

Tatler

NEWSLETTER

for Alumni of Woodlawn High School, Birmingham, Alabama

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JUNE 1, 2011

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Welcome to the "Tatler"

Welcome to the 2nd issue of the "New Tatler". The 1st issue was a great success and the feedback was 100% positive. The success of the Tatler is all about YOU! We want to receive Bio's from some of our female classmates that will tell us about their lives after Woodlawn. Let any of our Tatler staff know if you would like to share your life story with us. We also need email addresses. Please keep us up to date.

Ollie Lawrence Vance-WHS Class of '55

Following graduation from Woodlawn High School in May of 1955, I played my way through the summer. I then enrolled at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) as an engineering student. The shocker was that they actually expected me to study! This was something new to me. They did get my attention and the grades improved, I was accepted into Phi Kappa Phi.



The summers of 1956 and 1957 were spent in Birmingham. I worked at Hayes Aircraft, replenished my funds and attended night classes at UAB. I married Carol Hobbs and we had a son, Michael, and a daughter, Peggy.

My BSME degree was awarded in 1959 and I accepted a faculty position at Alabama Polytechnic Institute as Teaching Assistant. During this time, I earned my MSME degree. This degree was awarded in 1961 and I accepted employment with Pratt-Whitney Aircraft near Palm Beach, Florida. My duties there involved the jet engine design for the "Blackbird" spy plane.

In 1962, I rejoined the Auburn faculty as an Assistant Professor, a job I enjoyed. This made it possible for me to seek a National Science Foundation Science Faculty Fellowship to support the pursuit of my Ph.D degree. My luck was good and the Fellowship was granted. I enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin in the summer of 1964. The course work was demanding, but it was not nearly as difficult as learning to read German. My third year at Austin was devoted to the dissertation research and part-time teaching. My degree was granted in 1967.

Continued on Page 2

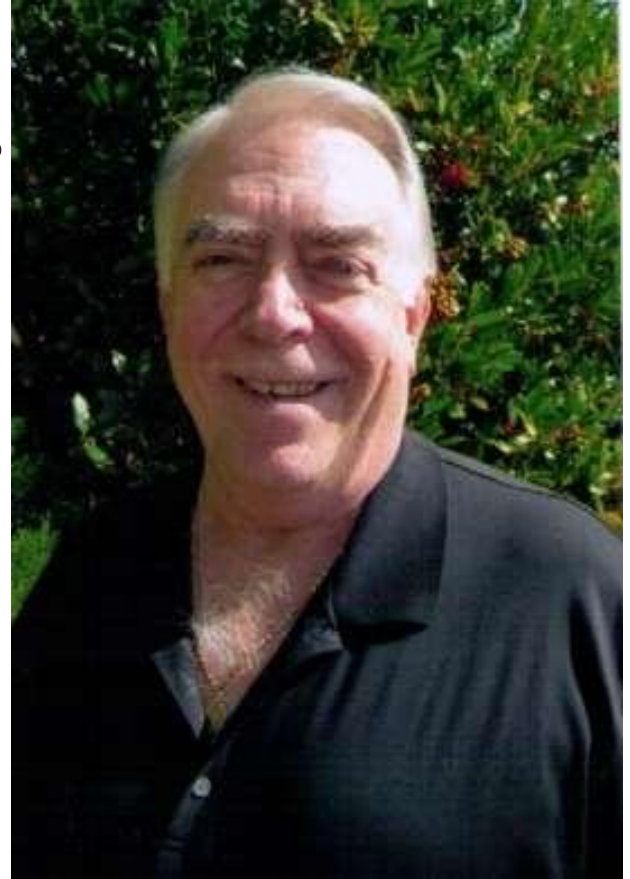
Ollie Lawrence Vance

(continued from page 1)

Now, for all of you who know Larry and you can call him Larry, or you can call him Professor Vance or you can call him Dr. Vance. But I promise you, he much prefers to be called King Vance. If you think all these degrees made a dull boy, not on your life! He is currently president of THE MAGIC CITY BOPPERS Club in Birmingham. He teaches bop lessons. There is not one serious bone in his body. He also holds the distinction of being the first WHS graduate who escaped from the Bay County Jail.

Back to our bio, he joined the faculty at UAB as an Associate Professor. He became a Registered Professional Engineer in Alabama and Florida. By 1970, his consulting practice had developed to include local industries and a large number of law firms. These activities, along with teaching, research, thesis direction and technical paper publication, kept him busy and entertained for a number of years.

His university efforts resulted in the formation of many friendships and several teaching awards. He retired from the faculty in 1990. Larry remained active another twenty years in his consulting practice primarily with law firms. He focused on personal injury associated with product and premises liability. He appeared in court more than one hundred times and gave sworn depositions over five hundred times. He retired in 2009.



Larry Vance attributes any success he had directly to his parents, Ollie and Mildred, to a solid start at Woodlawn High School and the very satisfying college experiences at Auburn University and the University of Texas at Austin.

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Village Tavern Group



If you close your eyes and hear the chatter and laughter, you would think that you were standing in the front halls of glorious Woodlawn High School! In reality, to enjoy that same type of fellowship with fellow WHS alumni, all you have to do is show up once a month at the Village Tavern on the lower level of The Summit (next to Flemmings Steakhouse). About three years ago, Pattie Neill and Ron Davidson started gathering a group that graduated in 1973, but since that time, the group that gathers has grown and ranges from graduates of the Class of 1951 all the way through the Class of 1977.

The fun begins around 5:00 p.m. and lasts until about 8:00/8:30 p.m. and alumni from ALL classes are invited and welcomed! Brush up on the words to the Alma Mater because before the night is done, the crowd is bound to break out in song! It's so much fun to come on a monthly basis and see how much our friends that have never been before enjoy the fellowship. We all share the bond of walking the halls of the grand old school and even if you don't know anyone when you first arrive.....we'll assure you that before you leave you will have made new friendships and will want to come back again and again!

Pell City Group

The second Thursday of the month, Pell City Luncheon had our 98th (WOW) lunch this month at the Steak House in Pell City.

Folks attending this month were Mary Sue Landman, Cathy & Wayne Tucker, Helen Holcomb, Lilla Nesmith, Nann Kusenlehn, Rena Gaye King, Peggy Sanford, Ann & Charley McDanal, Jackie Vandergrift, Morris Thomas, Pat Vaughn, Pat Renta, Faye & Fred Oden, Sara & Robert Jemison, Fred Goolsby, Bennie & Annie Jo Massey.



Missing this month were Paula McLendon Sonny Thompson, Chris Sims, Al & Beverly Prinz, Jodi Creel, Terry & Julia Dunne, Jerry Smith.

Brookwood Mall Group

"Let's Do Lunch"

Brookwood Mall Food Court
1st Tuesday of Month
Noon

Come meet Larry Vance, Stanley Lawler, Barbara Flowers and many more of your classmates.

Perfect Attendance

7 classmates were presented blue ribbons for perfect attendance during 2010. Those receiving awards were Nancy Brown Friday, Bill Moore, Marilyn Newman Mabee, Jackie Nix, Larry Vance, Terry Dunne & Julia Baker Dunne



Seated: Ernestine Newby Shannon, Nita Nix Yarborough, Barbara Flowers Davis, Julia Baker Dunne, Terry Dunne, Terry Oden, Nancy Brown Friday.

Standing: Charlotte Cory Davis, Joe Davis, Jimmy Linton, Stanley Lawler, Jack Nix, James Hendry, Pat Harris Renta, Larry Vance, Thelma Nunnelly Stichwich, Marilyn Newman Mabee, Mary Kate Scruggs Gach

WOW GROUP



Seated: Linda Parker, Dale Jordan, Pat Harris Renta, Thelma Nunnelly Stichwich, & Ernestine Newby Shannon.

Standing: Jerry Morgan, Charlotte Bolin, Mae Hinton, Teresa Childs, Elsie Langley, & Janet Greer.

The group WOW is meeting and greeting at the Blackjack Bar and Grill in Leeds, AL on our regular meeting time the third Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. On March 16th, we ate at the Irondale Café in Irondale. You will remember Fanny Flagg (Pat Neal, a Woodlawn grad) starred in the movie film "Fried Green Tomatoes" mentioned the café in the film. We sure had a great time. The fellowship was made even better with our visitors, Frances Crenshaw and Amiee Lesley. Frances is Elsie's neighbor and Amiee is our mascot. The food was delicious and no one had desert.

Moody Group

Bobbie's Lounge in Moody is the place to be every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. You never know who will walk in that door. If you went to Woodlawn between 1950 and 1980 you will have the time of your life.

Great food, fun and fellowship!
A surprise face every week.

ALL GIRLS ARE WELCOME!!!!



Pictured:

Robert Davis, James Hendry, Larry Vance, Mack English, Mike Ratliff, Wilbur Conway, John Boockhodt, Bill Blackman, Billy Casey, Charlie Hester, Wayne Lowery, Jackie Nix, Bobbie Smith (Owner- **Bobbie's Sports Grill**), Kathy Searcy



Trussville Group

Our Trussville Woodlawn High group meets at the Cracker Barrel on the third Wednesday of each month at 8:00 a.m.

Everyone is invited to come
and have fun with us!

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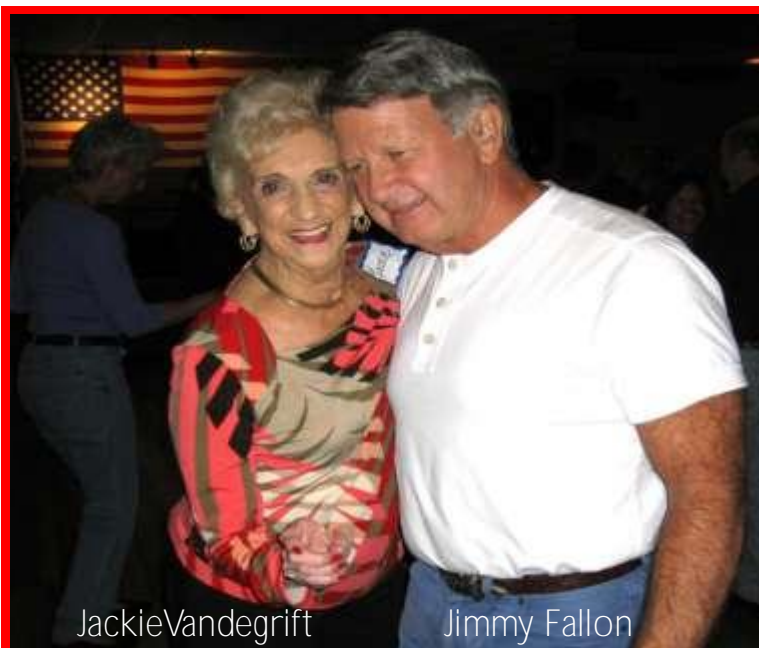
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18th Street and 11th Avenue North

Every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm

EVERYONE WELCOME !!

FREE dance lessons at 6:30 pm.

Come let us teach you how to SHAG !

Contact: Jackie Vandegrift (205) 884-7581



Virginia Jones

Larry Vance

The Magic City Boppers

VFW Club

18th Street and 11th Avenue North

1st, 2nd, 4th & (5th) Wednesday of every month.

Also on the 3rd Friday of every month at 7:00 pm

EVERYONE WELCOME !!

FREE dance lessons at 6:30 pm

Contact: Larry Vance (205) 969-0732



Nita Nix Yarborough, Pat Harris Renta,
Jack Daniel Nix, Stanley Lawler.

With the star of this picture
Mrs. Martha Scruggs

Mrs. Martha Scruggs

Mrs. Scruggs taught many of us in the first grade at Gibson Grammar School in Woodlawn. Mr. Pogue was the principal. Mrs. Scruggs also taught the third grade. She was one of the best teachers we had. She was the reason we loved school and loved to read

We had the pleasure of visiting with her recently at St. Martin's In The Pines, where she has her own apartment. This lady is delightful to talk to and more importantly, to listen to. She is a beautiful person with the same wonderful smile she had when we first met her in 1943.

Mrs. Scruggs was kind enough to tell us she was born on June 1, 1904 in Beatrice, Alabama. She was Miss Martha Fountain.

She married Joseph Henry Scruggs and they have a son and a daughter (now deceased) and five lovely grandchildren.

Woodlawn High School Girls Reunion Luncheon March 12, 2011

What started out with two classmates having coffee at a Waffle House in Springville has escalated into a semi-annual 67/68 Reunion Luncheon. Utilizing Facebook as a communication tool and adding three new classmates to the Planning Team, it is now a reunion open to all classes. The Planning Committee consisted of (67) Pam Abbott Lyon, Springville, AL, Barbara Garrett Phillips, Ashville, AL, Martha Blount Shaw, Pat Bowlin Scheinert, Cecilia LoPresti & Glenda Christain, Birmingham, AL, Sandra Whitlock Pickard, Hoover, AL and (68) Pam Maddox Horne, Trussville, AL.



Donia Elkourie Gentry(67), Hoover, AL designed decorations using the Woodlawn Flower, the Yellow Rose. **Each attendee received a rose as they left the large party room at O'Charley's in Roebuck.** Wanda Davis Beasley presented the benediction. A WHS school colored box was provided for Autism Donations. Total donations will be presented to Mitchell's Place to assist with student intuitions. Our motto is "Woodlawn Classmates are more like family than friends" so we attended a homecoming of reliving great memories and supported a good cause at the same time. The following classmate contributions of door prizes helped the reunion be successful. Diane Fulmer Wetzel (67) donated three Avon product filled baskets and Terry Henderson (67) provided three gift certificates from Munzos, his Mexican Cafes in Pinson & Trussville, AL. Also, several unidentified classmates brought door prizes. Companies that donated were O'Charley's, Samford University & SNL Distribution Services Corp.

Attendees by Classes:

- 1948 Doris Bridges Drummond (crowned Queen of our Reunion)
- 1955 Patricia Renta
- 1966 Jackie Conn Harbuk, Connie Smith Boone, Jane Yeager Beasley, Lanette Jones Stallings, Linda Haefner DeMarco, Sandra Hendrix Bailey, Suzanne Dotson Baker
- 1967 Barbara Garrett Phillips, Caren Bryant Stone, Cecilia LoPresti, Charlotte Wise Dickerson, Diane Carter Lemon, Diane Fulmer Wetzel, Donia Elkourie Gentry, Glenda Christian McKinney, Jennie Bishop Glanton, Karen Hutchins Brice, Laura Wesley Glenn, Linda Holland Wheatley, Linda Wesson Kuckens, Lynn Brooks Walker, Martha Blount Shaw, Martha McCaffrey Dobbins, Pam Abbott Lyon, Pat Bowlin Scheiert, Priscilla Drummond Grambell, Sandra Whitlock Pickard, Sharon Loden Lee, Shelia Lee Chambers, Susan Glass Comeaux, Wanda Davis Beasley, Mary Bordenca Sabens, Kathy Speakman Vining
- 1968 Barbara Andrews Wengel, Brenda Duckett Lee, Cheryl Hughes Jones, Debra Jackson, Faye Hughes Lucas, Jinger Crouch Glasgow, Laura Bice Newby, Lynn (Cheryl) Thrasher Sabel, Pam Maddox Horne, Pat Allison Frisaro
- 1969 Patricia Burch Jinright, Patricia Posey Coleman
- 1970 Shelia Wingo Ashley
- 1971 Pam Mitchell Ballard, Jane Schmick Hogue
- 1973 Bonnie Blount Atkins, Vickie Carter Shaw



Alabama Show Stoppers



This group of lady tap dancers is the Alabama Show Stoppers. They have performed twice in Las Vegas, NV and once in Reno, NV for the Mrs. Senior America Pageant. They have performed every year since 2001 for the Mrs. Senior Alabama Pageant and will again this June. They do performances during the year. Their latest was at The Club for the Red Hat Society on February 22nd. Anyone who wants them to perform, should contact Rita Childers at 879-9732. The ladies whose names are in bold type are our Woodlawn High School Graduates. We are proud of them!

Left To Right

Row 1: Jane Calwell, Bert Seaman, Rita Bowen Childers, Eleanor Trafton, Barbara Johnson

Row 2: Ann Smith, Dianna Johnson, Bess Constantine, Jackie Rich Vandegrift, Betty Widner Bassinger

Row 3: Judy Deagan, Pat Thomas, Joan Adams Phillips, Margaret Kirton, Julia Baker Dunne, Ann McCaleb, Peggy Horton, Pat Ferrell

Ahoy Mates!

Classmates that is....a group of WHS alum from several different classes ranging from 1955 to 1975 took to the seas for a fun filled time together from February 26 through March 3. The seas were calm and we managed not to "rock the boat" too badly, but we had a rockin' goo time! We departed from Mobile and visited the ports of Progreso and Cozumel and explored some neat and historical areas of Mexico. Even though Carnival Cruise Lines has decided to pull their ships from the Port of Mobile and move them to New Orleans, there is still talk of making this an annual event around the same time next year. The weather was great, the food was plentiful and of course the fellowship was outstanding! Anytime the WHS folks gather there is fun to be had! Details of another one in the future will be shared in plenty of time because, as with anything, the sooner you book and the more you book, the better deal you get. Some lessons were learned with this inaugural voyage and we will be ready to have a larger group next time! There were 27 in our group and that is a drop in the bucket of folks that would like to be included in the future sailing!



TOPHATTER FRATERNITY



The Tophatters Fraternity recently held their first Alumni Reunion. Gordon Sparks, class of 1964, was successful in bringing together over 90 alumni and guests ranging from 1955-1968.

The reunion was on Saturday May 14th at Oak Mountain State Park from 11:00 a.m. to dark. With the help of alumni Jerry Hallmark, Phillip Calma and Nick Manakides, Gordon was able to bring together great memories that had been shared over many years.

Of course the best of music was played by Phillip Calma. Lunch was provided by Golden Rule BBQ, owned by Woodlawn graduate Nick Manakides. Special acknowledgement was presented by Neal Monroe and Jerry Hallmark who recognized the founders of the Tophatters and they were presented with a Tophatters Plaque for their efforts in founding the fraternity that everyone will remember.

Alumni present were **Leon Black, Jerry "Ho" Brasher, Phillip Calma, Doyle Conway, Sam Cooper.** Tommy Crawford, Richard Crew, Wayne Hannah, Jerry Hallmark, Wendell Harless, Larry Harris, Andy Haynes, Ronnie Hill, Johnny Inzer, Tommy Johnson, Fred Johnston, Barry LaGroue, Walter Lag Roue, Richard Lytle, Nick Manakides, Larry Merrill, Larry McMurray, Neal Monroe, Michael Morgan, Ron Morgan, Any Muglach, George Nelson, George Nichols, Maurice Nubby, Tommy Powers, Bill Prewitt, Steve Prewitt, Tom Pyle, Bill Sinclair, Gordon Sparks, Tony Sparks, Dough Stegall, James Stephens, Bud Sumners, John Sumners, Charles Tuggle, Mike Vines, Willie Watkins, Lemois Williams, Russell Yarbrough, Bill York, and Ralph Martin.

For future information, email Tophatters1960's@gmail.com.

Thanks for the memories.

The Warblers Club Today

This year, the Warblers Club will present a Warbler show entitled, "Proud to be an American", on June 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Mountain Brook High School auditorium. Tickets will go on sale shortly. Contact Larry Harris, President.



Tatler Staff Members

Jack Daniel Nix '55

Pat Harris Renta '55

Mary Kate Scruggs Gach '55

Stanley Lawler '55

Nita Nix Yarbrough '64

Jackie Conn Harbuck '61

Content Contributions
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WOODLAWN ALUM

The first issue of the 21st Century Woodlawn High School "Tatler" has now been distributed. Since snail mail is no longer 3 cents (Can you believe 44 cents?), we must step up to the plate and learn about e-mail. We presently have over 2,200 classmates' email addresses. If we don't have yours, we need it now. If you will not do e-mail, we can mail you the "Tatler" each quarter for only \$20.00 per year.

To generate some revenue, we are selling advertising for only \$10.00 per issue. You can advertise your business or maybe share a picture of you and your grandchildren on a trip.

Please mail me the Tatler. I have enclosed \$20.00.

I would like to advertise in the "Tatler"!

I would like to support the "Woodlawn Tatler" with an annual donation! Contributors names will be listed in the next Tatler issue. Thanks for your support!

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Mary Kate Scruggs

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Patt Russo Wills '55

Bill Moore '55

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Jerry Gill '55