Welcome
ORHS Class of 1956
60th Reunion
Oak Ridge High School Class of 1956
60th Reunion
June 8, 2016

Memory Book Contents

- Group Photo of Classmates Who Attended the Reunion
- Candid Shot of Classmates Sharing Memories
- Classmates
- Those No Longer With Us
- Connie Green’s Poem
- Mike Mount’s ‘Camelot’
- ORHS Reunion Classmates and Guests Photo
ORHS CLASS OF ‘56
60th REUNION
CANDID SHOTS FROM THE REUNION

Classmates enjoying each other and reconnecting after 60 years.
Elm Grove Elementary School Alumni
Ellen Carey Appel – Pat Dunigan Postma – Margaret Mann Weirich
Ken Kinser – Harry (Eugene) Tate – Martin Harris
Ann Brewer Birdwell – Ellen Carey Appel
The Jordan Sisters
Robert (Bob) and Milinda Compton
Jack and Sharon Cowen
Joe and Carol Hopwood Gallagher
Joel and Polly Woods Townsend
Steve and Manana Sapirie
Guest & Rachel Newsome Lanier
Mary Troutman Birdwell
Betty Brown Cooper and James Worthington
Hugh Wilkinson
Dick and Connie Jordan Green
Polly Woods Townsend

Mary Troutman Birdwell
Gene Kitchens
Norma Sue Terry
Joe Bob Neal
Dick Green
Carol Hopwood Gallagher

Pat Dunigan Postma
Where We Live
Classmates by State
Those No Longer With Us
Roll Wildcats Roll!
Mike Mount, Connie Jordan Chosen

By CAROLYN CARVER
Phone 3-5456

This school year, '55-'56, is slowly becoming one of the years in the past. Many events are taking place that will cause all of us to remember this year as one of our most memorable years.

The Senior class added one of the finishing touches on their four high school years last week when they voted for the superlatives of '55-'56. There is no doubt that the present class is one of the most talented classes ever. Memories of the past are sure to be cherished.

Mr. ORHS, Miss Connie Jordan is now our Miss Oak Ridge High School. Connie, with her sparkling personality and friendliness to all, is a typical and outstanding friend and leader.

The other superlatives elected by the Senior class are: Most friendly boy: Dick Green; Most friendly girl: Ann Brewer; Most creative boy: Jimmy Martin; Most creative girl: Carolyn Carver; Wittiest boy: Don Sadler; Wittiest girl: Jane Bissell; Most creative boy: Ronnie Walden.

60th Class Reunion
Committee Co-Chairs
Mike Mount & Connie Green
Deanna Africk Katz  
**Class of '56** deannakatz28@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Teacher & financial advisor with husband  
**Family:** Husband of 56 years-Hank Katz, 2daughters& 4 teenage grandsons  
**Interests:** Love reading, teaching, music, dancing, exercise/fitness, travel, Family  

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Travel after retirement when we then had time. Volunteers on an army base in Israel for three weeks. Ocean cruises thru Northern Europe - British Isles & Mediterranean. River cruises thru 10 countries of Eastern Europe. Also river cruises thru Far East - China, Thailand, Cambodia & Vietnam. Last, going each year for 12 years to small hotel in Miami with the whole family who love going there. What is more memorable than having fun with your family!

---

Barbara Amos Rebok  
**Class of '56** aplusprint@aol.com

**Occupation:** printing business, author, eBayer  
**Family:** Sons: Tom in AZ, and Doug, his wife April & their daughters Allison & Kobe in KY  
**Interests:** Church, family, Tucson Womans Club, Bridge, eBay, writing books & lyrics, travel  

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Graduated in 1963 from Ohio University with Journalism degree. Worked for Mansfield OH, & Vineland NJ newspapers. Married Gene Rebok, a civil engineer, in 1968, and moved to Pueblo, CO, where he was Director of Public Works. In 1979 we moved to Tucson, AZ, and bought A Plus Printing Co. I managed business until retirement. Gene died in 2008. I wrote “The Tempering Years,” a Civil War novel, and I sell county history & CW books on AzArrow, an eBay site, with nearly 30,000 positive feedbacks. Tom works with me and Doug is in law school.

---

Henry (David) Banta  
**Class of '56** hd.banta@orange.fr

**Occupation:** Retired public health physician  
**Family:** Married to Ellen ’t Hoen. Three daughters, one son from two previous marriages  
**Interests:** Over-priced drugs (part of Ellen's work), reading, wine  

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Worked in US Congress and World Health Organisation. Moved to the Netherlands in 1985. Worked as consultant internationally. Professor of Health Technology Assessment, University of Maastricht. Live in France and the Netherlands

---

James (Jim) Batch  
**Class of '56** rajobatch@bellsouth.net

**Occupation:** Mechanical Engineer-Retired 1991  
**Family:** 2 sons and 6 grandchildren Married Jane Brown, Class of 1954  
**Interests:** Genealogy My lake house on Watts Bar Reservoir  

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Graduated from Georgia Tech in 1960 Made hydrogen bombs for 31 years at Y-12 Been on 50 river and ocean cruises
Marion (Janice) Beatty Yorker-Bouchard  
*Class of '56*  
janbouchard@bellsouth.net

**Occupation:** Retired Ft. Attendant/Delta Airlines  
**Family:** Widowed after 31 years. One son. 3 grandchildren.

**Interests:** Traveling...Seeing rest of the world after working 36 years on the airplanes.  
**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** I loved my career...would not change anything. Love retirement....trying to go to all the 'other places' I have not seen. Now I can enjoy and I don't have to hurry home.

Betty Brown Cooper  
*Class of '56*

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** I married Tommy Cooper (from our class) and we were married 53 years until his death. I have two sons and three grandchildren. I helped Tommy run our car repair business while he was living. For recreation, I bowl; in 1999 I was the first woman in Oak Ridge to bowl a 300 game; that happened at the Women's City Tournament in Oak Ridge. I still bowl in three leagues.

Doris Bridges Irvin  
*Class of '56*  
andydorisirvin@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Retired  
**Family:** Husband, Andy, died 8/2014. Daughters Jenny, Amy & April. 2 grandchildren  
**Interests:** Have been making quilts for 30 years.  
**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Growing up in Oak Ridge was a unique experience for us all. I treasure the friendships made so many years ago. Being married to Andy made our 42 years together the most rewarding of my lifetime. I now live next door to our daughter, Amy. Her twin, April, is living with me temporarily. Our oldest, Jenny lives with her family in Oklahoma. In 1996 I began working as bookkeeper and temporary general manager of Andy's business. We sold the company December, 2012 retiring together.
Ellen Carey Appel  
Class of '56  
ellenclick@aol.com

Occupation: Photographer for the Arts and Artists  
Family: Husband: Bernard Appel. Two daughters and one granddaughter

Interests: I am interested in the arts and my work as a photographer of the arts.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Life has taken me on many adventures. I have traveled in Europe and in the Orient extensively. I thoroughly enjoy my work as a photographer of singers, musicians, dancers and the production staff of artistic companies. I have a very large extended family of about 100 that gathers once a year at Thanksgiving to give thanks that we are now three generations in America. I am writing a book containing photos and stories taken from interviews of family members escaping Europe and coming to this great free country. It will be self-published for the family and is now almost 300 pages.

Robert (Bob) Compton
Class of '56  
rcompton@utk.edu

Occupation: Physicist

Family: Milinda Compton (wife) Jana, Derek, Amy, Anne and spouses plus 5 grandchildren

Interests: Piano, tennis, trout fishing.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: The Compton family moved to Oak Ridge in 1943 during WWII where his father worked at Y-12 on the Manhattan Project. He received degrees in Physics from Berea College (BA), the University of Florida (MS) and the University of Tennessee (PhD). At Berea he was interested in sports and choir and was awarded the Athlete Scholar Award in '58, and the Athlete of the Year Award in '59. During this time summers were spent working at Y-12 and K-25 with Union Carbide. He was a Senior Corporate Fellow at ORNL for 32 years and Prof of Physics at UT for 22 years.

Janice Campbell Scruggs
Class of '56  
jscruggs5905@comcast.net

Occupation: Homemaker

Family: Widow. Two children Sheree and Mike. Five grandchildren..nine great grandchildren

Interests: Bible teacher, gardening, reading, walking and visiting family

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: I have devoted my life to God, family, and doing volunteering work. Lost my husband of 53 years in 2015. I am looking forward to the future. We should cherish each moment...

Carolyn Carver Lennon
Class of '56  
cclennon@bellsouth.net

Occupation: Retired

Family: David deceased 2/16-married 52 years, 1 son & 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: The Compton family moved to Oak Ridge in 1943 during WWII where his father worked at Y-12 on the Manhattan Project. He received degrees in Physics from Berea College (BA), the University of Florida (MS) and the University of Tennessee (PhD). At Berea he was interested in sports and choir and was awarded the Athlete Scholar Award in '58, and the Athlete of the Year Award in '59. During this time summers were spent working at Y-12 and K-25 with Union Carbide. He was a Senior Corporate Fellow at ORNL for 32 years and Prof of Physics at UT for 22 years.

Janice Campbell Scruggs
Class of '56  
jscruggs5905@comcast.net

Occupation: Homemaker

Family: Widow. Two children Sheree and Mike. Five grandchildren..nine great grandchildren

Interests: Bible teacher, gardening, reading, walking and visiting family

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: I have devoted my life to God, family, and doing volunteering work. Lost my husband of 53 years in 2015. I am looking forward to the future. We should cherish each moment...

Carolyn Carver Lennon
Class of '56  
cclennon@bellsouth.net

Occupation: Retired

Family: David deceased 2/16-married 52 years, 1 son & 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: The Compton family moved to Oak Ridge in 1943 during WWII where his father worked at Y-12 on the Manhattan Project. He received degrees in Physics from Berea College (BA), the University of Florida (MS) and the University of Tennessee (PhD). At Berea he was interested in sports and choir and was awarded the Athlete Scholar Award in '58, and the Athlete of the Year Award in '59. During this time summers were spent working at Y-12 and K-25 with Union Carbide. He was a Senior Corporate Fellow at ORNL for 32 years and Prof of Physics at UT for 22 years.
**Dorothy Corum Gault**  
Class of '56  
dgault38@cfl.rr.com

**Occupation:** Retired 2013, married to Don Jones  
**Family:** I had 2 children, Kathy Broyles (deceased), Raymond Broyles  
**Interests:** 10 grandchildren, 6 greats all my pride and joy. Love golf, football, reading.  
**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Traveled while building my career in the staffing & entertainment industry. Assisted in trying to bringing the red abalone back to the West coast of California. Worked with the Chamber of Commerce in Guadalupe, CA starting the Christmas Parade, plus Christmas lighting contest. Celebrating Student of the Month, etc.

---

**John (Jack) Cowen**  
Class of '56  
duchess49@comcast.net

**Occupation:** Retired from Lockheed Martin Energy Sys.  
**Family:** Married (Sharon Resseguie Cowen) with 2 children; Crystal & Bradley 4 grandchild  
**Interests:** Tennis, golf, community band, church work & hugging our grandchildren.  
**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Married way out of my class to a beautiful French lady going on 40 years this June 12th. Gracing me with 2 spectacular children who gave us 4 little miracles. Retired in 1997 after 40 years in the engineering business with LMES as a division training officer for 3 government plants & their subcontractors. Keep busy with church work, tennis & trips to the Florida beaches with our Canadian friends & band concerts in whatever cities we're visiting. Life has been good to me & my family, thank you Jesus.

---

**Jerry Davis**  
Class of '56  
jwdpaper@aol.com

**Occupation:** retired  
**Family:** 2 sons 3 grandchildren  
**Interests:** golf, reading  
**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** after graduation attended cumberland college. joined navy stayed 10 years.went to work in the paper industry till retirement.started in slc utah.transfered to denver co. retired to a small town near zion park in southern ut.celebrating 53 years marriage to my wife helen.

---

**Edward Depersio**  
Class of '56  
eddiej.wa@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Physician  
**Family:** Originally from the NY suburbs--grandfather Dominick born 1892. Italian.  
**Interests:** Now retired; photography, guitar collecting (classics & Flamenco); traveling.  
**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Born in Philadelphia, PA. Family moved to Oak Ridge with war and father was appointed chief of staff of the hospital. college at U of VA and Medical school at U of T. Next stent in the military and stationed on Okinawa. Returned in 2 yrs. to do a residency in Radiation Oncology. Worked at several Universities but settled down in Wenatchee, WA where was the first full time Radiation Oncologist. Participated in the SWOG protocols and authored a final Hodgkin's Study SWOG 7518. Now Retired with wife Pamela (who is a still working school teacher) and managing household things, finances, pets!
Larry Doyle

Class of '56  sldoyle@newwavecomm.net

Occupation: Foraster

Family: married to Susanne Thomas, kids Brian and Heather, grand kids Jack and Ethan

Interests: I really enjoy walking around in other people's forest and hit the trail often.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: My forestry career began as a work exchange forester to W. Germany in 1959; in 1961 with State of Tennessee; in 1969 with TN.Valley Authority at Land Between the Lakes (KY and TN) with 26 years service (retiring at 56); and 20 years as a consulting forester. Off and on during the early 22 years I enjoyed the National Guard and Army Reserves, but in 1982 Pres. Regan rounded up all of the inactive officers and I was assigned to a bridge company with the 101st Airborne. I resigned by return mail. I figured the 101st had no need a 42 year old Capt. I also enjoyed being a scoutmaster for 20 yrs

James (Don) Ethridge

Class of '56  ethridge7155@gmail.com

Occupation: (retired) skilled trades supervisor

Family: Married , 2 children: daughter & son-live in Springboro, Ohio. 11 grandchildren

Interests: camping, fishing and hunting--playing euchre with friends etc.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Veteran (U.S. Air Force) 1958-1962; An electrician with I.B.E.W. in Aurora, Comove to Ohio--employed by General Motors as Electrician promoted to a skilled trades supervisor and retired in 1992. Former 1st vise Commander of the American Legion. Own a camping trailer at the lake and the wife an I fish most weekends or build a bon-fire and put some steaks on the grill with the grandkids.

Patricia (Pat) Dunigan Postma

Class of '56  ppostma@comcast.net

Occupation: retired

Family: I am a widow with a daughter and son in the Washington DC area and two grandsons


Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Contrary to my expectations I have spent my life in Oak Ridge. When my kids went to school I did too, getting a Ph.D. in Econ. Worked with start up companies in East TN, taught in the MBA programs at UT and became Dean for Executive Education in the UT College of Business. I have traveled all over the world and have a couple favorite places in the U.S.

Mary Garrigan Sivinski

Class of '56  sivinskijohn@gmail.com

Family: Married to John for 53 years. We have a daughter, 2 sons and 7 grandchildren.

Interests: My faith, family, friends and community.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Since leaving TN, I have lived in CT, PA and MD. I have had the opportunity to travel in the US, and have visited almost every state. I love beaches, mountains, and national parks. I am grateful to be blessed with good health even at this "advanced" age.
**Charles Green**  
Class of '56  phyllis.green@att.net

**Occupation:** Retired from Y-12 Plant  
**Family:** Wife, Phyllis, children, Charles Ray and Kahra, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great  
**Interests:** Antique automobiles, motocycle riding, UT sports, hunting

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Touring Civil War parks, national parks, especially Yellowstone, the Tetons, and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Tennessee state parks, attending many UT bowl games, and spending time at the beach.

---

**Richard (Dick) Green**  
Class of '56  rcjg58@live.com

**Occupation:** Mechanical Engineer (retired)  
**Family:** Married to Connie Jordan; we have three children and seven grandchildren.  
**Interests:** Gatherings with family and friends, country living, renewable energy "trials "on the farm and a lot of pid'lin' in the workshop.

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** My bragging rights start with a wonderful 58 years married to Connie, living 50 plus years on an old hilltop farm raising 3 children who are now successful and have blessed us with 7 grandchildren. I was a mechanical engineer working with the awesome talent assembled in Oak Ridge. I elected early retirement at age 55 to work on social concerns issues and with church extension and parish development. Retirement gave me time to be a bit entrepreneurial in land speculation and development. Today you will most often find me on the farm, near the shop -- and most likely in the hammock.

---

**Glois Griffith Bruce**  
Class of '56  bjbruce358@bellsouth.net

**Occupation:** retired from EG&G ORTEC after 33 years  
**Family:** married to husband, Bob Bruce for 59 yrs. ,2 sons, 2 grands and 3 greats  
**Interests:** Rving, boating, traveling and spending time with family and friends.

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:**

---

**J.L. Hanks**  
Class of '56  jhazel@att.net

**Occupation:** Retired  
**Family:** May 1959 married Hazel Marie Goins (1956 ORHS Junior). Three sons  

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Joined U.S. Navy less than two weeks after graduations and retired with 30 years. Then self employed.
Mary (Mary Ruth) Harris Hall
Class of '56  maryruth.buellhall@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired from Anderson County Schools
Family: Married to Buell Hall (class of 1955). We have 1 son and 6 grandchildren.
Interests: Family, reading and community activities.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: We have just moved from Tennessee to Spring Hill, FL to live close to our son, Doug, his wife Bev, and our six grandchildren.

Mary Ruth Harris
Class of '56  maryruth.buellhall@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired from Anderson County Schools
Family: Married to Buell Hall (class of 1955). We have 1 son and 6 grandchildren.
Interests: Family, reading and community activities.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: We have just moved from Tennessee to Spring Hill, FL to live close to our son, Doug, his wife Bev, and our six grandchildren.

Martin Harris
Class of '56  martymc2@aol.com

Occupation: Retired Marine Field Grade Officer
Family: Spouse: Alice Dixon
Children: Stephen, Rodric, Samantha
Pet: Trixie

Interests: Military Officer's Association, Lion's Int., RVing, Travel, Church Ministries.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Graduated from Tennessee Tech, 1960. Military Assignments include: Paratrooper School, Germany, Ft. Monmouth NJ, Philippine Islands, Viet Nam (3 assignments), Hawaii, Taiwan, Camp Lejeune, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Houston TX.

Edward Hatmaker
Class of '56  hats2go.com

Occupation: retired united states air force
Family: Wife and five children, One is retired US Navy, One A Georgia State Patrol,

Interests: Fishing, Camping, Masonic Work, and traveling

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Called to ministry at early age, and turned away, was called again at age 38, obtained my degree at age 76, was licensed and ordained, have been an evangelist for 30 plus years. Traveled with the USAF as flying crew chief, and have been in 22 foreign countries and 49 of the 50 states, traveled in to the 50th state after retiring from USAF.

Thomas (Tommy) Harris
Class of '56  mbobay3457@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Tom Harris has been in a nursing home with dementia for the last four and a half years. Besides that Tom has had 3 back surgeries leaving him in a wheelchair. Tom has lived in Merritt Island, Florida for the past 33 years with his wife Jane. He retired from Kennedy Space Center in 1999, from then he did what he loved by owning his own plumbing business until he became too ill to work. Tom and Jane lived in a condo and loved social activities and eating out with friends. Tom and his wife traveled around the nation but always loved to come home to the beautiful beaches of Florida.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Tom Harris has been in a nursing home with dementia for the last four and a half years. Besides that Tom has had 3 back surgeries leaving him in a wheelchair. Tom has lived in Merritt Island, Florida for the past 33 years with his wife Jane. He retired from Kennedy Space Center in 1999, from then he did what he loved by owning his own plumbing business until he became too ill to work. Tom and Jane lived in a condo and loved social activities and eating out with friends. Tom and his wife traveled around the nation but always loved to come home to the beautiful beaches of Florida.
Carol Hopwood Gallagher
Class of '56  carpediem3151@aol.com

Occupation: College administrator
Family: Daughters Sharon and Susan and son David

Interests: Quilting, sewing in general, voracious reader, belong to great book club.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Married directly out of college and had three children with Tom Heagerty of Knoxville. Worked at U of TN then moved to Syracuse, NY and spent 11 years as director of food services then vice president for institutional services. Moved on to U of Houston and married Joe Gallagher. We retired and moved back to the Knoxville area (Louisville, near the airport) where we live on a cove just off the Tennessee River. Enjoyed taking my young grandson to the Galapagos and Amazon River and my granddaughter and niece to NY City. Great trips.

Mary (Lynne) Jacoby
Class of '56  shomorama@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Entered Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary in 1959. Worked in Schools, Parishes and in Community Organizing. Presently working for RSHM LIFE Center in Tarrytown, NY and Pastoral Associate at St. Francis de Sales Parish on E 96th St. Manhattan.

Carol Johnson Hulsey
Class of '56  hux114@aol.com

Occupation: Retired
Family: Married to William (Bill) Hulsey, 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 1 lazy dog.
Interests: Travel, reading, church activities, family get togethers.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Speech/Language Pathologist for 20 years, Owner/VP RV MFG Co. for 28 years. Bill: Metallurgical engineer Y-12 for 25 years, Owner/Pres. RV MFG for 28 years. Unfortunately, Bill suffered a massive stroke in 2008 and is confined to a wheelchair. Our activities and travel are limited, but we enjoy visits with children and grandchildren and watching travel shows featuring countries we visited. We are happy and enjoying our retirement.

Constance (Connie) Jordan Green
Class of '56  cj_green@live.com

Occupation: Teacher (retired) and writer
Family: Married to classmate Dick Green; three grown children and seven grandchildren.
Interests: My interests are family, writing, gardening, swimming, reading, teaching.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Dick and I have been married since Sept. ’58. We live on a farm near Melton Hill Dam where I garden and we enjoy views of the Cumberland Mountains. Our children and many of our grandchildren are nearby, so we gather the family at our farm as often as possible. I have taught numerous age groups--nursery school to adult learners. My last teaching job was in the English Dept. at the University of Tennessee. I continue to lead writing workshops and volunteer for ORICL. I’ve had two novels for young people published and three volumes of poetry; I’ve written a personal newspaper column since ’78.
Kenneth (Ken) Kinser  
Class of '56  kenkinser@hotmail.com

Occupation: Retired from Knox County Schools,

Interests: Computers, Rowing, Hiking & Biking, Water activities, Photography, Travel


Carl Ledbetter  
Class of '56  carlbl1921@gmail.com

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: I married Sonja Wells (from our class 1956) on December 23, 1961. We have been married 54 years and counting. We both graduated from Tennessee Tech (TP l). We have three daughters and two grandchildren. We had an extended honeymoon in Florida (four years) while we both worked. We moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee in 1966. I retired from AEDC in December 2000.

Jackson (Gene) Kitchens  
Class of '56

Lenna Lovette Lovette  
Class of '56  lkl77@comcast.net

Occupation: Owner : 77 Productions - Ret ORNL SS  
Family: Husband - Dr. Lawrence Weston

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Married Sonja Wells (from our class 1956) on December 23, 1961. We have been married 54 years and counting. We both graduated from Tennessee Tech (TP l). We have three daughters and two grandchildren. We had an extended honeymoon in Florida (four years) while we both worked. We moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee in 1966. I retired from AEDC in December 2000.
Margaret Mann Weirich
Class of '56  mmweirich@yahoo.com

Occupation: Retired
Family: Sisters Barbara Mann, Yellow Springs, OH, and Linda Mann, outside Kingston, TN
Interests: Native plants of TN as TN Naturalist. Raising veggies. Spiritual path?

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: After UT (K), studied sea urchins at the Duke Marine Lab. in Beaufort, NC; went snorkeling in the Cayman Islands; lived and married in West Germany, visited dear in-laws in the DDR, and learned German; loved living in the Bay Area of CA; then in Bryan/College Station TX, as a research tech. and beginning potter; enjoyed arty and amazing Athens, GA, for 23 years. As a Mentor, acquired a "daughter/dear friend there plus two little "great (?)grand daughters", and "great/grandson", born in May. Retired in TN, at Uplands Village in Pleasant Hill, near Crossville on the Cumberland Plateau.

Mary McGill Vroom
Class of '56

Occupation: Retired Insurance Analyst
Family: Married, two children, two grandchildren

Robert (Bob) Miller
Class of '56  bmiller7@charter.net

Occupation: Retired from AEDC
Family: Wife-Bonnie V- Daughter-Karen Winton- Son Christopher- 3 grandchildren
Interests: Used to like to hunt and fish. Still fish some.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Joined the Air Force after graduation.-Attended UT for 1 year.-Went to work at Arnold Engineering Development Center as an electrician and later became in charge of Protective Relays for the Center until retirement. I am a Military Veteran. I am enjoying my retirement. Have been married for 52 years.

Patricia (Pat) Morgan Smith
Class of '56  psmith7082@aol.com

Occupation: Wife, mother, and volunteer
Family: Married Neal Smith (53), 3 children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great-grandsons
Interests: Reading, entertaining friends in our home, sewing, gardening.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: After graduating from ORHS I attended UT. Neal and I married and moved to Waco, Texas. Neal was commissioned in The USAF. Our first daughter was born in Texas. After moving back to OR, a son and another daughter were born in Tennessee. Our children are also graduates of ORHS and UT. I have ben blessed with a loving and wonderful life.
Michael (Mike) Mount  
Class of '56  mount@bendcable.com

Occupation: Retired  
Family: Wife, Molly; sons Patrick and Andrew; grandson Rylan Mount  
Interests: Golf, bridge, cooking, gardening, travel  

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: After graduating from ORHS, I attended the University of Tennessee, graduating with a degree in Industrial Management. I worked in Oak Ridge at Y-12 in the Non-destructive Testing Laboratory and at ORNL in Wage and Salary Administration. In 1965 went to work in the educational publishing industry in Tennessee and in 1966 was promoted to a marketing management position in New York City. Left New York in 1983 to join Apple Computer in Cupertino, California in sales and marketing management. Retired in 1998 and moved to Bend, Oregon where I still reside.

Richard Mynatt  
Class of '56  dadrlm@yahoo.com

Occupation: Battalion Chief, O.R.F.D.  
Interests: Traveling, so my wife can fish.  


Joe (Joe Bob) Neal  
Class of '56  jln638@comcast.net

Rachel Newsome Lanier  
Class of '56

Occupation: Retired  
Family: Wife, Molly; sons Patrick and Andrew; grandson Rylan Mount  
Interests: Golf, bridge, cooking, gardening, travel  

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: After graduating from ORHS, I attended the University of Tennessee, graduating with a degree in Industrial Management. I worked in Oak Ridge at Y-12 in the Non-destructive Testing Laboratory and at ORNL in Wage and Salary Administration. In 1965 went to work in the educational publishing industry in Tennessee and in 1966 was promoted to a marketing management position in New York City. Left New York in 1983 to join Apple Computer in Cupertino, California in sales and marketing management. Retired in 1998 and moved to Bend, Oregon where I still reside.

**Bobby Richards**
*Class of '56*  sweetgum68@gmail.com

**Occupation:** RETIRED


**Johnny (John) Rider**
*Class of '56*  riderstwo@verizon.net

**Occupation:** Retired, Management IBM

**Family:** Married Della Bradford (class of 58) 1 daughter, 2 grandsons, 2 great grandsons

**Interests:** Finding Indian artifacts, genealogy, running, biking, golf and church activity

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** After high school, I continued my education. I discovered I had an interest in the space program, so it was off to Huntsville, AL (a great city) where my family and I spent 11 years. When the space program was cut, we transferred to Manassas, VA and worked on government contracts. My wife and I had great careers with IBM and have been retired for several years. We have made our home in VA for 43 years and spent many hours working with our church youth; they have kept us very busy. We spend our days with family and friends just enjoying life and working on community service projects.


**Stephen (Steve) Sapirie**
*Class of '56*  ssapirie@gmail.com

**Occupation:** Health Information System Advisor

**Family:** Married to Manana, have three sons, Mark, Nick and George

**Interests:** Travel, history, investing

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** Born in Milwaukee, WI in 1938. Moved to Oak Ridge in 1946, and enjoyed my school years there. Graduated from UT in 1960. On active duty with the Navy from 1960 until 1966, with 4 years sea duty in the Pacific. Joined the World Health Organization in Geneva in 1968 and worked and lived in eastern and southern Asian countries, the Middle East and Africa. Retired from WHO in 1998 and joined a non-profit organization, Management Sciences for Health, with whom I still work. Engaged in advising USAID projects in developing countries in the subject of health information systems development.


**Barbara Sonnen**
*Class of '56*  sonnen@win.net

**Occupation:** Retired public health nurse

**Family:** Brothers: Mike and family in CA and John and family in TN, NC and PA.

**Interests:** Volunteer groups, my parish, reading, traveling, & trying to be nice to all

**Biography / Memorable Life Experiences:** BS in Nursing, MS in nursing & MS in adult and continuing education. After college lived in Illinois, Maryland, Wisconsin before moving to Kentucky in 1984. Moved to Frankfort in December, 1985. Retired in 1999 and often say “I was meant to be retired all along!” My mother was my model for staying connected to family and friends by writing letters, making phone calls and visiting near and far.
John Spears
Class of '56  jjspears4512@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired Quality Assurance Engineer
Family: Married to Joyce Berry Spears '58 w/2 daughters Dianne Hill, TX, Donna Byron, MA
Interests: Photography, travel, flying, golf, guitar, painting, woodworking, and reading

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Married in '61, Graduated from UT '62. Career in QA in paper, plastics & aerospace industries. Both daughters have university degrees and have successful careers. Lived in South Carolina, Texas, & New Mexico. Private pilots license '80. Retired in 2002 became full-time RVers. Traveled the US & visited most National Parks. Highlight was spending the summer of 2006 in Alaska. Published a travel journal web site with photos & highlights of travel which receive lots of positive feedback. 2007 settled in Tucson, AZ in an active senior resort, where we continue to pursue our interests & hobbies

Wilma Stevens Nichols
Class of '56  wilmanichols@yahoo.com

Occupation: retired from ORNL
Family: husband philip nichols; 3 sons - darren drevik, kevin drevik, steven drevik
Interests: tennis, bridge, travel

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: m moved to Oak ridge in 1944. early years were spent wandering area with sisters Shirley & Joann and neighbor kids. One memorable event was finding a skunk & my sisterJoann and neighbor Don Etheridge operated on it to remove stink bag. believe it or not skunk survived & walked away. We played softball, football, kick the can, dodge ball, etc, with friends. summer programs included playing girl softball & basketball in leagues learning to play a flute (badly). thing i remember most about high school was dancing at the cafeteria. growing up in Oak Ridge was GREAT

Larman (Wayne) Sprouse
Class of '56  suzqmaggi@yahoo.com

Mary Stone Hayworth
Class of '56  maryruthhay@gmail.com

Occupation: Retired - Financial Institution
Family: Widowed with five children, 8 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.
Interests: Church, Red Hats, Yoga, Pilates, Bunco and local plays and musicals.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Bill (class of '53) and I ran away and got married when he went into the army. I dropped out of school in '54 to start our family of five. In 1978 I went back to school receiving my GED Certificate and went on to Palm Beach Jr. College to work toward my AIB Banking Certificate. I worked in the banking industry for 22 years retiring as Vice President-Human Resources. Have been retired for 16 years and currently live on the lake in middle Georgia. Travel to Oak Ridge frequently to see my family and old friends.
Harry (Eugene) Tate
Class of '56   katetate@msn.com

Occupation: Retired Air Force
Family: Married 58 years to Kathy, we have 3 children, 8 Grand 9 Great Grandchildren
Interests: I play golf, do a little wood working and travel in our RV

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: I am a retired Chief Master Sargent, traveled all over the world. I also was a Tec. Writer for Lockheed Martin. Going to China was a great memory. We spend much of our summer in Chama NM. We help out at Rio Chama RV Park come up and visit sometime. We live in Phoenix AZ

Norma Terry
Class of '56   suejan@frontiernet.net

Occupation: retired
Family: 4 sisters and families
Interests: bowling, line dancing and gardening

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: worked in oak ridge for walgreens and city fin. while at city fin was transfer to oklahoma for 11/2 yrs. transfer to memphis. after 19 1/2 yrs left and went to work at graceland chrysler motors as sect/treasure 20 yrs. until retirement. returned to oak ridger where my family still lives.

Barbara (Jean) Thompson Lester
Class of '56   jeantomlester@comcast.net

Occupation: Cytotechnologist
Family: I married Tom Lester and we have 5 children and 11 grandchildren
Interests: I went back to school and took classes with 3 of my children.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: My husband was in medical school, when we were married. We ended up coming back to East Tennessee, after a few years in other states. After getting children dispersed, I took up quilting and became a certified quilt show judge. This took me on a few adventures all over the US. We now live a very quiet life in a very small condo, with a small yard to keep me busy.

Mary Troutman Birdwell
Class of '56   trakbird2@bellsouth.net

Occupation: Track and Cross Country BSC College
Family: Widow/Two Sons Paul -49 Married Wife Liz I grandchild Emily Andy Age 45- Single
Interests: Golf/Coaching Track and Field/Cross Country/Traveling Been Across USA 7 Trips

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: After graduating, I attended the University of Tennessee I started my teaching career in 1960 and retired into thousand and three with 43 years teaching and coaching. The last 20 years of my career I was head track coach at Hoover high school in Hoover, Alabama where my teams championships and track and field, cross-country,gymnastics and swimming. In 2002 I was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame. When I retired into thousand and three from Hoover High School, they named it Track Mary Birdwell Track. 2008 I was inducted into the Oak Ridge Sports Hall of Fame.
Granvel (Grendel) Underwood
Class of '56

Occupation: Sleeping  
Family: A bunch  
Interests: Math and math and supervivencia

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: In brief: Left the reservation

Sonja Wells Ledbetter
Class of '56

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: I married Carl Ledbetter (from our class 1956) and we have been married 54 years and counting. We both graduated from Tennessee Tech (T P I). We have three daughters and two grandchildren. We had an extended honeymoon in Florida (four years) while we both worked. We moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee in 1966. I retired from the state of Tennessee in 1998. Carl retired from AEDC two years later.

Hugh Wilkinson
Class of '56

Occupation: Retired  
Family: Wife Lynn, Daughter Laurie, Sons Scott and Todd, grandson Cooper  
Interests: Golf and Cards

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: Marietta College, Marietta Ohio; Ball State Muncie IN. Graduated with degree in Math/Physics. Taught and worked as Industrial Engineer before starting remodeling business. Say hello to B.B.!
James (Jim) Worthington
Class of '56  old59nole@earthlink.net

Occupation: Retired Teacher
Family: M. Becky Barnes 6/20/63 Sons James E Jr Duke ’88 Raymond US Naval Academy ’89
Interests: Hunting Reading


Margaret (Polly) Woods Townsend
Class of '56  townsendj67@aol.com

Occupation: Retired
Family: husband and two daughters
Interests: Camping and other traveling in the US and other countries.

Biography / Memorable Life Experiences: For thirty years I have been bowling with a group of friends. They have become my best friends.
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Doris Anderson
Dirk Arnold
Ralph Babb

Deborah Baumgarner
Luty Bell
Jane Bissell
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

James Blackwood  Harold Borders  J Bowden

Joyce Brown  Gordon Byrd  Allan Cameron
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

John Cary
Ochal Cheak
Tommy Cooper

David Cox
John Cox
Nancy Croft
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Janet Dawson
Joel Day
Lamarr Deal

Kurt Delcour
Art Diamond
Victor Dodson
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Joel Dunlap  
Thomas Eads  
Dortha Evans

Emilie Ezell  
Allen Forrester  
Robert Freestone
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Gwenn Harper

Charles Hart

Addie Harvey

Vivian Hawk

Anna Gail Hellman

Richard Hess
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Bobbie Lee  Lane Lister  Jack Maples

James Martin  Edwin Massey  Frannie McCall
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Ruth McCallum
James McCullough
Rae McIntyre

Joe Mills
Robert Moore
Virginia Neal
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Jim Oody  Donald Parsons  Deloris Patty

Beryl Peacock  David Platz  Ed Pollard
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Charlene Potts  Bill Ramsey  Virginia Reece

Faye Reid  Tommy Roach  Janie Roberts
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Elizabeth Robinson  
Hall Rucker  
Don Sadler

Wayne Schrader  
Gary Shepherd  
Bonnie Shumpert
In Memoriam

Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Saundra Simmons
Jerry Stapleton
Frank Tallent

Carol Walker
Neil Walters
Marjorie Watson
Oak Ridge High School - Class of 1956

Doris Anderson  Dirk Arnold  Ralph Babb
Deborah Baumgarner  Luty Bell  Jane Bissell
James Blackwood  Harold Borders  J Bowden
Joyce Brown  Gordon Byrd  Allan Cameron
John Cary  Ochal Cheak  Tommy Cooper
David Cox  John Cox  Nancy Croft
Janet Dawson  Joel Day  Lamarr Deal
Kurt Delcour  Art Diamond  Victor Dodson
Joel Dunlap  Thomas Eads  Dortha Evans
Emilie Ezell  Allen Forrester  Robert Freestone
Roy Fullam  James Gary  Charles Gearhiser
Loretta Gilliam  Pat Gore  Fred Quinn
Gwenn Harper  Charles Hart  Addie Harvey
Vivian Hawk  Anna Gail Hellman  Richard Hess
Leroy Hickey  Revonna Hoover  David Horne
Hayes Jackson  Laverne Jackson  Margie Johnston
Barbara Kennedy  Rex Kessler  Glenna Killion
Sam King  Anthony Kostal  Valerie Latham
Bobbie Lee  Lane Lister  Jack Maples
James Martin  Edwin Massey  Frannie McCall
Ruth McCallum  James McCullough  Rae McIntyre
Joe Mills  Robert Moore  Virginia Neal
Jim Oody  Donald Parsons  Deloris Patty
Beryl Peacock  David Platz  Ed Pollard
Charlene Potts  Bill Ramsey  Virginia Reece
Faye Reid  Tommy Roach  Janie Roberts
Elizabeth Robinson  Hall Rucker  Don Sadler
Wayne Schrader  Gary Shepherd  Bonnie Shumpert
Saundra Simmons  Jerry Stapleton  Frank Tallent
Carol Walker  Neil Walters  Marjorie Watson
Patricia White  Ailsie Witt  Bill Wooten
Charles Wright  Marianne Zobel
Oak Ridge, Tennessee, 1944

Of course there was the boardwalk the skates sang to, how we dropped coins through its cracks, milk money vanishing before we reached school, and at night, pines in the wind, a whispering choir beyond our bedroom window, oaks towering, their rocky understory becoming our rooms, our paths, and far below the house a gully cutting through clay banks, warren of imagined animals ready to pounce, fear an emotion we had to invent in our daily games—the cold war and Nikita Khrushchev, bomb shelters and evacuation routes, images waiting to haunt our adolescence, the simplicity of childhood a jewel we would turn this way and that, marvel at the light bouncing from its many-faceted surface.

Connie Jordan Green
Household Inventory,
Brick Road Poetry Press, 2015
Since leaving Oak Ridge in 1964, I have lived in several places throughout the country. Invariably, when you are new in a community, meeting new people, they ask you where you grew up. I tell them I grew up in Camelot.

"Camelot?" they ask.

“Yes, Camelot!”

As you reminisce with old friends this evening and tomorrow, I hope each of you will spend some time reflecting critically on this special town where we grew from children to teenagers and spent our high school years.

Oak Ridge, Tennessee was a place unique in the world. We were a city born of war enclosed within barbed-wire fence boundaries, guarded and patrolled by men with thirty caliber machine guns. But this was a town in which everyone had a job. There was no unemployment and virtually no crime.

Due to the nature of the work being done here, we had the highest PhD population per capita in the world. We moved among smart people and their smart families. We learned to appreciate intellectual pursuits and knowledge was respected.
Our original homes were, in most cases, meted out primarily on the basis of the size of our families, not on the basis of our economic status. Whether you lived in a flattop or an “F” house you were judged not on the construct of your dwelling, but on the nature of your character.

Our schools were new, equipped with the latest furnishings and technology of that time. Our teachers were bright and talented and the most highly paid in the South. At one time, every teacher at Oak Ridge High School had a master’s degree.

The Oak Ridge Playhouse and The Children’s Theatre provided us the opportunity to experience live theatrical productions and the Oak Ridge Symphony Orchestra regaled us with the music of the masters. We had a ballet troupe and a public library filled with thousands of volumes.

These were creative and cultural entities which we took for granted but were unheard of in most cities our size. Living in Oak Ridge gave us an appreciation for the arts at an early age.

We blossomed into our teens in an age of innocence. The early 50’s gave us a world essentially without conflict, where our most dreaded drugs were nicotine and alcohol. We, as children, could walk the streets of our city or ride our free buses at any time of the day or night without fear.

We rode our bicycles everywhere. And whether it was to spend the day at one of the many fully supervised playgrounds sprinkled throughout the city or to one of our four movie theatres, we left those bikes un-tethered while we played and they were always there when we returned. We learned independence and trust.

We actually ate wholesome lunches in a full service school cafeteria. We hiked to G Road and explored caves and swam in muddy streams. We caught lightning bugs and put them in jars to sell to the ORNL for an undefined research project. We had paper routes and baby sat for thirty-five cents an hour. Our windows and doors were seldom locked.

We spent summers at Big Ridge State Park, played touch football in the streets of our neighborhoods, supported our athletic teams at home and at other sports venues throughout the southeast.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was President. Television was just being introduced into East Tennessee and I Love Lucy was the premiere offering of the time. Grace Kelly became Princess Grace and Gunsmoke aired its first episode. It was an age of innocence.

We piled into car trunks and slipped into movies at the Skyway Drive-In. We swam in the largest swimming pool in the south that featured the highest diving board any
of us had ever seen. Remember the first time you had the courage to jump from that
lofty perch? It was magical!

We drove endless circles around Sno-White Drive-In on the weekends to see who
was there, and to be seen. We also ate those small square hamburgers with
mustard and onions that some how got the name of rat burgers. We ate more than
a few of these creations.

Our class of 1956 entered an almost new building in the fall of 1952. It was a
building that was one of five in the nation that year to receive the award of merit for
architecture from the American Institute of Architects and the American Association
of School Administrators.

Jim DeSonne and Hal Vayhinger made sure we behaved. Gil Scarborough taught us
to make music and Bill Lewis gave us our acting wings.

Stansberry and Turner honed our writing skills and introduced us to Beowulf and
Keats and Browning. We had in-depth introductions to music, acting and classic
literature because of these great teachers.

Masal Turner, Olin Bryant Ripley, Jr., Ruth Benson and Eloise Dempsey led us
through algebra, geometry, trig and calculus while Angie Perry presided over the
dissection of frogs. Lone Sisk introduced us to the world of politics and Earl Nall
gave us an appreciation for what was going on in the rest of the world.

George Plumlee was the butt of our childish and innocent ridicule, but was a man
committed to his craft.

Each of us had our favorite and our least favorite teachers, and I'll bet some of those
names are running through your head right now. Don't forget the impact they had
on your life.

Who can forget Margaret Barnes, sometimes referred to as “Mamma”? She was an
indelible character in our formative years.

We deposited a stuffed moose head on Mr. Dunigan’s front porch in the middle of
the night and interrupted an assembly with the shrill bark of cap guns and shouts
of “Free Puerto Rico”, mocking a real life incident in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Speaking of Mr. Dunigan, he removed me from the stage one day in the middle of an
assembly for telling off-color jokes. Jokes that are considered appropriate for nine
year olds today.

Ethel Howell taught us to dance. And dance we did. From the Shriners Club in
Gamble Valley, to the Edgewood Steak House, to the Wildcat Den to the school
cafeteria, to the Penguin, Swankette and Sub-Deb functions, wherever they were held.

We danced to the emerging and sometimes controversial sounds of rock and roll and rhythm and blues. Our favorite local band was that of Willie Gibbs, which gave us “In The Hills of West Virginia,” including the unforgettable refrain, “the object of my affection changed my complexion from brown to mellow tan.” Rock around the Clock, Money Honey, Shake Rattle and Roll, Ain’t That a Shame, Sha Boom and Sixteen Tons, filled our collection of 45-RPM records that we bought at the Music Box in Jackson Square.

Our basketball team in 1956 had a starting five with only one player over six feet tall. They finished with a record of ten and eleven losing three games by one point and seven games by two points. Ben Martin was their coach.

Jack Armstrong and Don Bordinger led our football team to a record of nine and one in the 1955 season. Five opponents were held to a touchdown apiece, three didn’t score, and one –

Nashville Litton - drubbed us by a score of 33 to 13. We were all stunned. Nobody could be that good, we thought.

Our class was the first high school senior class in the South to integrate the races following the Supreme Court’s Brown vs. Board-of-Education decision in 1954. Our fellow students from the Scarborough school joined our ranks in the fall of 1955. This melding was achieved virtually without incident, a singular accomplishment in the South of that time. We learned the value of diversity in our lives through our Oak Ridge experience.

There will never be times like those again. In many ways, growing up in Oak Ridge and going to Oak Ridge High School shaped who we are, what we believe, how we act, and what we value, more than any other single influence in our lives.

Think about those times tonight and tomorrow. Savor them. Don’t ever forget them or give them short shrift in your scrapbook of memories.

Most important of all, tell your children and grandchildren about what you experienced here, if you haven’t already.

Tell them about this place and how it shaped your personality, your view of life, your values. Let them know how the experience of living in this town at the time we did went a long way toward making you who you have been over the last sixty years and, yes, who you are today.

Better yet, write about your fondest memories or make a video or CD of them, so others may know of your distinctive experiences in this place disparate from all others.
And maybe, just maybe, the next time someone asks you where you grew up, you might say------“I grew up in Camelot.”

Thank you and good evening.
mount@bendcable.com