that bears his name, such discoveries would be a fitting tribute to a man who was curious to find out how everything worked, not just the human body, friends and family members say.



Physically limited by polio, the Oxford native, who was 83 when he died, walked on crutches, and used a wheelchair at his desk. He didn't let the crippling disease stop him from building the first computer he ever owned, or from teaching his children that if something's broken, fix it. The children became "his arms, his legs, and his hands," David Guyton said. They absorbed his knowledge and his love of medicine, and watched him as he wrote the textbook whose earnings would put them all through medical school. "He would be there working on it all night," said David Guyton, "able to tune us all out, because we were tearing around the house, causing trouble.

"But he was always there, at home. And it was nice."

**Edited version of an article that appeared in the September 12, 2008, edition of the *Clarion-Ledger***

## **Excerpt from the dedication for the Arthur C. Guyton Research Center at the University of Mississippi Medical Center**

" In growing up we really didn't think of our father, Arthur Guyton, as a world-renowned scientist. He was just 'Daddy,' our father - but a father for whom we had the utmost respect.

We never thought of his disability from polio as slowing him down; we were just doing our best running to catch up with him!

"He was fascinated by how things worked, and was forever reading and sketching - mechanisms, reusable concrete forms, electronic circuits - never seeming to need a slide rule or calculator because he could multiply and divide complicated numbers in his head, an ability he had inherited from his father Billy Guyton from Oxford.

"He was determined to be as independent and self-sufficient as possible, perhaps to prove to the world that polio would not get the best of him, but I suspect simply because he liked to know how things worked. And if he knew how they worked, he could learn to control them, change them, and make them better - at home and at work.

"In retrospect, it was Daddy's disability that enabled the 10 of us to learn so much from him. With both shoulders, one arm, and one leg severely weakened by polio, there were many things that he physically just could not do. He had to instruct us in doing them. So we became his arms, his legs, and his hands - guided by his brain.

"How could we have asked for a more privileged place in the world?"



**Dr. David Guyton speaks  
at the building dedication.**

Dr. David L. Guyton

## Bio Updates

**Laurie Bishop** Gillette and her husband Darrell have recently moved to another inn which they are running in Idyllwild, California. We caught up with them just as they were leaving for a couple of days of R&R in the desert. She sounded great and excited with their new venue. She is at Creekstone Inn ([www.creekstoneinn.com](http://www.creekstoneinn.com)), “a romantic inn and conference center with the charming village of Idyllwild at



your feet”. The website describes the inn as follows: “Come enjoy the rustic luxury of the Creekstone Inn amid some of California’s most spectacular scenery! The Creekstone Inn is within easy walking distance to the village of Idyllwild, restaurants, and galleries. But if you choose to stay in, our billiards room, free wireless internet, and self-serve gourmet kitchen will make you feel right at home. With nine luxuriously appointed guest suites boasting fireplaces, whirlpool tubs and air conditioning, you will see why the Creekstone Inn is a favorite among returning travelers. Originally built as a B&B, we operate Creekstone Inn as a Full Privilege Guest House-- it's kind of like having a room in your best friend's castle. The rooms are luxuri-



ously appointed, the gourmet kitchen is available and ready for you to use, the lobby is equipped with a pool table for fun, a computer for checking on business or email, a phone with FREE Long Distance to call whomever you wish in the U.S., and a fireplace to sit around with your sweetheart or new friends while discussing the day's adventures.”

**Martha Fondren** Spisso, while still in nursing, has left the shift work associated with hospital nursing and is now in the private sector. In addition, she writes “I have already gone from part-time to full-time, and I am coordinating the Diabetes Education Program. This opportunity just fell in my lap, and I could not turn it down. I have a lot to learn, but I am up for the challenge. I don't guess this is the year that we will retire.”

## Whatever Happened to...? Remember, Drum Major Bunny Cobb and Coach "Scooter" Purvis?



**Coach "Scooter Purvis" and his wife  
Bunny Cobb Purvis**

days, then 6 weeks in Utah, home for 4 days, then 2 weeks in L.A. She is scheduled to return to L.A. in couple of weeks for a week of practice and taping of the video that will appear in the movie; then back to L.A. in October [2008] as [one of] Disney's special guests at the premiere of the HSM3 movie (in which the video will be shown). We have asked no questions....only try to catch "news" when she volunteers info....She and her parents are under a \$5 million disclosure (or would that be non-disclosure) contract....so there is no use asking, which really takes the pressure off of her being bombarded with questions.

Then after the show in which Bailey was "cut from being considered for the movie role", Bunny emailed the following:

After the *HOOFBEATING* article re: Coach Scooter Purvis and Bunny Cobb Purvis' granddaughter Bailey being selected to appear on Disney's ABC network show *High School Musical: Get in the Picture*, we received this email:

Thanks for the article about Bailey. We are so excited for her, as you can imagine. Yes, Scooter (Coach) and I will celebrate our 47th anniversary in August. At least one teacher/student liaison was successful! What a terrific time it has been, thanks to Murrah High School!!

Bunny

In another email Bunny explained all that had been happening to Bailey since her selection to be part of the reality show and compete for a part in the upcoming movie.

It's fun to watch the show with her once they are recorded and she can pause [the tape] every couple of minutes to explain what/how something really happened and how they edited it. She was gone for almost 9 weeks (1 week in Orlando, home for 4



**Granddaughter Bailey  
Purvis singing on Disney's  
TV show, *High School  
Musical: Get in the Picture*.**

Bailey told us just before the show aired that "this is the one"...although emotional hearing them call your name, she and [another competitor] knew from other events that it was "their time to go". She said that once that intense pressure was off, she enjoyed being in the 'chorus' a lot and learned so much from then till the end of taping. She is fine with how it all turned out, and all 12 of the kids [who competed] are in contact daily and will remember this experience for the rest of their lives.

Bunny sent a follow-up on Bailey:

She is happily pursuing her education and classes at NOCCA and just had her 17th [birthday]. Her goal is to get a scholarship to a music conservatory and then pursue a Broadway career.

Bailey's Show Video is available at nolafilms2 on YouTube. There are several videos at this sight, but all are well labeled. Hers is called "Bailey Purvis Demo Reel".



**Granddaughter Bailey Purvis' publicity shot for Disney's TV show, *High School Musical: Get in the Picture*.**

## 45 Year Reunion Pictures

Gale Johnson and Pat Hatch Monk took numerous pictures of the gathering at the Lake Cavalier Club House and Convention Center. Gale has put all of these pictures plus the ones he took at the 40 Year reunion on a CD. There are more than two hundred of each event.

If you would like a copy of the CD, send \$5.00 to Gale to cover duplication and mailing cost.

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## Classmates' or Teachers' Family-Deaths

**Anita Dossett** Jones' mother, Ina Fewell Dossett died Saturday, March 28, 2009, at her home at The Orchard in Ridgeland, Mississippi. She received her higher education at Jones County Junior College, the University of Mississippi, and the University of Southern Mississippi, graduating from the latter in 1939. She married James Kearney Dossett, Sr. in 1941. They moved to Jackson in 1946, where they became active members of Woodland Hills Baptist Church. In addition, Mrs. Dossett was a member of the Ateneo Literary Club, Concordia Luncheon Club, and the Country Club of Jackson. She is survived by son James K. Dossett, Jr and his wife Emily of Ridgeland, daughter Anita of Reston, Virginia, son William E. Dossett and wife Jo Ann of Madison, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Mrs. Dossett was predeceased by her husband of fifty-seven years, J. Kearney Dossett.

**Tom Murphree's** aunt Margaret Imogene Murphree died in Jackson, Mississippi, on June 18, 2009, just six days before her ninety-second birthday. As the daughter of former Mississippi Governor Dennis Murphree, Imogene began life in the public eye at an early age. She continued in public service as the wife of Colonel Jesse R. Foley, Jr. who had assignments in Japan, France, and Scotland as well as throughout the United States. Born in Pittsboro, Mississippi, near Calhoun City, she lived the last twenty-one years of her life at St. Catherine's Village. Her husband preceded her in death as did her parents, Dennis and Clara Murphree; sisters, Mary Frances Ford and Lois Newcomb; and brother, Thomas Murphree, the father of our classmate. She is survived by both a sister-in-law and a brother-in-law as well as several nieces and nephews.

**George Twente's** father-in-law, Lawrence "Larry" L. Swanson, 83, died in Meridian, Mississippi, on April 22, 2009. Mr. Swanson was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, but moved to Shelby, Mississippi in 1954 and then to Meridian in 2003. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy Eleanor Swanson and his son-in-law George Twente who died when his plane crashed February 12, 2005. He is survived by two daughters, Theresa S. Twente of Meridian and Cynthia S. Christian of Madison, as well as three grandsons and four great grandchildren.

**Fay Wirth** Renardson's mother, Fay Reynolds Wirth Hastings, died of ovarian cancer at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 28, 2009. A Memorial Service will be held in Jackson this summer, and at that time an obituary will be published.

### Class Member Websites

[www.myttv.com/elizabeth11606](http://www.myttv.com/elizabeth11606)

Elizabeth (Betty Charles) Baryshev

[www.mississippideltabluesinfo.com](http://www.mississippideltabluesinfo.com)

Ron and Carol Marble

[www.cedarwoodraymond.com](http://www.cedarwoodraymond.com)

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

[www.refluxgoneforever.com](http://www.refluxgoneforever.com)

Charles Richey

[www.galejohnson.com](http://www.galejohnson.com)

Gale Johnson's photography, etc.

[www.westmesawoods.com](http://www.westmesawoods.com)

James "Jimmy" Squires handcrafted furniture

[www.poorjuliaart.com](http://www.poorjuliaart.com)

Julia Walter Allen's scrap metal art

## Brent's Drugs Transforms Itself

Both the over-the-counter and prescription drugs are leaving Brent's Drugs in the Woodland Hills Shopping Center (a.k.a., Morgan Center) in the Fondren area. But the egg and olive sandwiches, hamburgers, chips, cherry cokes, memorabilia, and gifts remain. Brent's pharmaceutical inventory was sold to CVS, which stocked the goods at its new store in the Meadowbrook Mart Shopping Center.



As of April 3, 2009, the after-school destination of choice for many Murrah Mustangs became Brent's Soda Fountain and Gifts. Owner Randy Calvert said the additional space created by the elimination of the pharmaceutical area could provide room for more booths. Calvert said that the pharmacy which dates to 1946 is a Jackson landmark. He purchased Brent's in 1995 and along with his wife Melanie ran the store. Now a staff of six to seven, and perhaps a few extra people during the summer, will work the fountain and the gift shop. Most of the memorabilia on the walls, including Elvis posters and cardboard cutouts of old soda bottles, will stay up. He feels that it is important to preserve the atmosphere that customers expect of their Brent's experience.



# Brent's Opening Relived

(Published in *The Northside Sun* newspaper on Thursday, April 30, 2009)

By Lottie Brent Boggan



Grand opening day, and shame hung around my neck heavy as a millstone. My daddy was about to ruin my life! With my bottom lip poked out far enough to perch a pigeon, I slapped my fist against my leg until it hurt. My friends, Marianna Kendall, Martha Lila Short, Betty Ward, Barbara Hall, Karen Gilfoy, Janie Harrison and I walked down the sidewalk away from Bailey Junior High School. After crossing Woodrow Wilson, we strolled north past the old insane asylum

building. In the past we had often served as a transient congregation, listening to patients standing at the screened-in second floor windows as they preached their version of the gospel. Now it was the highway patrol building. Nevertheless, wherever the insane asylum had moved, on this day I felt the need to be there on the second floor, on the other side of the window. Here I was, a ninth-grader, and I would be the laughing stock of Bailey Junior High School. Fuming at the prospect of becoming a social outcast, I felt in my bones that nobody would be in that new drugstore my daddy was about to open up. How I wished he'd named it anything but Brent's Drugs. How could he do this to me? Of course I didn't dare let my parents see these feelings. Back in the '40s and '50s, any sign of disrespect toward parents brought swift, severe punishment. Our mothers and daddies felt no guilt when we misbehaved, but we, their children, were made to suffer the humiliation and wrath of the damned if we did wrong. I could be mad, all right, but it had better not show on my face.

Along with other stores at Morgan Center, now known as Woodland Hills, Brent's Drugs was having its grand opening that day. I was certain that no one would be there except for my mother and daddy. The two of them, their noses pressed against the big window in front of the store would be looking out and saying, "Why did we do this?" And I, whose life had been ruined, would be thinking the same thing, but unable to say a word. As I reached down to pull up my sunflower yellow socks, an icy hand gripped my heart. When I straightened I dragged my saddle oxfords along the sidewalk so hard that the soles of my feet burned. My parents had been threatening to send me to All Saints School for Girls in Vicksburg





if I didn't pass general math. Oh, well. Since my life was probably over after today anyhow, they may as well go ahead and send me packing. But I'd show 'em. I might even join the Catholic Church and become a nun - just as long as nuns didn't have to pass general math. When my friends and I got to the bottom of Old Canton Road and looked up the hill to the left, my life again changed in a heartbeat. Both Duling Street and Old Canton Road were filled with cars in a bumper to bumper traffic jam. Jackson never had traffic jams. All at once, my daddy was the smartest man in Jackson - maybe even the world. Instead of a foot-dragging failure, I felt like a celebrity as I swung my long, navy blue gored skirt in saucy circles, and bragged, "That's my daddy's store." Daddy became my hero. From that day to this, that feeling has never changed.

On opening day, soda fountain Edna came with my daddy from Patterson's Drugstore in the Standard Life building. You never saw Edna without a pack of Lucky Strike cigarettes in the top pocket of her crisp white uniform. Tall Bobbye Drake arrived to take charge of cosmetics and start the gift section. Then came Fish. Even to this day, I can testify that nobody could ever make a milkshake like Fish could. She had magic in her hands and elevated soda jerking to a pure art form. The three of them were traditions at the drugstore. Later there was Bill Skinner, Hazel Klass and Jean Grogan, all of whom contributed further to the store's success. Sadly, Edna died of lung cancer. Hazel, Jean and Fish retired. I don't know where Bobbye is, but if it's heaven, you can bet everyone there is using the proper makeup. From then on, if it wasn't raining, my school friends and I went to Brent's almost every day after classes to drink cherry cokes. An afterschool visit to Brent's Drugs became a Bailey Junior High School tradition for many years, not just for me and my brother Alvin, but for generations of students. So many stores have come and gone since then: Jitney, Sudies, Carter's, Marie's Beauty Shop, Morgan and Lindsay, Bruce's Barbershop, Brady's Men's Store, Anderson's Hardware, Office Supply, Frances Pepper, the post office, Albriton's, the Doll House. And there were others. When I graduated from Central High School in 1952, Martha Whitfield, Betty Ward and I held a street dance there. The entire shopping center was closed and roped off. The Rebops from Vicksburg, who were later renamed the Redtops, played, and I can still remember the spine-tingling magic when Rufus McKay sang "Danny Boy." In the warm, navy-blue spring twilight, his words floated off into the evening beyond Duling School and Morgan Center. No sound in the world seemed more beautiful than the pure tenor notes that came from that man's throat. Angels in heaven could not sound sweeter than Rufus McKay. Instead of being committed to the insane asylum or being sent to All Saints and joining a nunnery, I reconsidered my options that opening day. It was good to be alive after all; to live in Jackson, Mississippi in 1946. And there was no finer drugstore in the South than Brent's Drugs, my daddy's store.



## Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



Officers of the Fondren Civitan Club were recently installed. Darby Sowell (second from left) is serving as chaplain , and, as Darby likes to say, these Civitans don't have a prayer without him.



Linda Gilmore attended the WellsFest Art Night, a preview of the Live Art Auction items for WellsFest at the Mississippi Craft Center.



Ed North and partner, Laura, shortly after the foal's birth

*Wallace McMillan's* son Reid married Elizabeth Whip Adams June 7, 2008, at First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, N. C.



***Betty Charles Baryshev and grandchildren Sydney Katherine and Carter Jordan.***



***Sandy Chustz Schreiter goes treat or treating with granddaughters Corinne, Catherine, and Caroline. The girls are wearing dresses Sandy brought back from a trip to Spain.***



***Judy Rayner Bruce's grandchildren, Mary Preston and Jack Bruce.***

***Wallace McMillan sent us a photo of son Hayes with first-born Hayes Watson McMillan, Jr., to be called Watson, who was born March 11, 2009. Mother Blake and baby Watson, weighing in at 4 pounds 6 ounces are rarin' to go. Note: Blake and Hayes own The Cherokee, which is where the class Lunch Bunch meets every other month.***



## Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



**Mike Nicholson's family at Thanksgiving: back row from left are Mark and Andrea Andrews, Mike and April DeForest; front row from left are Connor, Mike, Thomas, Marilyn holding Cole, and Abbey**



**Jean Magee Cox with her granddaughters at Sydnee's fourth birthday party: Jennifer, Bailey, Katherine and Sydnee.**



*Irene Gayden Mangum's twin Grandsons Cade and Cassidy Wray killed their first deer while hunting with their grandfather Buddy Mangum. Both shot the same deer.*



*Suzanne Riley Brown's oldest son, Riley; daughter-in-law; Amanda; and from oldest, Kice, Hunter Cate, Gabe, and Briggs.*



*Suzanne McRae Clay's granddaughter McRae Clay (back row, far right) plays soccer for the SMCSO Hot Shots. This team was Reserve champion in the 2008 MSA President's Cup Tournament in Gulfport in May. The Hot Shots are a Division II U-10 team coached by Dixie Clay (Suzanne's daughter-in-law) and Ira Harvel.*



*Irene Gayden Mangum's grandchildren: Cade, Holland, Cassidy, and Katy Keller*

# Murrah Earns National Honor



Murrah High School has been named to *Newsweek* magazine's 2009 list of America's Top Public High Schools. Oxford High is the only other school in Mississippi to make the list. Murrah High School ranked 1,058, and Oxford High School ranked

1,269. The schools are ranked on the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Cambridge tests taken by all students in a school in 2008 divided by the number of graduating seniors.

The schools represent the top six percent of all public high schools ranked in this way. This is the fourth year in a row that Murrah has made the *Newsweek* list.

Murrah also was honored with a 2009 College Board Inspiration Award and a check for \$25,000 at a special celebratory assembly on May 14 at the school. This annual award recognizes schools that have made great strides in improving the academic environment for all students while raising aspirations and preparedness for higher education.

The College Board cited Murrah for the following reasons.

- Implementation of vertical teams of teachers who create aligned curricula and share effective teaching strategies
- Partnership with Education Services Foundation for student-support services
- Collaboration with the University Medical Center through the Base Pair program, which gives students access to university faculty researchers
- The success of Murrah's AP program over the last five years. Its AP enrollment has increased by 54 percent and the number of AP exams taken has increased by 74 percent. Also, the number of AP Exam scores of 3 or higher has increased by 36 percent
- The creation of a college-going culture that helps low-income students go to college, including the raising of the level of student expectations.

*Clarion-Ledger, June 20, 2009*

## Changes Take Place at Meadowbrook Mart

Piles of debris and bulldozers in Meadowbrook Mart's parking lot signaled that Fondren's northern business district was turning a corner. "It's all part of the urban renaissance," said Fondren Renaissance Foundation Executive Director Charles Richardson. "These projects will only enhance the Fondren experience for shoppers."



Redd Realty Services demolished the northwest corner of the Meadowbrook Mart strip center to make way for a stand-alone CVS Pharmacy. Construction on the 12,000-square-foot drug store began in May 2008 and was completed in the spring of 2009.

A CVS Pharmacy should help draw new business to the ailing strip mall. Once that work is finished, construction crews are scheduled to begin rehabbing the rest of the 112,000-square-foot shopping center, which has been in steady decline since the McRae's department store closed in January 2005. A coup for CVS was an arrangement with Brent's Drugstore and their pharmacy division. Brent's (see associated story) has become a counter-service restaurant and gift destination with CVS, taking over the prescription services and delivery for Brent's pharmacy customers.

*This story is a heavily edited version of one by Anthony Warren that was published in the Northside Sun newspaper on May 1, 2008.*



**The new CVS anchors the Center at the corner of North State and Meadowbrook. This CVS is the drug store that took over the prescription drugs and druggist from Brent's Drug Store (Related story on page 15).**

# MHS Class of 1963

## Music Review from 45 Year Reunion

**Attention, nostalgia lovers!** The forty-fifth reunion CD has been vastly improved. The second disc in the set (The Lee Marshall Show) has been re-done and edited anew to make improvements in the program content.

Several commercials have been added (Coca-Cola, L&M Cigarettes, and Deposit Guaranty Bank, among others). The musical content has been enhanced by including several great artists such as Mary Wells, Ruby and the Romantics, Randy and the Rainbows, replacing some weaker music selections originally included in the presentation.

You'll like the "new and improved" sound, as it is a better listen-back to what our ole Top 40 Radio days sounded like. If you want to add this new program to your collection, please send \$8.00 for each CD requested to

**Wallace McMillan  
1835 Ridgeover Place  
Jackson MS 39211**

Duplication of the new master recording will be done as soon as the number of copies needed is determined. Please respond with your order no later than July 31.

By the way, if you could not join us at the reunion and did not receive the entire 2-disc set but would like to have one, please send \$16, and we'll send the complete set to you!

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(or "whenever")  
newsletter**

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