

Ribault Senior High School
Jacksonville, Florida

Class of 1967



July 2023, No. 12

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Happy 4th of July Great Class of '67

GOD BLESS AMERICA, LAND THAT I LOVE!

WELCOME JULY! WOW! Seems like only yesterday we were putting away the Christmas decorations. Now we are about to celebrate the 4th of July. Remember when we thought Christmas would never come?

MESSAGE FROM REUNION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Hello Classmates!

Just a little note to keep in touch and let you know what the Ribault Class of '67 Reunion Committee has accomplished since the last newsletter.

On June 10 we adopted new Bylaws. A lot of work went into this update. Thank all of you for your input.

We are currently working on a location for our 75th BD party. Vanesa Perry Bowden heads the Event Planning Committee and she is very busy locating possible venues. Her committee is looking for a get together in the fall of 2024 to be held either the last part of September or early part of October. Please keep this in mind and spread the word.

Ken Sellers heads up the Fund Raising Committee. He appears really excited about this and I appreciate his eagerness to volunteer his time.

We have an awesome Reunion Committee and I appreciate their volunteering to make our Ribault Class of 1967 the greatest Class.

All of you have a relaxing summer and take care.

Mary Ann Meares Crumley



BYLAWS AND MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2023 MEETING

The newly adopted Bylaws and approved minutes of the February 11, 2023 regular meeting can be found on our Website at www.ribault67.com>Announcements.

REPORT FROM FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Ken Sellers, who recently joined the Reunion Committee, has volunteered to be the chairman of the Fund Raising Committee. Below is his first report:

Purpose:

- Raise funds to support planned events, required deposits and rental fees
- Help subsidize activity costs to class members
- Begin to raise money for a legacy fund that will be donated to an appropriate cause upon the dissolution of the Reunion Committee

Members:

- Cathy Copps Hillis
- Eddie Dedmon
- Jan Tokarz Redden
- Ken Sellers, Chairman
- Mike Key

Action:

- Develop ideas for fundraising events
- Establish criteria to prioritize events

- Narrow list of possible events to one or two and begin implementation
- Coordinate with Event Planning Committee



Ken Sellers

REPORT FROM EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

Vanesa Perry Bowden, who recently joined the Reunion Committee, has volunteered to be the chairman of the Event Planning Committee. Below is her first report:

Purpose: Design, plan and implement activities of the Class as directed by the Reunion Committee.

Members:

- Charlene Barrow Catlett
- Debbie Gandy McBride
- Ray Godbee
- Vanesa Perry Bowden, Chairman

In addition, Mary Ann is being very helpful and will be attending tours with us when she can.

Action:

According to the Bylaws for “Standing Committees,” the Event Planning Committee is to:

- Have a Chair and select volunteers to serve on the committee
- Design, plan and implement activities of the Class as directed by the Reunion Committee

Though not spelled out in the Bylaws, “Designing, planning and implementing activities” of the Class will include those essential tasks of finding venues, selecting a theme for the 75th birthday party and 60th Class Reunion, and planning fun activities for all members in attendance to participate in.

The committee would love to hear from anyone who knows of a venue that they have had good experience with in the past. Those recommendations will be accepted with glee and researched for possibilities.



Vanesa Perry Bowden

ATTENDANCE RECOGNITION WINNERS

FIRST PLACE

Sharon Lane and Nancy Pace Ford attended all reunions, except the 5th, and all birthday celebrations.

SECOND PLACE

Jerry Nelson has never missed a class reunion but did miss two birthday celebrations.

THIRD PLACE

Mike Key believes he attended every class reunion but not all birthday celebrations.



Sharon Lane
1st Place



Nancy Pace Ford
1st Place



Jerry Nelson
2nd Place



Mike Key
3rd Place

To see charts of all of our reunion and birthday celebration events, go to the Website www.ribault67.com and see the April 2023 Quarterly Newsletter under *Alice's Newsletter*.

OUR 5TH REUNION

The 5th Reunion seems to be the one few of us remember. **HOWEVER**, there are some that remember it all too well.

That reunion was held at Gold Head State Park across the street from Camp Blanding. It rained all afternoon. Following the organized festivities, a few headed to Eddie Dedmon's folks' lake house on Lake Opal in Keystone Heights.

Those that Eddie could remember attending were Brenda Hannah Dedmon (pregnant with their first daughter)(RIP), Jack Weatherly (RIP), Kile Tomlinson, Becky Roundtree (later and still Mrs. Tomlinson), the Nelson twins, Jerry and Larry, and Dan Peyton. That evening consisted of the usual drinking and partying of 22 year olds.

The next day, Kile and Larry grabbed the boat to go skiing. Kile was driving the boat pulling Larry. When Larry fell, Kile made a sharp left and was thrown out of the boat. The throttle was stuck and the boat was going around and around in circles. Kile was terrified the boat would hit him [never mind poor Larry] and he would die. The boat continued going in circles until it finally ran out of gas. Those on land watching could not contain themselves and have probably never let Kile or Larry forget their infamous day on Lake Opal.

Dan, playing it safe, claims all he remembers is having a nice conversation with Brenda.

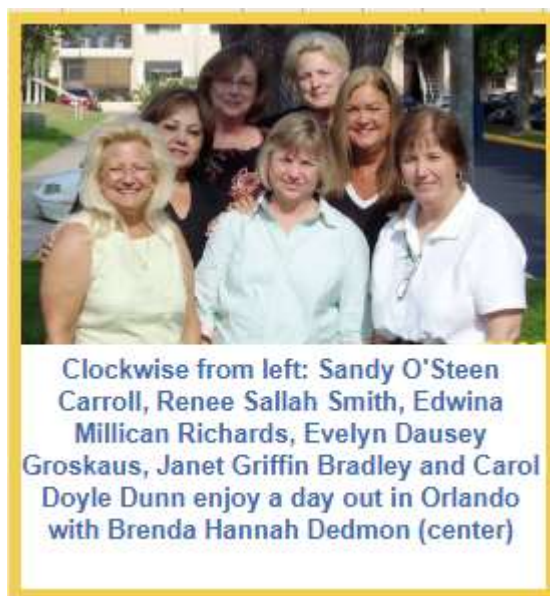
Note from Editor: Brenda Hannah Dedmon was undoubtedly one of our sweetest classmates ever. We lost Brenda to breast cancer in 2007. She and Eddie were blessed

with two beautiful daughters and many grandchildren and now great grandchildren. Below is a poem written by our classmate Mary Jo Kimbrough Trenkler in Brenda's memory.

BRENDA

**She knocked on my door after nearly 40 years
And, said "Hi, can I come in?"
The door flew open and let in all those memories
Like an unexpected gift
We talked of our young school age days when we first met
And, she remembered the year
I was so stunned to see her sitting on my couch
That my words were stuck inside
But, she went on to say it was in our third grade
That her family moved to town
I had lumped her together with all of those kids
Saying we met in first grade
She spoke of old friends that had become new again
Her smile lit up my whole house
I asked about her cane that she used to walk inside
She said she was having tests
The subject quickly changed with another big smile
A funny story to share
Little Brenda Hannah with her darling blond hair
Came to see me one bright day
Bringing love and memories that I'll never forget
She only stayed for a short while**

**- - Mary Jo Kimbrough Trenkler
February 28, 2007**



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

By Tim Delrose

Here's a memory I have from high school. Not sure if Mr. Dedmon will remember any of this, but he and I used to compete for a lead spot on the track team. Our coach, Coach Loper, would get us mixed up at times after a race as to who beat whom. Eddie and I even got into a pushing match in the locker room because of my frustration with that. But the thing I remember the most about Eddie was his way with the girls. He was always cool and had a girlfriend. I remember specifically his going out with the twins. I can't remember their names [Janice and Jeanie Hickson] or if they were even in our class [Class of '68]. And he had his own swagger. LOL.

Note from Editor: So, Tim, if you had to do it over again, you'd trade places with Eddie, even if that meant you did not win as often, just to have the Dedmon swagger? LOL!



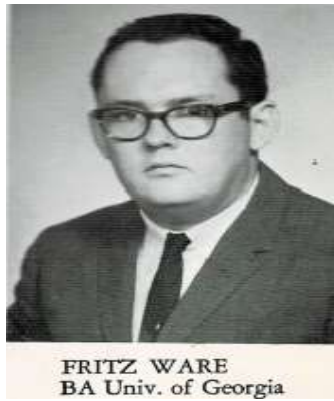
By Gary Coulliette

Unfortunately if I could go back, I'd probably do the same goofy things again and not apply myself in class!

I do remember one thing our homeroom class did on a weekly basis. I'm not sure if it was the 9th or 10th grade. Back then when we would pray in school, Mr. Ware would take off his glasses during the prayer. The poor guy had very poor vision. Someone would move his glasses to the other side of his desk and he'd have to search for them every single time.

We'd also steal his erasers and place them in a locker outside in the hallway (mean kids!). At the end of the year, before he showed up, we stacked all of the erasers on his desk! LOL

Note from Editor: Gary, so what you are saying here is that now that you are old and most of the time cannot find your glasses or erasers, you would never have done that to poor-sighted Mr. Ware if you had to do it over???



**A STORY THAT WILL MELT YOUR HEART
(Continued from April Newsletter)**



Congratulations and Best Wishes, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Coulliette

On June 3, 2023 Cynthia Ryals Cape (Class of '66) and Gary Coulliette were married.

The wedding was held in the eTown Del Webb ballroom in Jacksonville, Florida. The wedding was officiated by Cynthia's longtime friend and minister of music at Aspire Southside Baptist Church. Our grown children and grandchildren were in attendance. Cynthia designed most of the decorations and her lady friends decorated the ballroom. Our family surprised us as we left the ballroom with clouds of bubbles. We had a great time and evening with our family.

The following weekend we traveled to Blue Ridge, Georgia for a few beautiful days in the mountains. We hiked to several waterfalls and took a ride on the Blue Ridge Scenic Railway. We stayed at the Aska Lodge just outside of Blue Ridge. A beautiful place tucked away in the rolling hills of north Georgia. We loved it so much that we stayed an additional day. Our actual honeymoon will be a seven-day cruise to New England in late September.



WHOA NELLIE!

Many years ago a question was posted on *Go Ask Alice* as follows:

Question from Tom Brunofsky (9/19/07):

Dear Alice:

Does anyone know who the degenerate students were that placed the dead horse on MLW's yard?

Were the perps ever caught and are they still doing time for their heinous act?

As we all know, there is always more than one side to a story. Here are five.

Answer One as told by Tom Brunofsky to Alice Bartlett Mabry (9/19/07):

Tom B (as in Brunofsky) was headed to the school one evening for a Hi-Y meeting when he happened upon a dead horse on the side of the road. He then rounded up Doug "drove the truck" Trantham, the late, great Jack Weatherly and sweet Steve "say it isn't so" Davis III, along with some others who will remain nameless ONLY because Tom B cannot remember who they were, and headed back to pick up said dead horse and deliver it to the doorstep of the lovely Miss Mary Lee Walker.

You know what they say, Mary Lee, when boys are mean to you, it's cause they really like you.

Answer Two from Mary Lee Walker Shipley (5/7/2010):

Hey, Alice! It's me, Mary Lee Walker. About the horse . . . it ended up in my yard because I didn't want to date a certain gentleman so everybody was mad at me!!!!?? BUT my sister and I knew—we watched them do it—but we

didn't say a word because my mother would have freaked out! It was all done in fun and the boys had a blast! ;)

Answer Three from Kile Tomlinson (6/2/2023):

Just a FYI on Dead Horse Prank: Tell Mary Lee the "Tom" that put the dead horse in her front yard was Tom as in Kile "Tom"linson. We used my dad's old 52 pickup. Doug Trantham told us a horse had died on his farm so we all jumped in the truck and went to the Trantham farm to retrieve the horse. It took all four of us to figure out a way to get the horse in the back of the truck. We drove the truck to Mary Lee's house, backed into the driveway and the other three grabbed and pulled the horse by the tail while I moved the truck forward and the horse slid out to the ground. I placed two sticks in his mouth to make him look like he was smiling and we took off.

Next morning, my dad received a call from the principal's office advising him that he would need to come to the school with me for a meeting before I would be allowed to return to class. The meeting was with the principal, my dad, Mary Lee's dad and me. I apologized and my apology was accepted and everything went back to normal. Never did know how they disposed of the dead horse or found out so quickly who had done it?

Answer Four as told by Doug Trantham to Alice Bartlett Mabry (6/25/2023)

Doug can't remember who came across the dead horse in the ditch first but somehow he, Kile and Tom (and very likely some others) ended up with the dead horse in Doug's grandfather's panel sided truck. They were headed to Jackson High School to place it under the flagpole but thought better of driving that far because the backend of the horse was partly off the back of the truck. They did not want to get stopped by the police. Next best idea was to drop it off at Mary Lee's house because of her love of animals.

Doug said the next day he was in A vs. C and an office runner came to his class and told him there was a phone call for him up in the front office. It was his mother asking him what he knew about a dead horse. She said there were two patrolmen at their house. Doug said he knew nothing. He went back to class and a short time later another office runner came and got him out of class again and said Mr. Brown wanted to see him in his office. There were two patrolmen in Mr. Brown's office and he asked Doug what he knew about a horse. Doug once again said he knew nothing. Mr. Brown told him he had already been ratted out so he might as well confess. Could have been Mr. Brown was just pulling a "Law and Order" trick and just telling Doug that so he would confess. Mr. Brown said it took six guys from the county and a dump truck to get that dead horse out of the Walkers' front yard and only a few skinny boys in an old pickup to put it there.

Answer Five from Tom Brunofsky (6/26/2023):

One thing I did not mention was actual size of the deceased beast. This was not a pony but a full size horse probably weighing in around 1/2 ton. Not sure how a handful of young surfers managed the delivery but we must have been determined. I am also thankful that my cohorts did not rat me out as I was never interviewed.

On a more personal side, this dead horse's spirit seemed to be telling me that he did not want his misfortune to be in vain. Isn't it ironic that he is one of the most famous dead horses in the last 60 years?

May he rest in peace in horse heaven,

Tom b

TALK ABOUT BEATING A DEAD HORSE

THE END . . . MAYBE



Tom Brunofsky



Doug Trantham



Kile and Becky Roundtree
(‘68) Tomlinson

WEBSITE

Once again we have had issues with people “spoofing” a classmate’s email address asking for contributions under the classmate’s name. Our Webmaster states that this is not “hacking.” “Hacking is going into a person’s financial account and taking a credit card number or social security number.” Nonetheless, whatever it is, it is a nuisance. There is nothing our Webmaster can do about this. It is not a website issue other than email addresses are available on the website. We are not the only group this has happened to.

Posted on the website since this happened the first time is the following warning:

NOTE: Unauthorized use of our email list, website or personal information will be reported to the FBI. This includes phishing, scams, emails asking for money and inappropriate content.

FOR CLASSMATES: No committee member or webmaster will send emails asking for charity organizations. All communications should be approved by the Committee. This does not include events for our class. If you are in doubt, please contact the Reunion Committee Chairman or Secretary or the Class Webmaster.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the family of **Gaylia (Gay) Renee Harrell**. Gay passed away on May 6, 2023. Gay requested no formal memorial service, but rather that her friends and loved ones remember and celebrate her life in their own ways, at a time and place that feels right to them, and preferably with ice cream.

<https://bluemountainmortuary.com/tribute/details/13173/Gaylia-Harrell/obituary.html>

gayliaharrell@yahoo.com



For the family of **Chip Pallman**. Chip passed away on May 25, 2023. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to Lewy Body Dementia Association, 912 Killian Hill Road SW, Lilburn, Georgia 30047 or online at www.LBDA.org and Haven-Roberts Hospice Care Center, 6400 St Johns Avenue, Palatka, Florida 32177.

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/orange-park-fl/charles-pallman-jr-11304013>

chippallman@gmail.com

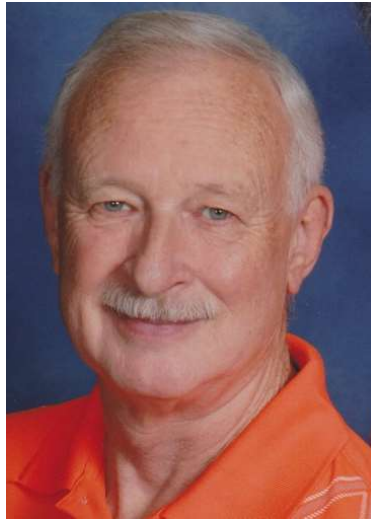


For **JW Keene** and **Helen Glover Keene**: Helen posted on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, on our class Facebook page the following: I'm requesting prayers for JW. He has liver cancer and treatment begins tomorrow . . . radioembolization followed by chemoembolization. The tumor is blocking the portal vein that connects the bladder to the liver. Thank you and blessings to all. In His Name. 🙏
hgkeene@verizon.net



For **Pat Knezevich** as he continues to recover from open heart bypass surgery on March 30, 2023. Pat has just recently been back in the hospital. He had another heart catheterization done on June 27. He is home now and resting. The doctor put in another stent. The doctor said that this would be the last one. If any more issues arise, it would be treated with medication. Pat says he is doing well. He couldn't ask for a better caretaker than his lovely wife, Carrie.

knezpd1949@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 will do that, we will do our part to keep you well informed.

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Debbie Gandy McBride, Class Webmaster: mcbridedebbie20@yahoo.com

Alice Bartlett Mabry, Editor of Quarterly Newsletter: abmabry49@gmail.com

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



*O say can you see by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*