

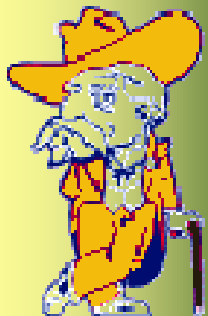
The New
Tatler

NEWSLETTER for alumni of Woodlawn High
School, Birmingham, Alabama
Download from www.WoodlawnHigh.org



January 2013

Editor
George Nelson
WHS '55

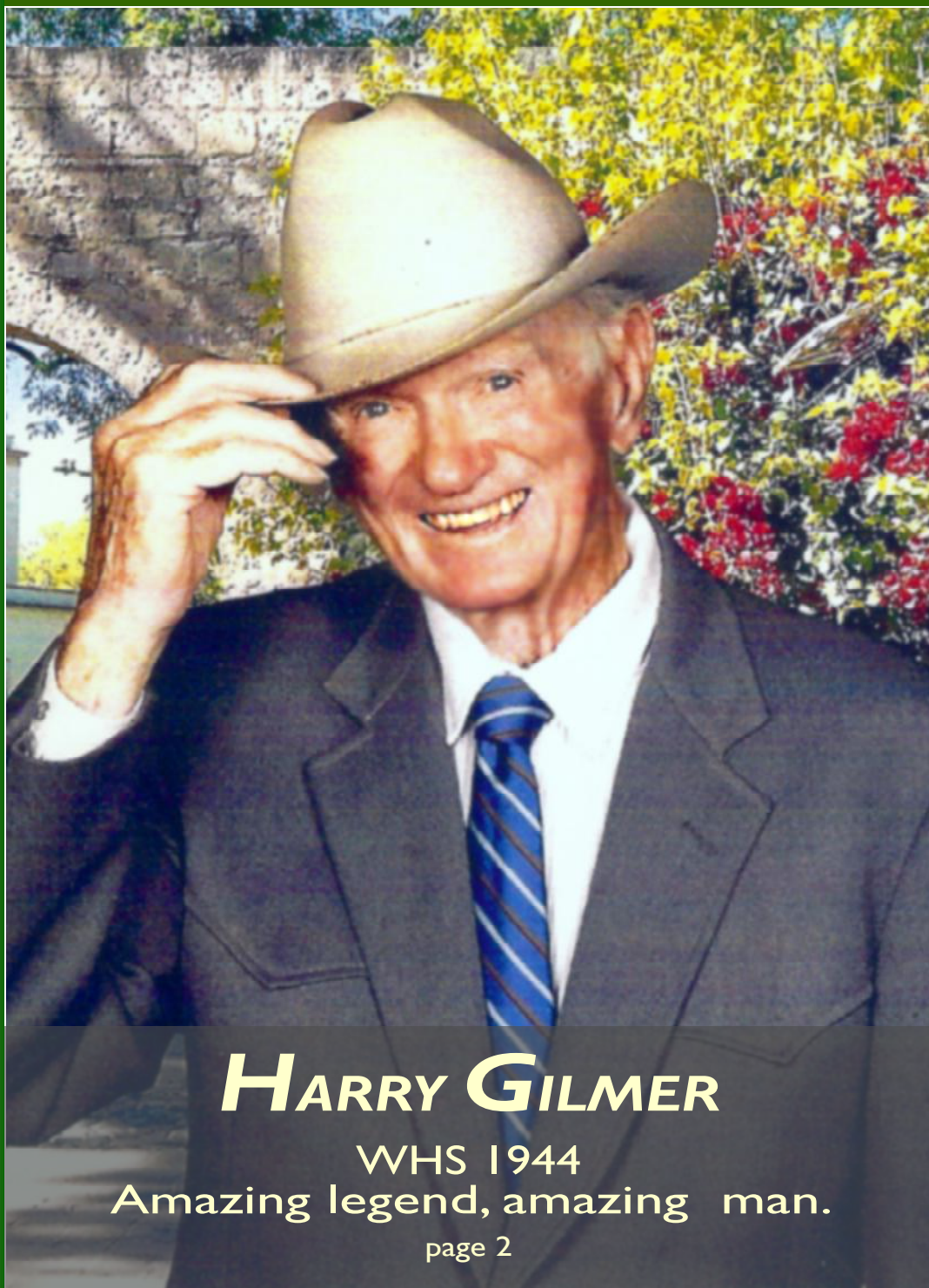


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NEXT ISSUE:

Another surprise coming



HARRY GILMER

WHS 1944

Amazing legend, amazing man.

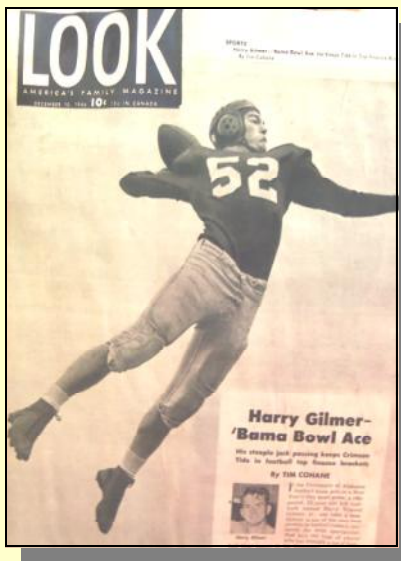
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Harry Vincent Gilmer, Jr.

WHS Class of 1944

Prologue

Over the years there have been innumerable Woodlawn High School men and women who have achieved honors, contributed to society and done good things with their lives. Our desire here is to recognize and honor some of those people in a uniquely personal manner, because in so many ways we all come from the same community and culture as they did. We have that special bond.



Harry Gilmer is indeed a magnificent legend. But we shall not endeavor to reprint the incredible saga of all his sports records set and awards bestowed - which is amply accomplished elsewhere in countless news articles, magazines, Halls of Fame, newsreels and national sports archives. Rather, we wish here to portray a bit of the more personal legend of this extraordinary man, so that we may remember how he touched the heart and soul of our community, our school, our state and nation.

Editor George Nelson and author Roland Monette were recently honored by Harry and family with the invitation to visit in his home on his modest ranch in Missouri. Rarely have we ever experienced such genuine hospitality and old-time southern courtesies as were received that weekend from this gentleman, his devoted children and his beloved animals. They embraced our undertaking with enthusiasm and graciously shared with us their treasure trove of private photos and personal stories which enriched this attempt to pay a special tribute to the legend Harry Gilmer.

~Roland Monette

Gilmer Family Heritage

Every story about a person who accomplishes extraordinary feats of physical, mental and spiritual prowess warrants a brief look into that person's family background to see from whence that strength of character might be derived. Harry Gilmer's family heritage leaves no doubt why his life has been such a successful journey.

In the mid-1700s thousands of hardy Scotsmen departed their war-ravaged homeland for the promise of freedom and prosperity in North America. One young Scotsman William Gilmore (1730-1798) came to the Virginia colony before the Revolution, married Elizabeth Beatty and eventually established a farm in the remote Appalachian Mountain region near Lebanon, Russell County, Virginia, about 20 miles north of Abingdon. There they raised a large family of first American generation Gilmore children.

A grandson Joseph Bowen Gilmer (1826-1893) married Caroline Virginia Dickenson and became the first in the line to Anglicize the surname spelling from *Gilmore* to *Gilmer*. Their son William Cunningham Gilmer (1865-1954) and wife Nancy Ann Jessee raised another generation of Gilmer children on that farm but eventually left and re-settled in Sumter County, Alabama near Gainesville. One of their sons Harry Vincent Gilmer met and married in York, Alabama Mattie Elizabeth Bragg of the widely respected Bragg family, of which Confederate General Braxton Bragg was an illustrious kinsman.

But farming was a brutal and unpredictable existence in Sumter County back then, so Harry and Mattie Gilmer made the long move to the East Lake suburb of flourishing Birmingham where Harry worked the construction and carpentry trades. He and Mattie were well known and respected citizens in East Lake the rest of their lives.

On April 14, 1926, at 8001 Rugby Avenue in East Lake, Mattie Gilmer gave birth to their plump and healthy first-born son, Harry Vincent Gilmer, Jr. weighing 10 pounds, sixth in descent from his Scottish immigrant ancestor.

William Cunningham "Billy" Gilmer, their second and last child, was also born in East Lake four years later.



Harry Gilmer Jr.
Age 2, 1928

Growing Up Harry Gilmer

The Gilmer family moved several times within East Lake as young Harry grew up during the hard Depression years. At one time they lived in East Lake across the street from an open pasture. There Harry watched neighbor boys playing sandlot football and baseball, and he often joined in with them. After moving yet again to 2nd Avenue South across from Howard College, Harry would wander over to the campus

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Harry Gilmer - continued from page 2



Harry's birthplace - 8001 Rugby Avenue in East Lake

and watch the Howard football team practicing. Before entering Woodlawn High Harry played a lot of sandlot football, baseball and basketball on those old Howard practice fields, usually with older boys who gave him a lot of hard knocks which would prove very useful experience for him in his later athletic pursuits.

Harry relates, with a big grin, occasions when another younger East Lake boy, Bobby Bowden, would often hang on the fence outside the Howard College practice field and beg the older boys to let him play also, but to no avail. Those boys saw no potential in little Bobby Bowden, and they just could not have imagined that Bobby would someday become himself a football star at Woodlawn and Howard College. And he would also become an American sports legend as the "All-Time Winningest Coach" in college football history. Bobby Bowden has been one of Harry's greatest fans as well as a lifelong friend ever since those East Lake boyhood years.

Harry has loved all kinds of animals all his life, and his family to this day attests to that wonderful quality which he imparted to all his children and grandchildren. He spent a Summer at age 9 with his grandfather William Gilmer on the old Gilmer ancestral farm near Lebanon, Virginia and has many good memories of living and working with the cows, horses, chickens and pigs. So it is not at all surprising that he lives today on his Missouri ranch surrounded by some very happy horses, dogs, peacocks, turkeys, goats and other farm creatures who are full fledged members of his large and happy extended family.

At age 12, Harry joined the Boy Scouts. He never forgot the honor, character, courtesy and integrity learned from those Boy Scout experiences and from his time spent as a Boy Scout leader and counselor.

Woodlawn High - A Star is Rising

In his final grammar school years Harry spent much of his time practicing sandlot football moves and plays, very often with his good friend Clayton Gore who helped him prepare for that long awaited day when he would start to Woodlawn High School.

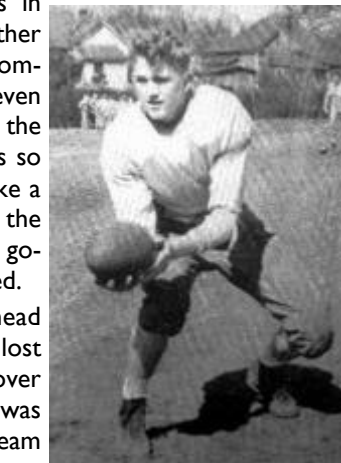
In September 1940 Harry entered Woodlawn and immediately tried out for the freshman football team called the "Scalybarks", under coach John Blane. Harry weighed only about 155 pounds and was in awe of the size of the other players he would now be competing with. He said that even the smallest uniform in the Woodlawn supply room was so big on him that he would take a full step forward before the uniform moved, and it kept going a full step after he stopped.

Woodlawn, under head coach Malcolm Laney, had lost only three football games over the previous five years and was known as a powerhouse team all over the state. Harry was a little fish in a big pond, but he already knew how to run, block, throw and tackle from his sandlot years, so he was fully capable of taking care of himself and proved it so that freshman year.

Beginning his sophomore year, Harry, age 15, began developing into Woodlawn's all-around star athlete. Over the next two years he starred with the Colonels in multiple football, basketball and baseball championships at city and State levels and dominated Birmingham sports news headlines winning many honors. And he was destined for far greater things ahead.



All-State Basketball 1943



At Woodlawn, Fall 1940

Harry could usually take a lot of punishing blows and swiftly get back up and continue playing. But he still tells the story, again with a wide grin, about the time he was hit so hard in the head during a Bessemer game that he does not remember playing the rest of the game, even though one of his signature *jump passes* in the final quarter produced the touchdown that won the game. When being congratulated after the game, Harry was still dazed from

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Gilmer - continued from page 3

that head blow and groggily replied, "I didn't get to play, and it sure is tough sitting on that bench."



One afternoon at the State Fair Grounds Harry just happened to make the acquaintance of a beautiful girl also from Woodlawn High.

Meeting **Katherine Jeanette Reem** (WHS '43) that day began a life-long love story that great romantic poetry might only begin to describe.

Harry, 70 years later: "Once I met her, nobody else existed."

Harry graduated from Woodlawn in May 1944, having gained the highest seats of honor among Woodlawn's all-time great athletes over the years. Harry's achievements at Woodlawn were the stuff of great high school legends. He starred in baseball, basketball and football; was voted Woodlawn's Best Athlete, made the All-State basketball team; was named to All-City, All-State and All-Southern football teams; received the Birmingham Quarterback Club's trophy as Best Player in Jefferson County; and had the 1946 Woodlog school annual dedicated to his honor.



A Woodlawn Freshman -1940

About this time Woodlawn's Head Coach Malcolm Laney left and joined the athletic staff of Coach Frank Thomas at the University of Alabama. This was instrumental in Harry's decision to go to Alabama to play for the Crimson Tide. But Harry's mother was also a major influence in that decision, after Harry had received an offer from Kentucky and also said he might want to sign up with Auburn.

Stomach Ailment and Military Deferment

World War II was raging in 1944 when Harry turned 18 just before his WHS graduation. Ready to go, he received his draft letter and reported to Fort McClellan for the induction physical. But a long lingering stomach ailment was diagnosed as stomach ulcers by Army doctors who classified him 4-F and deferred him from military service.

Harry had been anxious to swiftly join the war effort overseas, so his rejection by the Army came as a shock and was announced by the sports news media.

Even to this day Harry laments his war service rejection as the greatest disappointment of his life.

Pride of the Tide

Harry elected to join the Crimson Tide and reported for football practice in August 1944. That 1944 varsity team was made up mostly of freshmen, including Harry, due to the war's severe demand for young men of that age group. Harry began practice at a scant 155 pounds and lost 8 more pounds by season start. With exceptional determination and expert physician care from East Lake's Dr. Lelias Kirby, Harry eventually learned to better endure his stomach ailments and went on to become the Tide's superstar that freshman year.

Nonetheless, Coach Thomas decided to make special provisions for Harry's stomach condition, so Harry was required to dine in the Girls' Dormitory where he could have meals that adhered to the very rigid non-meat diet required by his delicate digestive system. Suffice it to say, this nutrition therapy proved its worth, and Harry never had any cause to complain much about that dining inconvenience.

In his very first collegiate game against LSU, Harry scored two touchdowns on runs of 24 yards and 95 yards, the latter an Alabama record.

In high school Harry had perfected a running jump pass technique, leaping high into the air and twisting his body to accurately pass to either side of the field or long down field. Coach Thomas at Alabama was amazed at this ability and allowed Harry to continue using it because, as Thomas stated, "it simply worked". High school players all over the South were soon using that jump pass with varying degrees of success, and all because every boy aspiring to football greatness was imitating the now magically famous Harry Gilmer, the Tide's freshman super star.

That first year Harry was the driving force in getting Alabama to the 1945 Sugar Bowl against powerhouse Duke University. This game gave the nation "... one of the greatest football thrillers of all time" wrote the renowned sports writer Grantland Rice. Alabama was not expected to even score against mighty Duke, but Harry's spectacular jump passes enabled two Tide TDs that put Alabama just 3 points behind Duke in the final quarter. Then, on the very last play of the game, Harry completed a pass to end Ralph Jones streaking for the goal line and surely a great Tide upset victory over Duke. But, alas, another Tide player, trying to make a final block, stumbled and fell, causing



Left halfback on the Tide varsity his freshman year.



Harry leaped to amazing heights in his jump pass. But he cautioned, "Don't jump and pass unless it comes natural. You'll get hit many times like this."

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Gilmer - continued from page 4

Jones to be tripped up just short of the goal line - and Duke won. But Grantland Rice afterwards wrote in his national column about "... the deadly arm of 18 year-old Harry Gilmer, the greatest college passer I ever saw." Harry completed 100 percent of his passes, 8 for 8 attempts gaining 145 yards, a Sugar Bowl record.



In his freshman year Harry set records for total yards gained and passes completed, and he was named to the *All Southeastern Conference* team - age 18, 155 pounds.

Rose Bowl - January 1946

By end of his 1945 sophomore season Harry Gilmer was a household name all over the country, having gained a near-mythical image. His accomplishments, victories and personal records for that year fill countless sports papers, magazines and movie news reels, far too numerous to even summarize here in this article. Harry set records in rushing, passing and punt returns while also performing as an extraordinary blocker, kicker, tackler and defensive player. Harry Gilmer appeared on the cover of *Look* magazine and was the only player unanimously selected All-Southeastern Conference and All-American,

Just before the Vanderbilt game, the conclusion was foregone that Alabama would win with ease. But in interviews on the streets before the game, some Vandy fans told reporters, "Let us see Gilmer in action - even if you beat us 100-to-0." When Harry was not in the game, the stands chanted "Give us Gilmer". Coach Thomas disliked running up high scoring victories, but he said, "The crowd wants to see Gilmer, and I'm obligated to play him for their sake. I hope the score isn't so high as to cause embarrassment." Harry personally ran and passed for four touchdowns that day in Bama's 71-0 victory.

The Rose Bowl committee then rushed its invitation to Tuscaloosa ahead of any other bowl committee's bid. That 1946 Rose Bowl game electrified the nation, and Harry still has vivid memories of when The Tide, nearly all sophomores, captured America's heart and soul.

Despite energies and emotions poured every day into his athletic challenges, Harry was deeply in love with Katherine Reem, the Woodlawn High School sweetheart

he never left behind. The University had just lifted its marriage ban for athletes, so Harry proposed and they were married in February 1945. He was 19 years old and still a freshman but already a man with exceptional qualities of character, judgment, loyalty and conviction that would be his life's signature. Harry always called her "my beautiful Katherine", and they were truly the prince and princess who lived and loved forever after. In the 1946 Rose Bowl, Harry was the only married player, but Katherine was assuredly a major influence in the spell-binding performance he delivered to the nation that memorable day against mighty Southern California.



Harry and Katherine Gilmer at Rose Bowl celebrations 1945.

Harry recalled the team's excitement, just before Christmas 1945, when boarding the train for Los Angeles and the Rose Bowl. But it was a long trip. His train was often diverted onto sidings, sometimes for hours, to allow troop trains to speed past carrying home America's victorious soldiers from the Pacific war - a memory Harry never forgot.

The eyes of the nation were fixed on Pasadena that New Year's day. Harry and the team were visited and encouraged by many famous Alabama fans and Hollywood celebrities, including movie star Johnny Mack Brown who had earlier spearheaded Alabama's win in the 1930 Rose Bowl.

The Southern California Trojans had been undefeated in all eight of its prior Rose Bowl engagements, and Alabama was widely considered the underdog. West coast sports writers had already made dire predictions against the Crimson Tide, referring to Harry and the young Alabama team as "swamp students". Thirty-four Tide players rode that train to the Rose Bowl, and all 34 got to play their hearts out and thoroughly *swamped* the mighty Trojans 34-14.



Gilmer scoring against Southern Cal in the 1946 Rose Bowl where he averaged over seven yards per carry.

Although heavily out-weighting Alabama players man-to-man, Southern Cal gained only six net yards rushing versus Bama's 292 yards. Harry was voted the 1946 Rose Bowl's Most Valuable Player (MVP) and named to the All-Rose Bowl team.

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Gilmer - continued from page 5

Harry finished his last year at Alabama continuing to set records that still stand today. Harry Gilmer still appears 54 times in the Alabama record books. Just a few of the highlights of his collegiate career follow.

- SEC 1945 Player of the Year, SEC Living Legends Team—1992.
- All-SEC and All-American in 1946. Rose Bowl MVP. Rose Bowl Hall of Fame. Led Alabama in passing, rushing, interceptions, punt returns and kickoff returns. Led the nation in touchdown passes. Averaged 10.3 yards per carry.
- One of only five running backs in history to gain more than 200 yards in a game. All-time record for punt return yardage. Alabama's longest touchdown run - 98 yards, the number two national record.
- National record for highest average yards-per-play in a game - 33.3 yards. 52 career touchdowns, still a Tide record.
- College Football Hall of Fame, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame, Alabama All-Century Team, Blue-Gray Hall of Fame.
- Three time Heisman Trophy finalist. ... and many others.



Alabama's All Century Team selectees 1892-1992.
Joe Namath, Jay Barker, Harry Gilmer

An amusing story was the time Bama was preparing to make its first airline flight to Boston for the Boston College game in 1946. A new Tide player and WW2 veteran, Charlie Compton, told Coach Thomas that he could not fly because of all the air crashes he'd seen during the war. To appease Compton, Thomas offered him a parachute, which he briefly considered but then declined with this reply, "Coach, I know if something went wrong on that plane, you'd come to me and say, 'Charlie, give that chute to Harry.'"

Harry's athletic diversity was always surprising. Although not a member of Bama's Track & Field Team Harry was asked to substitute, in a conference meet, for their varsity javelin thrower who was absent - even though Harry had thrown a javelin only once "just for play". He consented, made a throw, then left the stadium. He was surprised to later read in the newspaper that he had won that javelin event for Alabama.

Onward to the Pros

In 1948 Harry was the Number 1 professional draft pick and was signed on by the Washington Redskins with a \$10,000 dollar signing bonus, more money than the Governor of Alabama made that year. He played with the Redskins until 1954, but sustained a massive left leg injury which hampered him the rest of his playing career. After that he played for the Detroit Lions until retiring as a professional player in 1957. For the next 28 years Harry coached NFL professional teams at Pittsburg, Minnesota, Detroit, St. Louis and Atlanta. He scouted another 10 years for St. Louis then retired for good in 1995 - ending a 55 year football career.

Some Special Reflections

In those 55 years Harry exhibited greatness in more ways than point scoring. He always exhibited the sport's greatest sportsmanship, a determined competitor but a gentleman on the field as well as off. After countless hard tackles, given and received, Harry's natural reaction was to offer his hand to help a downed opponent up off the ground. And he never sought out nor wanted personal glory; rather he always paid honor to the contributions of teammates and attributed extraordinary successes to the power of teamwork and the team's collective will.

He made close personal friends all over the sports world, and we feel it appropriate to mention a few of those that were empowering influences on him - although there are far too many to justly recognize all of them here.

Harry pays tribute to two East Lake boyhood friends, Calvin Ramsey and Frank Mangina, who helped him develop early athletic skills, confidence and competitiveness.

Of all the coaches Harry played under, Woodlawn's Coach John Blane, a former Illinois basketball star, was his most respected mentor. Jimmy Tarrant, former Woodlawn and Howard College star, was an inspiration in Harry's highschool years.

All-American, Hall-of-Fame teammates at Bama, Vaughn Mancha and Hugh Morrow, held special bonds with Harry over the years.

At a Georgia game (right), Harry reflected, "I'm shaking hands with the greatest player I've ever seen, Charlie Trippi".

When Harry later joined the Washington Redskins, he began a life-long friendship with the Redskin's Hall-of-Fame quarterback and former All-American from Texas Christian University, Sammy "Slingin' Sammy" Baugh. Harry had by then adopted the fashion of wearing finely tooled western (cowboy) boots, which he still does to this day. Harry laughs now when he relates that he



Vaughn Mancha
1921 - 2011



Harry and Charlie Trippi

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Gilmer - continued from page 6

was just a dude from East Lake, so he had to be ever careful not to wear those boots when he was around the real Texan Sammy Baugh. Harry grinned and explained, "Sammy had whole bunches of cows."

Malcolm Laney, Frank Thomas, Paul "Bear" Bryant, Norm Van Brocklin, the list of Harry's close friends and mentors can go on and on.



Sammy Baugh
1914-2008
"Finest friend I
ever had."

Moving over to the Slow Lane

Harry revealed that it had been his and Katherine's plan to eventually return and retire in Tuscaloosa. But, alas, the career pursuits of football and coaching made that a less and less suitable prospect for his family as the years passed. Retirement from the St. Louis Cardinals in 1995 presented the Gilmers with the more favorable option to settle permanently on their 55 acre ranch west of St. Louis.

Although advancing suburbia has encroached on the Gilmer ranch boundaries, there still exists there a special tranquility around his modest home under huge oaks, reflecting Harry's character and quieter life passions in his senior years. A typical Summer morning might find Harry rising early, arriving at a coffee shop before 7 am for a cup and a chat with other early birds, then back to the barn to feed his animals, then up on his tractor bush-hogging weeds.



His beautifully restored, 50 year-old Ford PowerMaster.

Like everything else about Harry Gilmer, it performs perfectly.

The Gilmer Ranch is home to contented creatures of numerous species: horses, peacocks, goats, chickens, turkeys, birds of all types. Watching Harry walk among them lets one see and enjoy how clearly and deeply they are bonded with him. Every animal has a name to which it devotedly responds. During our visit, a small flock of wild turkeys slowly approached the house. We were told they were there just to tell Harry that a strange auto (ours) was in his driveway. After sensing that all was OK, they ambled off toward the woods.



Gilmer turkeys, spotting Tatler Editor George Nelson

(Author's note: *It can't get much better than this.*)

Things that matter the most

Harry and Katherine raised four beautiful children. They are all successful professionals and have dutifully passed to their own progeny the same high ethics and integrity values passed to them by their loving parents.

Please meet them.

Constance "Coni" Gilmer married Paul West and has two children, Christopher Drew and Julie Michelle, and grandsons Chase, Justin and Jason. After retiring from a rewarding career with the Georgia School System, she moved to St. Louis to help her Dad with his farm operations. She is a former rodeo Barrel Racer.



Fran Gilmer is married to Richard Kroll and has two children, a daughter Nickie and son George, and grandchildren Kaley and Logan. Fran now lives outside Detroit managing her and Richard's home.

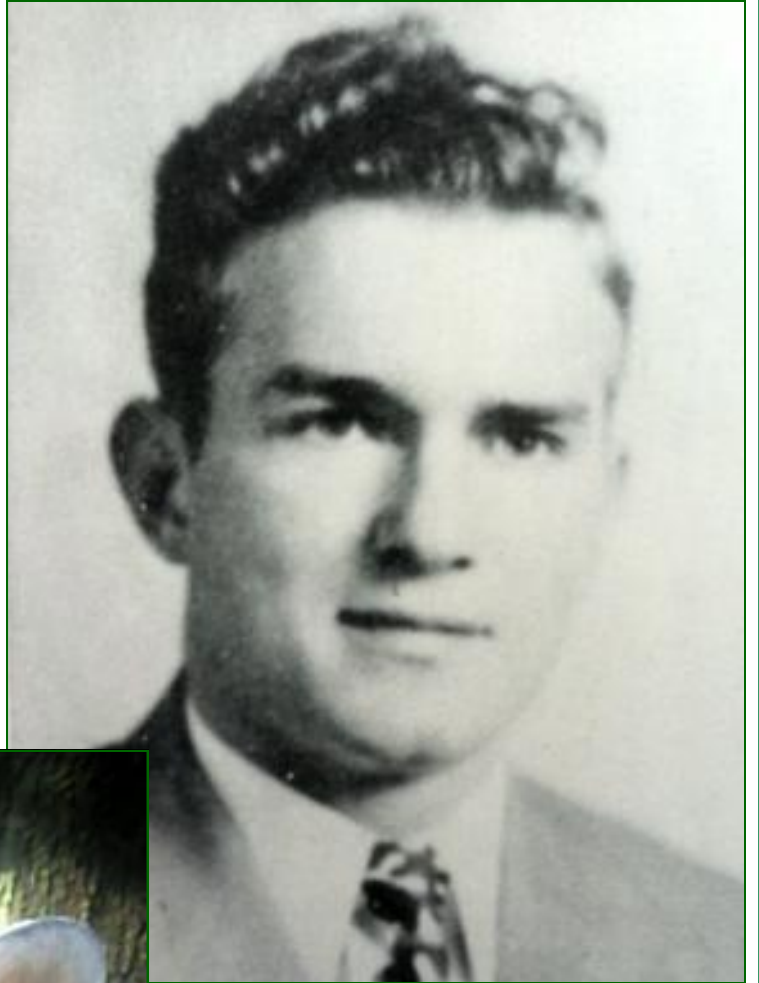
Dale Gilmer is married to Terry Morgan and has two sons, Travis and Trevor, and three grandchildren, Madison, Riley and Wyatt. Dale and Terry live outside St. Louis and are shortly to gain a fourth grandchild.



Thomas Drew Gilmer and wife Joan have a daughter Julie and three grandchildren Howard, Hannah, and Steven. Drew was a distinguished law enforcement officer, now retired from the St. Louis County Police Department. He lives in New Haven, Missouri and is the master mechanic who restored Harry's vintage farm equipment and prized Model A Ford.

Gilmer - continued from page 7

For the boy who had not initially even thought about going to college, and might not have ever gotten there if not for his 4-F military deferment, football just exploded as the compelling influence on his life.



He gave it heart and soul ,
as he always has to his children and



to the memory of
Katherine Jeanette Reem Gilmer

1924 - 2005
WHS Class of 1943

*daughter of Harper Lytle Reem and Edna Katherine Freeman
and beloved consort of Harry Vincent Gilmer, Jr.*

She was the wind beneath his wings.

Gilmer - continued from page 9

Acknowledgements

This story has many contributors and sources warranting recognition. His childhood, personal and professional stories come from Harry's remarkably keen memory and equally entertaining wit.

The Gilmer children supplied an immense 60+ year collection of newspaper articles, magazine stories, photographs, book publications and personal anecdotes far more valuable than anything several thousand hours of painstaking research-from-scratch could have produced.

The great sports writers, sportscasters and film makers of those times have also left us priceless archives that are still available to us through the wonders of the World Wide Web. With a few clicks on a keyboard, one can watch old film playbacks of Harry Gilmer and the 1946 Rose Bowl champions dashing to national glory.

In 1947 a gifted writer and kinsman, the late Edwin Bragg, Harry's uncle, authored an early tribute to Harry entitled, "This is Harry Gilmer", privately published, now out of print. In that 86 page booklet Bragg chronicled Harry's story from infancy through childhood, through Woodlawn High, through his junior year at the University. Substantial parts of our article borrow from that booklet's stories as they related to and supported interviews directly with Harry and family.

Finally and sadly, Harry's little brother, Billy Gilmer, our friend and prolific dispenser of Gilmer facts and fables to this article, passed away on October 24, 2012 before he could see this tribute go to press. His contributions were exhaustive and in delightful detail. He could spout out play-by-play episodes across Harry's entire career and put fascinating humor and drama into so many public and private happenings in the Gilmer saga. Billy was also a varsity athlete at Woodlawn and the Univ. of Alabama. You did good, Billy. We miss you.



With the late Paul Harvey:

*“ And that, my fellow Americans,
is the Rest of the Story ”.*

A Related Note:

Many of us Woodlawn graduates from the 1950s remember fondly two WHS classmates, Barbara “Bobbi” Ackerman and her sister Patricia “Pat” Ackerman. They are first cousins to Harry and Billy Gilmer. Their mothers were sisters. The *Bobbi Ackerman School of Dance* was a popular Birmingham institution.

Obituaries



Adel "Twinkles" Chambordon (WHS '40), age 91, died on 8 Dec 2012. Cheerleader, Woodlawn Hall of Fame. At 4 ft - 2 in. tall she served as Christmas Elf *Twinkles* at Lovemans where she worked for 38 years. [Her obituary.](#)



Frances Galbreath McDonald Locke age 90, died Oct 2, 2012 from Alzheimers. Beautiful and exceptionally popular teacher at WHS, Huffman and Robinson schools. The 1966 Woodlog was dedicated to her. She was mother of WHS graduates Dawn and Glen McDonald. [Her obituary](#)



William C. "Billy" Gilmer (WHS '48), age 82, of Trussville, AL, died 24 Oct 2012 of cancer. Former WHS and Univ. of Alabama athlete and Birmingham industrial park developer. He was the younger brother of Harry Gilmer (WHS '44). [Read his obituary .](#)



Dorothy Swann Gill (WHS '57), age 72, died Christmas Day 2012, Roswell, GA. She graduated Auburn Univ. 1962 and travelled the world with her USAF husband Col. Jerry W. Gill (WHS '55). A gorgeous woman, a beautiful person, wonderful friend. [Her Obituary .](#)

Stuff You Can Afford Not to Know

1. What do you call a person who owns geese ?
A. Geezer B. Gooser C. Gossard D. Gaggler
2. A group of geese on the ground is a *gaggle*. But a group of geese in the air is called a
A. google B. skein C. schwanz D. scone
3. Marilyn Monroe had six toes on one foot.
A. True B. False
4. The dot over the letter "i" is officially called a
A. dink B. dollop C. nipple D. tittle
5. What is the only body part that cannot repair itself ?
A. kidney B. tooth C. nails D. testicle
6. The unit of time 1/100th of a second is officially called a
A. jiffy B. centoid C. blink D. plink
7. Taphephobia is the fear of
A. being buried alive B. being naked
C. being disliked D. telling the truth
8. Clinophobia is the fear of
A. doors B. steps C. lights D. beds
9. The longest officially recorded flight of a chicken (not in a tornado or from an aircraft drop) is 13 seconds ?
A. Everybody knows this. B. Baloney ! C. True
10. The official Alabama State Song is
A. Alabamy Bound B. Sweet Home Alabama
C. I...I Come From Alabama D. Stars Fell on Alabama
11. Coca-Cola was originally what color ?
A. green B. red C. white D. coca-cola color
12. The Mona Lisa has no eyebrows and eyelashes because
A. They were considered obscene in Renaissance art
B. Mona Lisa plucked 'em out - a fashion of the times.
C. They were scratched off by a drunken Monk.
D. She had them, but they were transparent.

Answers:

1. C 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. B 6. A
7. A 8. D 9. C 10. D 11. A 12. B

William "Billy" Hawkins (WHS '57), age 73, died Oct 2012, heart failure.

Peggy Lantrip (WHS '40), age 91, died Nov 2012.
Myrtie Roberts Elliott (WHS '55), age 75, died 2012

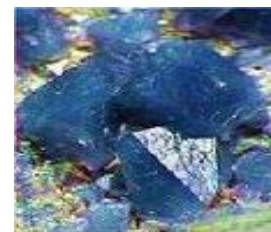
The Vermillion Darter - Endangered Specie



The *Etheostoma Chermocki* exists only in a 13 mile section of swift water in Turkey Creek between Pinson and the Locust Fork of the Black Warrior River in Jefferson County, Alabama. Designated a *Federal Endangered Specie*, it is against the law to catch or remove it to other waters. Silt and sediment from human intrusions severely threaten its survival.

Star Blue Quartz,

Official Alabama State Gemstone
One of the most beautiful gemstones on earth (Silicon Dioxide) and a souvenir from ancient volcanoes. Exists abundantly in Alabama .



Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

opened in 1931 when flights to Los Angeles took 19 hours. Served 2.9 million passengers in 2011. Named after Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, Birmingham Civil Rights icon who died in 2011.



REUNIONS and Other Happenings in 2013

Also see information on these and other events at
www.WoodlawnHigh.org

| What | When | Where |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <p>▶ CLASS OF 1953 - 60th REUNION. 11:00am Reunion Brunch gathering (the only reunion event) Contact Marilyn Monette Anthony '53 at JAnthony112@charter.net or 205-655-3968 for more info</p> | 18 May 2013 | Vestavia Country Club |
| <p>▶ CLASS OF 1958 - 55th REUNION. Contact Ann Slye Thomas at ATRN@windstream.net More details coming. Stay tuned.</p> | 17-18 May 2013 | Marriott Grandview Parkway, US280 |
| <p>▶ CLASS OF 1955 - 58th REUNION In planning. Contact Larry Vance '55 at 205-969-0732.</p> | 2013 | TBD |

WHS Meet-up Groups and Dance Clubs

| Meet-up Group | Meet when ? | Meet where ? | Comment |
|--|---|---|---|
| ▶ Moody Lunch Group | Weekly, every Wednesday, 11:00 am | Bobbie's Lounge in Moody, AL | Everyone welcome. Lots of attendees from classes '50 to '80. Just show up. |
| ▶ Pell City Monthly Lunch Group | Second Thursday of every month plus holiday parties and other gatherings. | Different locations each month. Please get on email list for monthly notifications. | Contact Mary Sue Stevens Landman '58 at MLandman0703@charter.net or Jackie Vandergrift at Jackie200@aol.com . Everyone welcome. |
| ▶ Brookwood Mall Monthly Lunch Group | First Tuesday of every month at 12:00 noon | Brookwood Mall, Food Court | Been meeting 8 years. Also have annual Christmas parties, special outings, and short trips. Everyone welcome. |
| ▶ W.O.W. !! Women of Woodlawn Lunch Group | Third Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am | Different surprise places. You will be contacted by phone. | Been meeting 12 years. We go to the latest and most interesting places for lunch. To get on call list contact Ernestine Shannon at 205-936-6909 or EShannon@yahoo.com . |
| ▶ Village Tavern Group | Third Thursday of every month, 6:00pm until about 9 pm-ish | The Village Tavern - on lower level of the Summit Mall | Everyone welcome. Lots of '50s, '60s, '70s folks always there. Contact Pattie Neil at Pattie-Neil@hotmail.com for more info. |
| ▶ Trussville Cracker Barrel Breakfast Group | First Monday of every month at 8:30 am | Cracker Barrel, Trussville. At Trussville Exit off I-59 | Everyone welcome. Just show up. |
| ▶ BEACH SHAGGERS OF BIRMINGHAM | Every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm | VFW Club, 18th St. and 11th Ave North, Birmingham | Dance Club. Everyone welcome. Free dance lessons at 6:30 pm. Come learn how to SHAG. Contact Jackie Vandegrift at 205-884-7581 |
| ▶ MAGIC CITY BOPPERS | 1st, 2d, 4th & 5th Wednesdays and 3rd Friday every month at 7:00 PM | VFW Club, 18th St. and 11th Ave North, Birmingham | Dance Club. Everyone welcome. Free dance lessons at 6:30 pm. Contact Larry Vance 205-969-0732 |

**TATLER CONTENT CONTRIBUTIONS
ARE SOLICITED FROM EVERYONE**

SEND US proposed articles, images, songs, videos, poems, jokes, quizzes, obituaries, factoids, whatever.

Email to: George Nelson at LonEagle@knology.net and
Roland Monette at Webmaster@WoodlawnHigh.org

IMPORTANT: All TATLER issues are downloadable from www.WoodlawnHigh.org .

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO EVERY WHS CLASSMATE YOU KNOW.

Issues are no longer distributed by mass-emails when published.

WANTED: Rescued or Shelter Dog

An earlier TATLER posted "CoCo" (right) for adoption, and today she is bringing love and joy to a WHS alumnus in Birmingham. This time we are helping a family **find a dog to adopt**. They have an ideal home near Asheville NC.



They want

Chocolate Lab (or Lab mix or other color). Not a baby puppy but a young dog - to play with teenage family members. Must be a rescued dog or shelter dog needing a permanent home. Any gender, any location.

Send any prospects (description and photo) to Roland at RolandMonette@charter.net or **423-994-5995** or Webmaster@WoodlawnHigh.org .

VETERAN PHOTOS WANTED

Future Tatler issues will run photos of WHS veterans and alumni presently in active service. Men and women, living or deceased, all class years, in or out of uniform. PLEASE HELP. Email or post mail to us any photo you wish with descriptions.



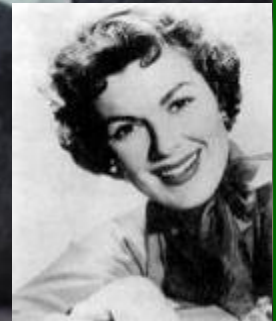
Send person's name, WHS class year, relationship, rank, service, photo date, date died (if deceased) and any other special achievements, info, or tribute to veteran or active service member.

Send to Roland Monette at Webmaster@WoodlawnHigh.org or 60 Creek Crossing Lane, Weaverville, NC 28787.

We cannot return photos.

**Coming Soon
to a Tatler Near You**

WHS 1929



Remember this Woodlawn High beauty ?

She appeared in 62 Hollywood films and many TV productions with some of stage and screens most famous leading men. But there is so much more in the story we want to tell you about this remarkable WHS refugee to stardom.



Look for this issue soon.