

HOOFBEATiNG

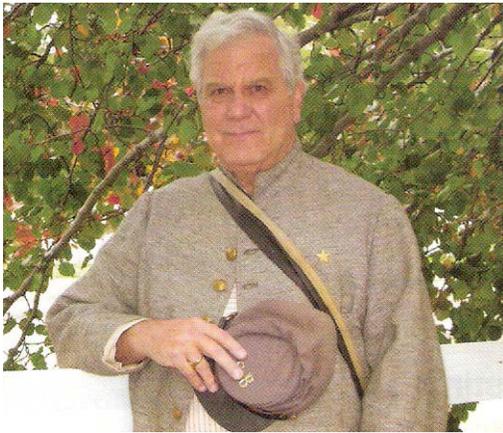
Class of 1963

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Summer/Fall 2009

Classmate Participates in Reenactments



MHS Class of 1963 member **Wallace McMillan** may be a banking consultant as far as the work-a-day world is concerned, but he is also a military reenactor with an eighteen year affiliation with Stanford's Mississippi Horse Drawn Battery. The original Stanford's Battery was mustered into service for the Confederacy in November 1861 in Grenada, Mississippi. The current unit was organized thirty years ago in Pascagoula and has appeared in PBS documentaries as well as the major motion picture, *North and South II*. Profits made through reenactments are used to acquire and preserve battlefields.

Wallace who possesses three uniforms can portray either a Confederate or Union soldier when he is a combatant of the War Between the States. He says that the purpose of reenactments is "to operate as living history units, to portray soldiers of the period, honoring those, North and South who fought and died in this war." The host unit organizes the battle reenactments: preparing the battle plan and staging the location of spectators, gun positions, movements of the infantry, sleeping areas, even water, hay for bedding, firewood, and sanitation arrangements. The emphasis is on the history of the event, therefore portraying the movement and maneuvers of the troops of the mid-nineteenth century.

In 1998 the Stanford Battery hosted a nationally sanctioned event at the Raymond battlefield. It was covered by ABC which dedicated seventeen minutes on their program *20/20* and eight minutes of *The Evening News with Peter Jennings* to the reenactment.

The unit also gives to the community by way of lectures and living history demonstrations in schools, at Boy Scout activities, and in historic settings such as the Manship House at the corner of Fortification and Northwest Streets in Jackson.



Reenactment at Corinth in 1991



In recent years Wallace has limited his activities to the single day events such as the living history displays. He wants the next generation of children to learn how “600,000 soldiers gave their lives and accomplished great feats of bravery, valor, and courage.” As historian Shelby Foote said, “Without the War Between the States there is no United States.”

Wallace also points out that not all reenactments are as successful as the 1998 reenactment at Raymond was.

125th Anniversary Reenactment at Gettysburg in 1988



The Battle of Mobile Bay Reenactment August 1 - 2, 2009

Ambitious plans were put in place to celebrate the reenactment of the Battle of Mobile Bay, concentrating on the action in and around Fort Morgan, Alabama. Ft. Morgan was one of three forts guarding the entrance to Mobile Bay, and Union Navy Admiral David Farragut had determined to neutralize the forts, thus rendering the Port of Mobile useless to the Confederacy.

Battle plans called for combined attacks by naval vessels and Union ground forces. The fighting ensued on August 5, 1864 with lopsided odds favoring the union. Farragut's attacking force contained some 18 naval vessels and 5500 troops. The defending Confederates could muster only 4 vessels and 900 troops in Ft. Morgan.

Early in the action, a Union ironclad, Tecumseh, was sunk by a Confederate torpedo (mine), in the waters fronting the fort. The ironclad sank quickly carrying approximately 90 sailors to their death. Seeing this explosion and sinking, the Federal fleet seemed to slow and hesitate. Admiral Farragut would have none of this. He climbed into the rigging of his flagship, USS Hartford, and issued his immortal order: "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"



Fort Morgan Reenactment in 2009



Surveying the Firewood Situation

Owing to sheer numbers the Union forces were victorious, and Mobile and Mobile Bay were lost to the Confederacy.

Fast forward to 2009---The sponsors of the battle recreation had gone to great lengths to secure working replicas of two Civil War ironclads to participate along with adequate troops to represent Union attackers and Confederate defenders. The date was set for August 1 and 2.

An event of this type usually excites reenactors, and this was no exception. As the weekend approached, excitement levels were raised in anticipation of a most unusual event---water and ground attacks, considered most rare in the hobby. The morning of August 1 dawned to reveal only a fraction of expected participants had actually arrived. The two boats were on site, but disappointingly small and unimpressive.

The craft were both in the 30-foot size range as opposed to the “real things” that were in the 200-foot size range.

Union artillery and infantry were very poorly represented, as were the fort’s defenders. The weather was stifling and unrelenting on the sandy, cactus-infested surface. The proceedings got underway late, as the organizers tried to wait until a more sizeable group of spectators arrived. This event was staged to serve as a fund-raiser for preservation efforts at Morgan.

A sizeable crowd never developed, as the Fort’s staff had failed in its efforts to promote the event along the Alabama Coast.

Late afternoon was selected for the water-borne assault featuring the two undersized replicas. One of the vessels was built to resemble a Union Ironclad and the other was a Confederate gunboat. After experiencing some engine troubles, the boats were underway. Almost as soon as the boats began to move, they both started to “take water” over the gunwales and so, naval operations had to cease, due to safety concerns.

The combination of scuttled boats, poor troop turnout and a disappointing number of spectators, forced the event organizers to effectively just shut down due to what I called “lack on interest on all fronts”.

Fort Morgan Reenactment in 2009



So, what started as an event with great potential ended as an event with disappointing results.

Sadly and slowly, my fellow participants and I packed up our uniforms and equipment anticipating a long drive back home. We had been asked to represent the 6th Ohio Artillery, of the attacking Union forces but our duties had been reduced to one day instead of the usual two-day encounters.

The only bright spot in the whole affair was the earlier-than-usual arrival back home on Sunday.

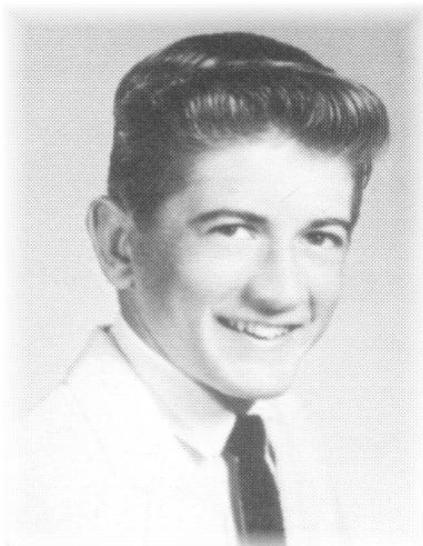
As far as the men in our group were concerned the quote of the week-end could have been, "Damn the no-shows!"

Well, actually there was a second bright spot. On Sunday morning in the waters of Mobile Bay as it passed Fort Morgan, the "troops" spotted the United States Navy's latest edition of a combat vessel, the Independence, a tri-hull design littoral combat ship built by Austal in Mobile, Alabama. What juxtaposition: the disappointingly small and unimpressive Union Ironclad and the Confederate gunboat were plying the same waters as the impressively large and modern Independence.



Often disappointments are followed by pleasurable events. *Wallace* did experience the excitement of seeing the Independence, a tri-hull design littoral combat ship built for the U.S. Navy by Austal in Mobile Alabama, as it passed Fort Morgan the morning of the reenactment.

Gale Johnson Visits the “Wall”



ONOZZO • STEPHEN MILLER •
RPHY • JAMES P NARD III • MCA
LORENTINO • SANTANA • LARRY



HEN L PLOTKIN • WILLIAM F ROCC
• CHARLES D TANNEHILL • ARN
WILLARD H TILL JR • WILLIAM P W



Gale and Jackie Johnson recently had the opportunity to see the Traveling Wall near their home in Texas.

Classmate Honored for Quilt Artistry



Helen Garrison Ridgway reported in early July that she is busy with grandchildren and having a great time. She and her husband Louis have had grandchildren of the varying families and ages at their home in Kerrville since the middle of May! She is still very involved in her quilting, lately doing quite a few art quilts but is about to go back to traditional quilting. She misses the precision piecing required in traditional quilting.

Helen is a very active member of the Texas Hill Country Quilt Guild. In the summer of 1984 ten women met to discuss a common interest - their love of quilting. From this first meeting evolved the Hill Country Quilt Guild with a membership of about 250 as of January 2009. The guild's first project was a Sesquicentennial quilt. This quilt which was presented to the City of Kerrville now hangs on the second floor of the Butt-Holdsworth Library. In odd numbered years the guild has a quilt show during Memorial Day weekend. This primary fund raiser enables the guild to have programs by nationally known quilt experts as well as local artists. There is also a quilt raffle in conjunction with the show and a boutique with items made and donated by members. Helen served as chairman of the 2009 Biennial Quilt Show. She said that this show featured 200 judged quilts in a spectacular venue with over 1200 people attending.

As mentioned in the Biographical Updates section of this newsletter, Tony and Pat Hatch Monk had the opportunity of visiting with Helen when they were on a road trip this summer. They also had a chance to see some of Helen's award winning art quilts. As Pat said, "These are hanging in the Kerrville Arts and Cultural Center. [Helen] has been honored by having her work displayed upon invitation to the International Quilt Festival in Houston, Texas. (This is quite a big deal!!)"

Hill Country Quilt Guild

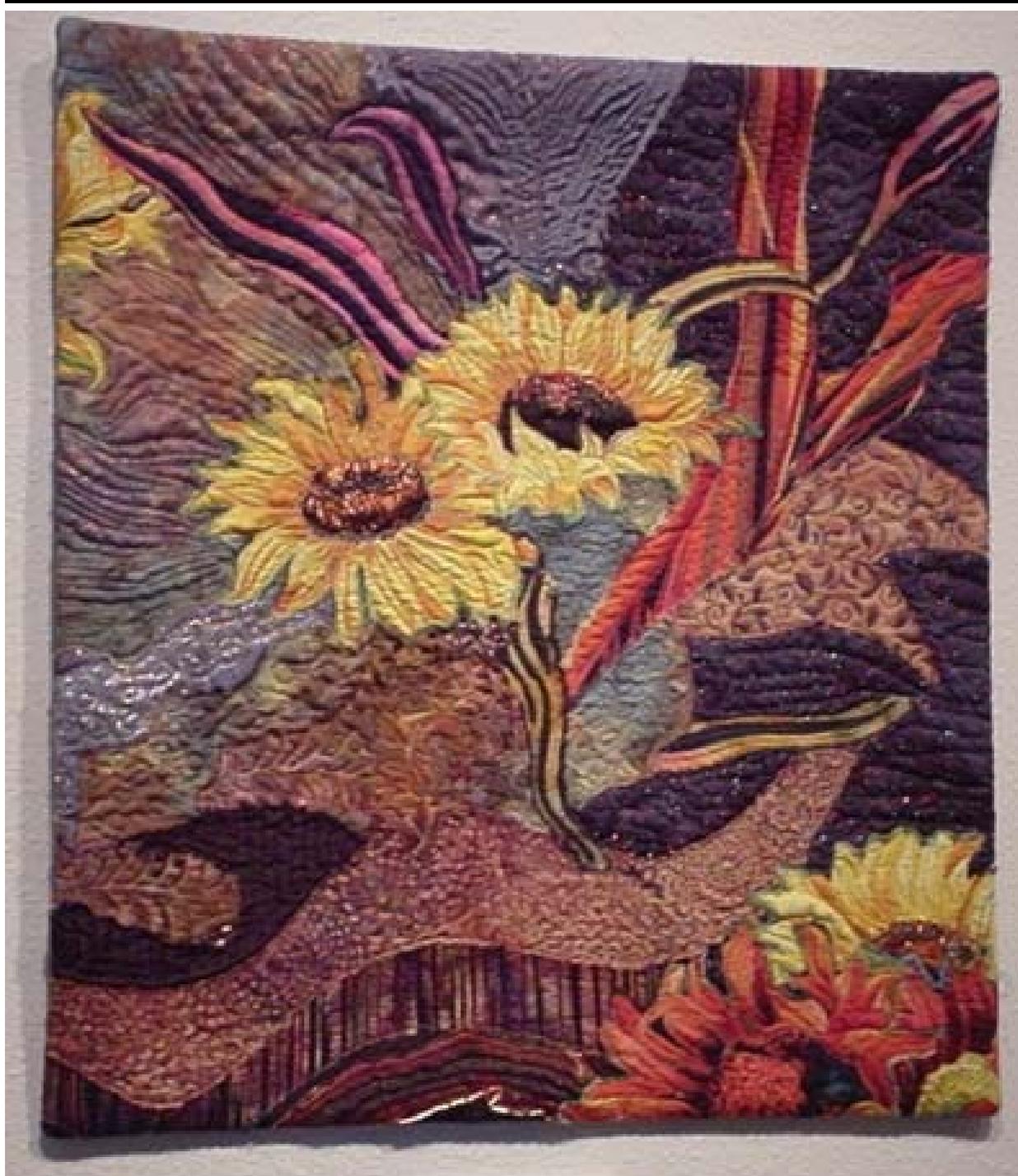
Proudly Presents Their
2009 Quilt Show

Memorial Day Weekend ~ May 22 - 24, 2009
 Mountaineer Fitness Center ~ Schreiner University
 Kerrville, Texas 78028

Fri. & Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Sun. 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Admission: \$5.00 per person
 Children under 12 admitted free

- Over 200 quilts on display
- Vote for your favorite quilt
- Wearable and Fiber Arts displays
- Boutique with Hand-made items
- Fabric & notion vendors
- "Scissors Sharpening Guy"

For more information ~
www.hillcountryquiltguild.com
 Helen 830-257-2752 or
 Linda 830-896-6522




Sunflower Surprise
Fiber Art
Helen Ridgway
NFS

“I had no idea what I was going to do with a little bit of left over fabric that had sunflowers on it. I started cutting and layering fabrics and the surprise appeared with the sunflowers peeking through so boldly! It is all raw edged appliqué with no fusing. Cottons, silks, ribbons, and Angelina were used. The piece won second place in the Art/Miniature Category at the Houston International Quilt Show.”

Helen Ridgway



“My inspiration came from a hand painted elephant I purchased at the Houston International Quilt Show several years ago. I kept him on my design wall for over a year while collecting African fabrics and batiks. Using the fabric, I made the various elements and then designed the piece, transposed the elements and added the beads that came from a friend that had been to Africa.” Helen Ridgway

KAC

Elephant Walk
Fiber Art
Helen Ridgway

\$3000

In Memoriam



Jan Tumasz Foregger, age 63, of Madison, Mississippi, died Monday, October 19, 2009. She was born January 3, 1946 in Jackson, to Edward John and Bobbie Elizabeth Tumasz. She attended schools in the Jackson public system: Davis Elementary, Bailey Junior High, and Murrah High. While at Murrah she was a Murrah Miss as well as a member of the Girls' Chorale. In addition, she was an active member of First Baptist Church.

Jan earned her bachelor's degree at Ole Miss where she was also a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. After college she married Bert Foregger, and they had one son Barin. She earned her master of arts in education from The University of Mississippi in 1980 and fulfilled post-graduate studies at the University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi State University in special education. Jan was a retired teacher of 25 years, helping educate children in Hammond, Louisiana, Water Valley, Mississippi and Oxford, Mississippi. She had a passion for gardening and being outdoors and was known for her "green thumb" when caring for plants. Jan and Bert spent many hours this past year restoring a cabin built by her grandfather and uncle near D'Lo, Mississippi, in the 1950s. It was on land in Rankin County that had been in her family since the 1930s.

She was a volunteer with the Special Olympics, and worked as an advocate of mental retardation awareness. She was a loving mother, grandmother, sister and friend.

Jan was predeceased by her parents. Survivors include her son, Barin von Foregger and his wife Belinda of Brandon, Mississippi; brother, Johnny Tumasz of Kosciusko, Mississippi; sister, Mary Tumasz Lackey (MHS 1965) of Madison, Mississippi; and four grandchildren: John Gavin, John Garrison, Cameron, and Chris.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Jan's son Barin may be contacted at bvforegger@aol.com.

Jan talks with Charles Simmons at a 2006 Lunch Bunch at the Cherokee.



Jan squeezes in time before the 2007 Miss America Pageant with another Mississippian (Who said Elvis left the building?).



**Jan Tumasz Foregger
(1946-2009)**



**Jan Tumasz
Foregger's son
Barin plays with
his son
Gavin at Thanks-
giving 2007.**

Jan Tumasz Foregger (left) enjoys Thanksgiving Dinner in 2007 with Bert (third from left), daughter-in-law Belinda (fourth from left), grandson Gavin (in high chair), and Belinda's two sons Cameron and Chris.



In Memoriam



Dr. William Joseph Herring Sr., 76, of Jackson, Mississippi, passed away after a lengthy illness on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, at the State Veterans Home in Kosciusko. The family received friends on Friday, October 9, 2009, before the 11:00 a.m. funeral service at Wright and Ferguson Funeral Home on High Street in Jackson.

Dr. Herring was educated in the Jackson Public School System and graduated from Mississippi College in 1954. He received his MME in 1960 from LSU. In 1973, he was awarded his doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi. He began his teaching career in 1956 as a band and choral director for the public schools in Vicksburg. Following a four-year stint as choral director for Jackson schools, including two years as the head of the music department at Murrah High School and director of the Murrah Singers (1960 – 1962), he assumed a music teacher's position with the Ouachita Parish (Louisiana) school system. In 1971 he began a three-year tenure as assistant professor of music and director of vocal student teachers at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He served 5 years as choral director at Westlake High School and 9 years as principal at Westwood Elementary School in Westlake, Louisiana.

Dr. Herring was the founder and first conductor of the Vicksburg Civic Chorus. He served for 7 years as orchestra director for the Strauss Playhouse Theater of Monroe and was assistant director for the concert choir of the University of Southern Mississippi.

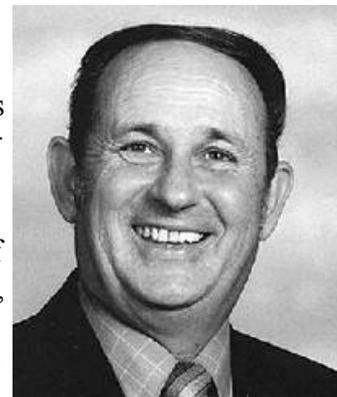
A retired lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve, Dr. Herring served as conductor of the Naval Officers Glee Club of Long Beach California, and was a minister of music at numerous churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. He was past president of the Louisiana Music Educators Association and received a number of honors in the music field. Among the highlights of his career were these two: serving as musical director of the "Pat Boone Christmas Special" while in Monroe and being selected as one of the nation's 100 outstanding choral directors by the National Music Educators Journal.

Dr. Herring directs the Murrah Singers at the 40 year reunion.



After retirement he remained active in church, traveled across the country, and enjoyed fishing and hunting. Bill was a Christian. He was hard working. He loved his family and friends and was best known for his devotion to music.

Dr. Herring is survived by his three children: Diana Herring Collins of Ridgeland, Mississippi; William (Bill) Joseph Herring Jr. and his wife, Pam of Brandon, Mississippi; and Joseph Trenton (Trent) Herring and his wife, Yenid of Little Rock, Arkansas. Additional survivors include



**William Joseph Herring Sr.,
1933-2009**

two grandchildren, Lauren Collins and Katie Collins Galliano, and one brother, James Harold Herring.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Benton Herring, Sr. and Minnie McWilliams Herring; brother, Clarence Benton Herring, Jr.; and sister, Minnie Gay Herring Boyles.



Coach Rugg and Dr. Herring greet each other at the 40 year reunion banquet.



Dr. Herring rehearses the Murrah Singers for their performance at the 40 year reunion.

In Memoriam



Malcolm M. Norwood, Sr., 81, of Cleveland, Mississippi, died Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Funeral services were held Friday, August 14, 2009, at the Cleveland First Baptist Church. Burial followed in New Cleveland Cemetery under the direction of Ray Funeral Home.

Mr. Norwood was born January 21, 1928, in Drew, Mississippi, to Orson Pratt Norwood and Eva Smith Norwood. He earned both his B.A. and M.Ed. degrees. In addition, he served his country in the United States Navy. He married Mary Claire Sugg on August 8, 1954, in Benoit. Then in 1955 when Murrah High School opened in Jackson, Mississippi, Mr. Norwood came to teach art and to head up the art department. According to Murrah's first principal, Dr. Howard Cleland, Malcolm was a fine teacher who established a remarkable art department. Not only was he excellent in the classroom, but also he connected the art curriculum to the school as a whole. For example, he included his art students in drama with the conception and production of stage sets and the creation of the programs for the plays and musical productions, designing covers and advertising. He stayed at Murrah through the 1960-61 school year (i.e., through the tenth grade year for the Class of 1963).

He joined the Delta State art department faculty in 1962 as an assistant professor and was named head of the department and associate professor of art in 1965. Under his leadership the art department grew from two instructors and 15 majors to 12 faculty and 175 majors. Mr. Norwood made a major impact on art education, not only at Delta State, but across the state. As Dr. Cleland said, "He put them [Delta State] on the map as far as art went, and that was well known in higher education circles." He was recognized as Art Educator of the Year by the Friends of the Arts in Mississippi. In 1990 Mr. Norwood received Delta State's Kossman Outstanding Teacher Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a faculty member. He retired with some 28 years of service on June 30, 1990.

Mr. Norwood was instrumental in the formation of the Cleveland Crosstie Arts Council, the parent organization for the Crosstie Arts Festival which will celebrate its fortieth anniversary on April 17, 2010. He served on the Mississippi Arts Commission and co-authored *The Art of Marie Hull*. He was a renowned artist in his own right, having shown his work in over fifty exhibits. The Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts are presented annually by the Mississippi Arts Commission and Governor's Office to recognize those whose work in the arts has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the cultural life of Mississippi. Malcolm C. Norwood was among those honored in 1991 just the third year of the presentations. In 1993 the addition to the Fielding L. Wright Art Center at Delta State University was named Holcombe-Norwood Hall, in honor of DSU alumnus and faculty member Maxine Holcombe and for art department chairman Malcolm Norwood.



The Norwood Art Scholarship was established by the Cleveland Crosstie Arts Council in honor of Malcolm Norwood. The competition is open to incoming freshmen who major in art or current art majors presently attending DSU who are not graduating seniors. It is awarded competitively on the basis of participation in the annual spring Crosstie Festival and cannot be applied for.

Mr. Norwood is preceded in death by his parents and by a brother, William Norwood. Survivors include his wife, Mary Claire Sugg Norwood of Cleveland; two sons, Mark Norwood of Hattiesburg and Bill Norwood of Yazoo City; a daughter, Stephanie Champion of Madison, Mississippi; a brother, James "Sonny" Norwood of Omaha, Nebraska; and six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the DSU Art Department (Delta State University Art Department and Wright Art Center Gallery, Box D-2, Cleveland, MS 38733) or to the charity of one's choice. The Online guestbook may be viewed and signed at www.rayfuneralhome.net.

Malcolm Norwood was the first Crosstie Festival director. The 2009 Crosstie Festival (the fortieth) has become a Delta tradition bringing Cleveland and surrounding communities together on the lawn of the Bolivar County courthouse for a day of art, music, children's activities, and delicious food.



Collier Parker, dean of the arts and science, painted the above portrait.



Done in the 1960s, the above oil is one of Malcolm Norwood's Thistle Paintings.

Classmates' or Teachers' Family-Deaths

Jimmy Breland's father Daniel Eugene Breland, 96, died at home Wednesday, August 28, 2009. Born in Leakesville, Mississippi, to Daniel and Minnie Peaster Breland, he graduated from Leakesville High School and continued his education at Millsaps College and Cumberland University School of Law. He received his law degree from the Jackson School of Law in 1943. Mr. Breland practiced law until he bought Tillman Finance Company, serving as president and manager until his retirement in 1990. He was a member and past president of the Mississippi Consumer Finance Association. He was a charter member of Riverside Independent Methodist Church. Mr. Breland was a Civil War buff as well as a member of the Jackson Civil War Roundtable. He is survived by his wife Nancy; sons, Dan Breland, Jr. and James T. Breland and his wife Ginger; and grandson Mark Breland. He was preceded in death by his five sisters, one of whom was "our very own" Miss Irene Breland.

Sandy Chustz Schreiter's brother, James Steven "Steve" Chustz, 61, of Madison, Mississippi, died of a ruptured aorta on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson. He was born in Jackson to Dr. James Abram and Carolyn McBryde Chustz on October 7, 1948. A Murrah High School Class of 1966 graduate, he earned his bachelor's degree and his law degree from the University of Mississippi. Steve worked for ChemFirst (previously, First Mississippi Corporation) for 25 years until his retirement in 2002. At that time he served as the corporation's General Counsel. An active member of Broadmoor Baptist Church, he also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout and was a member of ATO fraternity at Ole Miss. Steve served on the boards of Willowood, Mississippi Blood Services, the YMCA, BIPEC, and the ChemFirst Foundation. He is survived by his wife of forty years, Lamar Poovey Chustz; their two sons, Jamie and Phillip and their wives; four grandchildren, Steven, Samuel, Coleman, and Mary Lamar. In addition, he is survived by four sisters, Susan Brooks, Sandy Schreiter, Sally Todd, and Sherry Pace, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Gale Johnson's father, Charles E. Johnson, 95, passed away July 3, 2009, at Anderson Nursing Center in Grand Saline, Texas, with his wife, Frances Louise, holding his hand. Mr. Johnson worked for the Bell System for 40 years in the state of Mississippi. He is survived by his wife of 70 years; sons, Gale N. Johnson of Alba, Texas, and Frank P. Johnson of Centennial, Colorado; as well as 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Baptist Children's Village, P.O. Box 27, Clinton, Mississippi 39060. A graveside service was held Wednesday, July 8, 2009, in Lakewood Memorial Park.

From **Jean Magee Cox**: "As many of you know now, Charles, my dear husband, has gone HOME. I'll see him again one day, but for now the road is really a lonely one. I can tell you that the most important thing in your life is to let your loved ones, especially your spouse, know how much you love them and that you are willing to help in any way you can. Life is so short. Charles and I were blessed with 40 months together after we discovered he had Stage 4 Rectal-Colon cancer. He had been given every chemo out there for this disease. On June 19, we went to see Dr. Graham, expecting to be given a new chemo; but he told us that there was just nothing else available. And he was sorry, for there was nothing more he could do. He then

told us he would release us to Hospice, which was a real shock to me. I promise you that telling someone you love so much and someone who is so much a part of you goodbye is the hardest thing. I know that Charles told me over and over, Hon, this is my vehicle home. He was right. He also told me he was worried about leaving me here alone, for you see he was my protector and the one that made all the right decisions for us. He taught me a lot over the past 32 years and to not have him here is still hard to believe. I hear him in the voices of my children; a lot of what he said comes out of their mouths. Amazing how much our children pick up from us, isn't it? I really miss those beautiful sparkling blue eyes of his.

It is with much regret that I must tell you that my dear husband, Charles Calvin Cox, 76, left this earth on September 22, 2009, at 11:40 pm after a long battle with rectal-colon cancer, but it is with joy that I know that he's now spending time in heaven with his Mom, brothers, and others but mostly that he's now with Jesus. Charles had a passion for shooting skeet, and he was really good at it. He instructed five of our National Skeet Shooters. He was always willing to help anyone to improve their game. He was a member of Capitol Gun Club where he was loved, and he loved the club.

Charles leaves behind his loving wife, Jean Magee Cox, and his three step-children: John Neal and wife, Donna; Patty Hagood and husband, Ken; and James (Jimmy) Neal and wife Lisa. In addition, he is survived by five grandchildren, Bailey, Jennifer, Sydnee, Spencer (his only grandson), and Katherine, as well as a step-granddaughter, Morgan, and a great-grandson who was born after his death.

Charles will be missed so much, for he was dearly loved and respected. As my daughter put it, 'We are who we are today because, Charles, our step-dad, was willing to take on a woman and her three children to take care of. This we know he did out of love for our Mom but because he loved us. We will all surely miss him in our life but he made us what we are today.'

To the Class of '63, I just want to thank all of you for the prayers. And when my knee gets well, I'll be back to join all of you dear friends at the luncheons. It may be December. God's blessings are all around us. Thanks for being my friend and know I love you all. If Crawley Stubblefield had not encouraged Charles to go to the doctor when he did, I could have lost him sooner. We will always be thankful that Crawley was there at the Capitol Gun Club that Sunday afternoon and encouraged Charles to get to the doctor as soon as possible. In fact, four of his friends told him if they called and Charles had not been to the doctor, they would come and bodily carry him. Thank God for good friends who really care what happens to you.

You'll need to call me, because our cell phones got wet, and I have lost most of your phone numbers. Please call if you have not heard from me in a while, for I don't have your phone number any longer. I'm having knee surgery on the 30th of October, so please continue to pray for God's healing.

Thanks for being my friends; God bless and keep you all.
Much love to all,
Jean Magee Cox"

(Jean can be reached at 601-214-5723 or 601-750-0814. Her mailing address is Mrs. Jean Magee Cox, Post Office Box 381, Star MS 39167.)

Babs Melvin Knieriem's mother, Marguerite Marshall Melvin, 89, died Saturday, September 12, 2009, in Franklin, Tennessee. She was born October 24, 1919, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to Lauton E. and Bessie Nelson Marshall. The family moved to Jackson, and Marguerite graduated from Central High School in 1938. Three years later she married Morris Knight Melvin, and for over twenty years they owned and operated Homewood Manor Mobile Home Community on North State Street. Retiring in the early 1970s, the couple traveled in their R.V. throughout Canada and the United States. They settled in the early 1980s in Fort Myers, Florida. Mrs. Melvin opted to stay in Florida even after Morris' death in 1987, staying active with volunteer work at Lee Memorial Hospital, bridge, and competitive ballroom dance. In recent years she moved to a retirement community in Franklin, Tennessee. Mrs. Melvin is survived by two daughters: JoAnn Melvin Corban and her husband Don of Collins, Mississippi, and Barbara "Babs" Melvin Knieriem and her husband George of Franklin. In addition, survivors include six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Graceworks Ministries, 104 Southeast Parkway, Franklin TN 37064.

Judy Rayner Bruce's mother, Mrs. Lois Birdsong Rayner, 96, died Tuesday, August 18, 2009, in Oxford, Mississippi. She was born in Meridian, Mississippi, February 1, 1913, to B. Franklin Birdsong and Maggie Lee Page Birdsong. She graduated from Meridian High School and lived in that city until the late 1930s when she moved to Newton, Mississippi. While there, Mrs. Rayner was active in numerous clubs and as a member of Newton Methodist Church. In 1958 she and her family moved to Jackson and stayed until 2005 when she moved to Oxford to be near several of her children. In Jackson, she was an active member of St. Luke's Methodist Church. After retiring from the State Board of Health in 1976, she became an avid bridge player, was in numerous clubs, stayed active in senior activities, and enjoyed traveling with friends. Other than her parents, Mrs. Rayner was preceded in death by her husband, Dorris Whitney Rayner; sisters, Louise Blackwell, LaVern McPheeters, Leatha Rogers, and Doris LeJean Blackwell; and brothers, Lyn E. Birdsong and B. Frank Birdsong, Jr. She is survived by daughters, Jeanette Davis (Ralph) of Jackson, Janice Spradley of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Judy Bruce of Oxford; and son, Dr. Jim Rayner (Mary Sharp) of Oxford. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the Oxford Medical Ministries Clinic, 205 S. Commerce Cove, Oxford MS 38655 or a charity of one's choice.

Cela Scott Bates' mother, Celia Davis Scott, 86, died Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Born to Silas and Celia Lampton Davis in Atlanta, Georgia, she and her family moved to Jackson when she was six. She attended Power Elementary, Central Junior and Senior High, and Ole Miss where she was a member of Chi Omega Fraternity. During World War II Celia was a nurse's aid. Then in 1944 she married Bert Scott, and they had four children. An avid bridge player, she was also a member of The Junior League of Jackson, the Matron's Luncheon Club, Las Camaradas, and Le Dejeuner. In addition to being a Cub Scout leader, she served as a volunteer at the University Hospital, as a docent at the Old Capitol Museum, and as a member of the Altar Guild at St. James Episcopal Church. In addi-

tion to her parents, she is predeceased by three brothers: Duncan Davis, Iddo Lampton Davis, and John Davis. She is survived by daughters Cela and husband **Lyle Bates**, Victoria and husband Tim Spear, and Frances Scott, as well as son, Bert Scott, Jr. She is also survived by six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a brother Silas Davis. Memorials may be sent to St James Episcopal Church, 3921 Oakridge Drive, Jackson MS 39216.

Mike Spann's mother, Mildred J. Spann, 95, died Sunday, August 9, 2009, at Highland Home in Ridgeland, Mississippi. A memorial service was held in the chapel of Jackson's First Baptist Church on August 12. Mrs. Spann was a registered nurse and a nurse anesthetist. For many years she served as the department head of the nurse anesthetist staff at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. In 1967 she was president of the Mississippi Association of Nurse Anesthetists. She joined First Baptist Church shortly after moving to Jackson in 1953. She was an active member of the Truth Seekers Sunday School Class and sang in Reflections, the senior adult choir. Mrs. Spann was preceded in death by her son Mike of Mansfield Texas. She is survived by her daughter Polly Jacobs and son-in-law Ken Jacobs of Madison, Mississippi, Mike's wife Ann Spann of Mansfield, Texas, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. The family requests that memorials be made to Alzheimer's Disease Research, 919 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1100, Chicago IL 60611-1676.

Fay Wirth Renardson's mother, Fay Reynolds Wirth Hastings, 91, died of ovarian cancer at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 28, 2009. She was born on October 17, 1917, to Kent and Cora Mae Reynolds and moved to Carpenter, Mississippi, as an infant. She graduated from Utica High School and in 1940 earned her B.A. degree from Belhaven College. In 1944 she married Gene Wirth, Jr., writer and later city editor for the *Clarion-Ledger*. Widowed in 1962, she later married Richard G. Hastings, Jr. who was president of Mississippi Southern Bank in Port Gibson. They lived in Port Gibson for the next 20 years, retiring to Jackson in 1987. Mr. Hastings died in 1995. "Big Fay" was a loving homemaker, well-known and artistic seamstress, and avid letter writer. She was a charter member of the Monday Club which began in 1946. Mrs. Hastings was preceded in death by her parents, her husbands, and her beloved brother Craig Reynolds. She is survived by her daughter, Fay Wirth Renardson (Wayne) of Nashville, Tennessee; son Eugene Craig Wirth (Deborah) of Scottsdale, Arizona; two stepsons; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to St. James Episcopal Church, 309 Jackson Street, Port Gibson, Mississippi 39150 or a charity of your choice.

Obituary of Interest

Charles (C. G.) Brock, 90, died Friday, September 18, 2009, as the result of an automobile accident in Jackson, Mississippi. The female members of the Murrah Class of 1963 will remember Mr. Brock as the owner of the Brock Beauty Parlors in Meadowbrook Mart and Maywood Mart shopping centers as well as two other locations in Jackson. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Murrah and always advertised in the *Hoofbeat* newspaper as well as in the programs that were distributed at Murrah theater productions.

Brock's

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—4—

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS



Obituary of Interest



Lamon Goings, 96, a former resident of Jackson, Mississippi, and a long-time resident of Clinton died Tuesday, August 25, 2009, after a brief illness in Ashville, North Carolina. He and his wife operated a dance studio in Jackson, Mississippi, in the Queen Ann style home at 705 North State Street, now the location of Greenbrook Flowers. He taught not only many members of the Murrah Class of 1963 but such well known performers as Mary Ann Mobley and Wayne Albritton.

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Bio Updates

Sandy Chustz Schreiter has been blessed by the birth of a fourth granddaughter. Claire Elaine McCaleb was born to Sandy's daughter, Michelle, and son-in-law, Grant, on October 8, 2009. She is welcomed by sisters Caroline, Corinne, and Catherine.



Nancy Fleming Sloan's daughter, Nancy Cranford Sloan, married Tyler Matthew Walton on September 12, 2009, in Seagrave Beach, Florida. Daughter Nancy was a magna cum laude graduate of Millsaps College and a member of Kappa Delta sorority. She went on to earn a master's degree in elementary education and her national board certification in early childhood education. She teaches second grade at Butler Elementary in Seagrave Beach. Her husband, a cum laude graduate of Millsaps and member of Kappa Alpha Fraternity holds a master's degree in forestry economics and an MBA. He is associated with Trustmark National Bank (formerly known as First National Bank of Jackson, Mississippi) in Seagrave Beach.



Pat Hatch Monk hand makes "Old Timie" Butter Party Mints (one dozen are \$6.00, five dozen are \$25.00 with assorted party themes available – prices subject to change) If you are interested, contact Pat at drpatsweets@comcast.net or call her at 601-906-2628.

Tony Monk and wife **Pat** took a great road trip this summer. Pat Hatch Monk's half-brother and sis-in-law, Nancy and Elliott Hatch, live in Kerrville, Texas, which is also where Louis and **Helen Garrison** Ridgway live. Pat and Tony decided to visit Nancy and Elliott as well as some members of Tony's family, and their trip included Lake Charles, Louisiana; Kerrville; Fort Worth; Irving; Sulphur Springs; and Texarkana, Texas.





Coincidentally, they found this itinerary to be quite a nice WINES of TEXAS route. Pat said, "Helen met us for lunch in Kerrville, and we visited a couple of hours. I believe Helen is the least changed in appearance than anyone from the Class of '63."

For those of us who have always equated Goodwill Industries of Mississippi with the name **Darby Sowell**, we have to change our way of thinking. Darby had his sixty-fourth birthday in January and decided that he wanted to enjoy life with Lynda on their terms. He loves working in his yard and finally has the time to devote to that, putting into practice all the tips he learned from his grandmother and from friends who share pass-along plants. He and Lynda are doing things they have never taken the time to do before as well as being even more active in their church. We should all take a page from Darby's book.

Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



Carole Chase Harvey and her family (minus three who couldn't make it for the weekend) enjoy the Fourth of July.

Class of 1963 Photo Gallery



Classmate *Thad Amacker* recently attended a gathering of members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the River Hills Club in Jackson, Mississippi. Pictured with Thad is Jeppie Barbour.

Joanna, Tim (Remember Tim Whitsett and the Imerials!), and Timothy Whitsett recently attended a reception at Highlands Gallery. Tim's sister Kit Whitsett Fields was one of the featured artists that evening.



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



Suzanne Riley Brown's youngest son, Matt's, daughter, Peyton, is getting ready for football.

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

The following classmates and friends contributed to this issue:

Carole Chase Harvey
Helen Garrison Ridgway
Pat Hatch Monk
Gale Johnson
 Bill Lester (MHS '67) at the
 Delta State Art Department
Jean Magee Cox
Wallace McMillan
Tony Monk
Suzanne Riley Brown

Send information to be published in **Hoofbeating** to

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

Class Member Websites

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.westmesawoods.com

James "Jimmy" Squires handcrafted furniture

www.poorjuliaart.com

Julia Walter Allen's scrap metal art

Marty Batte Dowdle is **Nancy Fleming** Sloan's first cousin. You may remember that Nancy went through school with us until about Christmas of the tenth grade when her father was transferred to Greenville, Mississippi. Nancy said, "I was just thrilled to get to attend Murrah High. All of us at Bailey Junior High couldn't wait to get there 'up on the hill'....Although I made lots of friends at Greenville High, nothing could replace the friends I left in Jackson...people I had known all my life."

Nancy is going through a health crisis right now. Nancy's daughter Caroline and Marty Batte Dowdle thought you would like to know. I am enclosing parts of an email that Marty forwarded from Caroline to Mike:

From: **Caroline Sloan** sloancaroline@gmail.com

Feel free to send to anyone who may be interested.

Dear Family and Friends,

To keep you up to date on Nancy Fleming Sloan, I created a CaringBridge website. You can follow Nancy's progress and show your support.

Visit Nancy's website in either of two easy ways:

1. Visit the CaringBridge website by clicking the link below.

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/nancysloan>

2. Enter the website name, nancysloan, at www.CaringBridge.org.