

DHS56 UPDATE – July 5, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES:

See below: Set July date for those who can't make it on August 20!
AUGUST 20, Gibson's BBQ, Lunch with Charlotte Pace Seiger and ALL who can be there!

Correct these email addresses:

George Breeding – candgbreeding@bellsouth.net
Gaylon Dodson – gaylon@caddocavies.com **Virginia Jenkins Van Horn** – vvanhorn@comcast.net
Blake Mitchell – linda.mitchell@cbunited.com **Charlotte Pace Seiger** – cseiger38@sc.rr.com
Carolyn Pratt Brown – BROWN363791@bellsouth.net

Mail returned from these with no corrected email available:

Peggy Francis Atkins – peggyfatkins@charter.net
Linda Pirkle Morris – coinmorris@bellsouth.net, coinmorris@tbs.net
Carolyn Pratt Brown – Brown5481@bellsouth.net (old email address)
James Tunstill – j.tunstill@earthlink.net **Juanita Wells Terry** – camiantnt@earthlink.net

Anne Carrell Loy (anneloy@comcast.net), 7/3/08 – “Don and I have traveled to the following places since our 50th: Russia; Greece, the islands and beyond plus Istanbul; to visit sons in Tallassee, AL and upstate NY; Cornwall and Devon in England, the Canadian Maritimes, and Nashville in December. We were scheduled for a tour in India for last February, but I tumbled down 3 (carpeted) steps at home, breaking a fibula and cracking a bone in the other foot -- out of commission completely for 3 weeks. Rescheduled India for this November. I'm finally no longer the president of the Knoxville Branch of AAUW, as of July 1!! Hooray.” *Anne*

Janet Nungester Bentley (jbentkey@aol.com), 7/3/08 – “Retired (after 45 years at Teledyne Brown Engineering) officially on June 29, 2007; retirement was preceded by highly successful spinal fusion surgery with rods/pins/etc. on left side. Remained on TBE insurance until 11/1/07, when discharged by my wonderful orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Gil Aust at The Orthopedic Center in Huntsville. (I would do commercials for him if requested!). Worked about a month on a proposal at Davidson Technologies Inc. (DTI) here in Sept. 2007 and thoroughly enjoyed that . . . not to mention the extra income. In a wild and foolish moment, I decided that, since one of my undergraduate majors was Accounting, I should go to work for H&R Block, but first 3 months of school/training was required, followed by another month of "Tax 2007 Update," and other 1-2 day training courses. I loved the people, both co-workers and most clients, but loathed feeling incompetent and scared I would ruin someone's ability to get a refund, so do not plan to return to that. Great-grandchild, Caleb Austin Oakes, was born to #3 granddaughter on Oct. 10, 2007. In Jan. 2008, friend who is president of DTI called and wanted me to work about 1 day/week preparing some marketing sheets for a Strategic Missile Defense tradeshow in Aug. Have loved doing that also, but it is naturally winding down, with 10 sheets almost completed. In April 2008, just before I finished my H&R Block adventure, a friend called a friend, who referred me to a job possibility at ITT CAS, and I have been working on a huge proposal since then. After five extensions of the release date of the FINAL Request for Proposal, we now have a firm date of July 7, so I will probably work up to 30 days following 7/7, when the proposal must be submitted electronically. In another weak and crazy moment, I invited granddaughter and family to live with me for 3-6 months to "get on their feet." I have since called several friends requesting a room at their homes in case I have to move out to maintain my sanity! Please say a prayer for our soldiers on this upcoming July 4 . . . and for the families of our classmates we have lost or who have lost beloved family members.” *Janet*

Virginia Jenkins Van Horn (vvanhorn@comcast.net), 7/3/08 – “Good to hear from you. My e-mail changed to vvanhorn@comcast.net when they bought Warner Cable. Infantes (Janet's nephew's in-laws and friends of Va. & Gage) are not happy about grandchildren moving to the end of the world (Dubai) for 3 years. Haven't talked to Christine (nephew's mom-in-law) lately. I recently learned that I have no cartilage in my left hip so am having a total hip replacement July 21. I am too young to be wearing out!” *Virginia*

Judy Kelly Williams: “Thought that you retired! Sounds like you are in demand and are feeling great. Will forward a funny to you.” *Judy & Paul*

Charlotte Pace Seiger (cseiger38@sc.rr.com), 7/4/08 – “What a nice email we received from Janet Bentley. Thought I would also write a note and see if I get any responses. We had such a wonderful reunion 2 years ago,

and it would be nice to just get together with anyone who could do so for a visit. I will be coming to the Decatur area to visit relatives in August and could make arrangement to be in Decatur on **August 20**. Are there those of you who could meet for lunch, maybe at Gibson's (since that is a rare treat for me here in SC)? Actually, anywhere would be fine if we could have a place to visit for a couple of hours. I'll look forward to your replies." **7/5/08:** Re August 20 at Gibson's: "This should be fun, and it will be interesting to see who all can make it. Anne Loy said that **Liz Sivley** plans to come in August, so I hope the date is good for her, too. Will be in touch later." *Charlotte*

Carolyn Pratt Brown (BROWN363791@bellsouth.net), 7/5/08 – "We would love to attend a gathering and see our friends. I will put Aug 20 on the calendar. Advise if anything changes." *Love, Carolyn & Ray Brown*

Byron Ratliff (byronratliff@wmconnect.com), 7/4/08 – "Good to hear from you. We all get busy and forget some of the most important things in life such as friends. Thank you for the updates. We are still in Baton Rouge. We finally completed the house plans and secured all the permits to start our house in Tennessee. We plan on starting construction later this month. It's been one challenge after another, but I suppose that's all a part of it. We are very eager to get the house and barn built and get moved. Ann (wife) is still working at KPMG (one of the big four accounting firms). I am semi-retired and still operating my consulting business. Hope you and family have a great 4th Holiday. Keep in touch." *Byron*

Peggy Self McLemore (pm9347@charter.net), 7/4/08 –

Happy 4th of July to you!

Liz Sivley Strahan (lstrahan@adelphia.net), 7/4/08: "Janet, you are a dear to try to keep this bunch together. I assume this means that not even the Decatur people have stayed in touch? It is wonderful that you are doing so well...and enjoying so much interesting work still. I have just recovered from my second (and last, obviously!) knee replacement surgery...what a blessing those ortho people are, huh?!! I am coming to Decatur the **week of Oct. 24** with two of my California friends who want to be introduced to my "bioregion"...we have rented a house on Wheeler Lake...near Rogersville, where my remaining cousins live...hope to see you then.... Be well and thank you for so honoring connections." *Love, Liz*

Bob St. John (bstjohn3220@charter.net), 7/4/08 – "Thanks for the message. We talked about meeting but we haven't. Charlotte asked about August 20, but we will be in Alaska then. If you do meet, tell everybody HI for us. Have a VERY GOOD JULY 4th." *Bob & Lottie St John*

Taylor Underwood (ktunderwood@sbcglobal.net), 7/4/08 – "Yes, Janet, you may send me a directory. My life has obviously not been nearly as busy as yours. I thought it was busy enough during those 23 years in the Air Force, followed by 13 years with The Aerospace Corporation supporting the Space Shuttle program at Los Angeles and then at Johnson Space Center. Following the second retirement at Johnson, I decided I had had enough of work. We then toured North America for three years before building a lakeside home in northeast Texas. We lived at the lake for seven years and loved it until we tired of the work involved and the isolation in that rural setting, not to mention the long distance to competent medical care. So we sold our lake home and moved to Spring, TX (in the Houston metro area) to be close to one of our sons as well as to seek better medical care. Sorry I was unable to attend the fiftieth reunion, but I did enjoy the DVD and photos. Best to you and all." *Keith Taylor Underwood*

Bill Stone (stonelmb@aol.com), 7/3/08: "Well, you can't blame me! I bought a new car with 4 extra seats and have been to California twice. One trip to Jackson, MS, with Janet and haven't heard squat from Peggy; not to mention Cookie." **7/5/08:** "When we got home last night (7/4), there was a message on our answering machine from Mary Leigh Lynn Ralph. She said Billy Wayne (her husband) had passed away June 24. Cancer."