



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND IT IS CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME IN THE OLD SOUTH!!!

Hope all of you are doing well and are looking forward to truly one of the most beautiful times of the year. According to the site *Psych Central*, "Springtime is seen as a time of growth, renewal, of new life being born, and of the cycle of life once again starting. It is also seen more generally as the start of better times." Better times would be a blessing to us all.

REUNION COMMITTEE NEWS

The Ribault Class of '67 Reunion Committee met on February 11, 2023 to elect new officers and recap the 55th Reunion. The election results were:

Mary Ann Meares Crumley, Chairman
Pat Knezevich, Vice-Chairman
Sharon Lane, Secretary
Nancy Pace Ford, Treasurer



CONGRATULATIONS

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is June 10. The minutes of the February 11 meeting are up for approval and the proposed bylaw revisions are up for discussion. The last time the Bylaws were revised was in 2013. It became apparent when planning for the election of new officers following the 55th Reunion, that the Bylaws needed to be revised. Much time and effort has gone into the proposed changes. Once the Bylaws are finalized and voted on, the newly revised Bylaws will be posted on the Website. The minutes, once approved by the Committee, will also be posted on the Website.

The Committee is thrilled to welcome several new or returning members. New members are Jeri Brooker Carroll, Ken Sellers and Vanesa Perry Bowden. Returning members are Charlene Barrow Catlett, LaTrelle Lee LeFevre and Elisabeth North Nightingale.

Below is the list of current Committee Members.

Alice Bartlett Mabry	Laura Munns Barnhart
Beverly Coyner Hadley	Linda Jordan Greene
Cathy Copps Hillis	Mary Ann Meares Crumley
Charlene Barrow Catlett	Mike Key
Debbie Gandy McBride	Nancy Pace Ford
Eddie Dedmon	Pat Knezevich
Elisabeth "Liz" North Nightingale	Ray Godbee
Jeri Brooker Carroll	Rick Jones
Ken Sellers	Sharon Lane
LaTrelle Lee LeFevre	Vanesa Perry Bowden

The Committee is already working on plans for the next big event which will be the celebration of our collective 75th birthdays in 2024.

MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

At this time, I would like to personally thank Alice Bartlett Mabry and Debbie Gandy McBride for their dedication and hard work concerning our Newsletter and Website. Many hours of diligent work have made both areas vital to our spreading news of our Great Class of 1967.

Also, thank you to all Reunion Committee Members for your dedication to our Class. You are a great group and I deeply appreciate all you do for making our Class strong and going forward.

A warm welcome to new and returning Committee Members and I look forward to working with all of you for the next five years.

In closing, Classmates, look out for exciting news to come in the next July Newsletter and in updates on the Web.

Please always keep in touch!

Classmates Forever,
Mary Ann Meares Crumley
tcrum07@comcast.net



HEARTFELT THANKS, SHARON LANE!!!

From Mary Ann Meares Crumley, on behalf of the Class of '67:

The Class of '67 would like to give a heartfelt thanks to Sharon Lane for serving as Chairman of the Reunion Committee for 10 years and, prior to this, serving on the Committee many years. Her dedication, guidance and supervision of Class Reunions will long be remembered.

Sharon might have recently stepped down as Chairman but she is now holding the office of Secretary for the Reunion Committee. Sharon was not only Chairman in 2022 during the planning and holding of our 55th Reunion but, when our classmate Darlene Church Friend passed away in June, Sharon also filled Darlene's position as Secretary.

Sharon, you have given many years of dedication to our great class and we thank you!

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A STORY THAT WILL MELT YOUR HEART

Many of you will remember that our classmate Gary Coulliette lost his wife Gwen to Alzheimer's on Christmas Eve 2021. Gary and Gwen were married over 50 years and Gary was beside her all the way during her very long and difficult ten-year journey. I recently received this beautiful note from Gary.

I'm very happy to announce that I proposed to Cynthia Ryals Cape, Ribault Class of 66, on a cruise in January of this year and she said "yes!" We plan to be married in the next few months. We both lost our spouses to Alzheimer's disease and reconnected because of that awful disease. We grew up in Lake Forest and have known each other since childhood, attending Lake Forest Baptist Church and of course high school. We both sang in Senior Chorus.

God has truly blessed me. My heart was so crushed as I watched Gwen leave me. Only someone like Cynthia could know how I felt as she took care of Russ for nine years by herself until she, like me, was forced to place him. Cynthia coming into my life is a God thing. I truly believe that. I've not been so very happy in a very long time. I hope that God will grant us a long time together as we certainly love being together.

coulliette3@gmail.com



IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER, I WOULD HAVE. . .

By Vanesa Perry Bowden

Is the Class of '67 special or what? We have so many talented members of our Class and that makes every communication and gathering we have especially meaningful at this stage in our lives. I find that each time we meet or I browse Debbie Gandy McBride's brilliant website, or read Alice Mabry's exceptional quarterly newsletter, I learn something about a class member that makes me want to know more about them. We weren't all friends in high school but we share a common bond of growing up and going to school together which cannot be matched in any other affiliation we have.

In thinking along those lines, I thought that one way to get to know each other better is to share some experience that we had which we regret and wish could have been different. That leads to another common bond I suspect most of us have. We have so much "wisdom" because of our experiences that we would like to pass on to our children and people we care about, but if your case is like mine, you may be humored but no one really wants to hear your advice!

I have so many "regrets" that I decided to think of the very first one I can remember and perhaps share others in future newsletters. I hope my sharing will encourage each of you to have a memory you would like to share to express something you wish you had done differently. This type of sharing requires some vulnerability and tossing away of pride that we have always been perfect, but I believe we will find many things we could come to a consensus about in sharing life lessons.

So here goes my first share:

Many of you might be surprised to hear that I was a tomboy growing up. If you consider that my playmates were four rough and rowdy brothers, you might appreciate that any time not spent holed up in my bedroom was spent with them. When I was 7-8 years old, we lived in a big old yellow house which was located at the end of a lane and surrounded by woods and a huge field. On the other side of that field there were railroad tracks which almost always had stationary cars on them.

One of our favorite things to do was lope through that field and hunt for blackberries. In actuality you could find the blackberries much easier if you walked on top of the train and

jumped across the hookup to the next car. My oldest brother did this all the time but refused to let me climb up and enjoy the hunt. It was to my greatest delight to find myself as the “elder” sibling one day, bringing two of my younger brothers along.

You have probably guessed by now that I climbed right up the ladder and proceeded to walk and hunt. It was either my first or second jump across that fell short and I found myself with a huge gash in my bottom left chin and jaw. I should say my brothers found me that way because I lost consciousness. Those dear boys, aged 6 and 5, dragged me across the field yelling the whole way, “Vanessa’s dead!” I am not sure when I became conscious but the first thing I remember was having stitches and being told I was lucky to be alive.

As a consequence of my actions, I was never allowed to go blackberry hunting again and I have lived with that scar for my entire life. I hardly think of it now but it was prominent to me in my younger years.

So, this is my first memorable regret. **IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER, I WOULD HAVE** listened to my older brother and never, ever gotten on top of that train.

I hope you enjoyed this story and I challenge each of you to share something for our next newsletter.

Classmates Forever (adopted from Alice)
(Note from Alice: And I adopted it from Jack Kelly)

Vanessa Perry Bowden

P.S. I sure am glad I wasn’t with my brothers the day they burned down the woods!

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THE PEYTON BROTHERS

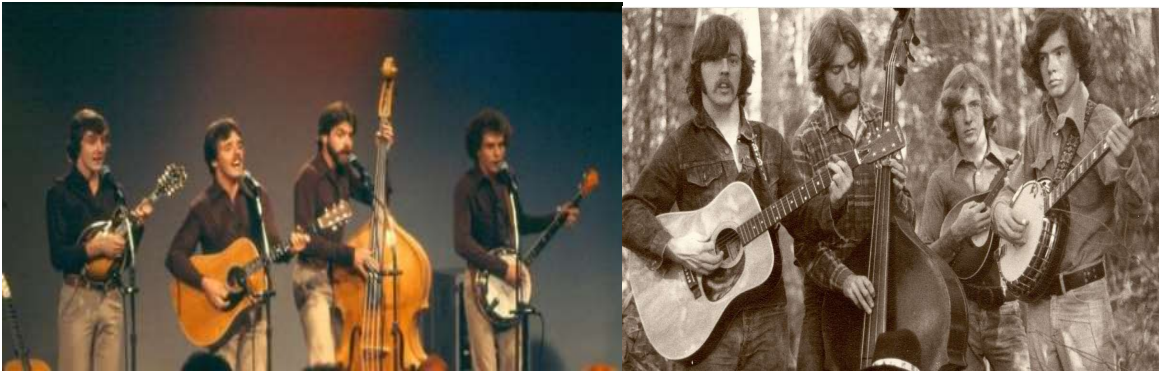
As posted by Dan Peyton on February 18, 2023 on Facebook:

50 Years! That's how long it's been since The Peyton Brothers made their first public appearance in Jacksonville. . .and we're not done yet. Over the next few months we'll be doing three shows beginning with a much anticipated appearance with our good friend Allen Shadd at the Mudville Grill in Jacksonville on March 18th. We'll also be playing at the Gamble Rogers Festival in St. Augustine and the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs. Our plan is for Allen to do a set then we'll play and have Allen join us towards the end of our show. It's going to be lots of fun, and you'll get to hear one of the finest guitarists in the country, Allen that is. For those of you who don't know Allen, he's a three-time winner of the National Flatpicking Championship and two-time winner of the Wayne Henderson guitar competition. He's also won a number of other competitions including Merlefest. He's performed and recorded with many well-known artists including Tom T. Hall, Claire Lynch, Jimmy Fortune, Norman Blake, Mark Johnson, Darin and Brooke Aldridge, John Cowan, Barry Lee Harwood, Vassar Clements, Peter Rowan and many more.

The Mudville show promises to be a memorable event that will also be our farewell to Ray Lewis who will be retiring (this time for sure) after more than 40 years of hosting live music events in Jacksonville. We hope you'll join us. For tickets, call Ray at 904.635.4167 or by email at flmusic@bellsouth.net.

peytonbro@aol.com





CONGRATULATIONS, BILL BARROW!

As shared by Bill's wife and our classmate, Cindy McElhaney Barrow:

The good news I have to share is that my husband Bill (Class of '65) will be receiving a Lifetime Achievement award at the National Association of Broadcasters conference in April (Las Vegas) in recognition of his many years in the television transmitter industry.

The below picture would be a good example of why Bill is receiving a lifetime achievement award. He's ALWAYS on the phone and available to his customers 24/7. Even while we're on vacation (whether Florida or even in Europe!), he's always available, including joining in weekly Zoom meetings.

We first met in the orchestra when I was in 7th grade and he was in 9th. I played viola and he played cello. His sister, Charlene (also a viola player), was my best friend. At that time, he was just her geeky older brother.

My dad was in the military and I moved away in the 8th grade. When I returned in December of our senior year, the first thing I did was go see my friend Charlene. Her brother (now a college sophomore) opened the door, and I thought "Boy, he sure has changed!" I was smitten. It wasn't for a couple of years (and as a result on prompting from Charlene) that he asked me out for New Year's Eve. He called me again shortly after, we went out again the following weekend and, as they say, the rest is history! We got married in August of 1969. Charlene and I are still good friends.

Note: Bill Barrow is the brother of classmate Charlene Barrow Catlett.

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WEBSITE



After much thought and consideration, our Webmaster, Debbie Gandy McBride, decided to stay with our original website and continue to update and expand it rather than roll out a completely new site. The risk of possibly losing some of our precious, irreplaceable history in the transition outweighed the cool advantages of working with a newer model format.

Check out what Debbie has done recently. Our classmate Tim Delrose reached out to Debbie and asked her if there was a way to bring back pictures and memorabilia from our past and have it available for all to see on the website. Debbie set to work on adding a new page to our Site—***Links To The Past***. On that page you will find pictures from our

reunions and birthday parties, as well as other indelible memories of our high school journey.

Debbie has also added a *Class Veterans* page. We have attempted to list and honor all of our Class of '67 Veterans. Please let us know if we have missed someone or do not have your information correct. **Your classmates want to thank and honor all of you for your service and never forget what you did for our Country.**

In addition to a huge **THANK YOU** to Debbie for her continued and constant extraordinary work, thanks also to our former Webmasters Elisabeth North Nightingale, Frankie Cribbs (RIP) and Judy Baucom Hunter for their exceptional work over all the years.

www.ribault67.com

ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION

Just how many reunions and birthday parties have you attended? Classmate Tim had another great idea. He thought it would be nice to have a recognition page on the Website for class members that have attended the most class events.

Below are charts of all reunions and all birthday parties we have had since we graduated to help you figure out how many you have attended.

RIBAULT CLASS OF '67 EVENTS		
DATE	REUNIONS	LOCATION
1972	5 th Reunion	Camp Blanding Starke, Florida
August 23, 1977	10 th Reunion	Sea Turtle Inn Atlantic Beach, Florida
August 21, 1982	15 th Reunion	Thunderbird Motor Hotel Arlington Expressway Jacksonville, Florida
July 31, 1987	20 th Reunion	Ponce de Leon Hotel St. Augustine, Florida
July 31, 1992	25 th Reunion	Ponce de Leon Hotel St. Augustine, Florida
1997	30 th Reunion	Sea Turtle Atlantic Beach, Florida
June 21-22, 2002	35 th Reunion	Ponce de Leon Hotel St. Augustine, Florida
June 8-10, 2007	40 th Reunion	Jekyll Island, Georgia
August 10-12, 2012	45 th Reunion	Sea Palms Resort St. Simons Island, Georgia

July 14-16, 2017	50 th Reunion	Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Airport Jacksonville, Florida
October 14-16, 2022	55 th Reunion	Marriott SpringHill Suites Fernandina Beach, Florida

RIBAUT CLASS OF '67 EVENTS		
DATE	BIRTHDAY PARTIES	LOCATION
1989	40 th Birthday Party	Apt. Club House on Townsend Boulevard
1994	45 th Birthday Party	Knights of Columbus
1999	50 th Birthday Party	Mandarin, Florida
June 26, 2004	55 th Birthday Party	Burnett Park Jacksonville, Florida
August 1, 2009	60 th Birthday Party	Morocco Shrine Temple 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road Jacksonville, Florida
August 16, 2014	65 th Birthday Party	Elks Lodge 221 1856 West Road Jacksonville, Florida
April 6, 2019	70 th Birthday Party	Fraternal Order of Police Lodge—Marsh Landing 2302 Sawgrass Road Jacksonville, Florida

We are not 100 percent sure we have all of this information correct. Please let us know if you remember any of these events differently or can give us more information. We do not have the dates of our 5th or 30th Reunions. We also do not have the dates for our 40th, 45th or 50th birthday parties or the exact locations. Would also love pictures for all of these events.

Cannot wait to hear who has attended the most events. Please send your information directly to me at abmabry49@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For **Pat Knezevich** who underwent triple heart bypass surgery on Thursday, March 30. Pat's wife, Carrie, posted on her Facebook page that he is resting well and all went OK. knezpd1949@gmail.com

For **Chip Pullman** who was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia in 2019. chippullman@gmail.com

For **LaTrelle Lee Le Fevre** as she continues to battle lymphoma and long haul Covid.
r.lefevre@att.net

PLEASE LET US HEAR FROM YOU

There is no way we can know about every illness or death or when your email address changes unless you let us know. We promise if you let us know, we will do our part to keep you well informed.

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Terry Gentry Morefield, Class Facebook Chief Admin.: terrymorefield@comcast.net



"Better a witty fool than a foolish wit."—*William Shakespeare*

