



# **Manatee High School Class of '63**

## **50 th Year Reunion Classmates & Remembrances**



**" We're The Best At Manatee ~  
We're The Class Of '63!"**

*Compiled and Designed by Nancy Cotterman Varner*

*Assisted and Edited by Susan "Froggy" Frohock Layman*



## **THANK YOU**

*I wish to thank everyone who participated in sending your biographies and photos for the Manatee High School Remembrance Booklet I have dreamed about creating. It has been worth the many, many hours, e-mails, phone calls, etc. to put it together for you.*

*After seeing some memory books of other classes, I thought it was only fitting that the Class of '63 should have a booklet. I would like to thank Sam Hershfield, Jim Carraway, Vern Oblisk, for their contributions of material, and "Aunt" Jeannie Oliver who loaned me a previous memory book where I obtained much of the history information. A special thanks goes to Sue "Froggy" Frohock Layman for co-laboring with me and editing.*

*Thank you to all who took the time to write your biographies and submit your photos. I have read each and every one and feel I know you even better than when in high school. I hope you will enjoy reading this memory book as much as I have doing it.*

*For any of our classmates who read this, but did not send in your information, There will be updates on occasion, so send your data to Froggy who will work with Vern to incorporate it into the booklet on the class website.*

*The information in this book is correct to the best of my knowledge. Please accept sincere apologies for any errors or omissions. For the sake of space, it was occasionally necessary to condense some of the information.*

***Nancy Cotterman Varner***

## History of MHS



**Braidentown, Florida**  
Manatee County High School 1913



Manatee County High School  
Built in 1926 - Named Paul F Davis Building



Present Davis Bldg built 2009-2010

**What is now MHS began in 1897 as *Braidentown High School* in a building located on the northwest corner of 9th Avenue and 14th Street, West, where the city shuffleboard courts were later located. In 1912, a new high school building was built on the south side of Manatee Avenue west of 1st Street, just east of where the school district offices are now located. Sometime before 1915, students from **Palmetto** were added and the school became *Manatee County High School* for the first time. The 1915 MCHS football team gained fame for never losing a game as well as never being scored upon. Sometime in the 1920s MCHS became *Bradenton High School (BHS)* when Palmetto students once again had their own high school to attend.**

## 1930–1947

In 1930, the Manatee Avenue building was closed and BHS was moved to the red brick building at 1000 32nd Street, West, which had been built in 1926 as the *Biltmore Grade School*, but had been closed after less than a year's use because of the collapse of the Florida Land Boom. **This building is now called the Davis Building in memory of longtime principal, Paul F. Davis.** In 1938 the old building on Manatee Avenue was opened as Bradenton Junior High School with grades 7 through 9.

## 1947–1958

In 1947, Florida adopted the present system of having a single school district for each county and as a result **Palmetto High School** was merged back into Bradenton High School and the school's name again became **Manatee County High School**, which required changes in many school traditions. **The school colors became red, white and blue by taking red from Palmetto's "red and black" and blue from Bradenton's "blue and gold" and adding white.** BHS's teams had been the *Golden Wave*, but that was replaced by the Hurricanes. Palmetto's year book had been the *Palmetto Leaves*, so the new one got the incongruous name of *Manatee Leaves*. **The school newspaper became the Macohi.**

**1955 was another year of change for MCHS. The three junior high schools south of the Manatee River, Bradenton, Manatee and Oneco were consolidated into a brand new school, Walker Junior High School, which was built across 11th Avenue, West from the high school.** Walker had state of the art music facilities which were used by MCHS's orchestra, chorus and band.

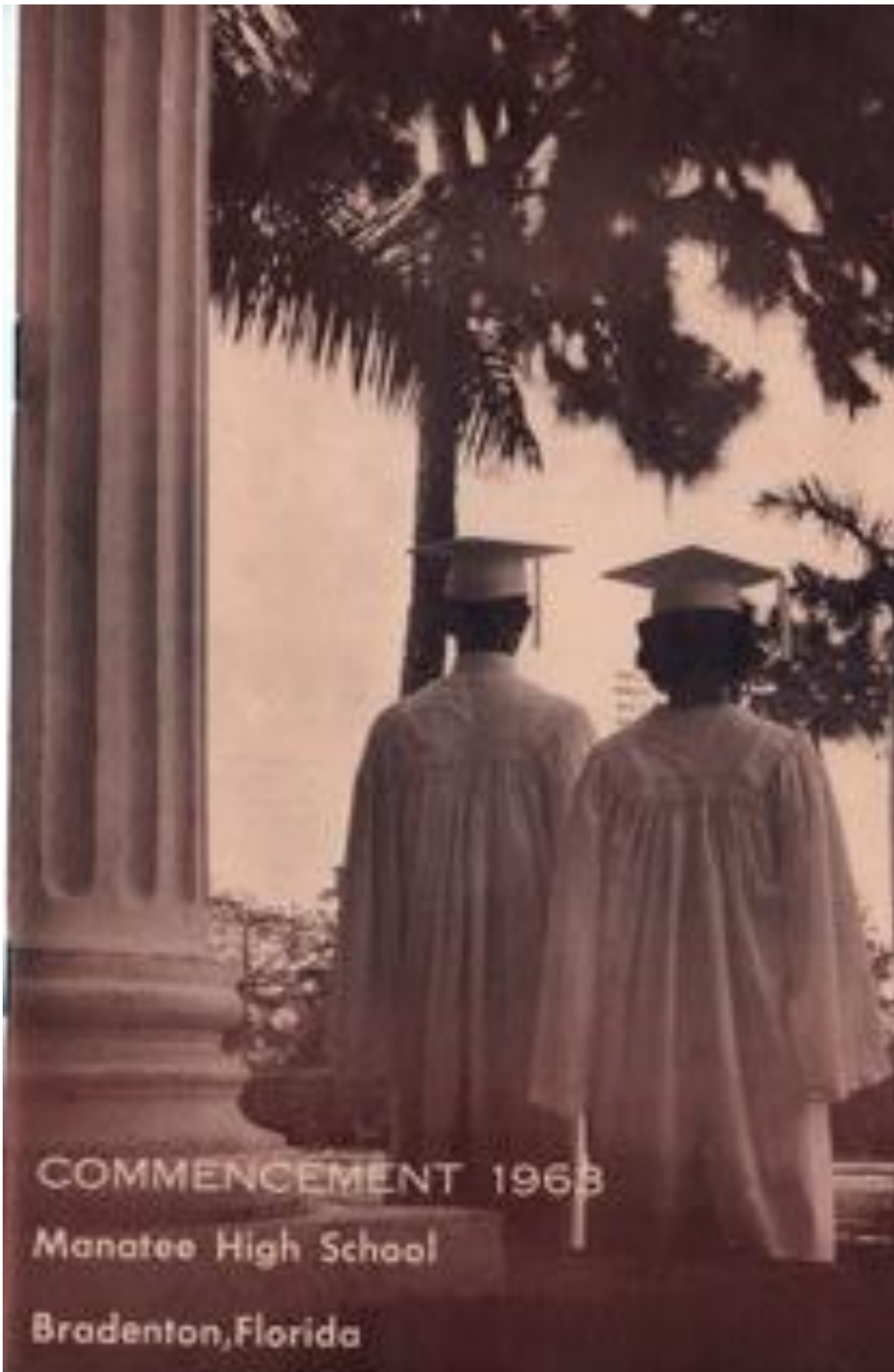
**The MCHS graduating class of 1958 was the last one to have students from both sides of the river, since Palmetto High School had been phased back in beginning in 1956. During the summer of 1958, the school's name was shortened to the present *Manatee High School* to reflect the fact that it no longer drew students from the entire county.** Student and public opinion was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the name *Manatee* instead of reverting it to Bradenton High School.<sup>[2]</sup>

## 2010–Present

**The most recent redesign was the demolition and reconstruction of the Davis Building. The original building was built in 1926 and served as Manatee High School's iconic facade until 2010, when the Manatee County School Board deemed a new building necessary. It was crucial for the new building to retain the historic six white columns and brick that served the community for 84 years.** The building features a state-of-the-art auditorium, fully equipped music suite, 25 classrooms, and a large atrium in the main foyer. In 1997 a major redesign that included new classrooms, a science-technology building, gym, and administration building was constructed.



*Hail Alma Mater  
To Thy Spirit Guiding  
Pledge We Fidelity,  
By Thy Name Abiding  
Armored In Courage,  
Ne' er From Battle Hiding,  
Hail Thee, Dear Manatee*



COMMENCEMENT 1968

Manatee High School

Bradenton, Florida

1963 Class Song

Climb Every Mountain

Climb every mountain,  
Search high and low.  
Follow every byway,

Every path you know.  
Climb every mountain,  
Ford every stream.  
Follow every rainbow,  
Till you find your dream.

A dream that will need  
All the love you can give,  
Every day of your life  
For as long as you live.

Climb every mountain,  
Ford every stream.  
Follow every rainbow,  
Till you find your dream!



We're The Best at Manatee,  
We're The Class of '63

Class Motto

"Today We follow,  
Tomorrow We Lead"

Class Colors

Blue and White

Class Symbol

Crescent Moon



# OUR CLASSMATES



## THE CLASS OF '63

**Not all classmates are included if they did not send in a bio and picture**

**This section will be updated a few times annually - as new data is received**

**Send information to Froggy @ [cgslyman@aol.com](mailto:cgslyman@aol.com)**

## Biography of Darryl Armstrong



After high school I attended Manatee Junior College for three semesters and drove a 1958 Cadillac. It was a boat and I had to work two jobs to keep it in gas. I worked at Thom McCann Shoes at Westgate and at Publix at Bayshore Gardens. It was a great car for the drive-ins though. I finally parked it on the beach one night at Anna Maria and while I slept it off...er rested on the beach, the tide came in...well you can figure the rest.

After a few semesters in MJC I joined the US Navy. I had a Volkswagen convertible in Japan and toured most of the Island of Honshu in it. I visited Viet Nam sans a car, for a short stay but did not find it as hospitable as I would have liked.

I returned to MJC and then University of South Florida, Tampa. I worked for ITT Technical Colleges in Tampa and Austin, Texas. then became the VP of Admissions at Orlando College and Denver Automotive College. I was president of Blair Junior College in Colorado Springs and College America in Denver. I have lived in San Luis Obispo, California for many years, and work as a mortgage lender. My wife and I have two grandchildren and love trips to parks, the beach and the back roads of Big Sur, hiking, and general outdoor stuff.

## Biography of Patty Bassett Young



I moved to California the morning after we graduated, and earned a keypunch degree at a school in Anaheim, CA. I returned to Palmetto after my boyfriend, Steve Reynolds, came to CA for our wedding and honeymoon. We ran our own car repair and body shop in Palmetto. We did a lot of motorcycle racing for fun. Big Daddy Garlis taught me to drag race, which we did a lot of also. We divorced in 1969 and I moved back to CA.

I remarried and have two beautiful daughters, and two lovely grandchildren. I know how old I am because I my grandchildren have graduated from high school. I started working at the Freedom Newspaper Chain of papers as a receptionist. My 31 years at the paper had me learning all positions (even Interim Publisher). I remarried in 1985 to Russ Young, my soul mate, a Lieutenant in the fire department, and head of the arson squad. I became a volunteer at the same station.

Our family traveled a lot. We took family cruises to Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, through the Panama Canal and elsewhere. In 1992, the paper asked me to move to North Carolina to take the position of Business Manager at the Burlington Times News. Russ retired when we moved there and I worked until 2002 when I had to medically retire. My girls still live in California where they were born. We have not been very active in the last 10 years or so due to health issues. I love the laid back life of living in the house we built in the country. Who could ask for more than that in beautiful North Carolina.

## Biography of Walter 'Walt' Beerman



After MHS I went to Manatee Community College and received an AA degree. In 1966 I volunteered for the Army and spent four years stationed in Berlin, Germany with an affiliate of the National Security Agency. These were great years in my life. I've been back to Berlin three times since 1969, most recently this past May 2013.

After my Army days I returned home to Florida in 1970 and went to USF where I received a BS in Economics. I met Jeanne in January of 1973, and we married March 1973! We've been married 40 years.

After a start in mortgage sales in 1973, I was transferred to Seattle in 1975 and took over the northwest region for a mortgage division of Citicorp. I left Citicorp and started my own mortgage company which I had for thirty plus years, but resigned the company this year (2013). I will keep my mortgage license active but I am mostly retired here in Mercer Island, WA.

In 2009 I started volunteering overseas for Habitat for Humanity in Portugal, Cambodia, and Bulgaria. Traveling overseas is my passion.



Family picture is from Christmas 2012 and includes our boys Nick and Drew. Jeanne's mom, Ann, and MacCoy, our Australian Shepherd.



## Biography of Diane Bell Tymeson



I lived with my grandparents on Anna Maria Island during one year at Walker Jr. High and throughout my High School years at Manatee, allowing me to pursue my interest in the arts.

Shortly after graduating from MHS I rejoined my sister and parents in Miami where I continued studying art, and attended Charron Williams Commercial College, completing courses as a legal secretary. After graduating from CWCC I relocated in Ithaca, NY where I was employed in the Law School of Cornell University. In January 1965, Ed "Skip" Nunn and I were married which lasted seven years and produced two wonderful children – a son, Stephen and a daughter, Monica. During my years as a single mother, I returned to Miami, then to Anna Maria Island where I was employed as Advertising Manager of The Islander newspaper. In 1974, I married Bruce Tymeson, former Chief of Police of Anna Maria, and the father of four youngsters who were living with their mother in Pennsylvania. While Bruce worked, I operated the first Day Care in Anna Maria – Prinloco Playpen. In 1976, we four decided to "live off the land," moving outside Mt. Washington Valley in Conway, NH. From 1976 – 1984 we enjoyed gardens and ninety-six animals on forty acres of land surrounded by National Forest, along with moose, deer, bear, beavers, and a variety of other wild animals which stopped by for visits. We grew and/or raised 75-80% of the food on our table in our 200 year old house. I returned to school in Portland, Maine for certification as an Activities Director, and I worked in a Nursing

Home. It was during this time Bruce encouraged me to get back into the arts. I studied, drew and painted, and began collecting ribbons and awards for my work. During my employment at the Health Care Center in Maine I was hospitalized with Systemic Lupus Erthematosus. I needed to move to the warmer climate of Florida. It was a number of years before my doctors permitted me to return to NH so we ultimately decided to sell the cabin and the forty acres.

My health issues increased on a life cycle of ups and downs; however, it is more exciting to count our precious grandchildren – now totaling twenty-one.

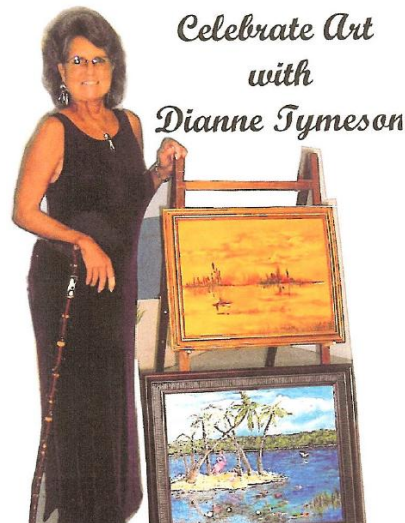
In addition to my pursuing oil and acrylic painting, in 2006 I wrote and published a book, Oatmeal and Fatherhood – Both Well Done – a tribute to my father who died in 2004. In 2012, we celebrated my sixty-seventh birthday with a one-woman art exhibit at the Maritime Museum. Each day I thank God for the many blessings I have experienced throughout the years – my loving, caretaker husband, Bruce, and wonderful family, along with so many special friends who mean so much to me. God is good!

*"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."  
Philippians 4:13*



Dianne L. Tymeson  
3510 115th Street West  
Bradenton, FL 34210-1114  
941-761-9700

*"For the son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."  
Luke 9:56*



## Biography of Pierre A. Bellemare



I moved from Quebec, Canada in November 1960 to Bradenton, FL and in January 1961 began attending MHS. I only spoke French at the time and the transition in the middle of my sophomore year from French to English was a turning point in my life. I remember teachers that made exceptional efforts to help me and positively change my life. Mrs. Parrish, John Shaut and Harvey Gobin were some of those teachers. John Shaut spent countless hours as the DECA teacher to prompt me to attend the DECA convention in Jacksonville in 1963, run for and win the presidency of the Florida organization. He also entered me in the Public Speaking contest in which I came in 3<sup>rd</sup> place after only speaking English for 2 years.

As a DECA student, I worked at Publix and Manatee Memorial hospital after school. I truly grew up from the Manatee Memorial Hospital employment, as I was confronted with other people's hardship and sicknesses in comparison to what I thought was very hard times for me. These 'teachers' taught me that honesty, integrity, character, promptness and hard work do pay off in the long run.

Since those days I've also work in the insurance industry, was an EMS for a period of time, sold automobiles and finally began my own security business in 1978. I have been in the alarm business now for over 35 years here in Bradenton. I have 5 children, 16 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The most important event in my life has been my commitment to Jesus and His true love guidance for me. All things are possible for those who believe in Him.

## Biography of Cindy Bennett Fussell



After high school I graduated from Florida State and began teaching Spanish. I found out that I hated teaching, so I went back and got my library science degree and was most happy as a school librarian for 35 years. I met my husband on a blind date and we have lived "happily ever after" so to speak. I worked seven years before my husband, James, and I moved to Winston-Salem, NC , where we lived for 35 years. In 2010 we moved to Richmond, VA. to be near relatives in our senior years. James still works and I enjoy being retired and doing things that I want to do. I enjoy being near family and participating in their numerous activities.

James was in the Marine Corps, a Vietnam Veteran, and has enjoyed annual reunions with some of his good buddies from that era. They all served aboard the USS Springfield based in Villefranche, France, ten kilometers from Nice down on the coast. In 2004 the Marine Detachment guys and we went back to Villefranche and had a fabulous time.

Thirteen years ago my hair started going really dirty gray, so I decided enough was enough and dyed it blonde. It took years off my life and I have always wanted to be blonde like my mother. Instead I took after my dad, so most of you remember me being raven-haired.

## Biography of Mary Ruth Bennett Ringland



I was born in Bradenton at Bradenton General Hospital - that of course no longer exists, and have lived here all my life. I attended Ballard Elementary, Jesse P Miller, Walker Jr. High, and MHS. I attended Sarasota Vo-Tech for my HUC Training (Health Unit Coordinator), and worked at Sarasota Memorial Hospital for 30 years in Surgery. They were great nurses, doctors, & anesthesiologists to work with. I retired on May 30, 2013.

I have two children and two grandchildren. We all love to attend theme parks, especially Disney World. When I retired, my co-workers gave me two great Disney-themed retirement parties.



## Biography of Emily Benson Buskirk



After MHS graduation, I went to the University of Florida where I roomed with Merrie Lynn Wang and pledged Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. Graduated in Dec. '66 and went to Europe in February '67. Worked for Special Services in Frankfurt, Germany for almost 2 years and travelled in Europe. Came back to Bradenton and met Frank Buskirk while working at the Bradenton Herald as a reporter. We married in 1971 and lived in St. Pete and Tampa. Our daughter, Amanda, was born in Tampa in 1974. We moved back to Bradenton in 1977, where our son, Adam, was born. I had worked in public relations and Frank in marketing, specializing in real estate.

Back in Bradenton, Frank was instrumental in developing condominiums and houses on Longboat Key, Anna Maria, Perico Island, Bradenton and east of the Interstate. During that time, I was a member of the Downtown Beautification Project, which redid Old Main Street, Entre Nous, Keep Manatee Beautiful, Manatee River Garden Club, Florida West Coast Symphony Guild, and a charter board member and past president of the Palma Sola Botanical Park. We were active participants of whatever our children did . . . schools, sports teams, church, etc.

We were members of Palma Sola Presbyterian Church for 27 years and moved to First Presbyterian several years ago, where Linda Bixler's dad was minister.

Frank is now mostly retired and we spend our summers in the North Carolina mountains, where we play golf, I paint in pastels and lead a ladies' Bible study.

We have 3 grandchildren, Ansley, 10, Matthew, 6, and Brady, 5, all in either Bradenton or Sarasota. We are so blessed to have all our family, including my 90 year old mother, in the area.



Frank & Emily biking in Colorado



Buskirk Family

## Biography of Linda Bixler Whitley



After high school, I graduated from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, in 1967. In late 1964, my family moved away from Bradenton, so I've sadly only been back a few times since they left. In 1968, I married Bruce Whitley. He was in the US Army, and we lived in several places. Eventually, we settled in the Greenville, South Carolina area and, for the most part, have lived in this area ever since. We have two adult sons, both married to beautiful women, but no grandchildren yet. One of our sons lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and the other lives in Atlanta, Georgia, so although we wish they were closer, they probably like being far enough away that we can't just drop in on them anytime!

I have worked for many years with one company, and still continue to keep my hand in though I am in semi-retirement. My English degree gave me the opportunity to do many different jobs with the same company, so that has made me feel like I've had several different careers. My current, part-time slot is as a Technical Writer, and I spend 3 days a week doing documentation for an in-house written software product that is used on construction projects to manage material.

Recently, I've had the delightful opportunity to reconnect with Manatee's foreign exchange student, Nilofur Kahn, who was a part of our class during our senior year and lived with my family during her stay in Bradenton. Although she and I had lost touch since she left our home, I've enjoyed hearing from her lately thanks to Jill and Sam Hershfield who made the first contact with her—quite a trick since she has married and is no longer using the last name by which we knew her.

The attached picture was taken on our recent trip to England and Scotland via a transatlantic crossing on the Queen Mary 2....we don't dress like this for dinner every night!



### **Biography of Gariel Burchett**



After high school I enlisted in the army for four years. When my enlistment was up I went to work for the Post Office in Bradenton and subsequently got married.

In 1975 I returned to college and completed my degree. Since then I have worked for various companies, and in 1987 return to working for the Government.

During that period I was divorced and after 12 years of the single life met the woman of my dreams. We celebrated our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. I am looking forward to retirement next June 1 (2014 - Not quite sure how that will work out as I have traveled most of the time we have been married). Well, let's hope it is just a wonderful time together, enjoying each other and life.



## Biography of David Burdette



I went from MHS to The University of Florida, then to Manatee Community College, then to the University of South Florida...a little out of order but "hey"! Wound up in higher education administration and now am at my fourth campus-Central Michigan University. I have a BA in Business Administration from USF and an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Buffalo.

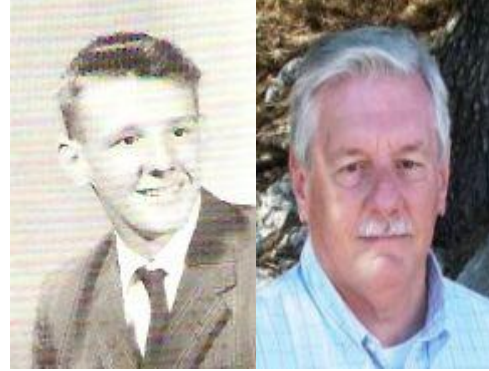
I worked in higher education (five campuses, in four states) in Financial and Administrative management for 45 years and retired September 30<sup>th</sup> from Central Michigan University.

My wife Carol and I have a condo in Dunedin so there will be a return to the Florida west coast now that I have retired.

I am also retired as a Lt. Col from the Army guard. I have two daughters - one in Buffalo NY and one in Richmond VA, and five wonderful granddaughters as well.

Friends with Jimmy and Paula Zoller and Robert (who now goes by "Bob") Willis since high school and we stay in reasonable touch....ok, the winter trips to Florida from the north help.

## Biography of Phil Casto



After graduation, I attended Manatee Junior College. In 1965, I moved to California, lived there for a short while, and eventually joined the Navy. Four years in the Navy provided me the opportunity to go back for my degree. I received a BBA in Accounting from Florida Atlantic University in 1972 and moved to Atlanta, GA. I opened my own CPA practice in 1975, and have lived in the Atlanta suburbs ever since.

Diane and I have three children. We spend time at our condo at Panama City Beach and we cruise for recreation, mostly to the Caribbean, but we are planning our second trip to the Mediterranean.

I like fly fishing in Montana, deep sea fishing in the Gulf. I buy, sell (occasionally), and restore collectable automobiles (I need a bigger garage).

### Biography of Connie Clinton LeBlanc



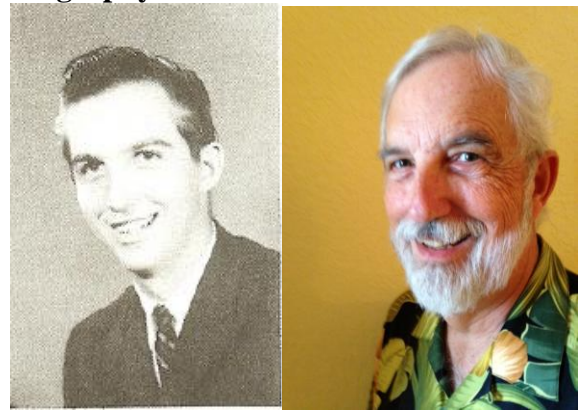
How could it possibly be 50 years since high school graduation? Well, here's my recap of those years.

I stayed in Bradenton after graduation and attended MJC for a year before transferring to FSU where I earned a degree in education. I taught a year in Jacksonville, then married a newly graduated veterinarian who was about to start what became a career in the Air Force.

During the next 21 years we lived in Nebraska, Idaho, Michigan, Republic of the Philippines, Illinois, and two locations in Texas. Along the way, I earned a Master's Degree and received a Reading Specialist Professional Certification. I was fortunate to get a teaching position each time I moved and retired in 2005 with 34 years of experience, 27 of which were spent doing reading specialist work.

Since retirement, I have been doing per diem consulting work for a publishing company as well as private tutoring. I have lived in San Antonio since 1982, have been married to a former teacher colleague for 19 years, and am pleased to have two stepchildren and five terrific grandchildren.

### Biography of David Clouse



Following graduation from Manatee High, I Worked for Schlumberger/Dowell for 34 years. Built Crash Recorders for commercial airlines and Fracking Equipment and Chemicals for Oil Well Exploration companies.

I retired in 1998 and opened Rosa's Fine Imports on Anna Maria selling items from Mexico for the home and garden. I Opened Executive Swimming Pools in Bradenton in 2002, and recently retired for the second time.

Married Sandy McDonald in 1963 and raised two children, Kathy and Mike. Kathy is an Air Force Instructor Pilot and Mike is my partner in Executive Swimming Pools. His office is in Charlotte, N. C.

After Sandy's death in 2007 from breast cancer I remarried. Susan and I are now enjoying retirement together.

## Biography of Nancy Cotterman Varner



My days in Manatee County began in 1959 when I moved here with my mom and 2 brothers. I attended Walker Jr. High for one year then moved on to MHS. I was in the Drill Team in '61-'63 and the Glee Club, '60-'63. These were my fondest memories of High School. After MHS I received a business degree from Massey Business College and worked for Jacksonville Construction Company. I moved back home in 1966 and married in 1968. My traveling began as I married a Navy recruit moving to Maryland, on to Pensacola, California and Guam where I had two of my four girls.

I returned to Bradenton and married once again, and had two more daughters. I was employed with the Board of County Commissioners and transferred to the Sheriff Department. After 30 years of County work I retired, took a year off, and am now a School Crossing Guard at Kinnan Elementary, a teacher's aide at Community Christian School, very active at my church with the Presbyterian Women, a Deacon, and the Manatee Players. I recently opened a side business as a pet/house sitter. As you can see I don't let any grass grow under my feet!

I was fortunate to have chaperoned church youth trips to California, Dominican Republic and Europe (Germany and Paris). My most recent travels have been up the East Coast climbing lighthouses – so far 25 - LOTS of stairs!

I am a grandmother to eight wonderful grandchildren, most recently twins, who are now three months old. I have been extremely blessed. God has a plan for all of us, we just

need to honor Him and use our talents to the best of our ability.



God blessed me with four wonderful daughters.



Six of my grandchildren



It's twins!

I climbed all 248 steps!

## Biography of Charles Crowley



Following graduation from Manatee High School I enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After my tour of duty I pursued my education and went on to the University of Florida, graduating with a Business Degree in Marketing.

I worked in the sporting goods industry, i.e. hunting, camping, diving, fishing for 25 years then joined Crowley Nursery & Gardens Inc. with my wife Kathy.

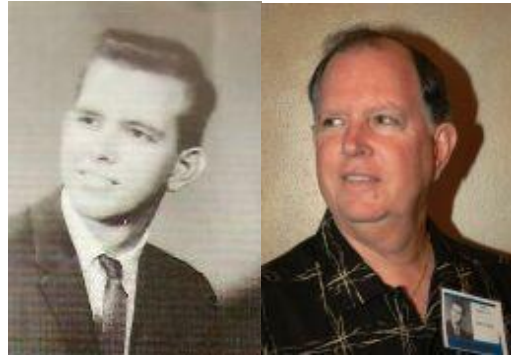
We are also members of the Bamboo Society. We have bamboo gardens and about 200 varieties of old garden roses are planted all around the property. Some date back to the 1800's.

We joined the Rare Fruit Tree Society first to learn about the edible plants one could grow in Florida. If you can eat it and grow it here, we have it or we can get it for you. We have the most up to date edible plants for maximum fruit production on this coast.

Come by and see us sometime.

Crowley Nursery & Gardens, Inc.  
Jomar Rd  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
(941) 322-0315

## Biography of William "Bill" Curry



After graduation, I wasted a year at the University of Florida, returned home and received my AA from Manatee Jr. College. I enlisted in the Air Force in 1966, and served as a medic from 1966 to 1969. I married my High school sweetheart (Maureen Norman, MHS class of '66). We have two daughters, and three beautiful granddaughters and a grandson. 2013 marks our 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

After the Air Force I attend the University of South Florida and received a BA Degree. I worked for the Manatee County Health Department and The Department of Health and Rehabilitation services in Tallahassee, as an Emergency Medical Services Consultant. I was instrumental in acquiring Federal Funding for many of the Central Florida, County ambulance services start-up funds, including Manatee's. I also became a certified EMT and AMA CPR Trainer.

In 1977, I joined Motorola Communications and retired in 2004. Fifteen days before my retirement Hurricane Ivan hit Pensacola and we spent the next 14 months repairing the damage to our home. We currently live in Gulf Breeze, Florida. We have been very fortunate to have traveled and cruised over much of the world.



## Biography of Kathleen Dickensen Phillips



I attended MHS for only our senior year, then went to Asbury College in Kentucky. I was married in 1967, just after college graduation, to John Phillips from southern Illinois. We met at college. We've been married 45 years, and have one daughter and two grandchildren. We live in a beautiful little desert mountain town in central Arizona.

My career was with state government, first Kentucky, then Arizona. During my career I've been a Social Security disability examiner, a telecommunications analyst and a contracts administrator.

I retired in 2004. During all these years I've been privileged to serve the Lord in a number of ways, including singing with special groups locally and on tour. Even in retirement, I continue to enjoy singing in the Payson Choral Society and on our church worship team. Making music is a great joy!

## Biography of Mike Durham



After finishing high school at Manatee, I attended Manatee Junior College where I was elected Freshman Class President. I did not finish my degree, instead I embarked on a full time career with Sears.

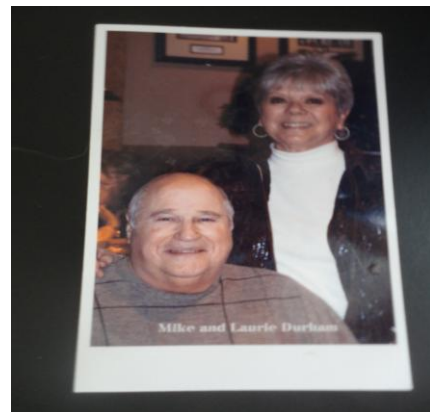
I got married and had two children – both daughters. What a handful that was.

After nine years, I left Sears and joined a sales group as a manufacturer's representative in the furniture trade.

Many years later, and another marriage later, I added two sons to the family. I then started my own business - this time in the Odor Control Industry. We put together a line of essential oil and bioenzymatic products to get rid of odors in landfills, waste water treatment facilities and composting plants.

Now I am semi-retired with my wife of over twenty years – my friend, my love, my nurse, my partner, Laurie.

I am looking forward to seeing all my friends who made my time at Manatee the best time ever and the most cherished time in my life.



## Biography of Sonja Fain-Riddle



After graduating from Manatee High School I went to Manatee Junior College for three semesters. Paul Athens returned home and we were married for five years. During those years and until December 1974, I worked as a Certified Dental Assistant.

In 1974 I married Bill Riddle and moved to Mt. Dora. He owned Sports Car Center in Winter Park. In September 1975 I was blessed with Blake, my only child. After divorcing Bill, Blake and I returned to Bradenton in 1981. Once again I was working in the medical field and taking care of my mother and grandmother.

In 1987 I began working for Rice's Dress Shop as their seamstress until the store closed in 1995. Again- back working for medical centers until 2009.

I am now semi retired and working part time for Dr. Wright, D.D.S., the dentist I worked for in 1965 for seven years when I was eighteen.

Blake graduated from Manatee High School in 1983 and married Amy Curtis in 1000 and has two daughters – Alyssa and Arya. I am blessed that they live here and am able to see them often.

I am so grateful that my mother taught me to sew at a very young age. Through all the years it has been my therapy, my hobby and sometimes my income. Now I finally have time to just play, and make petty things, including my hobby of quilting.

Wishing many blessings for each one of you and your families.



Son, Blake and family



With granddaughters

## Biography of Patty Flynn Engh



After graduation, I moved to New Haven, Connecticut. I worked at Yale New Haven Hospital in the research lab for infectious diseases. I met and fell in love with Jerry Engh, who was interning for Orthopedic Surgery. We were married in 1968. After six years at Yale, we moved to Alexandria, Virginia. Jerry joined his Father and Brother in practice at the Anderson Orthopaedic Clinic. I worked as his Clinical Nurse for 20 years.

We have 4 children, 4 spouses, and 12 grandchildren. Our children and grandchildren make us proud and indeed bring joy to our lives. We have a working Cattle Ranch (Red Devon Cattle) and after retirement (this year) we live permanently at our ranch.

[www.lakotareddevons.com](http://www.lakotareddevons.com) Jerry was an Orthopedic/ joint replacement surgeon for 43 years. I retired in 2005 to run our family foundation. I'm the director of [www.lailarosefoundation.com](http://www.lailarosefoundation.com)

Our lives are full and we embrace each new day praising God for the multitude of blessings, that He showers upon us.



## Biography of Sue "Froggy" Frohock Layman



A group of us from MHS and Southeast went to school in Jacksonville after graduation. After that I moved to Marietta, GA, where I worked for Lockheed-Georgia '64-'66, then back to FLA - joined IBM at Cape Canaveral, where I worked in the Space Program - very exciting.

In late 1969, transferred to Manassas, VA with IBM to help start up their new facility Personnel Dept. Had various staff and Mgt. positions for several years, including working at Headquarters and coordinating satellite launch VIP/Marketing events at the Cape Kennedy. Lots of fun!

Started my own Mgt. consulting business in 1989, and switched to consulting with IBM until 1994. Moved to Dallas-Fort Worth in 1994 to attend Bible school, and stayed in that area until Jan. '01.

I moved out to Bakersfield, California & took mom. Was Business Operations Director until 2003 when I worked from home so I could care for my mother until her passing in Jan. '05. Greatest mom ever!

Have done consulting since. My passion is editing/ghostwriting books for a variety of authors. My other passion is helping people, especially hurting people.

Have had considerable lay counseling training and have worked with counseling ministries and churches to help people learn how loved by God they are - very rewarding.

The sand has NEVER left my shoes, nor my heart. I love Bakersfield, and am here for the foreseeable future. I have been doing a "Class of '63" email for over 7 years, with bio's & pics, as well as "Remember When?" and "Where Are They Now?" items. Folks love it and send things in all the time. I now have 155

names on the list. More join all the time. Send me a note at [cgslyman@aol.com](mailto:cgslyman@aol.com) and join us.

### **Froggy Remembers...**

I must confess we had a slumber party at my house with Margy Evans, Sonya Fain, Mary Hampton, Linda Garrison Juanell Petit and possibly a couple others. In the middle of the night, we slipped out the front door in our PJ's, pushed my car out of the driveway, all got in and drove all over Bradenton and to Palmetto. On the way back across the bridge, someone suggested stopping to get some sign, and when we did Mary and someone got out to get it. We took off and drove to the end of the bridge, then turned around to go back and get them. They were hollering and all – standing there in their PJs at 2 a.m.. As I look back on it now, we were VERY fortunate a cop didn't come by and catch us because our parents would have clobbered us, and this Frog would have really croaked! 🐸

### **Biography of Dabney Frost Thompson**



After high school and one year at MJC, I joined the US Army to see the world and was sent to Alabama for two years. I met and married Rick Garcia and on 1/01/1968 gave birth to the first baby in Manatee County of 1968...daughter, Christine Marie.

Spent two years working in Washington DC for the US Navy. Returned here to Bradenton in 1972 and never left again. Took nearly 40 years of working to find my career niche in Payroll.

Christine is my only child. She married a baseball player on my parents 50th wedding anniversary, Ernesto Santana and proceeded to give me three amazing boys...Ernesto, Ricky and Alex - now 22, 20 and 15. So for the last 22 years, these young men have been my life.

I have been with TriNet for the last 11 years and yes, I am one of the 'lucky' ones that is still working full time...Retirement???? what is that word.

Providing you with a bio would be like ready a romance, comedy and scary story all in one. Not happening.



## Biography of Linda Garrison Guynn



After graduation I went to Western Carolina for two years. Returned to Bradenton and went to work at the court house where I met my future husband. We had a wonderful marriage and were blessed with 3 children.

In the early "80s we moved to Lakeland for my husband's job. After my husband's retirement we moved to his home state of Kentucky. We were empty nesters then and stayed there 5 years, until the grandkids started to be born.

Back to Lakeland. Two of our children lived in Lakeland and one lives in Costa Rica. I became a widow in 2006. By 2008 I became restless and reckless! I moved to Costa Rica had a house there and all. That lasted one year, then I moved to south Texas. I was there for about a year and a half before moving back to Lakeland.

I must say God has blessed me so much. I have four wonderful grandchildren, many friends and a great church that I attend.

## Biography of Larry Gordon



After graduating MHS, I spent one year at the old Manatee Junior College, then drifted to the Kansas City area with family, spent one year at the University of Florida, then longed for snow and ice (right!), so except for 3 years in the Army (one of those years in Korea), I've been in the Land of Oz ever since.

I am retired from the Federal Government and the Air Force Reserve. Sally and I will be married 45 years in December 2013, and have three grown children and eight grandchildren. I won't bore you with details of our marriage, so instead, fire up your YouTube, and listen to Alan Jackson's rendition of *Remember When*. That's us!!

Cheers and greetings to all my MHS Class of 1963 classmates !!



## Biography of Holly Gwinn Graham



A native of Chicago, Holly grew up on the West Coast of Florida, where she earned a degree in theatre and fine arts from The University of South Florida. While at university, Holly honed her writing skills, and continues to write for newspapers and magazines. In 1967 a tour for the United Services Organization (USO) took her college theatre troop's production of *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* to Greenland, Iceland, Labrador and Newfoundland.

"Rest and recuperation" came in a visit to England. Holly fell in love with the place and, following college graduation, lived in England for six years. There, she toured folk clubs singing with her friend, jazz guitarist Diz Disley, and later married legendary guitarist Davey Graham. With Davey, she toured and recorded two albums. During this time, she began using the guitar to compose songs and currently has released five albums of original music.

Returning to Florida in 1974, Holly earned her Actors' Equity card in dinner theatre. Lead by a love of radio, Holly created and directed *A Tale in Your Ear*, forming an acting company that dramatized classic international folktales on the air weekly in the Sarasota area for over two years.

Holly and her daughter moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1980, where she currently lives. Holly is a multi-disciplinary performing artist - a singer/songwriter, actress, director, improvisational storyteller, recording artist, and teacher of the arts.

## Biography of Rick Hager



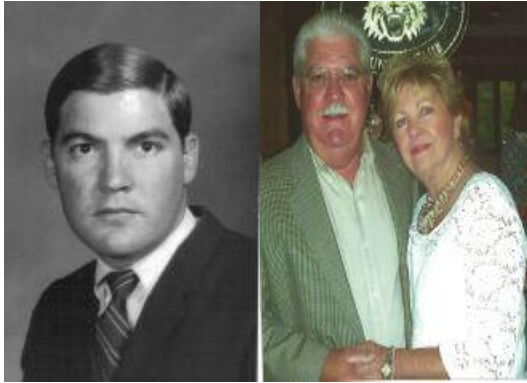
After high school I joined the US Air Force and spent time in Texas, Colorado, Florida, Vietnam and Iceland. Upon discharge, I returned to Bradenton and attended MJC for my AA degree and the University of Florida for my Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. I worked for GE for two years later Florida Power Corp for a year, then Tampa Electric where I retired in 2004 from TECO Energy (Tampa Electric's parent company) after a 30 year career. After retirement I started Goodwood and Stone Builders as a General Contractor in Bradenton. I decided that golf 2 or 3 times a week was all my back could handle! So I went back to work. My oldest son joined me as a partner a few years later and I am happy to say we have survived the recession!

I have remained active in Bradenton in the DeSoto Historical Society. I had the honor of serving as Hernando DeSoto in 2004-2005 and am still active. In February I was again honored to be appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the State College of Florida- Manatee-Sarasota (still MJC to me!) District Board of Trustees.

In 2000 my wife of 23 years, Heather, passed after a 20 year fight with Leukemia. Two years later I married Carolyn (DiDi) Boyd. Together, we have four grandchildren. The oldest is a sophomore at MHS and is a JV Cheerleader. My oldest grandson is a freshman at Southeast High School; I had no success in getting him to go to Manatee - Sorry!

We reside in Tara Golf and Country Club and acquired a vacation home in Maggie Valley NC in 2006. We currently spend as much time as we can in the mountains and while there enjoy our favorite past time of remodeling the house! I am very happy to say it's almost finished!

## Biography of Robert “Bob” Hall



Bob Hall - married to Jeanne Nelson - 2 sons and 6 grandchildren. We have lived in Bradenton where I have owned numerous business and still am involved in real estate and an agricultural consulting business.

We traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and Canada in our motor home and have a second home on a lake in the mountains of Georgia where our kids and their families love to visit.



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Wedding



Grandkids on the lake

## Biography of Ann Harding Smith

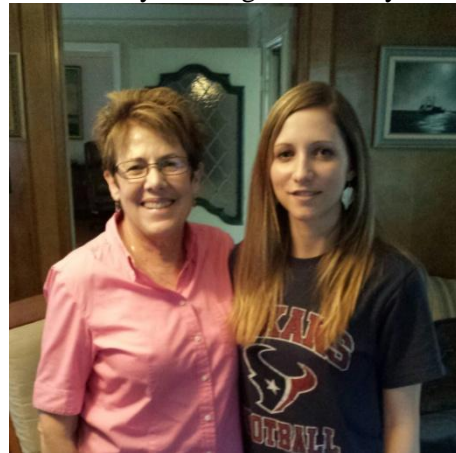


I moved to Houston, TX, after graduating from Manatee High School. I worked in various administrative assistant work for the next 43 years and being tired, I retired! I married late in life and had 11 of the best years of my life with my soul mate Dick. We had been best friends (without benefits) for 10 years before I finally realized I loved him. He was one patient man! I tragically lost him in 2001 and miss him every second of every day.

I have two step-sons and two step-grandsons plus a niece and two nephews. My brother Alex Schultz graduated from Manatee High School 10 years after I did. He now lives here as do his children and two grandchildren.

I have a full and busy life with my family and friends. Most of my spare time is spent with my pets, reading, and working for an animal rescue group. I've always been an animal lover and decided that that's what I wanted to do when I retired. It makes me very happy literally saving dogs and cats from sure death at shelters and finding them forever homes.

I wish everyone long and healthy lives.



Ann and a granddaughter

## Biography of George W. Hefner



After MHS graduation, I received a BA in Building Construction a U of F in 1968. I was commissioned into the USAF, and spent the next 5 1/2 years at an air base in Aviano, Italy, and a one year tour in Thailand from 73-74. Married in 1966, divorced in 1977.

In 1979, met and married Georgia Diane Dickson of Mesa, AZ with whom I celebrated our 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September, 2013. Resigned the Air Force in 1974, moved to Denver, and began my career in industrial and residential construction until 1988, when Denver was hit with an economic depression.

Moved to San Francisco Bay area in '88, and began a new career in building custom homes, computer clean rooms, etc. Was the Director of Facilities for the Pleasanton Unified School District 2003 to 2010. When the CA economy "tanked" the school shut down the Facilities Department.

We returned to Denver in 2011, and love our Roxborough Village home, amidst the Red Rocks of Roxborough State Park and Chatfield State Park with all the wild birds, black bears, deer and moose we occasionally see.

I am semi-retired doing projects around the house, and occasional remodel jobs for others.

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## Biographies of Elizabeth Heard & John Mallonee



Elizabeth Heard and John D. Mallonee married after college in August 1967 (46 years!)

Elizabeth taught high school English while John completed medical school at UF in 1971.

We moved to the Los Angeles area for John's internship and 2 years in the Air Force. Son, Brian, was born there in 1972. John's ophthalmology residency was at Bascom Palmer-University of Miami, and Sarah was born there in 1976.

We have lived in Fort Pierce, FL since 1977, where John is now the senior ophthalmologist in St. Lucie County.

Brian is a criminal defense attorney in Fort Pierce, and wife, Ashley, have two marvelous grandchildren: Briana, 10 and Jackson, one and a half. Sarah is chairperson of the English, Communications and Foreign Language Dept. at Indian River State College. She earned her Ph.D. from UF several years ago.

John continues to work 12-hour days and loves that. He also plays serious golf, and has taken some nice golf holidays.

Elizabeth taught high school English in Fort Pierce for 18 years and started the International Baccalaureate Program at Lincoln Park Academy. She has been working part-time at Indian River State College for 12 years now in the adult education department.

We support numerous scholarship and education grant programs, believing strongly that education is the most important hope for the world our precious grandchildren will inherit.

← John and Elizabeth Mallonee

## Biography of Jill Smith and Sam Hershfield



After graduating from MHS, we went our separate ways (just for 40 years); Jill to Salem College in Winston-Salem, NC and Sam to the University of Florida with classmates like George Hefner, Merrie Lynn Wang, Emily Benson, Duane Inman and several others.

Jill went on to University of Georgia, with MHS grads like Charles Willey and Judy Robson to name a few. There she got her degree in Finance and met her husband who was to become the father of her two children, Darren and Tracey (Now 39 and 35). Her summer interning at Manatee National Bank prepared her for a solid business career in Chicago at CNA Insurance and the global consulting company of Booz, Allen and Hamilton. She retired from her full time career after the birth of her son.

After Chicago she lived briefly in Wilton, Connecticut, where she had her daughter. Twelve years were spent in Upper Saddle River, NJ. where she added Executive Communication Seminars to her career for several years until the family relocated to The Woodlands, TX., north of Houston. Jill worked part time in Marketing for The Woodlands Operating Company. She was a Chi Omega at Georgia and has remained active to this day. She is also active in the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the secretary of our condominium board. Her son Darren married has given Jill two adorable grandchildren; Davis now five and Kate who's three.

Sam just squeaked by at U of F to earn his BS in Advertising and Communications. He was married while at Gainesville.



and had his daughter Anne Michelle (yes, she's named after the Beatle's song and is now 47). After graduation, he had several advertising jobs at a variety of global ad agencies he worked at in his career all over the country and world, advertising everything from Apple Computers to Pedigree Dog Food. After 40 years of working on both coasts and in between, he was given the opportunity to move to Singapore for a year. After a brief return to Los Angeles, had assignments in Beijing and Shanghai for another year. While Sam was in Singapore, and the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion was being planned, he connected back with Jill for the first time in almost four decades through Classmates.com. Their digital relationship quickly rekindled their original Bradenton love affair (they'd gone steady at MHS) After several more years of letters, email, phone calls and video conferencing, they vowed to get back together and live the rest of their lives together.

At the time, Sam was living in New York and Jill in Texas. Little did we know that we'd end up back in a place we couldn't wait to get away from when we were 18...Bradenton! We bought a condo in the city on the Manatee River, across from Pier22, walking distance to a vibrant revitalized downtown and riverfront. We now spend half of our year in Bradenton and half at our log cabin on a lake in Hendersonville in Western North Carolina.

Our last two years working as co-chair people on the 50 Year Reunion Committee helped us stay in touch and reconnect with so many of our Class of '63 friends in Bradenton and around the country. It made the task very rewarding for us.

## Biography of Janice Hilton LeBlanc

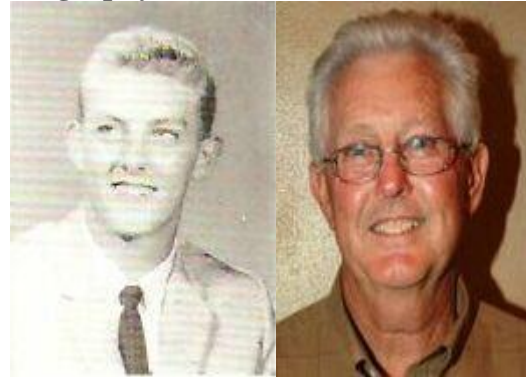


I was such a wall flower in high school. If I could go back, I'd change all that. After graduation, I attended college in Tennessee. I married the first guy who asked me, and we ended up in California, where I still reside.

I married again to a widower with two children, ages 11 and 7. I adopted the children a few years after we were married. These two are now 48 and 44. We had two children of our own, now 32 and 30. We divorced after 23 years together. I remarried in 2003 and am living happily in Lake Arrowhead, CA.

My kids are my life. The oldest works as a legal secretary in a law firm, but music is his passion. He sings in the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles and also is part of a quartet. The next is a physician – pediatrics and internal medicine. She has given me my only grandchild, a girl, now 12. The third (my biological first) is currently living with me and is recovering from a severe traumatic brain injury she suffered when she fell from her horse in 2007. She is making a remarkable recovery and we are expecting her to recover sufficiently to drive and work again. We call her our "miracle." The fourth is now a pilot/mechanic for Mission Aviation Fellowship and is based in Lesotho, Africa. He married in May 2013. Somewhere along the line I went back to college and finished my Masters in Social Welfare and worked a variety of jobs in the health care field, mental health, and now doing mediation in the supervisor in designing a restorative justice program for the delinquency court, which is exciting and promising.

## Biography of Thomas Huffine



Since graduating from Manatee High School I've had a good and busy life.

I have been remarried now for 11 years with five children between us – two for me and 3 boys for her.

We now have 13 grandchildren.

## Biography of Kay Hutchins Hillcher



I married Harold Hillcher in 1968. We both graduated from Florida Atlantic in 1969 and moved to St. Pete where Harold taught school and I worked in a dental office.

In 1972, our first child, Hal, was born, Harold quit teaching and went into the boat and motor business, and I joined a friend and enrolled in the RN program at St. Pete Jr. College. I worked in a hospital for a couple of years, until our second child, Heather was born in 1976. We moved to the suburbs of St. Pete, and I became a soccer mom. In 1978, my mother and I opened a retail dollhouse and miniatures craft shop which was quite successful. When she passed away we sold the business and built a weekend house in Lake Panasoffkee, halfway between Tampa and Gainesville. We moved there permanently in 1985. I was substitute teaching in my kids' schools in 1987, and started teaching full time in 1988. In the 90's I got a Master's in Educational Media at UCF. When Heather graduated high school we moved to Cocoa Beach. I worked as a media specialist for the next 18 years.

I retired in 2012 - love it! Harold is retiring Jan 1, 2014. We plan to sell our house, find a new home for the dog and sail away on our 47 ft motor yacht for as long as our health will allow.



## Biography of Duane Inman



In June 1963, I had not the slightest clue I would be spending most of my working life in a classroom, but that is exactly what happened.

My first job was at a Walker Junior High the last year before it became MHS south campus. My jobs in Manatee County included Bradenton Middle School, Saint Stephens, then MHS - all as a science teacher. I was also an adjunct instructor at MJC in the evenings.

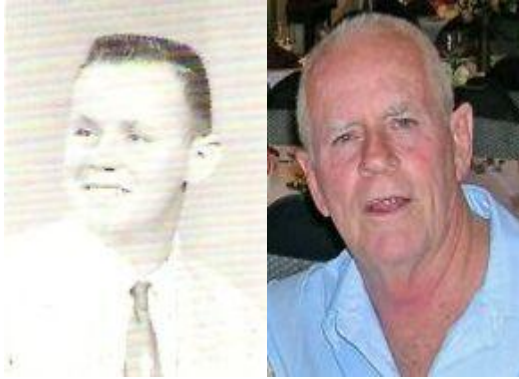
During these years I married and my two sons were born. A bit more schooling and I became an accountant (!) for a few years. Back to the classroom teaching, then back to school (single by now). I got my PhD from USF where I met my wife, Leslie, in 1984. We have been together ever since. We work together and have published several books and often collaborate on professional presentations mainly concerning infusing technology into the classroom.

Jobs have led us around the South with ten years in Ruston and Natchitoches, LA, two years in Memphis, TN, a year in Magnolia, AR, and 13 years in Rome, GA where we now work as professors at Berry College.

Retirement? Someday perhaps, but I am still enjoying all of my classes and most of my academic chores. One day it may cease to be fun, then I will consider retirement.

Yes, I still play with cameras and cars! I am a performance driving instructor for Porsche, BMW and Audi clubs, which gives me plenty of track time with my own track toy. The cameras get their workouts on frequent trips - especially in the southwestern U.S. However, I really enjoy the Caribbean islands... Perhaps when retirement becomes a reality, that may be where we can be found

## Biography of Bobby Joe Jones



I married my soul mate, Stella, in 1965. We have two sons, Mike and Brad. My present work requires much travel, so I regret I missed our 50th reunion.

After high school I worked for a short time as a commercial fisherman, then spent 33 years+ at Tropicana Products. I had further training and schooling and got my RCM Practitioners license (Reliability Centered Maintenance) facilitator.

I have been doing consulting work for the last 8 years, and have done projects for the USMC, NASA and many private organizations. I am presently doing a project for NASA, Goldstone Deep Space Communication Complex, just outside of Barstow, CA.

Some MHS memories:

The boring: For one whole quarter in Mrs. Parrish's English class, we did nothing but diagram sentences from any source she could find. I have yet, when writing an executive summary or report, had to diagram sentences.

The unusual: In Mr. Higgins chemistry class, David Mitchell and I were teamed together on a project to make chlorine gas. We put the apparatus together and started heating the powder we were given. We watched as a pretty yellowish-green smoke started filling the tubes and proceeded out the end of the tubes. It filled the room with chlorine gas. they had to evacuate the room AND the entire corridor of rooms. We had forgotten to put water in one of the flasks to contain the chlorine. Mr. Higgins gave us an "F" on the project. I don't know why. The project was to make chlorine gas not contain it.

May God Bless you all, Bobby



## Biography of Jerry W Jones and Claire (Weiss) Jones



We have enjoyed 50 wonderful years together since high school. We started dating in our senior year and the prom was special for us. We went to Manatee Junior College (now State College of Florida). We were married on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1965 at West Bradenton Baptist Church where we are still members.

After college, Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, stationed at Quantico, Virginia. While there, we explored the many historic places around Washington, D.C. After leaving the USMC, we returned to Bradenton. Jerry went to work for the Florida Power & Light Co. He worked for 40 years in Distribution Engineering and retired in 2009.

We are blessed with a son, Erik and a daughter, Jennifer who both graduated from Manatee High. While they were growing up, we had lots of fun going to the beach, camping, boating, hunting and traveling across the country. Our son and daughter-in-law live in Bradenton with our 2 granddaughters who go to MHS. Our daughter and son-in-law live in Charlotte, North Carolina with our other 2 granddaughters.

In retirement, we like the beach, fishing, boating, hunting and traveling. We have lots of fun with our granddaughters. We feel so blessed to have a wonderful family and live in Bradenton. We are looking forward to the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.



## Biography of Nilofur (Kahn) Muhammed-Ally



I was thrilled that I could finally connect with my buddies at Manatee. It was a very memorable year - the memories of which I will always cherish. I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the reunion but its very touching that you all remember me and care.

Here is a brief synopsis of my life after Manatee.

I went back and did my under graduate which is a Bachelor degree. Worked for a couple of years, met my husband, Baqi, and got married in 1968. Had a wonderful life and travelled a lot.

My first baby I lost when she was 5 months old, heart wrenching experience but was blessed with three more kids - eldest a boy, Shan, who is a Managing Director at UBS in New York. The elder daughter, Sahr, is a lawyer works as a senior legal advisor for Center for Civilian in Conflict in New York, but is also traveling all over war ravaged countries like Afghanistan, Syria Gaza and other dangerous places.

The second daughter, Nur, is also a lawyer works for the Justice Department, Government Of Canada.

I am really blessed with good caring children. I Have four grand children, two boys and two girls. Both my parents passed away early in my life.

Once the children were older I started interior design business in Karachi Pakistan. Had done a course in interior design. My business was very successful. I enjoyed it and made good money. It was called Limelight. I am

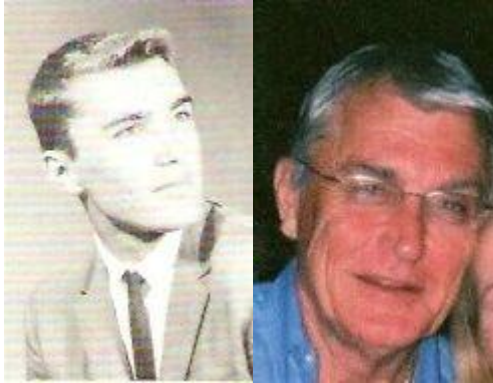
a big Foodie - love to cook and create new recipes.

Once the kids went to universities in the US, we decided to move West. In 1991 we migrated to Canada and have been living in Toronto since. I Worked here as an interior designer for 12 years, and used to travel to North Carolina every year. Before that dabbled in few other things - did counseling for abused women at the Distress Center.

Now here I am retired, enjoying our grand children with my husband. I would love to meet up with my buddies some day. I visit NYC at least three times a year. Best to all!



## Biography of Richard Kermode



After graduation I both attended MCC and University of New Mexico, then enlisted in the U S Army. I returned to U of F and graduated with a BS in Building Construction in 1969.

While at Florida I met, and later married Mary Helen Pelot from the Pelot family who were some of the original settlers in Manatee County and still manage Pelot's Pharmacy. We were actually married in the Bahamas while I was working on a construction project at Treasure Cay on Abaco. Upon returning to the U.S. we lived at Palmetto Point, then Terra Ceia Island.

Our three (3) children, Brett, Robin, and Bridgett were born between 1970 - 1975.

In 1979 I was assigned as Project Manager on the new Seven Mile Bridge in the Fla. keys. We moved to Little Torch Key and lived there until 1982. We moved back to Terra Ceia and built a new home where we currently live.

In 1995 I was part owner in the company I had worked for since graduating from college (Misener Marine Const. Inc.) and was involved in the sale of that company to a large Dutch International Construction Company.

After that I worked for American Bridge Company out of Pittsburgh, back to the Bahamas to manage the construction of Disney's Castaway Cay project which is their out island cruise ship stop.

We returned in 1998, and from then until retirement in 2012 I was Sr. V.P. and ran all of American Bridge's marine projects in the South East U.S., Caribbean as well as Central and South America.

Our children are all married. Brett and Laurie, live near us in Terra Ceia. Bridgett and

husband Matt live in Orlando, and Robin and his wife Kim live in Gainesville Ga.

We now have seven grandchildren. Julia (12) and twins, Luc and Lia (2) by Bridgett and Matt. Josh (7) and Emily (3) by Robin and Kim and Hunter (8) and Macy (4) by Brett and Laurie.

My hobbies have always been hunting and fishing which my wife and family enjoy with me. Even before we lived in the Keys we went annually to catch lobster and spear fish. The times we lived in the Bahamas only added to these memories. We have many long time friends in Abaco and usually dive with them at least once a year. I have fished for fun and in billfish tournaments and dove in most areas of the Caribbean while we were engaged in projects in those regions.

I started hunting more seriously in the mid 90's and since then have hunted in most areas of the US for most North American game. I still have Alaska and Africa on my bucket list and will see how that works out.

All in all it has been a hoot. I married the right women, had three (3) great kids, and now seven (7) grandkids, and had a career that was rewarding, challenging, and took me to many interesting places. However, we have always considered the Manatee County area our home.

I don't really credit much of the events of the last 50 years to MHS because I never really got too excited about high school, only that it provided a chance for doing crazy things and having a lot of fun. I got my wake up call in the Army and got my act together once I got out.

Hard to believe that it has been 50 years.



## Biography of Jean Marie Kieft Harris



After graduation my family moved to Houston, Texas. I immediately started working as a secretary, for Milchem, INC. (a petrochemical company) and worked for them for nine years. I met my husband, Robert Harris, and married in 1965.

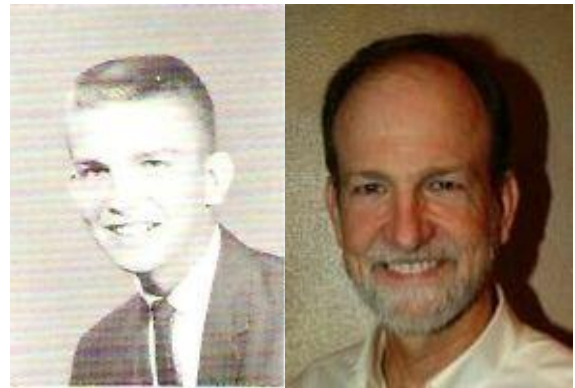
Our first child Laura, was born in 1972. I enjoyed being a stay-at-home Mom since then. Our son, Jason, was born in 1976. Life was busy with Girl Scouts (I was the troop leader), church choir, several bridge clubs, PTO board member, homeroom chairman for both children's classes, basketball, swim team, etc. It was a fun and wonderful time.

We have always loved to travel and our family went on trips all over the U.S. each year. Our daughter and her husband have a son and daughter and live only a few homes away from us - what a blessing! Our son and his wife and three boys activities and very happy.

My husband retired a few years ago and we have enjoyed traveling and just relaxing and enjoying life.

Hello to all the class of '63!!!

## Biography of Richard Kindred



I first attended Davidson College and then Florida Southern College, graduating in 1967. I then spent a year at Harvard Divinity School, at the end of which I got married and began studying psychology at Brandeis University. In 1973, by which time we had two sons, I took a job in the Psychology Department at Stetson University, where I remained until I retired last May. My wife taught in the Stetson School of Music. We divorced in 1980, and I was single for ten years.

My present wife, Lloyd Linney, who already had a son and daughter, also taught in the School of Music. We now have six grandchildren, the most recent being twin girls born to my stepdaughter about two weeks ago. I played a lot of volleyball for about twenty-five years and then began playing tennis regularly about ten years ago.

Now that I have the opportunity, I'm planning to get together more with friends, including, I hope, stopping by one evening to help Sam and Jill feed the fish and ducks at their place in Hendersonville.

## Biography of Joe Kinnan



After graduating from Manatee High School in 1963, I attended Duke University on a football scholarship. Later transferred to Florida State University where I started for two years on the football team. I received a bachelors and masters degree from FSU in education.

I became a football coach and my coaching career included positions at four universities: Florida State, Arkansas, Southern Illinois, and Eastern Kentucky. In 1981 I returned to his alma mater, Manatee High, as head football coach and athletic director. I have been the head football coach there except for 2001-2005 when I was the Chief Operating Officer for the Police Athletic League and Charter Schools of Manatee County.

During my twenty-eight seasons coaching football at Manatee HS, my teams have compiled a 280-70 record and won five state championships.

Some of the many honors bestowed on me as Coach include the following:

- 1) One of twelve coaches selected for the FHSAA All-Century football team
- 2) Inducted into the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame
- 3) Florida Football Coach of the Year
- 4) Head football coach of the Florida-Georgia All Star Game

## Biography of Richard Kolinski



After graduating from Manatee High, Richard attended college and earned a degree in Engineering.

After serving in the military - Viet Nam and Cuba - and graduate school at Eastern Kentucky, Richard joined IBM, and is now retired as a mechanical engineer

He is married, and his two daughters and two grandchildren live nearby.

## Biography of Robert 'Bobby' Lawton



After college I went to work with Ray Turner in South Carolina. I Left in 1980 and bought a business in north Alabama, which I sold five years later. After that, I owned and ran two Fat Boys BBQ in Leesburg and Brooksville. I also started Aqua Supply, LLC here in Bradenton. I sold both restaurants in the mid 80's, and ran Aqua Supply until 2012. I did state contract work with Bob Haase in Sarasota, and sold my interest in 2008. Today I am retired. My advice to anyone is "timing." It beats brains, talent, money, or skill. I had the good fortune to be blessed with good timing throughout my business career.... Or as the song at the Teen Club used to say... 'ticka, ticka, ticka good timing'.

I am blessed with my wife, Trisha, with whom I have enjoyed eight years together so far. She has four grandchildren, the youngest just eight months. I have been a licensed lay reader and chalice bearer at Christ Episcopal Church since 1972. We travel home to the low country of South Carolina often, and we enjoy good friends and neighbors here in Tanglewood in Bradenton, but otherwise prefer a low-key life style.



## Biography of Leslie Martin Eckert



I was born in Shively (Louisville) KY.. Our family moved to Bradenton in '52. I went to both Ballard and Jessie P Miller, Walker Jr. High and good old Manatee High. I married Allan Lippert, in 1964. I attended both Thomas Nelson Community College and Manatee Community College. My husband was in the military and we were stationed in several different states. In 1970 I remarried and lived in Ohio. I divorced and came back to Bradenton in 1977. I married my husband, Mike Eckert 35 years ago, in 1978.

I had a variety of jobs over the years, and when I married Mike, I worked for his roofing company as their 'Girl Friday'. I am most proud, however of helping raise my two step daughters, Michelle & Melody Eckert, from the ages 10 & 11 years old. I also helped build two homes, the first in Palmetto and the second, in which we've lived for over 31 years here in East Bradenton. When I say I 'helped' I mean I physically aided putting up the walls, the windows, doors, lifted trusses, sheeted in the roof, helped hot-mop the back deck, and of course, paint.

I walk 2 miles almost every day, have a coffee group I meet with 3 days a week, like to sew/quilt, and grow my own plants. I also like trips, camping out & riding our motorcycle all around the Blue Ridge & the Smoky Mt. areas, but I'd like to say that I'm living right where I want to stay, on our great 2 & 1/2 acres, right here in beautiful East Bradenton, Florida.

You can see some of my quilting work below.



Living dangerously, but having fun!

## Biography of Barbara May Leonard



After graduating from Manatee High, I went to Manatee Junior College. In the summer of 1964, my entire family moved to Tallahassee where I've lived for most of the remaining years. I graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Psychology. I have worked for the State of Florida and several state agencies during my career. Most of that time was with the Department of State where I served as Bureau Chief for Budget and Finance until my retirement in December 2012.

My husband Frank and I have enjoyed traveling extensively. We spent two weeks in Brazil where we attended the wedding of friends in Rio de Janeiro, then visited Iguazu Falls and an area of Brazil called the Pantanal. Other trips have included Holland, Switzerland, France, Costa Rica and most recently Norway.

I'm very active in our church where I sing in the choir and serve on the foreign missions team. Our team travels to Guatemala each year to work with a mission group in providing medical and dental services to the Mayan Indians. We also help construct housing for some of the families.

For my fiftieth birthday, I took a hot air balloon ride which was so exciting we signed on as crew members for one of the hot air balloon pilots in Tallahassee. We spent several years working with them and attending festivals around the country. The highlight was participating in the International Hot Air Balloon Festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

My husband and I both enjoy bird watching, bicycle riding and spending time with family and friends.

## Biography of Arden Mellott



After my 4 years in the U.S. Navy I married the girl I took to Junior Prom. She was a 1965 graduate of Riverview High, Sarasota.

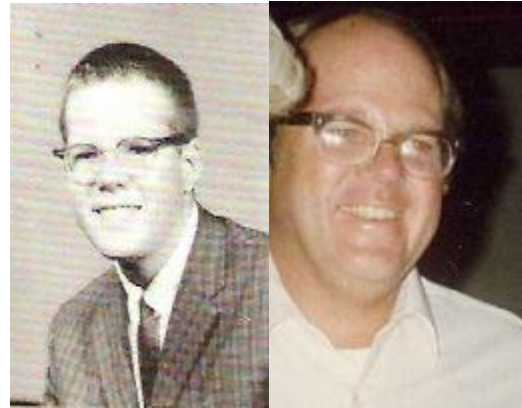
We settled in Sarasota where I worked with Xerox Corporation as an Operations Technical Specialist for 14 years. I left the corporate world to try my hand at owning my own business. For three years I raised bees and sold the honey they produced. It was interesting and rewarding.

In 1987 we moved from Florida to the mountains of Franklin, NC where I eventually got my contractor's license and had my own construction company.

Carol and I have two grown children. Our son resides in Branson, Missouri, he is in retail. He has three step daughters Our daughter lives here in Franklin. She and her husband now own a combination construction-mold restoration business. They also home school their six children.

Carole and I have enjoyed remarkable good health despite my five strokes. We retired in 2007, and in 2008 took a marvelous six week vacation touring the American West. Our travels since have been limited due to the health of Carole's mother who also resides in Franklin. We love retirement and wonder how we ever found time to go to work! We are blessed to have been happily married for forty-five years

## Biography of David Mitchell



After high school, I graduated from Amherst College, Massachusetts, then Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago. After law school, I have lived continuously in Sarasota.

I have been with two law firms in Sarasota: Partner, Harkavy, Mitchell and Stewart(1970-2001) and Of Counsel to Dunlap and Moran,PA (2001 to present), primarily now doing estate planning and real estate.

In 1971, I married Susan Page who sadly passed away in 2001. We had a daughter and son, both married with children. Happily, I remarried in 2003 to Susan Kuhlman who has a son. Between us, we are blessed with six grandchildren.

In addition to work and family time, I have been involved with several local civic and charitable organizations. Over the years, I have been president or chairperson of Sarasota Jaycees, Sarasota Amherst Alumni Association, Plymouth Harbor Retirement Center, Planned Parenthood of Southwest Florida, Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation, First Congregational United Church of Christ of Sarasota and my homeowner association.

Recreational interests are most sports, especially golf and tennis, travel, mountains and reading. I have been fortunate to travel in all fifty states, Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica. While in college, I did some backpacking and mountain climbing in the Cascade Mountains of Washington and Oregon and the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, making it to the tops of Mt. Whitney, Mt. Shasta, Mt. Hood, and Mt. Rainier, among others.



## Biography of David Pierce Moore



My family moved to Bradenton, Fl. In 1957. I attended Jessie P. Miller Elementary, Walker Junior High and Manatee High. After graduation I joined the US Navy, and after training I was assigned to Attack Squadron 56 at Lemore NAS, CA. Deployed on the Aircraft Carrier *USS Ticonderoga* (CVA-14) on a Western Pacific Cruise. I spent a good part of my service actively involved in the Viet Nam War. After leaving the Navy in 1966, I decided to join the US Air force in 1967 as a Jet Engine Technician. I ended up back in Vietnam in 1968 - Just in time for the Tiet Offensive. I then transferred to the 35<sup>th</sup> TAC Fighter Wing at Phang Rang AB following retraining on the J57-P21 engine in the F-100 Aircraft. I took over as NCOIC of Night Shift Test Cell Operations. Following my year tour in Viet Nam I was awarded the Air Force Commendation Metal and promoted to Staff Sergeant (E-5) for my service there. In March of 1969 I had a 30-day leave. On April 5th I met a wonderful woman, Donna Marie Eichler, during a skydiving meet at Zephyr Hills, FL. After a whirlwind courtship we eloped to Dothan, AL. on April 16, 1969. The next day I was ordered to Tyndall AFB, FL.

In May 1972 we were blessed with Kimberly Janon Moore. We were shocked when she died 10 days later of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

After various assignments and locations, we transferred to Tyndall AFB, Florida again in 1978, where we built our home - A wonderful waterfront lot with lots of trees, where lived for 20 years. Later that year we were again blessed with a daughter, Angela Janon Moore.

In August 1986, I retired from the USAF and received the Meritorious Service Medal for

my performance. I was hired as Data Processing Manager at Tyndall Air Force Base Federal Credit Union. The transition from the military to banking was intense but very successful. In 1992, I was promoted to Vice President of Information Systems and resigned in May of 1996. Later in 1996, I was awarded my U.S. Merchant Marine Officer License as Master of Near Coastal Steam Or Motor Vessels of not more than-25-Gross Tons. I terminated my license in 2001 due to physical problems.

We sold our Panama City Home in August 1997, and moved to our farm in Flag Pond, Tn. Over the next five years I struggled with severe back pain and PTSD. In 2003 I was awarded total disability from the Veterans Administration and Social Security retroactive to 1996. My daughter, her husband and our grandson live down the street from us here in Flag Pond, Tn. We developed a 17 acre U-Pick fruit farm called "Heavenly Holler Farm" in 2001 and have enjoyed the Blue Ridge Mountains in the summer and RV'ing in the winter. We have been visited by thousands of people located in 40 states and 10 foreign countries .



**Biography of James 'Jim' Morrison**



Jim has three sons – Anthony, BenWayne, and Norman, as well as one daughter, Norma.

After High School, Jim served four years in the Navy.

Jim, Marianne, son Anthony presently live in Myakka City on their farm. They have several cows and hay bales. Selling hay bales is a side business for Jim.

He also owns J.M. Gun Repair.



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**Biography of Linda Mulholland Turley**



Following high school I received my degree as a registered nurse, and remained in Bradenton. I married and was blessed with two daughters, Kathleen and Kristine.

After a divorce in 1976, I worked in multiple areas of healthcare, including surgical and home health nursing, medical sales, marketing and management.

In 1990 I married Stewart Turley and gained two daughters, Carol and Karen. We moved to Clearwater and I retired from active nursing.

Stew and I have had and continue to have a full and happy life together. We've been able to travel all over the world and still hope to visit a few more far away places.

I love spending time with our daughters and watching our eight grandchildren mature. It continues to be one of our favorite pastimes. We still live in Clearwater and part time in Beaver Creek, Colorado where we especially enjoy the summer.

Has it really been 50 years? AMAZING!!!!



Family Christmas 2011

← Stewart and Linda

## Biography of Bobbie Nelson Damiano



50 years already? After high school I graduated from MJC, and then U of F, where I met my husband Dennis. I got a B.A. in Sociology in 1967 and married in 1969. We moved to L.A. and eventually had two wonderful daughters.

I worked as a Vocational rehabilitation Counselor while in Florida, and sold Worker's Compensation in California.

I've done some teaching and have a TESL certificate (teaching English as a second language) from U.C. Santa Barbara.

At age 50, I became a flight Attendant for United Airlines, fulfilling a high school dream. I loved it, and retired after 10 years.

Dennis and I now enjoy the travel benefits very much, but most of all I enjoy my wonderful family, who all live nearby. We have three grandchildren, a great son-in-law, and even nieces and nephews and their children in California and Florida.

Our life is very good.



## Biography of Vern Oblisk



During my senior year I worked at the Bradenton Herald in the circulation department. After graduation I switched to the advertising department. In 1966 I joined the Air Force and was sent off to Walker Air Force Base in Roswell New Mexico the site of the 1949 alien crash. After being deployed to Viet Nam I served the remaining time at Eglin Air Force Base in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

After receiving a 69 day early out I went to work at Miller Trailers in the stockroom for a very few months. In mid 1970 I went to work for the State of Florida in Walter Talley's Public Defenders office as an investigator. I was responsible for all the Public Defender cases in Sarasota County and half of the cases in DeSoto County. After not supporting either candidate in the Public Defender race I lost that job in December of 1972.

In January 1973 I opened up Vern Oblisk Bail Bonds in Bradenton. I sold the business to Jim Fowler in 1980 and moved to Ft. Lauderdale to help a friend close his bail bond business. After closing the business in 1983, I did nothing but bounty hunt for 2 years. After bringing back a fugitive from Jamaica, a company in Georgia offered me a job writing bonds and hunting folks so off to Atlanta I went.

I stayed there for five years and then went to work for Macy's as a store engineer. Fancy word for maintenance man, where I met my current wife, Irene.

We moved back to Palmetto in 1995 and married in 1997. In 2000 I opened Port Manatee Bail Bonds and retired from the day-to-day business in 2007. I sold the business in 2010 and moved to Spring Hill, Florida.

Irene and I enjoy vacationing each October at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island Michigan where they have a "Somewhere in Time" weekend. The movie starring Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour was filmed there in 1979. We dress in 1912 costume all weekend and have been featured on WGN television advertisements for the movie.

Today I spend my time restoring and maintaining classic cars and hanging out with one of my best friends Tommy Mara of the Crests singing group.

Pictured below we are standing on the porch of the Grand Hotel with our replica clothes from the movie.



## Biography of Beacham Owen



Born in Lynchburg, Virginia, artist Beacham first learned the ins and outs of painting, printing, and publishing from his parents, both well known artists. During the 70's, Beacham worked as a successful illustrator, art director and publisher in Florida and Southern California. Always the consummate "motorhead," he would doodle and draw cars and motorcycles for fun. His dream was always to introduce motorsports full time into his career.

In the early 80's, he began professionally painting and illustrating high-action motorsports scenes. His work has been seen in *AutoWeek*, *Cycle World*, *Motorcyclist*, *Racer*, *Road & Track*, *Roadracing World* and *Sport Rider* magazines. He also appeared twice on *Late-Night with David Letterman*.

In 1996, Beacham was commissioned by Miller Brewing Company's South Pacific distributor to paint Bobby Rahal in his MGD champ car to celebrate his finish in the Australian race. The artist has since painted the top racers in Formula One, CART, Moto GP, World Superbike and the Isle of Man TT. He also paints vintage street scenes and modern sport-touring motorcycle scenes that are very popular.

Beacham and his wife, German-born artist Birgit Friedrich Owen, now reside in Southern California where he has had a world renown art studio.

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

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

"World's Number 1 Seller of Motorsports Art"

## Biography of Charles Phillips



Here is how I got to Washington State...

One of the many places I was stationed was Fairchild AFB in Spokane, WA. I met and married my wonderful wife, Terri, there and not only did I fall in love with her, but I fell in love with Washington state so here I am...

## Biography of Diane Provost



I am a Licensed Marriage, Family & Child Therapist in California and have practiced in California, since 1982. I graduated from San Jose State University in Clinical Psychology, in 1976. I received my MA degree from Santa Clara University, in 1980.

I have worked in both residential clinical settings and in private practice, focusing on children, adolescents and family therapy. I was also employed by United Airlines, in their Inflight Services Department, for a number of years.

I have one grown son, Cameron Greene, who resides in Stephens City, Virginia. Currently,

I have the time to enjoy the outdoors and am fortunate to live very close to Yosemite National Park, where I enjoy their programs, year round. I am also an active volunteer within my community and work locally to support Habitat for Humanity and other local community non profits. I value community service, patience and simple kindness, in all things.

## Biography of Barbara Rundo Hayden



Where have the years gone? I married fellow classmate Cliff Hayden in 1965. After 4 years as an Air Force wife we settled in Tallahassee and then in Brandon where I still reside.

At age 35 I found myself to be a single mom of three. I then became a licensed optician and worked for almost 30 years for a private doctor here in Brandon.

I retired in 2009 and now enjoy my family including 8 grandchildren and traveling. My biggest adventure so far was in June of this year (2013) when I went on safari to Tanzania, Africa with my sister and a few friends.

## Biography of Daryl Schrader



I am married to Jayne Schrader. We have one daughter - Christy.

Worked at St. Petersburg College since 1977 - where I taught Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics and Karate. Earned Full Professor there and later was given Professor Emeritus in 2011, after I retired. Currently teaching there as an adjunct. Designated Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar in 2003.

Adjunct Professor in Mathematics and Astronomy at various campuses of the University of South Florida since 1971.

I have written a popular monthly Astronomy Column for the Tampa Bay Times newspaper since 1990, and have given well over 300 lectures and events over the years. The largest event was a Halley Comet Watch in 1986 with over 20,000 attending.

Designated in Who's Who Among Teachers, Who's Who in America, Sigma Pi Sigma, Distinguished Alumni among others.

Began studying Martial Arts in 1963. Awarded 9th degree black belt (Hanshi) in Karate and 5th degree black belt in Aikido. Presently teaching Aikido, with my daughter, in Sarasota.



With Daughter, Christy Me&Jayne -  
in our younger days

## Biography of Gary D. Sinkler



Following graduation I enlisted in the US Marine Corps with Mike Fite and Bob Bever. We went to Boot Camp at Paris Island, SC.

Different orders separated us, mine including a tour of duty in Viet Nam before leaving the military in 1967.

I married a 1966 Manatee graduate, Anita Hayden - we have been married 47 years and have two daughters and three grandchildren.

We have lived most of these years in Florida where I worked in several fields, retiring three years ago from a Tampa HVAC company.

Our Christian faith has been challenged and strengthened by surviving major heart surgeries and health issues.

We are finding retirement is the sweetest time of all! We live in a beautiful golf course community and love the freedom to travel, enjoy our lives, family and friends.



Our Wedding Day



Marine Corps Graduation

## Biography of John Slate



I graduated Cum Laude from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University with a bachelor's of science in Professional Aeronautics and a double minor in Aerospace Aviation Safety and Business Administration. I have over fifty years of flight experience as a commercial pilot and Advance Instrument Ground Instructor.

I retired after 27 years of special service to the US Government in-country and overseas. In 2000 I received an appointment as an FAA Aviation Safety Counselor, and in 2002 received a Certificate of Commendation and the Top Crew Member Award for exceptional contributions to aviation safety and education from the FAA.

Currently, I am an instructor in the air traffic and professional pilot programs at the Aviation Center of Excellence, Cecil Campus and is an Enrollment Development Coordinator for Florida State College at Jacksonville



## Biography of Sandy Smith Lewis



On July 6, 1963 I married Jerry Lewis, a Union Plumber and Pipe fitter. We lived in Sarasota. We had two children, Karl James and Kim Louise. We moved to the country in east Sarasota in 1965.

Jerry remodeled our two bedroom, one bath house into a four bedroom, three bath home. He traveled off and on for about twenty years, keeping busy plumbing and pipe fitting - even working on the Alaska oil pipe line, building a city in Saudi Arabia and working in the Virgin Islands.

I stayed busy raising kids, tending to horses, cows, pigs, chickens, a vegetable garden, flowers and landscaping. I did a little oil painting when the kids were young, but I liked to be more active so my artistic talent went into my yard and home. Jerry and I love to hunt and fish so when he wasn't plumbing our family went to the Everglades, Fisheating Creek, Gulf Hammock and Lake Okeechobee. We moved to Arcadia in 1979. Jerry built us another beautiful home. I was still busy with home, landscaping and farm animals.

In 1984, Jerry started his own plumbing business, Alert Plumbing. The kids and I got involved in fossil and artifact hunting in 1995. I had loved to hunt for arrowheads when I was a kid but fossil hunting was something new. I had to learn to scuba dive! We hunt the Suwannee River, Santa Fe River, Peace River and a private creek nearby where I found the remains of two Mammoths. I was hooked!!

We ventured out to the panhandle of Nebraska to hunt the badlands for 40 million year old critters. We did that for about 10

years. Karl and Kim each have a home on our property. With the three of us, we have a collection of fossils and artifacts. We welcome visitors. But bring lunch.....it's about a four-hour tour.

Besides fishing, hunting, fossil and artifact hunting, gardening and landscaping I've recently started a butterfly garden. I really enjoy taking photos of the beautiful butterflies and moths that come to it.

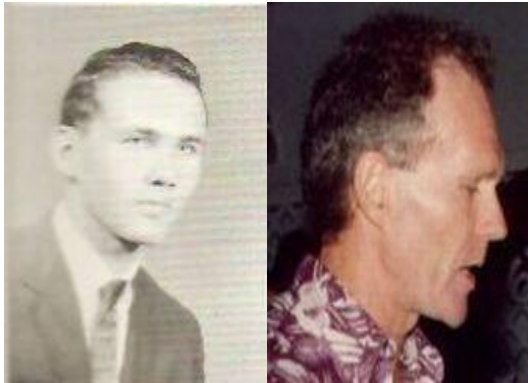
Our daughter, Kim, is Lieutenant at the Desoto County Sheriff's Office in Arcadia. Her husband, Jason, is a Deputy Sheriff as well. Our son, Karl, is a Desoto County Fireman/EMT and owner of Alert Plumbing since Jerry retired. His wife, Jenna, helps him with the plumbing business. I'm very proud of them. No grand kids but that's O K. Along with the five dogs and seven cats, Jerry and his sweet sister, Gloria, who has come to live with us, I've got a lot of "taking care" to do. But sometimes I like to sit in the swing in the butterfly garden.

I sounds like it has always been roses and butterflies. However, like everyone else we had our rough times but we made it through. I thank God for that. Life is good!!

For fossil info contact me at 863-494-6654 also see [paleoflorida.com](http://paleoflorida.com)



## Biography of Gary Trapp

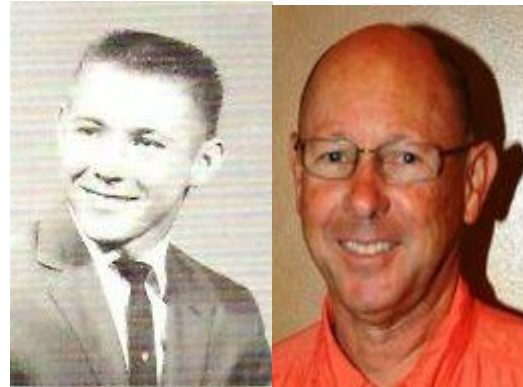


After graduating from Manatee High I attended the University of South Florida. After graduating from USF I opened my own CPA practice in Bradenton and have been doing so for 40+ years.

I stay active in competitions in tennis, earning #1 ranking in Florida for every age group from 35-60.

I am divorced, with three children and seven grandchildren.

## Biography of Cliff Threkeld



After graduation I attended Eckerd College on a baseball scholarship. In my Junior year I transferred to USF where I graduated in 1967. I married my wife of 45 years after graduating from USF and joined the Navy where I trained to be a pilot flying A4 and A7E aircraft. I served in Vietnam and in the Mediterranean and became a jet flight instructor.

I later attended Medical School on a military scholarship and did my residency in Hematopathology. In 1997, after 23 moves, I retired from the military and joined a pathology practice in central Florida. I am currently practicing at Heart of Florida Regional Medical Center.

I have three children and 5 grandchildren. In my spare time I am the volunteer medical director of an indigent medical clinic in Winter Haven. I am involved in long distance cycling and snow skiing and spend as much time in Saint Simons Island, Georgia, as my schedule allows.

## Biography of Mary Alice Treat Swope



Young lady is our granddaughter, Avery Swope and the young man is our grandson, Robin Swope.

After MHS graduation, I received degrees from Manatee Jr. College, FSU, George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, TN, and SUNY Buffalo. All that studying opened two doors for me. In MUSIC, I taught (orchestra; private cello) and performed cello (from Florida Gulf Coast Symphony to Gainesville (GA) Symphony and several chamber music ensembles). In LIBRARIANSHIP, I held music library jobs at Tampa Public Library, San Jose State University, and Southeastern Library Network (Atlanta). Today I volunteer with a food pantry and a program for homeless families.



Bella Musica Group (now retired)

Married Thomas Lamar Rhea in 1967, divorced in 1974. My second, and lasting, marriage was to Al Swope in 1982. He has two children and I also claim our three wonderful grandchildren. We are blessed with good health and have enjoyed 31 years of richly rewarding marriage. We've especially enjoyed travelling by motorcycle, RV, hiking, and touring. We worship together at Oakwood 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church.

I give praise and gratitude to Almighty God for His loving patience, forgiveness, and provision in my life, beginning with having Fred and Mary Treat adopt me in the first hour of my life. Their foundational love still carries me today.



Me and Al

## Biography of Janet Troxel Tracy



Right after graduation I moved to Jacksonville as my Dad had been called back to active duty with the U.S. Navy and he and my Mom were already living in that area near NAS Jacksonville.

I graduated from business school in Jacksonville, and while attending school met Jim Tracy. We married in 1964, and became parents to two wonderful sons, Christopher in 1967 and Sean in 1970.

In 1981 we moved to the Tampa area, where I graduated from the nursing program at St. Petersburg Junior College. In 1985 we moved to Plantation, FL where the boys did their college stints. I became a perioperative nurse and specialized in open heart surgery at Broward General Medical Center. In 1993, Jim had an opportunity to help start a company in Delaware, so, away we went. The boys, however, stayed with their feet planted squarely in the sand!!!!

In 1998 we moved to the Dallas Metroplex. With that move, save for a short stint at a small rural hospital, I put my nursing on the back burner and started quilting. In 2003, we made a huge move back to the northeast and settled in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. To our dismay the company that brought us north acquired another company after we had been there six months and was relocating to Chicago. My exact words to Jim were "do you know how long it stays cold in Chicago?????" Anyway, he went to a company on Long Island in 2004, and we are now preparing to move back to Florida!

We now have a darling, grandson, Michael Alexander, who is the light of the family. We look forward to spending as much time with him as possible.

Although we have lived a nomadic life, we have had a wonderful time, traveled a lot, met

many great people and made friends from all over the world.

## Janet Shares Memories from Bradenton...

I look back at growing up in Bradenton as a joy and a privilege. Learning to swim at Bradenton Beach, Friday night football at Hawkins Stadium and cruising the A & W afterwards; Sharp's Drugstore, shopping downtown and then at Cortez Plaza!!

Times are bound to change and that's life, but good memories linger forever.



Christmas Eve 1970  
with our boys.



Sure proud of that cap!



## Biography of Claudia Tuten Gilstrap



We feel blessed to have lived in a time when Bradenton was still a small town. It was special to have attended such a great high school as Manatee . I will treasure the memories of my time at Manatee forever.

Following graduation, I attended the then Manatee Junior College. I transferred to Florida State to finish my degree in education.

After college, I married Tony Gilstrap, also from Bradenton and MHS '62. We moved to Jacksonville and began our teaching careers. Tony felt a need to serve his country. He joined the Air Force, became a pilot, and flew combat missions in Viet Nam.

One of our duty stations was McCoy air base in Orlando. We loved the area, so after the war was over, we left the Air Force and settled in Orlando. I taught elementary education, teaching K-2 for 34 years, and then 5 years as a reading resource teacher. Tony worked for Southern Bell. I received my Master's degree in Math and Science education from University of Central Florida.

We bought a desolate piece of lake property in the early 70's, and Tony, myself and my brother Tom built our house. We still live in it. Over the years, the city has moved out to us. Our babies came along - Jessica and Toby. Both still live in the area. We attend First Baptist Orlando.

Our daughter Jessica has a very active Christian Counseling practice in Orlando. Our son Toby works in the oil field as a ship's captain providing supplies to the oil rigs.

Tony was involved in the medical field, and owned a surgical supply company. We sold it in 2000, and began our retirement. Since

retirement, we travel often. We spend our time between Orlando, Holmes Beach and Brevard, North Carolina. Tony enjoys restoring old cars. I love driving our restored 53 Marine Jeep around Holmes beach island. Our hobbies include fishing, boating, walking, relaxing and waiting on grand babies!



Toby and Jessica



Claudia and Tony

## Biography of Steve Vincent



Born of two beautiful Christian parents in July 1945 on my older brothers 6th birthday in South Carolina. We moved to Bradenton in May, 1957 to start at Walker Junior High. These are the “Happy Days” of my life as for school with some of the greatest classmates anyone could ever imagine, and a most memorable time with football. Following Manatee High School I went to Manatee Community College, then transferred and later graduated from Nova University with a BS in criminal justice. Now after being married for 49 plus years to my sweet, loving and devoted wife, Jeanne Dryden, a 1964 MHS alumni, we have raised 3 great children with 3 super grandkids. I am retired from the Florida Highway Patrol with 44 years of service. My 2 brothers are also Florida Troopers as is my youngest son. I’m still a very happy man, and I have been an active Deacon/Elder in the Presbyterian Church, and a loving child of GOD since I can remember. I think of our classmates past and present, and pray that we can continue to meet and communicate for as long as we can. I thank GOD for growing up in this atmosphere of the 50’s and 60’s school years, molding me into the lifestyle Jeanne and I have lived all these years, and I pray the same rewards for all of my classmates from the bottom of my heart.



## Biography of Merrie Lynn Wang Parker



educational consultant. Hobbies include kayaking, hunting, fishing, swimming, reading and water color painting. I'm active in the local American Association of University Women, Manatee Fish and Game Association, and Delta Kappa Gamma. I am a certified Master Naturalist. We have five "perfect in every way" grandchildren. Daughter, Libbie is a Nephrologist in Chapel Hill, NC and they have three sons, 11, 8, and 1. Son, Arron is a dentist here in Bradenton and has a girl, 8 and boy, 5. Life is good.

After high school I graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor's and Master's degree plus an MRS (married Roy Chick Parker between my freshman and sophomore years). My major was Physical Education and Health and my first job was teaching PE at Southeast High School which at that time was 7-12 grades. My first year was the first year of desegregation. Chick and I fished, hunted and camped every chance we had.

My first 10 years of teaching included two maternity leaves (Arron born 1970 and Libbie born 1973) and a semester at Palmetto High School teaching 8th grade science. Then back to Southeast where I taught PE, biology, general science, sponsored the cheerleaders and coached the girls' basketball team. I moved onto Manatee High School as a Dean of Girls for ten years then became the Assistant Principal at MHS.

Chick and I had the lease on the Anna Maria City Pier, so weekends and summer vacation found me catching bait, dipping shrimp and flipping burgers. When the lease was up on the Pier, we built our own home out of Apalachicola cypress and juniper (white cedar). During that same time I completed my doctorate at the University of South Florida in Educational Leadership and went to work for a regional educational leadership development agency in Tampa funded by the state. I had opportunities to travel the country then as well as become very familiar with the southwest quadrant of Florida.

I returned to the Manatee School District and served as School Improvement Specialist and retired after 35 years as the Executive Director of Academics. During the first few years of retirement, I contracted as an

## Biography of Sally Warner Dozier



The great life began when I married widower, Jack Dozier, 11 years ago. Jack is a '63 graduate of Sarasota. They talk about soul mates - we are. Our primary residence is on top of Sanderlin Mountain in Big Canoe, Georgia. It is like a piece of heaven - beautiful, calming, and refreshing.

I retired in 2005, after 24 years teaching Remedial Reading and Environmental Science, with a stint as a librarian thrown in. I have a daughter and son from a previous marriage, and Jack has a son. Between us, we have six marvelous grandchildren. They are scattered around in Honolulu, Hawaii - Grayson, Georgia - St. Petersburg, Florida, so we get to travel a lot during the year. We currently spend six months in Big Canoe, and divide the winter months between Florida and Hawaii. It's a tough life, but someone has to do it.

We enjoy all types of camping, from tents to our 36' motor home. I love to travel, garden, hike, bird watch, and read, read, read!



## Remembrances of Sally 's

I went to Ballard for a week in first grade when we first moved to Bradenton. Then I went to Jessie P. Miller and was in Mrs. Pepper's 2nd grade. Ballard was traumatic as we had a bomb drill and some boy said I had my eyes opened. I became hysterical and mother had to come get me. I think I was an adult before I realized he must have had his open to see mine!

I will never forget old Mrs. Harrison. She did not like me. She truly favored the boys. I was always getting in trouble in there for passing notes but she totally ignored the "note receiver." I am constantly amazed at all the antics people keep "fessing up" to. I never did anything! What a bore I was!



## Biography of Gail Westby-Gibson Wilson



Graduated MJC with major in music. Married 1965. and had 5 children. Was mostly stay-at-home mom.

Worked off and on medical transcription, played flute in Sarasota Concert Band and West Coast Symphony Orchestra. Divorced. Moved to NC 1983.

Remarried 1989. Developed small mobile home park for rental. Restored an old farmhouse to live in. I enjoy our mini farm with horses, ducks, and chickens. My hobby would be as a breeder of Shih Tzu.

I have 10 grandchildren. Had foster children for several years. My best times are spent with my family with cookouts at the pool, holidays and watching the kids/grandkids play all sports, dance, 4-H horse shows, music, etc.

### Gail has many memories -

> I remember the TP being in all colors-much more interesting than just white like we have now. I remember coming home one night to find my yard TP'd by my friends who were all inside waiting. My dad had caught them and, instead of running them off, he invited them to finish the job and come inside and wait for me. My dad also drove us to a friend's house, dropped us off to do our TP job and then picked us back up. He had a little mischief in him too!!

> Going way back to Jr. High.....our band director, Mr. McMullen, had a 3-wheeled car called an Isetta (sp?)that had a front that opened to get into it. One night during a football game, some boys borrowed the keys to the band room and carried his car inside. He had parked it out on the walkway in front of the band building.

> I believe it was during a Manatee/Sarasota football game. Everyone was cheering back and forth, Hail Manatee, Hail Sarasota..on and on...then some group of band kids yelled back H\_ \_ \_ NO....boy did we get in trouble with Mr. Quarmby!

> I also remember the first time the band was asked to DANCE..not just the drill team. I believe it was for Tea for Two. That did not go over well with the boys in the band (well, not really with us girls either). They threatened to sit down and not march. That did not go over well with Mr. Quarmby, and one did not argue with him...you would never win. So..we danced! Ugh!

> The football game where the band and drill team and chorus did the Battle Hymn of the Republic. All the lights were turned off and we had lights on our band uniform hats. It was so awesome!

Those were the best years of my life. I have so many happy memories!!!



## Biography of William “Bill” Whidden

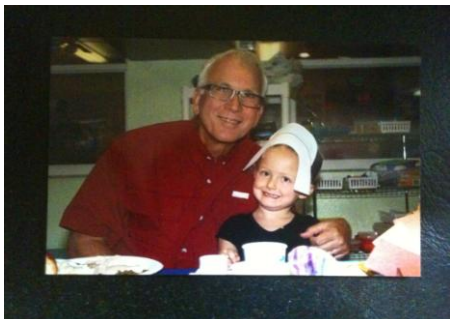


After graduating MHS, I went to FSU and received a B.S. Degree. I entered the U.S. Army and spent one tour of duty in Vietnam.

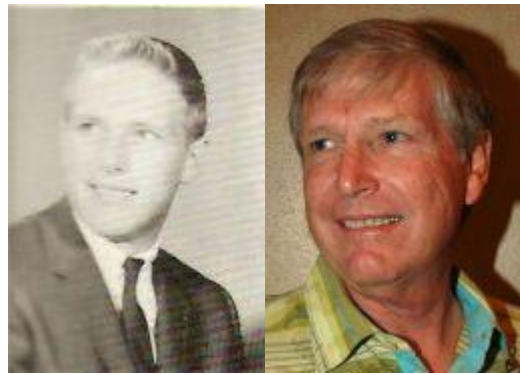
I met my wife, Betty, while in the Army. We returned to Bradenton where Betty taught at Manatee High and retired after over thirty years. I retired with forty years from Badcock Home Furniture and More.

We have been blessed with two children – son, Dan, and daughter, Kacey, and one granddaughter, Shelby. We also have two black Schnauzers who are faithful buddies.

Being born and raised in Bradenton, I enjoyed water skiing and fishing. My interests now are traveling, sports, enjoying family activities, woodworking and woodturning in my shop in the garage. I also enjoy spending time with my granddaughter Shelby. My favorite place to visit is Jackson Hole, WY.



## Biography of Charles Willey



Following high school, I enjoyed an all too brief professional baseball career. I found out quickly that I was going to have to do something other than play a kid’s game for a living. My baseball career did have one extremely bright spot. I met my wife Judith in 1964 and we married in 1967. We have two daughters, two grandsons, and one granddaughter.

I graduated from The University of Georgia in 1968, majoring in Advertising and Public Relations. When my parents attended my graduation they brought a surprise with them--my draft notice! That changed our plans!

Instead of graduate school, I headed for the Army, not knowing that is where I would spend the next 23 years of my life. During my Army career we lived in Oklahoma, Washington, North Carolina, Wisconsin, West Germany, Virginia and Georgia. I also spent time in South Korea and Saudi Arabia. While teaching ROTC at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, I got a Masters degree in communications.

I retired from the Army in 1992, and worked for the next 16 years for the State of Georgia.



## Biography of Robert Willis



Retired, living on Anna Maria, divorced  
Education: Graduated from USF, Graduate courses at George Washington and Memphis State.

Career: Control Data Corp, Computer Sciences Corp then 30 years with the US Postal Service. Last position - Postmaster, Bradenton Beach.

Previous positions in HQ, Region and District. Traveled lots with the job. Still travel some for fun.

Friends: Stayed in contact with Jimmy Zoller and David Burdette. Still waiting for them to retire and return to Bradenton. See Mrs. Parrish at Freedom Village often. My sister Pauline lives there.

Hobby: Cards. Mainly Texas Holdem these days. Fishing and walking the beach are always nice. And Happy Hours in Bradenton are always fun!

Also football: Go Canes



## Robert had some interesting memories:

My thoughts are about who had the fastest car: the fastest with the 4 on the floor. I remember Billy Hearn with a mean car. Then there was Zoller's ford, my Chevelle, Phil Casto's Olds, etc. And the drag races on 43rd St.

And what about that girl that got caught driving without a license. I think she was 15? Wasn't it on the south side of the country club? That is a real teaser!!! Did it get in the paper? (That wasn't a teaser, that was cruel! And yes, it was 15. And no, it wasn't on the south side of the country club - it was in Cortez, after taking Bob Lowrey home with Juanelle Petit and Sonya Fain in the car. "This girl's" sister let her take the car while she talked with some of her friends there near the Cortez bridge. After dropping Bob off, this girl got too close to the grass embankment and lost control of the car, hit a telephone pole and really clobbered the car - and Sonya's shoulder (which fortunately did not have long-term damage). A VERY SCARY session with Juvenile officer Mary Johnson and a 30-page essay on why one should NOT drive without a license later, the girl was then instructed to get her permit immediately! Fortunately, in those days, newspapers didn't hang stupid kids out to dry - parents did a sufficient job 🤪 😬. Of course, I am just guessing that this is what might have happened ... )

Did you know about Zoller dropping balloons on cars from the top of the Dixie Grand?

## Biography of Barbara Wirtz Tyler



My mother, Bonnie Parker Wirtz Weld, graduated from Bradenton High in 1935, my daughter, Teryl Lee Curry, graduated from MHS in 1986 and I graduated from MHS in 1963.

I was in the MHS Orchestra and Sugar Canes Drill Team, and served as a Junior-Senior Prom Server. I participated in the 50th year Drill Team Reunion and served on the MHS Committee for the 50th Year Class Reunion.

After graduation I attended Massey Business College in Jacksonville where I met Lamar "Butch" Curry and we were married in 1965 and moved to Mulberry. We have two children – Teryl Lee Curry and Bryan Lamar Curry. I divorced in 1975 and moved back to Bradenton in 1977 with both children. I was hired by Manatee County Government and worked in the Board of County Commissioners Office for 35 years (retired June 30, 2012). I worked for 33 different commissioners over the years and supervised the office as the Sr. Executive Administrative Assistant.

Claude Tyler, Jr. and I were married from 1983 - 1998 (MHS class of 1962).

As an Elder in my church, assigned to Chair the Worship & Music Ministry Team, member of the Sanctuary Choir, the Hand Bell Choir and Piecemakers (quilting) keeps me busy.

My great grand-father fought in the Civil War so as a direct descendent of a Civil War Veteran I was eligible for membership in the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1997, I was elected National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. I held all five of the national offices before being elected national president. I was very fortunate to have my mother Bonnie Wirtz Weld, 1992

LGAR National President and my daughter, Teryl Lee Curry, National President's Aide travel with me throughout the year 1997-98 visiting LGAR Circles and Departments. The LGAR is pledged to preserve our Civil War heritage and the work of our Order.

Since retirement, I have enjoyed travelling and spending time with Teryl in her 2nd Grade class room in B.D. Gullett Elementary School - as her aide this time! My grandchildren have paws and four legs.....Teryl is a great mother to Patriot, a Jack Russell/Beagle, and Starr, a pocket Beagle. Of course, I spoil both of them! Starr is a hot mess!

Earlier in life I travelled to beautiful Switzerland and Ireland and my future plans are to travel out west. Being retired is great.....do whatever I want to - whenever I want to!



Easter 2013



## Biography of Richard Vanhorn Woodson



I started my career with Walgreen's Drug Company at Cortez Plaza in Bradenton.

I moved from there to Ft. Myers, FL., Jacksonville, FL., Dothan, AL., and returned to Florida in 1987. I retired in 2003 with 39 years of service with Walgreen's.

My family includes my wife, Linda Handville Woodson (MHS Class of 1967).

We have two children Melinda (Mindy) Woodson Beane (son-in-law Bill Beane) and Andrew (Andy) Woodson.

We celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary on September 14th, 2013.



Left to right back row Rick Woodson, Mindy Woodson Beane, Bill Beane. Front row-Andy Woodson and Linda

## Biography of Ron Woernle



After graduation, I attended Stetson University in Deland, Florida. My freshman accomplishments earned me a one semester vacation. In January, 1965, I enrolled at Manatee Junior College. My studies were interrupted again, this time due to new pursuits.

I was drafted in 1966, but joined the Marines, instead, along with some buddies. In 1969, became a pilot with a permanent assignment at the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, in December, 1970. Where before I couldn't seem to stay *in* school, in the Marines, I couldn't seem to get *out*. I had deployments to Key West to chase Russian MIG fighter jets back to Cuba, and deployments to Puerto Rico for bombing practice. The F4 Phantom's we were flying felt like they were kept together with chewing gum and baling wire, and I had several near-death encounters.

My wife, Lois, and I had got married at the Naval Academy in 1970. Two years before my end of duty, I organized a band that played everywhere from the Officers' Clubs to the local honky-tonks, so I decided to open a music store upon discharge. The business flourished, and I expanded to Hilton Head Island. Businesses were both good and difficult, due to economic situations, so there were a few rough years.

We moved to Hilton Head Island with our two children. A good friend offered me a job, in real estate. About a dozen agents met weekly for lunch at a local steakhouse. Over a period of weeks, several of the men had invited me, and one Wednesday, I joined them. What I didn't know was that a local pastor attended, and after everyone had finished eating, he conducted a short Bible study. Through a series of

remarkable Providences, I ended up going on a mission trip to Haiti with his church, not knowing a soul, except the pastor, and even paying my own way. It was there that God opened my eyes to see my selfishness, especially my thoughts and motives. Mercifully, he answered my prayer to forgive my sins and call me His own.

In 1990, the real estate market had soured and I had the opportunity to go to work for MetLife. After two years, I decided to open my own company and for the last twenty three years I have provided insurance and financial services through my company, Woernle Wealth Management, LLC. To complete the story, I should mention that along the way I worked in a factory making take-out pails for Chinese restaurants, as well as digging ditches for a cable company. In November 2013, Lois and I will celebrate our forty-third wedding anniversary, We have four children and six grandchildren. It's a wonderful life!



Enjoying Life!



Our Wedding

## Biography of Virginia 'Virgie' Yerly



After MHS, I attended MJC, receiving my B.S. from FSU in 1967. Graduating in April, I joined the American Red Cross, spending a year in Vietnam. I was stationed in Dong Ba Thien (outside CamRan Bay) for six months and finished my tour with The First Infantry Division in Phu Loi (outside Saigon) the remaining six months. After coming home, I attended Florida Atlantic, receiving my M.Ed.

I applied to teach in Manatee County, promptly hired by Wheeler Leeth in August of 1969 to teach at MHS. I spent three years at MHS, then went to Sarasota to teach at Venice Elementary and Sarasota High. I returned to MHS to finish my 35 years. During my time at MHS I coached cheerleaders, softball and track, taught Physical Education, becoming Department Chair.

My husband (Roger) and I both retired in 2004, moving to lovely Lorida (near Sebring). We are both avid fishermen (bass and crappie), travel to visit our grandchildren and Roger's daughter in Louisiana. As an added bonus we have family in North Carolina so we can enjoy some cool weather when it is so hot here.

## Biography of Gene Ziegler



Since graduation from Shorter University and Georgia State University, I taught Special Education (Hearing Impairments) and was Director of Admissions/Director of Home Life at the GA School for the Deaf in Cave Spring, GA. In 1985, I became Principal of the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf after moving to Gwinnett County. From 1987 to 1997, I taught the hearing impaired at Lilburn Middle and Berkmar H.S. In 1993, I was selected as one of the final three for Teacher of the Year. In 1997, I retired.

In 2004 I began teaching as a Math Specialist and then Early Childhood teaching first and third grades. During 2007-2008 school year, I was selected Teacher of the Year at Harmony Elementary School. In 2009, I retired again. I continued subbing until May 2013.

During the fall of 2011, I was selected to participate in the Lawrenceville Citizens Police Academy in Lawrenceville, GA. I graduated November 15, 2011. The training included departmental organizations, the use of K-9, traffic laws/traffic pullover practical, DUI Task Force, gangs, criminal investigation, crime scene processing/prints, firearms training, defensive tactics, and firing a glock.

From 2006 until 2012, I participated in the Therapy Dog International Pet Therapy Program, Chapter 193, with my certified golden retriever named Murdock. He earned the TDIA award for 50 visits in July 2009 and the TDIAOV award for 150 visits August 21, 2012. Nursing homes, day care centers, schools, and libraries were visited.

I married Cathy Delaney from New York City in 1968. We have a son and daughter as well as three grand children. We love to travel a great deal, especially taking cruises. We have a 15-day Panama Canal in November. In 2014 we are taking a transatlantic cruise to Spain, Greece, Turkey, and Italy.

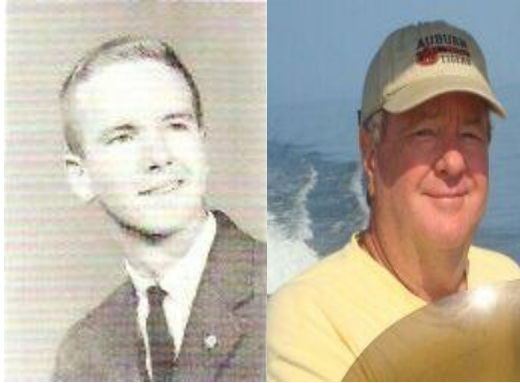


Therapy Dog, Murdock





## Biography of James D. (Jimmy) Zoller



I was born and reared in Bradenton, Florida.

I attended Ballard Elementary, Walker Jr. High and graduated from Manatee High School. I graduated from Auburn University, am an Eagle Scout, Past Master Councilor of DeMolay, and a Sigma Chi. I was a Captain in the U.S. Army.

We lived in Winter Haven, FL, for a while, but now reside in Cashiers/Glenville, NC, and own Zoller Hardware, Gifts & Gadgets Mercantile with my wife Paula (Crowder) Zoller, also from Bradenton.

While in Winter Haven, I was a member of the Kiwanis Club, a Past President of Grove Communities, Inc., a Past President of the SE Plaza Merchants Association, and was on the Administrative Boards of St. Johns and Lake Wales United Methodist Churches.

In Cashiers, I am a Past President and member of The Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley and a Paul Harris Fellow (3) of the Rotary Foundation. I am Past President of the Cashiers Area Chamber of Commerce, a former Director

of the Holly Forest Association, a former member of the Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church and served on the Administrative Council as Chairman of the Pastor-Parrish Relations Committee. I am currently an active member of the Mountain Bible Church in Glenville, NC, a Past President of the Friends of Lake Glenville association, a Past Director of the Cashiers Community Council and currently Chairman of the Southwestern Community College Foundation. Paula and I have 2 children and 4 grandchildren.

I have always enjoyed water sports, boating, fishing, hunting and shooting.

We currently reside on Bear Creek Farm in Glenville, NC. We visit Bradenton often and plan to retire there.





**SOME**

**JR. HIGH**

**&**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**HISTORY**

**&**

**ACTIVITIES**

## Walker Junior High School Built 1954-1955

In 1955 the three junior high schools south of the Manatee River, Bradenton, Manatee and Oneco were consolidated into a brand new school, Walker Junior High School, built across 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue West from the high School. Walker had state-of-the-art music facilities which were used by MCHS's orchestra, chorus and band. The school was dedicated in a ceremony in April, 1956 to the woman who gave the school its name. She was Mrs. Herman Walker, a teacher principal and friend to thousands of Manatee County young people until her retirement in 1952. The Walker campus was annexed by Manatee High School when the school district converted its junior high schools (grades 7-9) into middle schools (grades 6-8). After MHS began using the Walker facility, it became known as the South Campus of the high school. The demolition of the former Walker building, with the exception of the gymnasium, took place during a seven-phase project completed in 1996. During the course of the high school's expansion and remodeling, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue West was closed and converted to a running track, athletic fields and parking spaces.

Mrs. Georgia Graham Walker came to Manatee County in 1925 from Denmark, S.C. Mrs. Walker was educated at Cokesbury Conference School and received her teaching degrees from Winthrop College and the University of Florida. She was the wife of Herman Walker who she married in 1909. They moved to Nashville, TN and she taught there, until returning home because of the ill health of her father. She then taught in S.C. for another two and a half years. The Walkers came to Bradenton in 1924 and Mrs. Walker accepted the challenge of teaching a class at Ballard School where her predecessor had been frightened into resigning by some unruly 7<sup>th</sup> grade boys. Mrs. Walker taught for one year at Ballard and the next year (1926) transferred to Biltmore School to teach 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She was named assistant principal at Bradenton Junior High School in 1932 and principal of the junior high school in 1937. She was a member of many honorary educational societies and charitable

organizations. Her interest in working with young

people brought an appointment to the Manatee County Children's Committee in 1958 from Governor Collins. She was a member of the Manatee County Advisory Commission on Education and belonged to several boards that licensed day nurseries and foster homes in the community.

## Time to Drive

In the fall of 1959 when we arrived as freshmen on the Manatee High campus, many were at least "experimenting" with driving for the first time. Of course, some of the FFA boys claimed they had been driving tractors for years. But now, this was the "real thing," a legitimate driver's license that brought new-found independence. At Manatee High, Coach Bob Stewart oversaw the Driver's Education program five days a week, sometimes experiencing harrowing close calls on the Bradenton streets. The following school year, Coach Jim Longstreth joined him to instruct the popular program. Many of us were relegated to occasionally driving the family vehicle, usually a "fashionable" 4-door sedan powered by perhaps 150 hp. But others acquired their "very own" set of wheels, and could be found regularly circling the A&W or gathered in the parking lot at the beach. In any case, everyone who had the use of a car was proud to have reached the long-awaited opportunity to drive.



Margy Evans Carraway's Uncle, Principia Paul Davis, accepting keys for the first Driver's Ed Car

## Harvey Gobin, Our First Exchange Teacher

In the fall of 1963, Harvey Gobin traveled to England to begin the school year as Manatee High's first exchange teacher. He taught at the Richmond Grammar School for Girls in the suburbs of London where his exchange partner, Velma James, had taught for three years. Mr. Gobin was the first full-time male instructor at the school – the other 29 teachers were women. There were 370 girls from 11- to 18 years old in the Richmond School. Class periods ran only 45 minutes and there were fewer extra-curricular activities than in American schools. Miss James taught French at Manatee High during the 1963-64 school year

## The MHS Drill Team Had A Handbook...



### History

With the opening of football season in 1947 spectators at Manatee High football games were to add to their list of "Friday Night Specials" performances by a new group: Manatee High's Drill Team.

Under the direction of Miss Mildred Emmelhainz this group has contributed to the color and pageantry of the half time shows. Marching is precision drills, executing intricate maneuvers and dancing to such tunes as "Tea for Two", "St. Louis Blues", and "Goofus", this group has become a symbol of Manatee High

In 1962 on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the drill team, eighty former members, representing each

year since its organization, participated in the Home Half-time show.

In January, 1963, a committee of former drill team members was appointed to select a name for the organization. As a result of the work of this committee, the Manatee High Drill Team was named "**The Sugar Canes**".

### Foreword

Traditionally, the Sugar Canes of Manatee High School have won widespread recognition as a colorful and unique organization. It is dedicated to the personal development of selected students through group and individual participation in precision drills, formations and dances.

Each year, the Sugar Canes plan, prepare for, and present some ten performances. Each member has given this cheerfully and graciously – ultimately, the reaction of appreciative audiences to these provided members of the Sugar Canes with that feeling of personal satisfaction of a job well done.

Each year, those students who become known as the Sugar Canes accept a responsibility – a responsibility to maintain the high standards established by those who have contributed much to this organization.

### Sugar Canes Officers

Captain – The captain is a three year member elected by the Sugar Canes. She is the senior Officer at all times and responsible only to the Director and Assistant Director.

First and Second Lieutenants – The two lieutenants, elected by the Sugar Canes, are assistants to the Captain. The first lieutenant is selected from the Junior Class and the second lieutenant is selected from the Sophomore Class.

Majorettes – the majorettes are selected at the end of the year from the Sophomore members by the Sugar Canes, after the applicants have had instruction and after tryouts. The majorettes direct the drill team at all performances. They are responsible to the Directors.

## **The Handbook Was Essentially a Rulebook...**

### **Attendance Requirements**

Members must attend all rehearsals and all performances at home and out of town. Illness is the only valid excuse for not appearing. In case of absence, the Director is to be notified in advance at the earliest possible time so that proper substitution can be arranged.

### **Uniforms**

Each member is to have two uniforms. One is for performances; the other is a travel uniform for wear on all out of town trips.

Each member furnishes her uniform for performances, according to detailed instructions given to all new members at a special meeting. The uniform consists of a white blouse, blue skirt and blue tights, red belt, white socks, and black and white saddle oxfords.

The travel uniform consists of a white tailored blouse and blue skirt. The skirt or the material for the skirt is supplied to each member. Upon termination of membership in the Sugar Canes, the member is to return the skirt to the Director.

Such items as the following are not considered appropriate; jewelry, scarves, pin curlers, odd hair styles or tints.

### **Performances at Home**

Personal Inspection – Before every home appearance, personal inspection will be held in the high school gymnasium.

### **Performances Out of Town**

Seniors are permitted to sign up for the bus of their choice. Other members sign up before boarding the bus. First come, first served.

A member may return home with someone else provided the Director has been given a written permit from her parents stating that she may do so. This permit must be given to the Director before the bus leaves from the Manatee High School Gymnasium.

A departure time is set for each trip – anyone who is not prompt will miss the bus.

Members will be notified in advance of the time of arrival at the school on the return trip. Each member should have someone at the school at the time the bus arrives to take her home.

Bus Regulations for members:

1. May not change buses.
2. Remain seated at all times.
3. Keep arms and heads inside the bus.
4. Do not throw anything out of the windows.
5. Keep bus clean.
6. Be quiet at all railroad crossings.
7. When singing songs, sing – don't screech.
8. When cheering – cheer together.

Upon arrival at the stadium each member is to remain on the bus until directed to do otherwise. When so directed members are to fall in, by two's, at the side of the bus. Purses and coats are to be carried on the left arm. The Sugar Canes will enter the field in an orderly manner.

### **Sugar Cane Code**

When a student is in a Manatee High Drill Team uniform she is just not anyone – she is a SUGAR CANE. As a Sugar Cane she will:

1. Conduct herself in such a manner as to maintain the highest respect for herself, her organization, her school and her community.
2. Make the greatest possible contribution to the aims and purposes of the Sugar Canes.
3. Attend and participate in all activities and appearances planned for the organization.
4. Be courteous, helpful and cooperative with the authorized chaperones.





## Scholarship Keeps "Miss E's" Memory In Step

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

February 13, 1983 By Janet Kerley, Reporter  
Copyright 1983 Sarasota Herald Tribune

**In 1947, Mildred Emmelhainz organized the first drill team at Manatee High School.**

During the next 20 years, hundreds of local girls spent hours of their school days marching on football fields. And to this day, they all seem to remember the effect it had on their lives.

For 20 years, this retired Navy woman, who was affectionately called "Miss E" by the girls, commanded her charges to march in precision, follow her orders and become one of the group.

No one was to look different from the others, remembers Barbara King, who graduated in 1955.

"There was no long hair. It all had to be collar-length." Mrs. King can still recall the year the members voted on whether to allow Kay Pedrick and her ponytail to be part of the team.

How did the vote go? "Well, she cut her hair", Mrs. King said recently. "It really did look neater. This was her military training. Everybody was supposed to look precisely the same."

Merle Watson was a member of that first team in 1947. The uniforms of navy pleated skirts, white blouses and saddle shoes changed little during the next two decades. Mrs. Watson says there were some minor changes through the years, but the respect for "Miss E" and the

dedication it took to be a drill teamer was always there.

Jo Strickland, who graduated with the class of 1957, explains that being part of the drill team was a status symbol. But it was also something more – there was a great deal of pride involved. "You couldn't march if you showed up with colored shoelaces. This is the kind of disciplinarian she was, but nobody minded" said Mrs. Strickland.

As the members of the football team were off sweating, running and tackling each other, the drill team members could be found marching and learning their right foot from their left.

A new routine was presented each week. On Monday morning, "Miss E" was on the field ready to show everyone the week's program. Says Mrs. King, "When you got on the field on Monday morning, she knew exactly how many steps it would take you to get to a certain point. Sometime during the weekend, she must have gone out there and walked it off."

Tryouts were conducted during physical education classes, taught by "Miss E". "She'd line you up rank and file and tell you what the commands meant. Then after a few days, you were ready to try out", said Mrs. Strickland.

Practice was sixth period every day. Mrs. King says there weren't any after-school activities because no one could stay late in the evening. But there was still plenty of time to learn the routines.

"If she met you as you came off the field, you were ecstatic," Mrs. Strickland said. "But if she was in the stands or simply disappeared you knew something was wrong". Mrs. Strickland said it was different in the fifties. Football games were well-attended by everyone. "And a good part of the community went to the games for the half-time show".

The drill team performed at all home games and away games. And during the game, you could find these well-groomed, identically dressed girls sitting together in the stands.

In 1949, the drill team had voted to stay as a group in the stands, unless the football team was at least one touchdown ahead at the end of the third quarter. "Heaven help you if you had to go to the bathroom", laughed Mrs. Strickland. "Those white blouses could be seen anywhere."

There was a sense of camaraderie through the years. When many former drill teamers and students from 23 years of classes got together in 1971 to honor “Miss E” when she retired, they felt like family – even though many of them had never met.

But they all had one thing in common – their lives had all come in touch with “Miss E.”

In later years, Mrs. Strickland and some of the others socialized with “Miss E” and after many uneasy tries even began calling her Mel. And it was with great sorrow that many of them attended her funeral three months ago (Nov 1982), after she died of leukemia.

Now these former drill teams want to honor “Miss E” by establishing a scholarship in her honor to be awarded to a Manatee High School senior girl, beginning in 1984.

### Manatee Football Fight Song

Fight the team across the field,  
 Show them Manatee’s here,  
 Set the earth reverberating  
 With a might cheer.  
 Rah! Rah! Rah!  
 Hit them hard and see how they fall.  
 Never let their team get the ball.  
 Hail, Hail, the gang’s all here  
 As we cheer for old Manatee now.  
 Manatee! Manatee! Manatee!

### Our Cheerleaders

Cheerleaders of Manatee High, under the direction of Mable Clark, promoted school spirit at all of the football and basketball games. They practiced their cheers after school and rehearsed skits to perform at pep rallies. Their precision and skill could be defined by the raucous cheering of the crowd at any Hurricane football game. The Class of '63 senior year Cheerleaders were:

Emily Benson	Judy Robson	Merrie Lynn Wang
Connie Clinton	Janet Troxel	Sally Warner
Janice Higgins	Claudia Tuten	Virginia Yerly
Kathy Gordon		

### 1963 Clubs & Organizations of Manatee High

Student Council	Lanier English Club
Inter-Club Council	Sophomore Tri-Hi-Y
Red Cross Council	Music Honor Society
Quill and Scroll	National Honor Society
Wheel Club	Student Exchange Club
“M” Club	Junior Exchange Club
Key Club	Junior Civitan Club
Le Cercle Francais	Pan-American Club
Societas Latina	Projection Club
Art Club	C.B.E.
History Club	Future Nurses of America
Science Club	Future Business Leaders
Senior Tri-Hi-Y	Future Homemakers
Junior Tri-Hi-Y	Future Farmers
Anchor Club	Future Teachers
Tec Club	Youth for Christ
Radio Club	National Forensic League
Camera Club	Girls’ Athletic Assoc.

### Number of Graduating Seniors by Year

1926 – 49	1938 – 124	1950 – 227
1927 – 68	1939 – 163	1951 - 201
1928 – 62	1940 – 158	1952 - 235
1929 – 60	1941 – 122	1953 - 269
1930 – 60	1942 – 133	1954 - 243
1931 - 99	1943 – 167	1955 - 253
1932 – 116	1944 – 141	1956 - 357
1933 – 117	1945 – 146	1957 - 316
1934 – 94	1946 – 137	1958 - 428
1935 – 112	1947 – 127	1959 - 301
1936 – 120	1948 – 220	1960 - 408
1937 – 105	1949 – 217	1961 - 539
1962 - 467		

### \*1963 - 319

\* In the fall of 1962, Southeast High School included their first class of seniors. As a result, the Manatee High senior class of 1962-1963 was reduced by approximately 150 students who lived in east Bradenton and transferred to Southeast High

### Manatee High Bands Set Record

April 1963: Manatee High was the first school in the history of Florida contests to qualify two complete bands for state competition, with superior ratings at the district level.



## Renaming of the Yearbook

Charles W. Quarmby, band director, orchestra conductor and ex-student, submitted the new name for the annual, the *'Cane Echo*. At the end of a weeklong contest, a committee of 5 students and 7 faculty members eliminated all but 7 suggestions and a student vote made the final selection. The re-opening of Palmetto High School in 1958 necessitated the change, for they wished to assume the name *Leaves* which was theirs before the consolidation of Palmetto High and Manatee High School in 1947. One name was chosen from each publication when the schools were united so that the Macohi and the Palmetto Leaves became the Manatee Leaves. In 1959, the *Leaves* crossed the river to be the first yearbook from the new Palmetto High, and Manatee High originated their "new" *'Cane Echo*.

## Wesley "Chad" Choate Becomes Principal

In June 1974, assistant principal Wesley "Chad" Choate was appointed principal of Manatee High, replacing Wheeler Leeth who held that position since 1964. Mr. Choate came to Manatee High in the fall of 1962, was appointed as Dean of Boys in 1965 and assistant principal in 1968.



## Bringing Home Manatee's First "Official" State Football Championship

Manatee Magic, 75 Years of Football, by Tad Reeve  
Reprinted with Permission of Tad Reeve 1989

Years of success have clouded memories in Manatee County. What we remember most about the 1983 Class 4A (largest class) state championship game, is that Manatee won, 27-21 over Miami Southridge.

This game always will be remembered for *The Fumble*. Early in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Manatee drove to the Southridge 5 yard line; but quarterback Tracy Sanders saying Sander's knee touched the ground while he still had possession. Two plays later, Sanders scored the winning touchdown. After much debate it remained Manatee's ball. Manatee coach Joe Kinnan stated, "All I know is the whistle was blown by the referee. Two plays later, Sanders scored the winning touchdown.

It was the first state title by a Central Florida school since the Florida High School Activities Association began its state playoff system in 1963.

## Football Field Named for Coach Kinnan

In the spring of 2001, the Manatee County School Board voted to designate the football field at Hawkins Stadium as Joe Kinnan Field, in honor of the coach who has led the Hurricanes to four state championships. Joe is a Bradentonian who grew up seven blocks from the stadium and played football while attending Manatee High (Class of '63). He retired in 2000 after 20 years at MHS to confront a personal health ordeal. To the delight of fans and sports boosters, Joe returned to Manatee High in 2005 and this year (2012) began his 25<sup>th</sup> year as Hurricanes' head coach. In December of 2007 he was selected to the 12-member coaching staff for the FHSAA All-Century team. Hurricane teams have piled up 235 wins under coach Kinnan, appearing in ten state semifinal games and going 4-1 in state finals.

(As of 2013, Manatee High Athletic Director and Head Coach Kinnan continues to rack up winning seasons and awards)

## **Board, Faculty Members Laud Manatee High Gym Renovation**

**The 44-year-old gymnasium to be ready by December 1**

Bradenton Herald – November 19, 1983

By Nick Mason – Herald Staff Writer

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Bradenton Herald

It has been several years since School Board member Wheeler Leeth has had a basketball in his hands, so it's no wonder that he looked a little rusty as he shot free throws in Manatee High School's gym Friday.

The same can't be said of the gym itself – not anymore anyway. The 44-year-old facility has had a \$650,000 facelift. Leeth and two other members of the Manatee County School Board said they liked what they saw, and approved the work of DeLesline Construction Inc. of Palmetto, subject to completion of a few minor finished touches.

The new gym should be ready for the school's 2,300 students by December 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be used for the physical education classes and by volleyball and wrestling teams for practices and matches. The renovation of the gym was authorized by the School Board June 7<sup>th</sup> to improve the main athletic area, upgrade the boys' and girls' locker room facilities, build a classroom and an aerobics exercise room

and expand storage areas. The project increases the gym's net area by 4,000 square feet with the addition of the locker rooms, said Walter Miller, the school system's assistant superintendent for non-instruction. The old locker rooms were converted into a classroom and storage space.

Board members Gilbert, McNeal, Leeth and Louise Johnson, had nothing but praise for the new gym after receiving a guided tour from project architect Harley Kinney of Bradenton. Board president Marjorie Kinnan and member Jesse Davis were absent from the special meeting.

"At one time there was a mood to tear this entire building down" said Leeth, who was Manatee High's basketball coach and athletic director from 1950-1961. "Now we have one of the nicest facilities I've seen in a long time." McNeal said, "This is a fantastic improvement

and I want to congratulate the contractor, the architect and everyone involved in this project." The area of the gym's main section, now featuring a new hardwood floor, has been reduced somewhat to 5,760 feet. But the addition of four basketball goals means more students can use the gym during inclement weather, said Virginia Greene, chairman of the school's physical education department. "There were only two baskets. Now, there are six and we have enough floor space to put four classes here and two in the new classrooms," Mrs. Greene said. Before the renovations, three classes were assigned to the gym. But that presented problems because there were only two baskets. As a result, the third class would literally be relegated to the sidelines. School Superintendent Gene Witt noted that the new gym is only part of the master plan to modernize Manatee High School. With an enrollment of 2,300 students, it's the biggest high school in the county. "We've done the auditorium, classrooms and now the gym. The media center and cafeteria are on the boards, and the present cafeteria will become the administration section," Witt said. "When the total game plan is done, we'll have a useable facility for years to come. Miller said DeLesline Construction must complete the minor punch list items and the renovated gym must pass state inspection before DeLesline receives its final payment.

## **Manatee High Has Tradition of Achievement - School is Proud of Records in Academics and Athletics**

The Bradenton Herald – August 27, 1984, Copyright –  
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The Bradenton Herald

Wesley C. Choate has been at Manatee High School for 22 years, as a classroom teacher, athletic coach and administrator. For the past 20 years, he's been the principal of the county's largest school. Hired by former principal Paul F. Davis, Choate arrived at Manatee High in 1962 to teach social studies, mostly geography and economics, and coach football and track. The Tennessee native never left the MHS faculty.

Gravel-voice Choate, 53, said his football coaching background was good experience of his

present job. "It prepared you to deal with people," Choate explained. "It forces you to make decisions, and live with them. "From coaching, I've learned to never take it for granted. You can't be a good coach and be lazy; you can't be a good principal and be lazy."

Manatee High, located at 1000 32<sup>nd</sup> Street West, is a school that dates back to the mid-1920's when it was built and named Bradenton High. A school that was consolidated for a decade with old Palmetto High, beginning in 1948, and was called Manatee County High School.

"We are very proud that we offer a lot in extra-curricular areas: sports, music and clubs," Choate said. "We just take it for granted that whatever we do, it will be done well and in a professional manner. "Our whole curriculum is geared to producing better and better academically, to offer the best for young people. Including courses to help students develop better study habits and test-taking skills."

Business teacher Elizabeth Christie added that the school is one of the front runners locally in keeping the curriculum in tune with the needs of the students bound for the workplace or college.

The most obvious and recent example of Manatee High's success came last December when the school's football team won the state big-school championship. It was the first Class 4-A football crown for a west coast high school in the 20 years of the playoff system, Choate said. The state championship and the 14-0 perfect season, Choate said, rallied the whole community. The school found that other high schools in the county were pleased by Manatee's success.

"We are going for it again," said Choate, matter-of-factly. "We are on the right track to do many, many good things in our school."

The school's 2,300 students primarily from Martha B. King Middle School, W.E. Sugg and Lincoln Memorial middle schools contribute a portion of the student body, with a "handful" from Bradenton Middle.

John DeForge, a MHS social studies teacher of 15 years, said the school takes a certain amount of pride in being "parents" of the Bayshore High facility. Bayshore High opened in 1974. One of the biggest changes at MHS

over the years, DeForge said, is a 100-percent improvement in the students' attitudes. "In the (late) 1960's it was negative attitude, one of confrontation, a carryover from society," he said. The present student group is more amiable and cooperative.

Former MHS principal Wheeler Leeth recalled that his administration (1964-74) was a time of "drastic change" at the school. Manatee High was integrated. It went from three grades to four, 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. And Walker Junior High, built in the early 1950's, became Manatee High's south campus when the county did away with junior highs and instituted the middle school system.

Acquiring Walker Junior High in 1968 gave the school needed space, but the need persists today. Enlarging the campus by a minimum of six to eight additional acres of land was recommended by an accreditation committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools two years ago.

In the past two years, Manatee High saw the renovation and remodeling of the gym and auditorium on the north campus. A \$925,000 cafeteria just opened to consolidate two lunchrooms. More improvements are planned for next year. The south campus cafeteria will be remodeled into a business education facility. The old business building will be demolished to make room for a new media center. And the north campus cafeteria will become an administration/guidance suite.

Once the construction projects are completed, the old school won't be the same on Paul F. Davis, retired from in 1964 after guiding for 27 years. He recalled his tenure as a time when the school's 400 students would attend weekly assemblies, which were popular, and the school was more important in the family life than now. And drugs were not a problem then, Davis said. If a problem did crop up, Davis said, it was settled with parent, teacher and student. "We didn't make a court case, no media attention", he said.

## Face-Lift Links Manatee High's Past, Future

Sarasota Herald Tribune, May 12 1984,  
Julie Ross, Reporter  
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express permission of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Manatee High School, at more than 55 years of age, has been undergoing a combination face-lift and expansion. Completed projects at the school include the remodeled auditorium, new windows in the main building, a renovated north campus gymnasium and landscaping between the two campuses.

MHS, the county's oldest high school still in use has more than 2,000 students. It is made up of the original Manatee High (north campus) and the old Walker Junior High (south campus). Until recently the two campuses were separated by 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue west.

Only the columned main building on the north campus, now called the Davis Building, and the auditorium date from the 1920's. The playing field, which originally ran east and west, became a stadium in 1940.

There had been suggestions in the 1970's that the Davis Building be saved for administrative offices, with the rest of the school demolished and the property sold.

Citing the run-down condition of the school and the lack of space to expand, some parents and community members wanted a new high school built further west. But considering the high cost of building in west Bradenton, the School Board decided Manatee High School could be refurbished and serve for many more years. But several projects were needed to pull the campuses together and give the old school a new face.

The largest project under way is the new cafeteria on the north campus, and school officials hope to have the cafeteria ready for fall use. Other projects put in motion is part of the old north campus cafeteria will become an administrative and guidance suite, with the former administrative space in the main building made into dean's offices and teacher planning space. The south campus cafeteria then will be converted into a business education complex.

The present business education building, which is located in the center of the north campus and more than 30 years old, will be torn down.

A new media center (library) for both campuses will be constructed at that location. This then, will free the space occupied by the old libraries.

The south campus library is scheduled to become a new art room. Eventually, a much-requested item will be in place when two covered walkways are constructed to join the north and south campuses. "The best thing that has happened for the school was getting 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue closed" Miller says. "That really pulled the two campuses together". He added that MHS teachers, students and their parents now can see that things are happening at the school. "I think we've been able to build up some credibility with the community", Miller added. "They know we're working to fix up the school."

## RAZING HISTORY? MEMORIES...

The Bradenton Herald, February, 2008  
Sylvia Lim – Herald Staff Writer  
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Jeanne Parrish, 89, learned how to make divinity fudge and roux for gravy in high school. Or specifically, in a classroom in what is now known as the Davis Building, the red-brick structure with graceful white columns most people now recognize as Manatee High. But back in Parrish's school days, it was called Biltmore High, named for the subdivision around the school near 32<sup>nd</sup> Street West. Back then, they didn't have special home-ec rooms, so all cooking was done over a small burner.

"I walked the halls longer than anybody alive," Parrish likes to say. That's no exaggeration. She graduated in 1935, and went back to teach English for more than three decades. That's 37 years total.

In that time, Biltmore High went through several name changes and was finally called Manatee High in 1958. "I enjoyed every minute of it," Parrish said. "But if they're going to throw those bricks away, I sure want one of those bricks." Like many alumni Parrish has heard

rumors about the possible demolition of one of Bradenton's historic schoolhouses.

The Manatee County School board has not decided its fate. Last year, the school district hired an architecture firm to study the building to determine how the Davis building, built in 1926, was holding up. 1926 was a big year for building schools in Manatee County, said Cathy Slusser, of Manatee County's Historical Resources Library. Biltmore was built, and so was another school in Palm View. The Davis building isn't the county's oldest school, she said. The Cortez schoolhouse was built in 1921 but is now a maritime museum. The one in Palm View is now a library.

The Davis building is the only school left in the county that is still used for its original purpose, said Harry Kinnan, a 1958 graduate of Manatee High and current school board member. Over the years, the district has upgraded and renovated the building, which includes the auditorium and music suite.

According to a report released to the Bradenton Herald in December, the Davis building appears to be plagued with numerous problems, such as leaks and mold. It also does not meet hurricane codes, current building codes, or ADA requirements.

Kinnan, who heads a committee overseeing the project, said he has received about 120 e-mails on the matter. On one side, Helen Eason and her daughter Susan Harrigan, have been petitioning their families and friends to let the board know they are opposed to total demolition. Kinnan formed an eight-member group made up of Manatee High alumni to canvass their former classmates on what should be done to the building, which makes up half of the school's campus.

Gene Gallo, a Bradenton city councilman and 1957 graduate is in the group. So far, he said, he has had only one graduate say he didn't care if the building is torn down. Most said they want the front of the building to stay, Gallo reported. If there is going to be a complete demolition, they say the façade of the new building should look like the one now.

"I ask my classmates, 'What do you think when you think of the Davis building?' It's the columns, the red bricks, the stairs," he said. "We

have had club and class pictures taken on it" Eason, a 1956 graduate, is of the same thought. "A lot of people in my class want the whole building saved," she said. "But in my heart, save that front and just go from there."

Chris Smith, a '93 graduate and former Hurricane football player, likes the idea too, but has reservations. "I hate to see the Davis building go. But now, being a parent, nothing is more important to me than the safety of the children," he said "Whatever they do, do it right."

Another option is also gaining popularity: get the building on the National Register of Historic Places and a state grant to help with the building's restoration. To get on the register, a building has to be 50 years or older, looks pretty close to its original condition or its condition 50 years ago, and makes a distinct historical contribution to the community, state or federal government, said Slusser, who has volunteered to help with the application if the school board permits. Slusser also offered to help with getting the state grant through the Bureau of Historic Preservation.

Being on the register improves the chances of getting a grant, which are usually in the \$50,000 to \$350,000 range. A minimum of \$50,000 match is required. Sarasota High, and the Cortez schoolhouse are grant recipients.

"While the school board may think that the building is too far gone to save, we have had great success with buildings in much worse conditions". "I recognize the funding is an issue, but there is more to a historic building than its financial value."

*(The new Davis building was built in 2010-2011)*

**'63 SENIOR CLASS**

**CALENDAR**

**GIRLS**

# The MHS 1963 Calendar

Cover Girl - Linda Mulholland







Connie Clinton



CONNIE CLINTON

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>MAY</b>			1	2	3 Senior Play Fr. Exchange Dance	4 County Girls Sp. Palmetto
5	6	7	8 Study Day	9 Band State, Junior Exchange Conv.	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Fr., Sr. Prom	18
19	20	21	22 Study Day Awards Assembly	23	24 Vocal Concert	25
26	27	28	29 Senior Assembly	30	31 Annual Distribution Senior Debanquet	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1963 JUNE</b>						
2 Commencement Recess	3 Fr. Picnic	4 Graduation	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July & August are missing. If you have those copies, please send them to Froggy -  
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## Emily Benson



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>						1
2	3	4 School Starts	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 High Class Exchange Pol.	13 Vale Student Council	14	15 Men's Club Fish Fry GAA Picnic
16	17	18 High. Vale	19 Study Day	20	21 Exchange Fish Fry Barnes H. Cheerleader Dance	22
23	24 Girls' Picnic 111	25	26	27	28 Barnes H. Key Club Dance	29 GPA Din. H.
30						

## Merrie Lynn Wang



MERRIE LYNN WANG

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 Study Day Magazine Drive	4	5 Chamberlain A.	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 One Act Play Water Haven A.	13
14	15 College Day	16	17 Study Day	18	19 Plant H. Fr. Exchange Dance	20
21	22 Eng. Council	23 Str. Taste Start	24	25	26 Exchange Fish Fry Hillsborough A.	27
28	29 Test Week	30	31 Study Day			<b>OCTOBER</b>

## Linda Bixler



LINDA BIXLER

*Coca-Cola*  
Bradenton, Florida

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>NOVEMBER</b>						1
				2	3 King A. End 1st Quarter	GAA Dance
4	5	6	7	8	9 Exchange Fish Fry Palmetto H. M Club Dance	10 GAA Camping Trip
11	12 Parental Conf. No School	13	14 Study Day	15	16 Homecoming Wheel Club Dance PTA Supper	17
18	19	20	21 Lakeland H. Civilian Dance	22 No School	23 Thanksgiving	24
25	26	27	28 Study Day	29	30	

## Marcy Cole



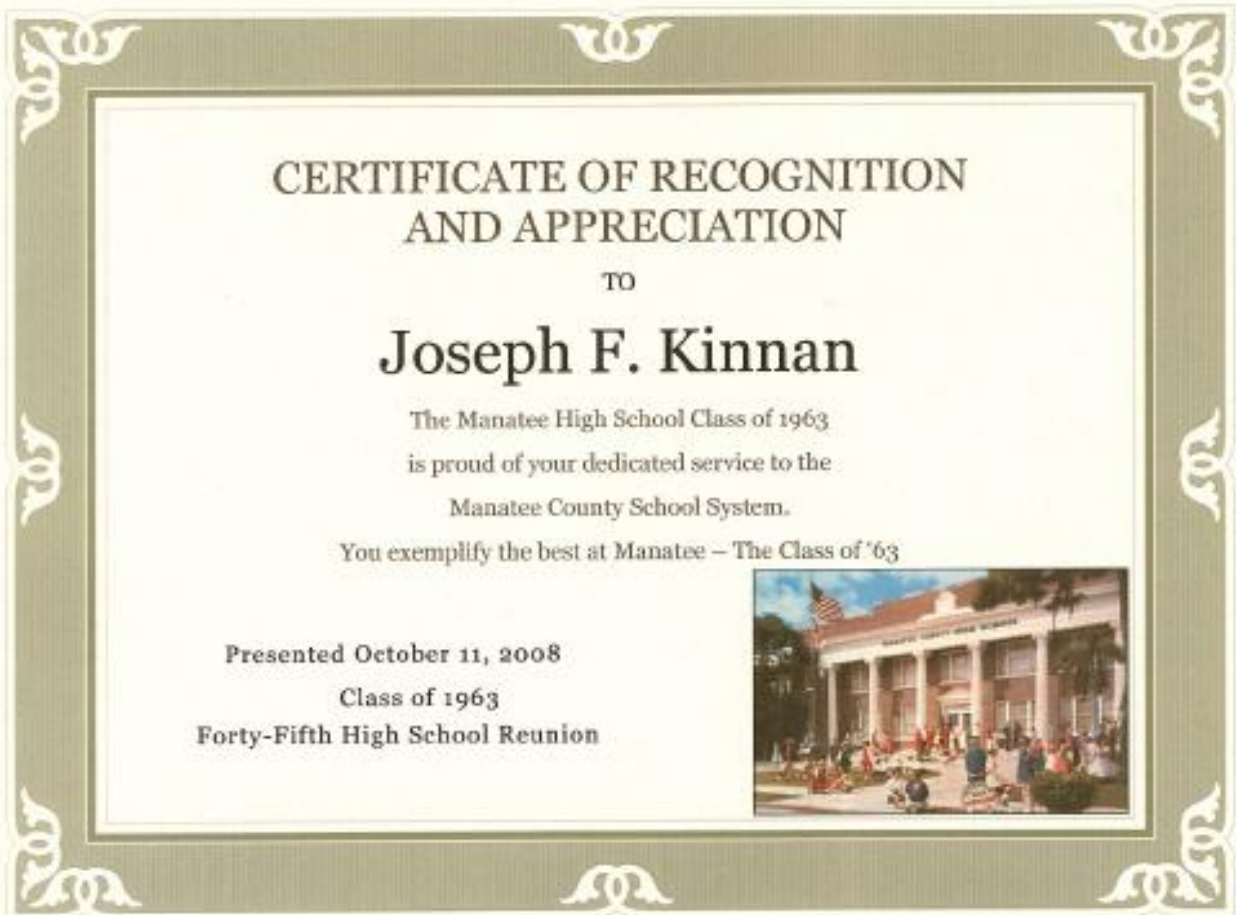
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>DECEMBER</b>						1 County Sports Day Southeast
2	3	4	5	6	7 Exchange Fish Fry	8
9	10	11 King A.	12 Study Day	13	14 Junior Play Sarasota A.	15
16	17 Christmas Concert	18 Christmas Concert Jefferson H.	19	20 Christmas Vacation Starts	21 Hillsborough A.	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**Certificates of Recognition Presented to Our Classmates at 45th Reunion  
By the Class of '63**



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION  
AND APPRECIATION

TO

**Dr. Merrie Lynn Wang Parker**

The Manatee High School Class of 1963  
is proud of your dedicated service to the  
Manatee County School System.

You exemplify the best at Manatee – The Class of '63

Presented October 11, 2008  
Class of 1963  
Forty-Fifth High School Reunion



CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION  
AND APPRECIATION

TO

Virginia "Virgie" Yerly Greene

The Manatee High School Class of 1963  
is proud of your dedicated service to the  
Manatee County School System.

You exemplify the best at Manatee - The Class of '63

Presented October 11, 2008  
Class of 1963  
Forty-Fifth High School Reunion



**ARTICLES**  
**FROM THE**  
***THE CHATTERBOX***  
**OF**  
**WALKER JR. HIGH**  
**AND THE**  
***MHS MACHOHI***

## Walker Jr. High Chatterbox News

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE CREATIVE WRITING  
CLASS OF  
WALKER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

### THE CHATTERBOX

#### The Big Switch

Each March edition of the Chatterbox is known as the "Big Switch Issue". This simply means that all the students on the staff of the Chatterbox switch their positions. The big switch was created by Mr. Smith, Chatterbox advisor, to teach the jobs of the other editors and reporters to his students.

In this issue the changes are as follows: Loren Chudy changes to Editor-in-Chief from News Editor. James Carraway, regularly Feature Editor, becomes Sports Editor. Cheryl Stalker becomes News Editor from Photography Editor and sports reporter. This issue's Weather Editor is Judi Barnes, former news reporter.

On the News staff are Steve Brown, Barbara Voorhees becomes News Editor from Photography Editor and Sports reporter. News Editor from Photography Editor and sports reporter. This issue's Feature Editor is Judi Barnes, former news reporter. On the News staff are Steve Brown, Barbara Voorhees, and Sonny Woods, of the Sports staff, and John Vogt, Editor-in-Chief. The Feature staff consists of Jean Kavanaugh, Jean Kieft, Joan Snyder, Marilyn Kendrick, and Janet Reid, all of the old News staff.

On the Sports staff are Beverly Beall, Holly Gwinn, Sue Beech, Janet Biedinger, Mary Ball, Duane Inman, Joanne MacClinchy, George Benjamin and Lucibeth Perney, formerly of the Feature staff. Unfortunately, the Chatterbox's advisor, Mr. Ralph Smith, does not change this issue. Here's hoping you enjoy this.

### THE CHATTERBOX

#### Hopkins and Sneary are Landing Leaders

Gary Hopkins and Judy Sneary (elected Indian chief and princess), along with 28 other well-known Walker students (Indians) will represent the Youth Center in the up-coming DeSoto Celebration.

All the Indians will appear at the landing ceremony March 20, (Sunday), and in the children's parade in Palmetto the morning of March 26, (Saturday). The braves will take part in the capture of the courthouse March 22, (Tuesday). The costumes (except for moccasins) will be supplied by the Youth Center.

The Indian maids will be Patty Sue Rodenbeck Sally Warner, Merrie Lynn Wang, Connie Clinton, Linda Bixler, Carolyn Lewis, Tessie Carver, Jean Gibbs, Emily Benson, Pam Prince, Bonnie Loring, Letty Lynn Smith, Mary Ann Robeson, and Judy Butler.

The Indian braves will be Charles Willey, George Hefner, Sam Hershfield, Bill Snow, Ronnie Wilhoit, Harwood Blount, Don Walker, Lee Chapin, Ben Sulton, Gary Trapp, Jerry Lybrand, Mike Root, Bob Lawton and Don Wilkinson.

### THE CHATTERBOX

#### Willey, Wang Leaders In Ninth Grade Poll

A poll was taken Monday, February 15, in the ninth grade homerooms for the top students in eleven categories. Some ineligible persons nominated were: Mr. Dittman, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mr. Conat, Mrs. Potts, as well as several seventh and eighth grade students.

The Ninth Grade winners are listed below. Congratulations!

**Most Athletic:** Merrie Lynn Wang and Charles Willey

**Most Attractive:** Connie Clinton, Charles Willey and Bob Popp

**Friendliest:** Geraldine Nosworthy, Merrie Lynn Wang, Don Wilkinson, and Sam Hershfield

**Cutest:** Connie Clinton and Charles Lambe

**Most Likely To Succeed:** Emily Benson and Charles Willey

**Wittiest:** Susan Frohock, Bob Lowery, and Don Wilkinson

**Most Talented:** Cheryl Stalker and Charles Willey

**Most School Spirit:** Merrie Lynn Wang and Charles Willey

**Most Intelligent:** Claire Weiss and John Vogt

**Most Popular:** Merrie Lynn Wang and Charles Willey

**Best All Around:** Merrie Lynn Wang and Charles Willey

### **Anchor Dragon Inspires Spirit**

Throughout this week the Anchor Club's enormous dragon has vividly personified the '62 Homecoming theme "Saint Manatee Slays the Dragon".

Completely planned and constructed by members of Manatee's only girls service organization, the reptile represents a great deal of labor. From cloth and chicken wire and thread, Anchor Club members Shirley Heistand, Claire Weiss, and others formed their magic dragon.

## **THE CHATTERBOX**

### **Tornadoing**

By Jean Kieft

Since the "big switch" this issue I never realized how hard it was to find news and gossip! I'll try to give you a picture of what's going around Walker's 13 acres, and then turn the job over to Janet's trusty (?) hands...

Mr. McMullen is chairman of the district contest of bands and orchestras. This contest will be held here for the first time. The band will again march in the DeSoto Parade.

Will you ever forget when Mr. Dittman discovered the door knob gone and was locked in the boys bathroom!

The art department is busy decorating Easter egg heads. Some of them are quite cute.

The Vocal department is busy getting for the production of "As You Like It".

One of the most unique science projects was when Paul Athens rode a horse down the corridor.

### **DID YOU KNOW.....?**

That Sam Hershfield is the proud possessor of a godfather who is the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission...

Froggy finally caught Bob(Popp)!...A new chorus line is being formed by a crazy bunch of ninth grade gals. Look for 'em at the next dance..

James Carraway and Linda Bixler hold hands in Latin...A "thing" may be going between Judy DeLesline and Snake...

Duane Inman happened to "lose" his camera, with all the pictures for the Chatterbox Spotlight in it...

Keith, Margy, and somebody else got chased around school a few days ago 'cause something was missing from somebody's locker...What a coincidence that St. Patrick's Day fell on Thursday! How convenient.!



## MACOHI NEWS

### Nilofur Speaks About Customs

Is Pakistan in favor of United States' policies? Do teen-agers in Pakistan have recreations similar to ours?

Both of these questions received affirmative answers from **Nilofur Khan, MHS exchange student**, as she spoke to Mrs. Dial's English classes.

"I explained the difference between marriages in my country and in the US" commented Nilofur. Before a Pakistani wedding there are festivities and dancing for a week. The bride-to-be remains indoors for about two days before the marriage and talks only to relatives and close friends.

"This", said Nilofur, "is to make sure that the bride remains calm for her wedding." Unlike the American custom, the bride and groom in Pakistan take their vows separately.

Students in Pakistan are required to wear uniforms to school. The boys' dress is similar to that of the students here in the US. Although Nilofur tells us that the climate in Pakistan varies from sub-tropical to extremely cold, the girls wear a garment called the Shalwar, the Kameez and Dupatta.

In her talk she included information about the Pakistani government, climate, people, industries, school system and food.

### Sideline Views

By **JIM CARRAWAY**  
**MACOHI Sports Editor**

Track is mostly, besides football, the most misunderstood sport. Batons are used in the relays events. The various relay events are the mile relay, the 880 relay, and the sprint medley relay and each are made up of four men/team. Each member runs 440 yards and in the 880 relay the runners each run 2220 yards.

There are a total of 10 track events and the two remaining are the hurdles. One race is the low hurdles and the other the high hurdles. There are nine hurdles 10 yards apart with 15 yards before the first hurdle and after the last for a total of 110 yards in the high-hurdle event.

There are five field events in the high school track meets: the broad jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put and discus.

### Man-On-The-Street

EDITOR'S NOTE Most of us seldom question why we lead the lives we do. Yet one day we may wonder, "Why?? Why do I come to school every day – do I have any reason besides the fact that 'everyone' does it?" What is the real purpose of coming to school?

**Charles Wimpy, senior:** Because I need the education to make it through the world.

**Bobbie Nelson, senior:** I want to further my education, and I enjoy being with other people.

**David Mitchell, senior:** My main reason for going to high school and college is to enable me to get a job and make a living after graduation. However, I also have a desire to learn, and I enjoy the fellowship at school.

### Spirit Unites School

Who has seen school spirit? Neither you nor I. No? Who has seen the wind? Many things are themselves unseen, while their effects are very noticeable. One such thing is school spirit.

Indeed, what is school spirit? Is it Color Day and pep rallies? Or is it football parades and a band at the basketball games?

These are all certainly expressions of school spirit; but there is even a more basic type of school spirit. It stems from a deep pride in your school, a love for education, and a need for belonging to something special, something great.

Manatee High is privileged to have students who take a sincere interest in the operation and maintenance of the school, who feel a part of school and who try to uphold Manatee High's heritage.

It is a shame, however, that there are those who seem to ignore these aspects of school pride, and who wish to dote simply on winning athletic games and other contests. Education in America aims at developing the entire person, and sports and games have a part in this education.

In the past, the scholastic-athletic balance at this school has been well kept, under careful administration. Intelligent student action can keep this balance.

A lump in the throat at an assembly is as true a sign of school spirit as is a sore throat at a football game.

### **Friday, May 3, 1963 Seniors Choose June Speakers**

Lester Younker and Holly Gwinn have been named speakers by the class of 1963 for commencement exercises, in the midst of several decisions made recently by the class. Members of the senior class board selected Lido Beach as the site of the class' annual picnic. Talented members of the class will present a variety show of dancing, songs and skits for the senior assembly

### **Macohi Life –**

Seniors who come out of English class thinking in Shakespearean phraseology are only one group who thought processes have been enchained by the adjustment to a strange language.

French students are similarly afflicted. Many of them are possessed by a small, persistent devil who will not rest until each English thought has been translated into its French equivalent.

### **Macohi Life –**

“Will I be glad to get out of here! When I'm outside that auditorium after graduation I'm going to jump up and shout for joy!”

So we say – we, the seniors, impatient and ever so eager to reach the end of high school, to finish 12 years of school,, to have it over with ...They call it commencement, we know...but that just means we're going to be free, we're going to do things we've never done before.

Life is going to be different now – nor more book reports, no more school lunches, no more tardy slips – and we're going to prove that we're adults...

Adults? Us?...who looked around for last June's seniors in the fall and wondered what sophomores and juniors who looked up to us were thinking..?

But we're not grown up!! What are we going to do to prove it next year, when life will be so different and we'll be expected to be so different?

Or will it really be so unlike the life we've know..?

EDITORS NOTE: Excerpts from an article written by Mr. Marion Brady, Political Ttheory teacher, and sponsor of the Class of '60.

Two weeks from now the excitement will be over. A month from now and the novelty of no-more-school will have worn off and life in general will turn out to be (surprisingly) the same as usual. As has always been true, the most exciting, the most interesting , the most shattering experiences in life will all involve another person or persons. Some sort of philosophy guiding relationships becomes essential. You have three choices:

*One* – Other human beings are obstacles in the path. Push them out of the way. Look out for yourself, nobody else will. Be a lone wolf.

*Two* – Other human beings are means to an end. Cultivate them. Make friends, but be certain they're people who can be of use to you. Choose your fraternity carefully. Contacts count.

*Three* - “He who would be greatest among you must first be servant of all.”

### **Jr. Civitans Name New Club Officers**

Elected to fill a new fill a new office in the Civitan Club, that of sergeant-at-arms, was David Bates, senior.

Walter Beerman is handling the duties of treasurer, and Eugene Ziegler is Civitan secretary. The main aim of the club this year will be school improvements.

## **Senior Cast to Stage Light-Hearted Comedy In Auditorium Tonight**

"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay," an exuberant comedy about two young girls, will be presented by senior thespians. Cast as Emily, the more conservative and naive traveler who gets rather confused, is Emily Benson. Mrs. Skinner, Conelia's frenzied mother, will be played by Lee Groneweg. Adding to the cast of characters are Mike Durham and Ron Woernle, who play the girls' boyfriends, Leo and Dick. Monsier de la Croix, a ham actor of the French theatre, will be Bob Johnson. Two breezy and pushy English girls, Winifred and Harriet, will be played by Marcy Cole and Jean Kieft. Part of the ship's crew will be portrayed by Gene Ziegler, as the admiral, and Tom Williams, the steward. Beth Jones will be the ship stewardess, while Merrie Lynn Wang will play the medical inspector. Therese, the French maid, will be portrayed by Carol Harris, with Susan Frohock taking the role of the mother.



**OUR**  
**ENTERTAINMENT,**  
**OUR HANGOUTS,**  
**OUR FUN**

## The A&W Root Beer Stand

If you were a teenager in Manatee County in the late 1950's or early 1960's, you knew about the A&W Root Beer Stand on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. It was the place to be on a Friday night after a football game to meet friends and hang out. Cars would be parked four deep on a busy night and to say that the carhops were kept busy would be a huge understatement!

The attraction of the A&W included some other memorable incidents besides the root beer. It was a customary pastime for teenagers to drive in circles around the building, not once or twice, but numerous times, often until they ran out of gas!

Another popular hobby with the teenage patrons was "collecting" mugs. One year after graduation, an unnamed girl and her boyfriend returned fifty-nine A&W mugs, much to the owner's appreciation. During our years the A&W was owned and operated by Keith and Mildred Ball from Anderson, IN. In 1958 their son, Fred, joined them as a business partner. The A&W is long gone, and Fred has since moved back to IN.



## The Shake Pit

There were several drive-ins where teenagers liked to hang out in Bradenton during the late 50's and 60's – Cache, El Patio, A&W – all along 14<sup>th</sup> Street north of Cortez Road. They all flourished in those times and were popular spots, but all are gone now.

Only the Shake Pit, on Manatee Avenue West at 38<sup>th</sup> Street, still operates today. Harry Cummings - whose son, Jim is our classmate - worked as a supervisor for General Motors in Indiana and he and his wife Janet had visited Bradenton several times during the 1950's. They were fond of the area and in 1959 they relocated to Bradenton, purchasing the Shake Pit shortly after their arrival.

After a successful opening, Harry set out to expand the menu and build the business into a thriving enterprise. He and Janet made homemade ice cream and Harry experimented constantly, coming up with many new and unusual flavors. They took pride in the fact that their meats were superior, and a long-standing reputation for quality hamburgers began shortly after the business started.

Although the restaurant has changed hands twice since Harry and Janet owned it, the hamburgers are still superb! The current and previous owners have always been big supporters of Manatee High, and a large red "M" is mounted on the rooftop. Recently it was stolen but later recovered and re-attached to the roof.



Steve Vincent, Charlie Wimpy, Don Wilkinson  
- 45<sup>th</sup>

## **The Palace Theater...**

### **A Long & Storied History**

The Palace Theater on 13<sup>th</sup> Street West, had a long and storied history, going back to the silent movie days. Back then the theater had an orchestra and many state performances were adapted for the venue. Ever since the theater first opened in 1926, one promotion in particular attracted huge crowds. On “bank nights” the theater gave away prizes - sometimes several thousand people would stand in the street in front of the theater hoping to win a prize. The theater was closed at the end of 1964 and reopened early in February 1966 under new management and after extensive remodeling. Admission at that time was \$1.25 for adults and 75 cents for students. Remember the Saturday matinees in the balcony!!!

## **The Bradenton Drive-In vs Hurricane Donna**

Hurricane Donna, a category IV hurricane, made its second Florida landfall between Naples and Fort Myers on September 14 , 1960. It packed sustained winds of 140 mph . The impact of the hurricane was felt all along the southwest coast of Bradenton.

As it passed over US 41 moving northeast, the hurricane destroyed the screen tower of the Bradenton Drive-In, a popular place teens and families went for entertainment. (How many of you hid in the trunk getting into the drive-in?? How many are still flexible enough to do it now??!!!)

## **Anna Maria Island**

Besides the fact that Anna Maria Island was beautiful, it was teeming with activities for teenagers during the late 50’s and early 60’s.

Dances were held regularly on the roof of the Public Beach pavilion. Longboat pass was a great place for skiing, and beach parties.

Numerous eating places could be found all over the island, the food was great and the prices were better! What memories!

## **American Bandstand**

Many of us watched “American Bandstand” each afternoon when we got home from school. In 1963, it shifted to only once a week, on Saturday afternoon.



## The Teen Club...



Jeannie Oliver calls herself a “Florida Cracker” but actually it took her 18 months from the time of her birth in Springfield, OH to arrive in Winter Haven, FL. She, along with her husband, the late George T. Oliver and daughter Patricia Oliver MacKay moved to Bradenton in 1951. In 1956, Jeannie became the first female director of the Teen Club. In 1958, Jeannie was named president of the Advisory Board of the Florida Youth Workshop.

The Youth Center of Manatee County was selected as an ideal agency serving youth in the area and Jeannie spoke throughout the state extolling the virtues of “The Ideal Youth Center.” The acclaim reached as far away as Wheaton, IL. Dr. Kenneth N. Taylor, the author of *Living Letters and Living New Testament*, and owner/publisher of Tyndale House Publishers in Wheaton, was meeting with a group of local pastors concerning their community teen club. Dr. Taylor had a questionnaire sent to the Bradenton Teen Club and on the basis of the replies, decided it was one of the “model clubs” in the country. For this reason, Dr. Taylor and his sixteen year old son, Mark, visited the Teen Club. After his visit, Dr. Taylor told the Bradenton Herald, “He was especially impressed with the control Mrs. Oliver had, the method used to check members in, and the general discipline which is exercised.”

“Aunt Jeannie” is gentle. She can be stern but she has never had to bodily throw out a

boy or girl from the Youth Center of Manatee County. They like her. “She’s the most” is the way they put it.

Aunt Jeannie is Mrs. George T. Oliver, director of the Teen Club, whose biggest recommendation for the job was that “she loves children”. Providing supervised activity for over 1,200 Palmetto and Bradenton boys and girls takes a lot of love; it’s a full-time job – a job which includes parties, study courses, big” dances and not-so-big rock-n-roll dances.

Director Mrs. Oliver is frequently asked for copies of her courses on manner and traveling tips. Unique in the Manatee County Youth Center are two non-denominational religious programs yearly, one the week before Christmas, the other during Easter Season. During these programs no other activity is allowed in the building.

Aunt Jeannie is proud of all her boys and girls who crowd the chapel for these services, an indication of their wholesome training and a tribute to her guidance.

Eventually Aunt Jeannie had a genuine and lasting retirement and became involved in every aspect of her church. Her favorite memories are with the youth whom she was blessed to serve. She was affectionately called “Aunt Jeannie” by the thousands of kids who loved her.

## Mary Emma Hershfield - Our 'Mrs. H' Teen Club Director

My mom loved Bradenton from the late 50's when we moved here from Alexandria, VA to the 90's when she died here.



She had grown up in New Bern, NC and gone to New York City in the '30's where she became a model and a member of the "Roxyettes", the forerunner of the "Rockettes" at the Roxy Theater before they moved to Rockefeller Center. She bragged that Bill "Bojangles" Robinson had been one of her tap dance teachers.

After we got to Bradenton, Mom became a "professional volunteer".

At the South Florida Museum, she was one of the docents who took care of Snooty in his pool out on the Memorial Pier and into the '60's when he got his bigger pool (his 3<sup>rd</sup>) at the new Parker Manatee Aquarium. She helped build the Indian dioramas and displays at the museum and made sure there were always enough teenagers dressed up in loin cloths and Indian garb for the annual De Soto landing reenactment and parade.

This picture is of me and her life-sized photo that's on the second floor of the museum today in the "Volunteer's Wing".



Mom was an avid "conchologist" and donated the thousands of beautiful shells she collected along Anna Maria and Sanibel's beaches to the museum.

She and my Dad donated their time to the Art League of Manatee County (now Art Center Manatee) and she held his memorial retrospective there after he died in 1979. They also enjoyed the Manatee Players where many of their friends performed on its stage during the 60's and 70's.

She was the directress of the Manatee County Youth Center which was behind the Players on Old Main. It was the place for "good" teenagers to go on the weekends. "Mrs. H." ran it with an iron hand and many of us learned there was a clear "line" we'd better not cross if we wanted to keep coming to the "Teen Club".

Mary Emma loved the water and lived on the Manatee River on Riverview Boulevard at the foot of 26<sup>th</sup> Street for half a century. Her ashes were spread on the River, so she enjoys it still.

Sam Hershfield April, 2010



## The Manatee Players

Researched and written by Sam Hershfield,

In 1947 the Bradenton Junior Woman's Club started a theater group, "The Manatee Players".

Performances took place in various locales, including the Bradenton Woman's Club and Ballard School until 1953.

Then, due to the generosity of the Manatee Player's first president, Dr. W.D. Sugg, and the inspiration of Mrs. Lillian Bishop, a parcel of land was leased from the City of Bradenton. Bradenton's leading families and business, most of whom are still there, donated to build the new Riverfront Theater.

The 200-seat Manatee Players Riverfront Theater opened in December 1953 with *I Remember Mama*. In 1954, the performance of *Oklahoma* was the country's first production of the play by a non-professional group.

Since its opening 732 plays have been performed at the theater and the total attendance has exceeded 1.5 million theatre lovers.



## Manatee Performing Arts Center

After being under construction since 2006, the grand opening was held Thursday night, March 28, 2013, with the debut of the blockbuster show "Miss Saigon. The Center houses two theaters – Stone Hall which seats 350 and the Kiwanis Hall seating up to 100.

While the theater is the main focus of this venue, on the second floor there will also be a meeting room, education wing, costume shop, the executive offices and more. Everything at the theater is top notch. It even features a crystal chandelier from the "Gone With the Wind" movie set. the Kiwanis Club will have its meetings there.

The Manatee Players will offer a very full season of fourteen shows at the new Manatee Performing Arts Center in Bradenton! Both theaters in the new facility will come alive with current and classic musicals and plays.





**BRADENTON**

**HISTORY**

**(A few places in our memories)**



**Most people who move to Bradenton soon learn** the city was named after an early settler in the area, Dr. Joseph Braden. But what about the other, more obscure monikers on the buildings, places or streets we pass every day?

Unless we have an intimate connection, such as attending Ballard Elementary School, we probably wouldn't know the origins of the names.

Maybe you've sat behind home plate in McKechnie Field, quaffing a couple of cold ones and wondered, "Who in the heck is McKechnie?"

William Boyd McKechnie, played with the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1910 to 1921 before becoming their coach for a year. He managed the Pirates from 1922 to 1925 and took them to a World Series championship in 1925.

When McKechnie retired he moved to Bradenton and is even buried here.

Sometimes newcomers get confused, such as with the Green Bridge between Bradenton and Palmetto. It's not green. It's named after E.P. Green, a Bradenton mayor and businessman and member of the Florida State Road Department board.

Completed in 1927 at a cost of \$1 million, it was replaced in 1987 and the alignment on the Bradenton side was changed from 10th Street West to Ninth Street West.

Most people can figure out the other traffic bridge crossing the Manatee River into Bradenton is named after Hernando de Soto, the Spanish explorer who is said to have landed on the shore of Manatee County to begin his trek through the Southeast in the 1539.

But many don't know that the riverfront street in front of City Centre -- Barcarrota Boulevard -- is named after the conquistador's hometown in Spain.

Ever since the Hernando de Soto Historical Society was founded 69 years ago, Bradenton has had a special connection with De Soto's birthplace.

The two are Sister Cities and dignitaries are exchanged through the year during the DeSoto Heritage Festival and other special events.

There are many more interesting stories to be found in the names of the various places, things and streets in Bradenton all to be discovered through research at the Manatee County Central Library, which is downtown on Barcarrota Boulevard.

-- Herald archives

When Coca-Cola was sold in real glass bottles that were produced in downtown Bradenton.



Back in the 50's Coke delivery men wore white pants and shirts with green stripes. Of course the stripes were the same green as the bottles. This picture was taken at the St Pete bottling plant c1940.



## Bradenton's Historic Memorial Pier and Building



Memorial Pier Building under construction in 1928



Bradenton's Memorial Pier dates back to 1878. The Pier's building was built in 1928, and was officially dedicated to honoring 21 young men from Manatee County who died in WW1. Over the next five decades, the two story Memorial Pier's building would be used for a variety of functions, both public and private. The large riverfront second floor was the social scene for dances and events. The ground floor was used as a warehouse for freight steamers coming in. A portion of the building became the South Florida Museum's first home. This is where our beloved 'Snooty' first resided.

The Manatee County Chamber of Commerce resided here for 34 years, along with Manatee County's first radio station which began broadcasting in 1946. (Susan Frohock's father was a DJ here in the late 40's or early 50's )

In 1974, the Miller family acquired the old building from the City, and considered tearing it down. They soon realized, however, that the architectural and historic value of this Bradenton landmark must be preserved. Meticulus

restoration lasted two years, completely preserving the building's Spanish style.

Since that time, the downstairs has served as a restaurant under several different names - the current being Pier 22. The upstairs contains a ballroom and offices.

The MHS Class of '63 has used this beautiful location for our 45th and 50th year reunions.



### **Billy Graham Crusade Begins at Hawkins Stadium**

The highlight of 1961 for most Christians in Manatee County, as well as Manatee High School, was the Billy Graham Crusade, held February 4<sup>th</sup>. After much planning and many prayers, the two week series of services began at Hawkins Stadium. There Billy Graham spoke to a large gathering (The Billy Graham Select Chronology of Events lists on their website an attendance of 13,700).

Although Rev. Graham continued on his tour of the state, his associate Dr. Joe Blinks remained to hold further services in the city auditorium. He was a guest speaker in an assembly on MHS Study Day, and special emphasis was placed on youth at all his meetings.



Dr. Joe Blinks and Evangelist Billy Graham, discuss plans for the Billy Graham Crusade that was held in Bradenton.

Dr. Joe Blinks and Evangelist Billy Graham, discuss plans for the Billy Graham Crusade that was held in Bradenton.

### **Tropicana Products, Inc.**

**Tropicana Products** is an American multinational company which primarily makes soft drinks. It was founded in 1947 by Anthony T. (Tony) Rossi in Bradenton, Florida. Since 1998 it has been owned by PepsiCo. Tropicana's headquarters are originally located in Bradenton, are now located in Chicago, Illinois. The company specializes in the production of orange juice.

In 1947, Rossi purchased a small orange juice company in western Florida and thus began the Tropicana Products company. Tropicana's early distribution of fresh orange juice was by way of hand-delivered juice jars to nearby homes, but demand grew, especially in New York City.

**(Rossi's second in command was Murray Kesten, father of our deceased classmate, Richard (Dick) Kesten. The very original orange juice carton design, included a chubby little girl in a hula skirt - that was 5-year old Christine, Dick's younger sister, who currently lives in Bradenton.)**

A major breakthrough came in 1954, when Rossi invented and patented a process of pasteurization to aseptically pack pure chilled juice in glass bottles, allowing it to be shipped and stored without refrigeration. For the first time, it was possible to offer the consumers over a widespread area the fresh taste of orange juice made from 100-percent fruit. Soon thereafter, he also devised a method of freezing pure whole citrus juice in 20-US-gallon blocks for storage and shipping.

By 1957, a ship, S.S. *Tropicana* was taking 1.5 million US gallons of juice from Florida to New York each week. In 1970, a mile-long Tropicana Juice Train originating on the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad began carrying 1 million US gallons of juice with one weekly round-trip from Florida to the New York City area. Within a short time, additional weekly trips were required to meet growing demand.

In 1978, Rossi sold Tropicana to Beatrice Foods and retired. There have been more than a few changes over the years. Tropicana, has been through a number of corporate changes and since 1998, is now a division of PepsiCo. It has become the world's leading producer of branded fruit juices.

Rossi was a devout Christian, and he and his first wife joined the First Methodist Church in Florida in 1941. Sometime after her death, he married Sanna Barlow, a missionary, in the mid-50's. They were active members of Manatee Baptist Church in Bradenton, and later joined Calvary Baptist in Bradenton. He traveled back home to Italy annually from 1952, and in 1966 he helped to fund a church and mission there.

In the U.S., after he had sold his Tropicana company to Beatrice Foods, Inc. Rossi established the Aurora Foundation, which has funded Christian educational institutions, missions and other charities.

Rossi was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1987. In addition to his work with product development at Tropicana, his efforts to introduce citrus products into school food programs have also been lauded.

## **Bradenton's New 'pink palace' Won't Be Pink**

BRADENTON — A \$15 million renovation of a historic hotel in downtown Bradenton is expected to start this summer after the Manatee County Commission today approved a parking arrangement with a developer.

But the formerly glamorous Manatee River Hotel, which is also known as “The Pink Palace” because of its tropically-inspired exterior color, will not be pink, according to developer Brian Long.

He said the building will be painted a shade of beige, in keeping with the color it was in an earlier incarnation.

Long said he was “thrilled” at the county commission vote allowing his company, Widewaters Bradenton, LLC, to sign a 70-year lease to use a county-owned parking lot across the street from the hotel for minimal compensation.

The 25 parking spaces there, combined with parking spaces provided by the city of Bradenton, was the final piece of a business deal that has been years in the making, he said.

He wasn't the only one celebrating.

“We've been very eager to get this thing done,” said Bradenton Mayor Wayne Poston, noting that the project was difficult to bring to completion because “all the pieces didn't fit.”

Plans call for construction of a 115-room Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel boasting king- and queen-sized suites, along with traditional rooms, said Long.

Construction is slated to begin this summer, and should be complete by next summer, he said.

A swimming pool will be located on the east side of the building at 309 10th St. W., Long said after the meeting at the County Administrative Center.

The hotel will employ about 35 people, mostly full-time, and will have a \$2.5 million annual economic impact, once its guests go outside the hotel to spend on restaurants, shopping and recreation, Long said.

The hotel was built in the mid-1920s, and was a favorite of the wealthy set, but closed in 1960. It reopened as a senior citizens residence renamed the Riverpark Hotel, but that closed in 2005, and the building has remained vacant since then.



Our own Leslie Martin Eckert wrote this poem about the Pink Palace in 2008 - Great work, Leslie!

### **Ode to the Pink Palace**

*The Pink Palace, oh what should I say,  
It 's said to have been the best, in its bygone day.*

*But its day has come and sadly gone,  
And it seems to be singing its last swan song.*

*A grand hotel once, with a fancy flair,  
Where folks could come, seeming without a care.*

*Simply ring for food and perhaps some  
wine...  
Or go down the wide stairs, to grandly dine.*

*It was said that once even Al Capone,  
Came to stay and called it his 'home'.*

*It's claimed he had a safe on his own floor,  
And an elevator that went right to his door.*

*Booze and bubbles and bath tub gin,  
Dancing and song and all kinds of sin,*

*Music, drinks and flappers in skivvies,  
Some nights cops mingling with the civvies.*

*Then sadly the Palace seemed to go to pot,  
And everything inside simply started to rot.*

*Soon it was turned into apartments to let,  
Where anyone could stay, with money for rent.*

*Then the new owners let it slide down  
some more...  
Apartments soon became an assisted living  
floor.*

*And a floor for nursing was added too.  
All the amenities dwindling down to a few.*

*Then it was bought again, its uses to change,  
It's been gutted, damaged, and quite rearranged,*

*Gone now it's glamour, it's lost all of its  
dapper,  
Sitting useless, just like a bell without a clapper.*

*The shape it's in, perhaps is simply a faze,  
Calling to someone to return it to it's by-gone  
days?*

*I hope so, because the Palace is so very  
historical,  
Restoring it back to a hotel, is that simply  
rhetorical?*

*Now whenever I pass that old shell, it's sad  
to see,  
That the Palace is no longer what it should be.*

*Gone all its glamour, gone all its pizzazz!  
Gone all its sparkle, and all its razzmatazz!*

*If the Ole Girl comes down, it will be a  
shame,  
Downtown Bradenton just would never be the  
same.*

*The Palace should endure, it's part of our  
past,  
The memory of the Pink Palace will surely last  
and last !*



## ***AND THE NEW...***

### ***New Bradenton Riverwalk***

#### ***Revives City's Sense Of Place***

BY SANDRA CASWELL HICE | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012



The new Riverwalk's well-designed public spaces offer high-quality events promote quality of life and economic development.

In addition to aesthetic and recreational benefits, parks also provide positive financial impact by enhancing property values, increasing municipal revenue, and attracting businesses, homebuyers, visitors, and retirees.

For these reasons, the Downtown Development Authority and Realize Bradenton joined forces with many other partners to transform the shoreline of the Manatee River into today's spectacular Bradenton Riverwalk.

The redeveloped park opened October 18, 2012. Visit the new Riverwalk and enjoy concerts, festivals, art talks, movies, food, volleyball, educational events, yoga, skateboarding, fishing, crafts, youth theater, living history, boating, art making, exercise, and many community connecting activities.

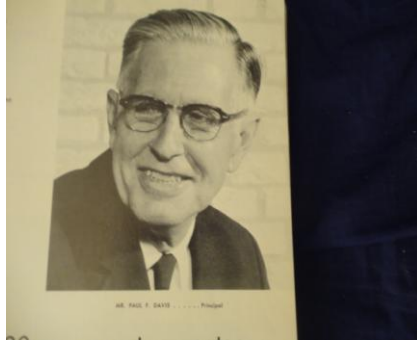


**FACULTY**  
**& STAFF OF**  
**MANATEE HIGH**  
**1960 - 1963**

**(Not all Staff and Faculty are included here  
and picture quality is not great)**

**MR. PAUL F. DAVIS**

**Principal at Manatee High School for 19 years**



February 13, 1898 – April 20, 1987

Paul grew up in West Virginia. From 1916-1920 he attended WV Wesleyan College in Buckhannon where he met Elizabeth. They married two years after college. Before a Florida vacation in 1923 they sent copies of a resume to many towns having high schools. They had several replies, but Bradenton was chosen because it was a "nice little town." Bradenton High School responded with an immediate offer of employment for Elizabeth. Paul began his teaching career as a Math teacher. During the next couple of years he was making sales during the real estate "boom". He then took a job at Reasoner Nursery and remained there for about a year. Paul contracted Typhoid Fever and after several weeks of sickness did not return to the nursery. Instead he went into partnership with a friend who had a grocery store in town.

In the spring of 1929 at the onset of the Great Depression it seemed best to leave Bradenton and return to West Virginia. He and his family spent the summer in Morgantown where he took enough hours at the State University to earn his teaching certificate. Paul began teaching in West Virginia up through 1936. In addition to the academic subjects he taught he was involved in the school's yearbook, newspaper and drama activities.

In 1937, Florida once again beckoned and they returned to the Sunshine State. After they once had lived in Florida, Paul and Elizabeth always said they had "sand in their shoes". Paul's parents lived in Bradenton and often made trips to visit them in Clearwater where they lived. One weekend he was told that

Bradenton High School needed an Assistant Principal. He applied and was accepted. Bradenton High School was renamed Manatee High School in the fall of 1940. In 1943 he was promoted to principal, a position he held until his retirement in 1964.

The main building on the MHS campus was later named in his honor by the Student Council and Manatee educators who knew him well and said it was a fitting tribute. Paul was a vehement supporter of the role the performing arts have in the development of a young person's life. During his tenure as assistant principal and later as principal of Manatee High he strived to provide his students with a balanced education to prepare them for productive adulthood. Paul didn't restrict his energies entirely in education. He served as the first director of Manatee Opportunity Council after his retirement. Among other projects, established the first Head Start centers for needy children in Palmetto and Bradenton. He served as chairman of the Florida Education Association and was a member of the Florida Committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. He helped organize and served as president of the Western Athletic conference.

Paul and Elizabeth continued to make Bradenton their home until the time of their deaths.

**YEARBOOK DEDICATION**

"To Mr. Davis, whose friendly understanding, wise counsel, and cheerful guidance have encouraged our growth and stimulated our development, we dedicate this record of our days here together."

*Three times during his tenure at Manatee High, the senior class dedicated their yearbook to Principal Paul Davis. That dedication of the 1944 Macohi yearbook, shown above, expressed the unanimous sentiments of students throughout the two decades that he served as principal of our school.*

**MRS. ELIZABETH DAVIS**

Latin I, II, III, IV Teacher  
Societas Latina Sponsor



September 24, 1898 – May 6, 2001

Elizabeth graduated from high school in 1915 or 1916, and West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1920. As a freshman in college she met Paul Davis and they were married in 1922, two years after their graduation. For two years after college, Elizabeth taught English and Spanish. Elizabeth and Paul sent their resumes to Bradenton High School and she received a job offer. She moved to Florida in the late summer of 1923. Paul joined her a few weeks later. At her first faculty meeting she was told that Bradenton High needed a math teacher and the principal offered the position to Paul. From 1923 – 1925 she taught English, Spanish, History, and coached the girl's basketball team.

After the birth of her daughter, Elizabeth did some substitute teaching. In 1929 Elizabeth and Paul left Bradenton and returned to WV where they stayed until 1936. In 1937 they moved to Clearwater, Fl where Paul accepted a newspaper job. After spending the summer of 1937 in Clearwater, Paul was offered the position of Assistant Principal at Bradenton High School and the family relocated to Bradenton.

Elizabeth taught languages at Palmetto High School and Manatee High School for a total of 25 years and she was director of the State Latin Forum.

She and Paul continued to make Bradenton their home until their deaths, he in 1987, she in 2001.

**MISS JOE BERTA BULLOCK**

Director of Activities, Publications Advisor



January 31, 1920 – December 31, 1987

In 1939 Joe Berta entered college at Florida Southern, facing head on the adversity of her disability, and staying with her goal of a college degree. Joe Berta graduated in 1943 with her BS in Commercial and a minor in Speech. During her four years at college she was recognized for many distinctions and received a number of awards. She was a member and secretary of Alpha Psi Omega national honorary fraternity which extended bids to only nine members each year.

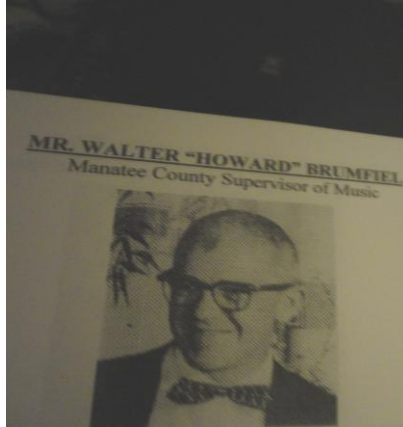
Paul Davis in his first year as principal at Manatee High hired Joe Berta as a teacher in the fall of 1943. For 37 years she taught journalism, oversaw the creation of prize-winning yearbooks and student newspapers, and was director of student activities.

She managed to attend UF part-time and received her master's degree in education with a minor in journalism in 1954.

In the first national event to honor a disabled person, she was the sole entrant from Florida. Although she did not win she went to Washington D.C. and met President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The Manatee Leaves yearbook was dedicated to her in 1952. In 1984 her remarkable achievements were honored by the dedication of the Joe Berta Bullock School for exceptional children.

**MR. WALTER "HOWARD" BRUMFIEL**

Manatee County Supervisor of Music



November 12, 1909 – August 19, 1995

Born in Matthews, Indiana, Howard was raised and educated in several small Indiana towns, then attended Ball State University and the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. In between colleges he taught at the high school in Union City, IN. In 1946 he received his Master's Degree in Music from Indiana University.

In 1948 the family moved to Florida. Howard accepted the position of Supervisor of Music for Manatee County. He also taught band, chorus and girl's glee club at Manatee High. When the State Department of Education ruled that he could do only one job, Howard chose to remain as supervisor.

During his lifetime Howard composed a number of musical scores. He was one of the founders of the West Coast Symphony and continued as a member of the Board of Directors until 1973. He was instrumental in the organization of the Florida West Coast Symphony concerts for elementary school students, which were sponsored by the Manatee and Sarasota County School Boards. Howard was also a founder of the Florida West Coast Youth Symphony, began the Boy's Choir in Manatee County schools, and was a longtime member of the Manatee County Piano Teacher's Association.

He served as the organist and choir director at Christ Episcopal Church for over 13 years, and also substituted as organist for more than a dozen other churches in the Bradenton area.

**MRS. GLADYS CANNON**

Spanish Teacher, Department Head  
Pan American Club Sponsor



May 22, 1906 – September 16, 2002

Gladys was one of eight children and lived in Athens, GA. After high school graduation she attained several degrees at the University of Georgia.

Gladys and her husband, Walter, moved to Bradenton in 1936 after she received a job offer to teach in Manatee County. She taught English and French before moving to her favorite language curriculum - Spanish. She traveled to many Spanish speaking countries. From these trips she learned more about those cultures, adding authenticity to her lesson. Gladys decorated her classroom with relics and memorabilia from the various countries she visited. She also did post graduate studies at the University of Mexico in Saltillo, Mexico and also in Havana, Cuba as well as Spain.

Gladys loved teaching and loved her students although she had a reputation for strictness and order in the classroom. She chaperoned several football and band trips. Many summers Gladys went to Ridge Crest and served as a counselor, helping young people in all settings.

After her retirement in the early 70's she wanted to be closer to her relatives so the family moved back to Athens, GA. Her husband died shortly thereafter. Long after retiring, she continued to get cards, letters and even an occasional visit from her former students, sharing their successes in life and expressing their appreciation for her guidance. Gladys died at age 96 in 2002.

**MRS. HELEN DIAL**

English Teacher, Anchor Club Sponsor  
P.T.A. Chairman



August 23, 1914 – April 2, 1976

Helen Rosamond Curry attended Huntington High School in TN, and graduated in 1930 at the age of 16. She went on to Marshall University and earned her BA in English at the age of 19.

She moved with her husband, James - a minister, and was an instructor in one of the depression era governmental training programs. She also taught English at Johnson Bible College part time. They moved several times and Helen finally began her teaching career, teaching English at the local high school.

In 1958 the family came to Bradenton where some of Jim's family had moved two years earlier. Helen began teaching English at Manatee High in 1958 and taught there until 1966 when the family left Bradenton. Her son, Jim, who died in 2005 graduated from MHS in 1960. Helen's teaching continued in Indianapolis at North Central High School.

At the time of her death she was herself writing a book and a play – she died at age 61 in Winston Salem, N.C.

**MISS MILDRED B. EMMELHAINZ**

Dean of Girls, Drill Team Director  
Student Council Sponsor



October 30, 1915 – November 16, 1982

Mildred family moved to Bradenton from Ohio in 1924. She graduated from Manatee County High School (now MHS) at age 16 in the class of 1932. She graduated from Florida State College for Women (now FSU) at age 20 in the class of 1936.

She served in the WAVES during WWII as drill instructor for Reserve Officer Candidates. She retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve holding the rank of Lt. Commander, after which she returned home and started teaching 11<sup>th</sup> grade English at Sarasota High School. She worked with their drill team.

Mildred transferred to Manatee High in the mid 1940's and pioneered the formation of the first MCHS drill team in 1947. She soon became known by students, parents, and the general public "Miss E."

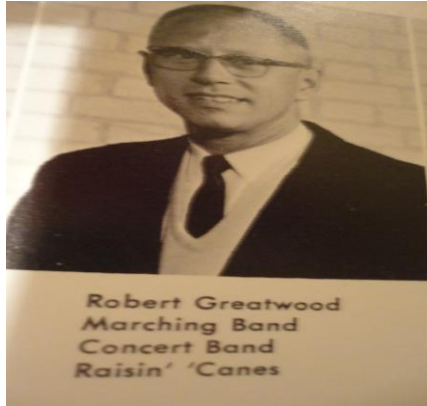
Her drill team squad performed during the half time shows at football games held at Hawkins Stadium. The 44 girls wore red, white and blue uniforms and saddle oxfords. The season highlights were the dances performed at Homecoming games - in 1963 it was "Goofus," that was enjoyed by all.

"Miss E" designed the dances and selected the accompanying tunes the band would play. Over the years the events became quite intricate, involving precision gun drills, marching and dancing.

In 1963, the Drill Team's 16<sup>th</sup> year their name was officially named the Sugar Canes. Mildred directed the MHS drill teams for 21 years, retiring in 1968. The MHS gym was renamed in her honor.

**MR. ROBERT “BOB” GREATWOOD**

Orchestra Director, Concert Band Director  
Raisin’ Canes Director



December 3, 1922 – December 17, 1996

Bob was born in the small western New York town of Cattaraugus in 1922. He attended high school in Arcade, NY. After graduation in 1940 he studied music at Fredonia University in Chautauqua County, NY.

Bob married in 1947 in Buffalo, NY. His first teaching assignment in 1950 was at Little Valley, NY where he taught music for two years. In 1952 he and his wife moved to Williamsville and taught at the High School for eight years.

In August, 1960, Bob and his family came to Florida and settled in Manatee. He interviewed with Howard Brumfiel for a teaching position and was immediately hired. He started teaching music at Manatee High the following month. He taught all of the band and orchestra instruments and also gave private lessons in his home.

His two sons, David and Jeff, and his daughter, Bonnie, all graduated from MHS, in 1970, 1973 and 1980. Each of them was musically talented and excelled in their own musical endeavors. Bob taught for 30 years and retired in 1984, and died at age 74 in 1996.

**MRS. NETTIE JOHNSON HULT**

English Teacher, English Club Sponsor



August 5, 1916 – December 3, 2002

Nettie lived on a farm and attended a one-room schoolhouse near town in Valdosta, GA. In 1933 at age 16, she graduated from Valdosta High School. She earned her A.B. Degree at Valdosta State College for Women, in 1936. Her first teaching job was in Chiefland, FL. She taught at various school in several states.

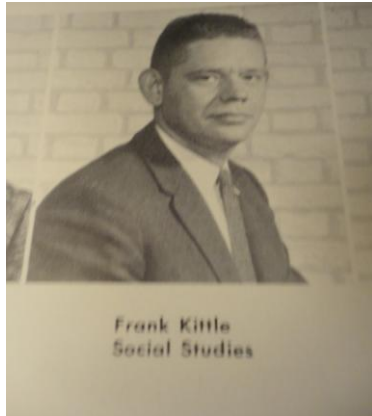
In the summer of 1959 she and husband, Howard, moved to Bradenton. He taught at MJC, but Nettie was told during her interview the only opening at MHS was for librarian. Discouraged with this news, the family went to Sarasota that evening where they happened to bump into MHS Principal, Paul Davis. He told them that an opening for an English Teacher had occurred just hours earlier and the job was hers if she wanted it. Nettie immediately accepted this teaching opportunity and began her 12 year career at MHS. In addition to teaching Senior English, Nettie served as sponsor of the Lanier English Club.

She received many awards over the years. While teaching, Nettie co-authored the several books, including *Daily Devotions*, *Through Trials for Teens*. Her teaching career spanned four decades, until her retirement in 1980.

After her retirement, she published two books of poetry, *Shells from the Suncoast* and *Seasons*. In 1977 she was elected into the International Poetry Hall of Fame's Museum and was published in the American Poetry Anthology. She left Florida and returned to Valdosta, GA., where she died in 2002 at age 86.

**MR. FRANKLIN “FRANK” KITTLE**

Social Studies Teacher



Frank graduated from Elkins High School, West Virginia, in 1952. He graduated from Davis and Elkins College in 1956, with a BS in History and Political Science, and a minor in English.

In the fall of 1956 Frank was drafted into the U.S. Army and spent most of the next two years in Germany.

After his discharge from the Army in 1958, he taught one year in WV, then his brother, who lived in Bradenton, arranged an interview with Principal Paul Davis, and Frank was hired to teach at Manatee High. He came to Bradenton in the summer of 1959 and taught American and World History.

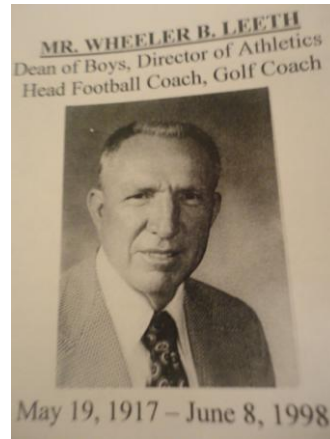
In the mid 60's Frank also taught history at MCC for a few years, and after that also taught adults at the Vocational School until the early 70's. He taught History and Social Studies at MHS until 1988 when he retired after teaching for 29 years.

Frank has been to most of the class reunions. Since retiring he has been to Europe many times, and has traveled extensively throughout England, Germany, France, Switzerland and Greece.

Frank always enjoyed singing and he was active in the Manatee Players during the 60's and 70's, holding the lead part in several plays. Frank is now lives on the island in Holmes Beach, FL.

**MR. WHEELER B. LEETH**

Dean of Boys, Director of Athletics  
Head Football Coach, Golf Coach



May 19, 1917 – June 8, 1998

Wheeler led his Sardis High School basketball team to a state championship, quite an accomplishment for a school with only 200 students. Wheeler earned all-state individual honors in basketball and also played on the school's inaugural football team.

In the Fall of 1938 he enrolled at the University of Alabama. He played in the 1942 Cotton Bowl when Alabama defeated Texas A&M and again in the 1943 Orange Bowl when Alabama won against Boston College. He graduated in 1943 earning a BS degree with a major in Physical Education and minors in Science and Social Studies.

Wheeler entered the U.S. Army and went directly to Officer's Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA, where he was commissioned as second lieutenant. He transferred to the Parachute School from Infantry School and became Battalion Adjutant of the Parachute School. After he was discharged from the Army as a Captain he returned to the University of Alabama to work on his master's degree, coaching at the same time at Tuscaloosa High School.

Wheeler came to Manatee High as football coach in 1950 to begin a twelve year stint which would elevate MHS to a long tradition as a football powerhouse. During his twelve seasons his Hurricane teams posted an 89-29-6 record including a 24 game unbeaten streak from 1954-1957. Wheeler recalled that one of his biggest



thrills as a coach came in the 1953 Orange Bowl game when four of his former high school players started for Alabama. He was also very proud that three of his Manatee players became NFL players.

When asking one of the retirement-age former Manatee High athletes who played for Coach Leeth to describe him it would be Wheeler's personal character and how he touched and influenced young lives when they needed adult guidance. At the end of the 1961 season, Wheeler resigned as football coach and became the principal of Bayshore Junior High. The following year he returned to MHS as assistant to Principal Paul Davis. Then in February 1964 he became principal when Mr. Davis retired.

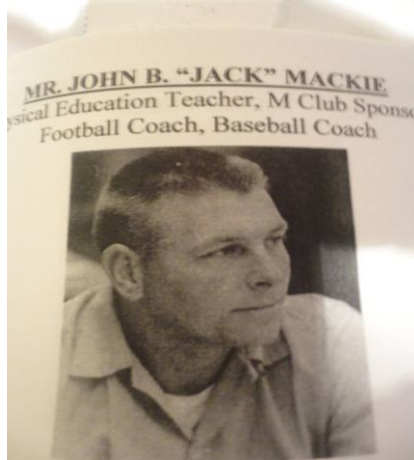
In all, Wheeler successfully completed 34 years of service in public education. In 1982, former Gov. Bob Graham appointed Wheeler to fill a vacancy on the Manatee County School Board. He chose not to run for election when his term ended. He was named by the Kiwanis Club as Educator of the Year in 1974 and 1979 and also received the Service to Mankind Award of the Sertoma Club in 1979.

He will always be best remembered for creating a successful football program at Manatee High. The winning football tradition continues today under the steady guidance of head coach Joe Kinnan (Class of '63), a former player under Wheeler's leadership at MHS.



**MR. JOHN "JACK" MACKIE**

Physical Education Teacher, M Club Sponsor  
Football Coach, Baseball Coach



Jack attended Clearwater High School and was the starting quarterback on the football team for three years. He made all-conference and all-southern pick his senior year. On the baseball team he was a pitcher and first baseman, and the team went to the state tournament during his junior and senior seasons.

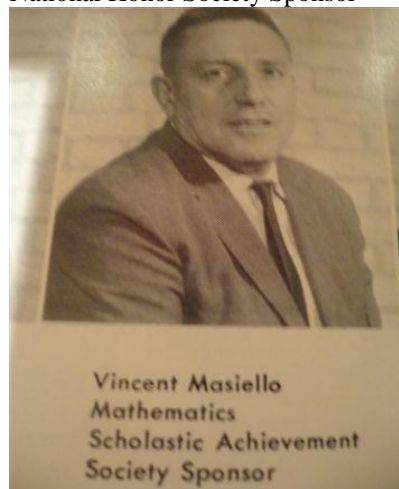
Jack graduated in 1950 and attended University of Florida with a football scholarship. After his first semester he joined the Army. Discharged in 1954, he re-entered U of F in time for the baseball season and pitched for the Gators team that year. He then transferred to the University of Tampa and was running back and cornerback on their football team.

Jack graduated in 1958 with a degree in Physical Education and began his first teaching assignment at MHS. At MHS Jack was head baseball coach and backfield coach for the Hurricane football team from 1958 until 1962.

In the fall of 1962 he transferred to Southeast High as Athletic Dir. and head football coach. He remained there until 1966 when he came back to MHS as Athletic Dir. and head football coach. In 1970 Jack moved into the County Office for six years. He returned for a third term at MHS in 1976, for five years as Athletic Dir., coaching various Hurricane teams. He then spent eleven years in administration. Jack retired from education in 1992.

**MR. VINCENT MASIELLO**

Mathematics Teacher  
National Honor Society Sponsor



August 4, 1915 – April 28, 2005

Born the son of Italian immigrant parents, Vincent grew up in the Bronx, NY. His father was a classical pianist and taught piano in New York City. After high school Vincent received a BS degree from Manhattan College and a Masters in Education from New York University.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during WWII, then the U.S. Army National Guard. Married in 1948, they moved to Florida in 1953. His parents had moved to St. Petersburg. His next move was to Manatee County and he never again left the area.

Vincent's first taught at Palmetto Junior High 1953 - 1959. He moved to MHS and in 1960 teaching Algebra II and Advanced Math, and was the sponsor for the National Honor Society. In 1960 he was the Sophomore Class sponsor.

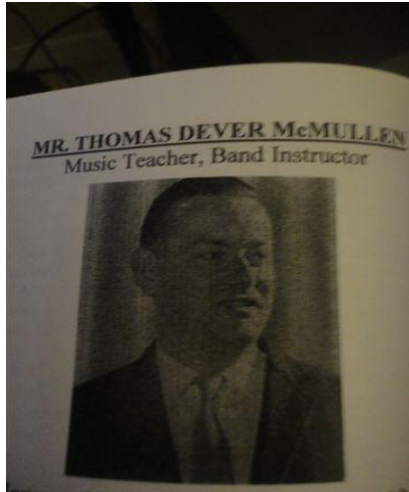
He left MHS in 1968, and taught at the Manatee Vocational Technical Center until retirement in 1978.

Vincent was an avid tennis player, and played well into his 70's. He also enjoyed classical music.

Vincent died in 2005 at age 89.

**MR. THOMAS DEVER McMULLEN**

Music Teacher, Band Instructor



January 27, 1932 – February 26, 2008

Thomas was born in 1932 in Bradenton and was the younger brother of Jeanne McMullen Parrish, also a faculty member of Manatee High. He grew up in Bradenton and attended Manatee County Schools before graduating from MCHS in 1949. He was a graduate of the Florida State University School of Music, where he studied music theory and composition with John Boda, Carlisle Floyd and the renowned Hungarian composer and pianist Ernst von Dohnanyi.

Thomas served in the U.S. Air Force from 1953-1957. During his military service he was conductor of the Strategic Air Command Chorus and musician in the Strategic Air Command Band, at the Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, NE.

His professional life in the Bradenton/Sarasota area included work as band director, teacher of brass instruments, choral conductor, retail music store owner, and publisher of music and musicology manuscripts. He served as a band and orchestra teacher with Bob Dittman and Charles Quarmby at Manatee High during the 1960-1961 school year. He left the musical field and became a minister.

**MRS. MARY “JEANNE” PARRISH**

English Teacher, Department Chairman  
Student Exchange Sponsor



Mary Jeanne McMullen was born in Donaldsonville, Georgia in 1918 and moved to Bradenton in 1925. She started school at Ballard Elementary and graduated from Manatee High School in 1935. She received her AB degree in Arts and Sciences from FSCW (presently FSU) in 1939. The next year, near the beginning of WW II, she began her long teaching career at Manatee High.

Jeanne met her future husband, Paul Parrish, Sr. at the USO – she was a captain in the USO. They had been married 49 years when Paul died in 1993. When her son Paul, Jr. was born, Jeanne took a few years off, but returned to teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade for one year at an elementary school in Oneco. She taught three years at Walker Junior High and three years at Oneco Junior High School where she was chairman of the English Department.

In 1952 she transferred to Manatee High where she taught English, Industrial Geography, and PE during her first year. Later she became chairman of the English Department and one year was named “Teacher of the Year” at MHS. In 1967 she was named the Star Teacher in the MHS Student/Teacher Recognition Program. Her latest honor occurred in June 2008 when she was named 2008 MHS Outstanding Alumni. For 18 years Jeanne served as the Student Exchange Sponsor and in 1961 accompanied many classmates to Colorado.

She retired in 1983 after spending 31 years at Manatee High. Since her retirement she has

kept quite busy, among other things, editing a book and worked part time as a receptionist at Shannon Funeral Home.

Jeanne has said that she truly enjoyed teaching at Manatee High and that her students were, and continue to be wonderful to her, many of them still keeping in touch with her today. Jeanne calculates that over the years she has taught nearly 7,000 students. She says that she totally loved her teaching experience at MHS in all respects and only wishes now she could do it all over again! She celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by taking her first hot air balloon ride over north Tampa. She ranked the flight at the top of her life's experiences and joked that she might have to go skydiving on her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The MHS Jeanne Parrish Scholarship Fund was created to assist qualified, needy students

Contributions can be sent to:

Manatee High School

Jeanne Parrish Scholarship Fund

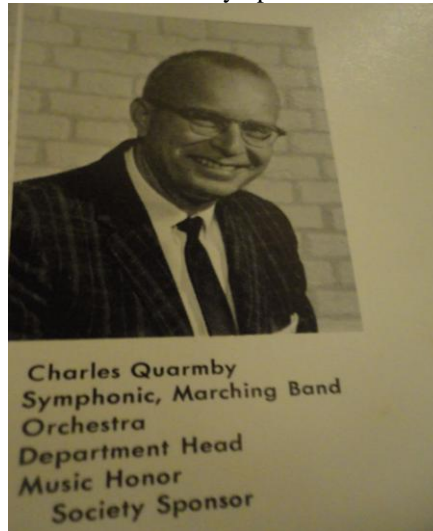
902 33rd St Ct W, Bradenton, FL 34205

Enjoy an interesting read about Mrs. Parrish and the History of Bradenton.

<http://gene-gallo.blogspot.com/2011/05/mrs-jeanne-m-parrish.html>

**MR. CHARLES W. QUARMBY**

Symphonic Band and Orchestra Director  
Music Honor Society Sponsor



May 22, 1921 – March 8, 2008

Charles was born in Owosso, MI, in 1921. His family moved to Ormond Beach, Florida in 1926, and to Manatee County in 1931, when Charles was ten.

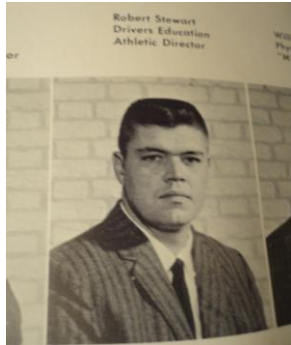
He graduated from MCHS in 1939, and at Michigan State University, but 1942 enlisted in the Army. Upon discharge in 1945, Charles received his degree at the University of Tampa in 1946.

He married and moved to Bradenton. He worked a year as a music teacher at Bradenton Junior High, and in 1949, Charles began teaching at Manatee High. Over the course of the next 18 years he taught several classes, but was primarily involved in the school's growing music programs.

The MHS band maintained superior ratings at district and state competition every year from 1951-1962. Under his direction, the MHS Orchestra also compiled superior ratings for many consecutive years at state competitions. In 1967 Charles left Manatee High and spent many more years in various locations as a band and music teacher.

## **MR. ROBERT H. "BOB" STEWART**

Football and Basketball Coach  
Driver's Ed. Teacher



Bob's family moved to Ocala, FL when he was 10 years old. He graduated from Ocala High School in 1954. He participated in football, basketball and baseball and played in the Florida All-Star football game one year. He was awarded a four year football scholarship to the University of Miami. There he played for Miami's longest tenured coach, Andy Gustafson. Miami ranked No. 9 nationally at the end of 1954 and No. 6 at the end of the 1956 season.

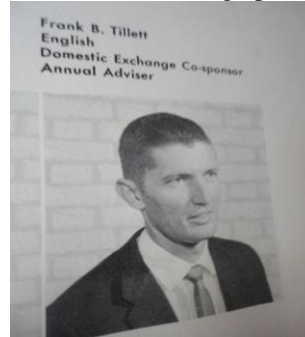
Bob received a degree in Physical Education in 1958. He moved to Bradenton that Fall and assistant football coach at MHS. He was fortunate to serve under the leadership of Wheeler Leeth and credits this opportunity for much of his future success.

While at MHS also taught Driver's Education and in 1961 also coached basketball. His team finished the season with a 12-7 record. In 1962 he became the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director, retiring from this position in 1966.

Bob received his Master's Degree in Administration from the University of Florida in 1972. After a short stint as Principal at Palm View Elementary, he became Assistant Principal at Manatee High. He served in this capacity until 1974 when he accepted the challenge of Principal of the newly built Bayshore High School. He retired from this position in December 1994, after serving in the Manatee County school system for over 36 years.

## **MR. FRANK "BEN" TILLET**

English Teacher  
MHS Annual Photographer and Advisor



Ben grew up in Terra Ceia, FL, the same area where his grandfather first settled in 1886. After attending Palmetto High for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, that school was closed in 1947 and he transferred to Manatee County High School.

He graduated from MCHS in 1949 and enrolled at the University of Florida where he studied for one semester. In 1950 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and was discharged in 1954. He spent the next four years at FSU and graduated in 1959 with a business degree.

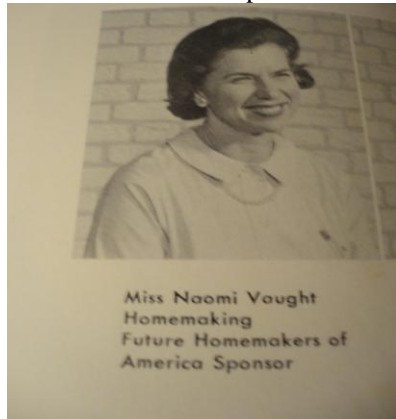
In 1959 he interviewed with Paul Davis who offered him a position at Manatee High teaching English. During the next few summers he attended U of F and Stetson, taking education courses to expand his teaching certification. Over the years he assisted Joe Berta Bullock with the 'Cane Echo Yearbook, and eventually took over total responsibility for its production.

Ben had always been interested in the citrus business and in 1976 started a U-Pick venture in his orchards. This enterprise was successful but very time demanding, so in 1979 Ben decided to end his teaching career. In addition to his groves in 1983 he joined a gift shipping concern and was sending his product all over the country. Ben, now lives with his wife in Terra Ceia, in the same house they have occupied for the past 50 years.

**MISS NAOMI MARGARET VAUGHT**

Homemaking Teacher

Future Homemakers Sponsor



Naomi attended Gillette Elementary School and then Palmetto High School where she graduated in June, 1942. She enrolled at FSCS (now FSU) and earned her BS in Home Economics, graduating in 1947. She later did graduate work at the University of Florida and the University of Miami and completed studies in 1957, earning her master's degree in education.

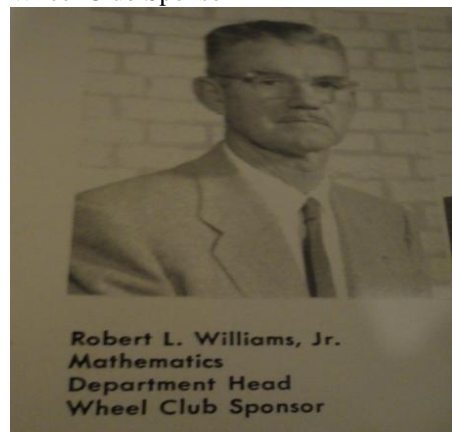
Her first teaching position was at Palmetto Elementary where she taught kindergarten from 1947 until 1955. Naomi taught the 1955-1956 school year at Sarasota High, and then came to Manatee High, where she taught from 1956 until 1972. At MHS she taught Home Economics and related family courses, and was the longtime sponsor of the Future Homemakers Club. From 1972 until the end of 1988, Naomi taught at the Manatee Area Vocational Technical Center. Altogether, Naomi's teaching career spanned four decades, over a 42 year period.

After she retired, she continued to provide sewing classes at the Anna Maria Island Community Center until 2005. She was a member of the American Association of University Women and established the first scholarship as president in 1957. Naomi remembers that the Home Economics classes at MHS provided a good deal of the domestic help for all the class clubs, faculty and football coaches. She remembered her 1960's classes as hardworking young ladies who were eager to learn and very accomplished.

**MR. "BILL" WILLIAMS, JR.**

Mathematics Dept. Head

Wheel Club Sponsor



October 17, 1910 - January 23, 1974

Bill grew up in Charleston, SC, and, with his brothers, had a lifelong love of the sea and boating.

After high school, Bill attended Clemson University for one year, then received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was characterized in the *Howitzer* (the USMA 'annual') as follows: "Beyond question, his most outstanding quality is a deep underlying consideration for others, a sincere helpfulness that makes all his classmates his friends". His life was a continuing illustration of this quality.

Bill met his wife in the Philippines when stationed there in 1935. He had tours both in the U.S. and Panama. Both his daughter and son graduated from MHS, Tom, our classmate, in 1963.

He first taught high school math in Tampa. He gained certain notoriety for riding his motorcycle to school. The next year he moved to Bradenton teaching in the Math Department at MHS, joining former West Point classmate, Philip Doyle.

He owned a 40-foot Mathews, the "Sabalo." Each summer the family spent two or three months cruising the waters of Florida and Bimini, often returning just days before Bill had to report to prepare for classes.

One day in January, 1974, Bill took his boat out, cruised Sarasota Bay, and filled the fuel tanks in preparation for the next day. He died in his sleep that night at age 64.

