

The Garnet and Black

Rock Hill High School

October, 2009

Welcome Class of 1969!

This is a follow-up of our 40th Rock Hill High School Class Reunion held on September 24-26th, 2009. We had an absolutely fantastic weekend and for those of you who did not attend, you were certainly missed by all of us. Below, please find just a few of our good times:

Thursday, September 24th

Those of us that could, met at District Three Stadium for the football game between Rock Hill and Fort Mill. Wearing our beloved Bearcat colors and cheering to our fight song, we watched excitedly as our team marched up and down the field and won handily by a score of 56-14. We were also recognized from the pressbox as the "Class of 1969 celebrating 40 years!"



Friday, September 25th

A somewhat bigger crowd met at Thursday's II to great entertainment provided by our own David Parker, accompanied by Danny Brewer. We were serenaded by old beach songs, Jimmy Buffett and a rousing evening-ending American tribute to our servicemen. San Juan Horton sat right in front, all in smiles, as David belted out "God Bless the U.S.A.!"



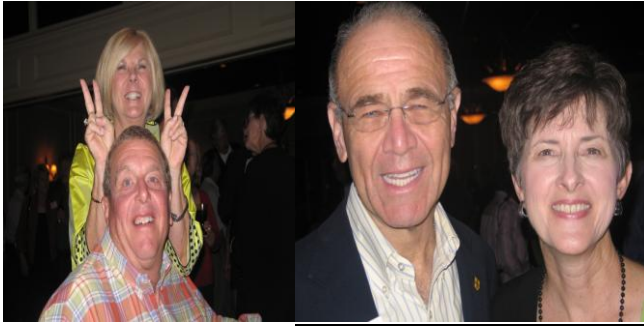
Saturday, September 26th

Rain did not dampen our spirit for the picnic at the Manchester Soccer Complex. The enclosed shelter was the scene of much BBQ with all the trimmings, and, of course, lots of story-swapping and picture-taking. The highlight of this event was watching our classmates spot one another and then break out into the biggest of smiles!



The last and biggest event was Saturday evening for the mixer at the Rock Hill Country Club. The food was excellent, the deejay played songs geared to us older folks and conversation and laughter flowed through the night. Some of the highlights were: Cindy (Walters) and Lanny Slagle cutting a rug on the dance floor, Anna (Lineberger) Turney and Diane Brady (Rodgers) busting out with motions to Y.M.C.A., and Debra (Elmore) Adkins blasting "On 'Ye Bearcats" on her trumpet!



















Bill Burn spent 8 years in the Air Force and later served in the Reserves as an Air Transportation Squadron Commander, including a tour of duty in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm. These days he's happy to be back home with his new bride in Columbia, SC where he continues to practice dentistry.

Harriet Hardin Peterson has enjoyed her career as a dressage rider, trainer and judge. She was invited to work with the United States Equestrian Team coach four years in a row. Harriet and her husband, professor and author Jim Phillips, have traveled and studied in Peru for the last five summers.

Actor **Leon Rippey**, who got his start playing the lead in the RHHS Senior Class play, "It's Time for Spring!" just finished a regular role in the popular television series *Saving Grace*. Rip played the guardian angel of the main character, actress Holly Hunter. To find out more about his career, just Google him for news, pictures and video clips.

Moe Bell is still involved in athletics. He is director of the Rock Hill YMCA and also does the radio coverage of football games for Rock Hill's new high school, South Pointe High.

Preston McDaniel and **Moe Bell** may be tied for the *Youngest Child* award! They both have a 14 year-old at home! Preston is still practicing law in Columbia, championing the cause of

people who have been injured on their jobs. About 10 years ago when Preston was coaching his son's baseball team, a kid on the team had a familiar name. Preston asked the boy if his grandfather ever taught in Rock Hill. The boy answered that not his grandfather, but his father used to be at a school in Rock Hill. Turned out he was the son of none other than our old principal, Cal Burleson! Did you get the part about him being the same age as Preston's son? WOW!

San Juan Horton is now retired from the military and lives just outside of Washington, DC. His military job was so classified he'd have to kill us (not sure whether he was kidding or not here) to tell us about it. And his new one was too complicated for the *Garnet and Black* to figure out, much less be able to explain. He does have a Dr. in front of his name after all!

Lois Ann Bolin, also a PH.D., is involved in so many things it's hard to narrow it down! www.loisbolin.com

Darrell Painter qualified and ran the Boston Marathon in 1986 and continues to run today for his health.

Some of us are doing a great job of showing the younger generation that being a grandmother doesn't make you a little old granny! An avid bowler, **Debra Elmore Adkins** flew to Reno this summer to bowl in the Women's Nationals. Debra is also a motorcycle rider who was featured in a recent Herald article for hitting several deer with her Suzuki Savage 650! Her new name is *Dynamite Deb the DeerSlayer!*

Roggie Rodgers has become a pretty well-known hunting expert around these parts. He and his wife **Diane (Brady)** also operate a taxidermy business near Rock Hill. If you're interested in hunting, Roggie's the man. He can help you track what you're looking for, bag it and preserve it so you'll have bragging evidence from here on.

Talk about saving the world! **Cindy Bristow** seems to be giving it the old Bearcat try. Cindy heads a research foundation, the Institute for Human Genetics and Biochemistry, that focused on developing a treatment for HIV. She also teaches in the Medical School of Cornell University . And if that weren't enough, she still looks 18 and is as much fun as she was in high school! Check out her foundation's web site at www.ihgb.org

WHAT'S ON OUR BUCKET LISTS?

One sure thing our bucket list underscores is that none of us are anywhere near ready to "kick the bucket" anytime soon! And we've got a full agenda of high-energy, exciting things left to live through. Travel is a big priority for many of us. We want to sail around the world, drive across the country to places we've never been and one of us even wants to travel OUT of this world. Others of us are just happy to be "home-bodies", staying right where we are, in the places we love with the people we love.

Darold Ratliff wants to walk on the Great Wall of China while **Sandy Barnes** wants to land a 1,000-plus pound marlin in the waters around Australia. **Moe Bell** says he has already done both of those things. He claims that an even bigger accomplishment looms ahead for him – getting his 14 year-old through college and paying for 4 "girl weddings", as Moe puts it, for his daughters. We agree with Moe on that one – it'll take a big man with nerves of steel!

Harriett Hardin Peterson wants to visit New Zealand, **Debra Elmore Adkins** wants to visit Hawaii, **Lillith Chapman Braxton** plans to spend her retirement traveling all over the United States as well as Europe and Costa Rica, and **Darrell Painter** wants to fly over the African Serengeti in a hot air balloon! But the biggest plan by far is **Larry Durham's**. Larry wants to travel through space in a NASA shuttle! WOW!

IN MEMORY OF...



Jimmy Boulware
 Danny Rainer
 Tommy Boger
 Dorothy Walker
 Woody Maxey
 Charlie McWhite
 Sylvia Tadlock
 Mike Randall
 Roger Rollins
 Jerry Settlemyer
 Gwen Burkett
 Marcia Brandt
 Dennis Ayers
 Kay Auten Rawls
 Claudia del Cummito
 Sherry Snipes Tate
 Kaye Reeves Fields
 Patty Crump
 Rob Williams
 Tommy Nichols
 Mary Elizabeth Sturgis
 Raye Reeves
 Ed Jamison
 Sammy Davis
 Danny Ghent
 Becky Ingram
 Margaret Moss
 Donnie Whitmire
 Mitchell Parrish
 Judy Holland
 Mike Jarvis

40 Years Since High School & 41 Years of Marriage

By Debra Elmore Adkins

WOW CLASSMATES! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? 40 YEARS!

Well, not only is this weekend our 40-year anniversary of “Dear Ole’ Rock Hill High”; it is also my 41st wedding anniversary. Yes, I went to RHHS almost my entire senior year MARRIED to my high school sweetheart. Not only that – HE WAS MY SCHOOL BUS DRIVER!

It all started in early spring, 1967, our sophomore year. One afternoon when the 3:00 bell rang, I picked up my trumpet from the band room and headed out to the bus parking lot. When I stepped on the bus, I immediately noticed the front seat behind the driver was empty. That never happened – because Billy Adkins, our bus driver, had been dating Becky Roberts for a while and she ALWAYS sat there. I ambled on back a few rows and watched as Becky got on and proceeded to sit towards the back of the bus. I asked her what happened and she said that she and Billy decided to “not go steady anymore and just date other people”. From that day on, I started rushing to the bus every afternoon to get that first seat. It wasn’t possible in the mornings because I was the last one to be picked up. The bus left Oakdale School and stopped only to get me from Quail Run before getting to RHHS. Several weeks went by without a single word from the bus driver. He was so very quiet and shy and when he finally turned around to speak, my heart nearly stopped. In a matter of seconds I was crushed as he politely asked me to please stand out from the telephone pole in the mornings to know whether or not

to turn his bus warning lights on to stop for me. I WAS DEVASTATED! Everyone on the bus that day died laughing, ‘cause they all knew that I had the “hots” for Billy. I gave up waiting for him to ask me for a date, so I got the bright idea to invite him to the annual “TWIRP” Dance where the girls asked the boys. And of course it was on APRIL FOOL’S DAY! He smiled at me very shyly and accepted and the rest is history.

We dated for seventeen months, got married at Epworth Methodist Church on September 28, 1968 and headed for a weekend in the honeymoon suite of the Holiday Inn in Asheville, NC., (which back then cost \$35.00 per night). By this time, Bill was in his 2nd year at York Tech as he had graduated from RHHS in 1967.

When we returned from our honeymoon, he continued to spend his lunch break with me until Miss Heitman and Miss Kneece stopped him because he was not a student at RHHS anymore. I can still remember Mr. Burleson calling me to the office that week to inform me that I could no longer participate in any sports, clubs or school activities because I was married and that was a no-no. Now you can attend school half-dressed; get pregnant; not even think about getting married to the father and be on the cheerleading squad or Homecoming Court. My, My, My – how times have changed!

I’m sure you are wondering, how can a young girl six weeks from being eighteen and still in high school make a marriage work with a nineteen year old young man going to technical college during the day, working 2nd shift at night, then doing homework. It was not always easy and I can still remember my mom whispering at the wedding, “they are so young – they will never make it”. It has not

always been perfect, but our faith and trust have kept us strong. Bill and I have been blessed with three wonderful children and now seven wonderful grandchildren. And now, as we get closer to our “golden years” we hope to be able to travel and watch our grandchildren in their sports activities. Oh, and one more thing –I now sit beside my bus driver, not behind him! After 41 years – I think I have earned that right!

**September 28, 1968
Our Wedding Day**



**May 31, 2008
40 Years Later**

