



DHS56 UPDATE – August 16, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES:

AUGUST 20, Stone Cabin, 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
Peggy Francis Atkins – patkins3813@charter.net • **Virginia Jenkins Van Horn** – vvanhorn@comcast.net
Mary Whittle Sessions – oldgold56@bellsouth.net • **Blake Mitchell** – linda.mitchell@cbunited.com
Charlotte Pace Seiger – cseiger38@sc.rr.com • **Carolyn Pratt Brown** – BROWN363791@bellsouth.net
Juanita Wells Terry – camiantnt@yahoo.com

Add email addresses:

Morris Reagin, mnreag@peoplepc.com • **Marcel Sanford Roper**, pammarcel@yahoo.com

Mail returned from these with no corrected email available:

Linda Pirkle Morris – coinmorris@bellsouth.net, coinmorris@tbs.net • **James Tunstill** – j.tunstill@earthlink.net

Joe Beams and Wife, Donna – Bill, Suzanne, and Janet saw Joe and Donna at The Cracker Barrel in Decatur on 7/26. They plan to be at our get-together on August 20, and will try to get an update on their activities. Did learn that Joe is still working part-time/on-call even though he “retired” several years ago.

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*

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*

Carolyn Kitchens Hinkle, 8/3/08: “Life continues to be very good for Johnny, myself & family [here in Huntsville] ... all our children live nearby, and we are blessed with their presence often. Our oldest grandson is a junior at Auburn this year, anticipating football season. Our other two grandsons are thriving in their own little world of golfing, camping, tennis, computer games with friends, pets, travel, and becoming adept in the kitchen . . . even making their own noodles, which was a memorable experience!! Johnny and I are looking forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary in September. I enjoy hearing from all of you. Johnny and I live in the Briar Patch, and our email is: brerrabbit@knology.net.” *Carolyn*

Editor’s Note: Things Carolyn didn’t mention – She works part-time in her daughters’ business, Visiting Angels, visiting, playing cards with, taking care of, and loving an elderly couple and at least one other elderly client.

James Moses, 8/10/08: I will attend the 8/20 Reunion. I am retired at this time – still single – just my dog, Diamond, and me. I have 3 children and 4 granddaughters. I have just recently found out that I have a half-sister in Knottingham, England. See you at the re-union. *James*

Janet Nungester Bentley (jbentkey@aol.com), 7/3/08 – “Retired (after 45 years at Teledyne Brown Engineering) officially on 7/29/07; 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 at DTI called and wanted me to work about a 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 there until late July. In another weak and crazy moment, I invited granddaughter and family to live with me for 3-6 months to "get on their feet," but they have now moved on. Please say a prayer for our soldiers on July 4, August 20, and every day . . . and for the families of our classmates we have lost and those who have lost beloved family members." **8/16/08:** Have two WONDERFUL sons, Mike & Greg, both in Huntsville area; four grandchildren, Jane Kathryn, 27; Rachael, 23 (Mike's); Caitlin, 21; and Brian, 19 (Greg's); great-grandson, Caleb (Caitlin's) (see above.) **Janet**

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**

More from Charlotte (8/14/08): Since we last met at our 50th reunion, Chuck and I have enjoyed the privilege of purchasing a vacation home at Massanutten Village, a four season resort in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. After doing so, we have entertained family and friends, and was even able to have 2 grandchildren, ages 6 and 7 learn to ski. They also enjoyed the newly opened water park and, of course, the pool. Massanutten is located about 3½ hours from Chuck's family in PA, so we try to visit them when we go there. His dad is 96 years old, lives in a retirement home for retired ministers and remains very active visiting the sick, exercising, and putting puzzles together. It is always a pleasure to visit with him. Although we are both very blessed to have good health, I had surgery to repair the torn meniscus in my left knee and since have recovered. Chuck continues to write and completed his 8th revision of the 1st Anatomy and Physiology Study Guide this past January. I am involved with typing the manuscript and the secretarial duties that go along with that . . . a labor of love. We visited and toured the surrounding areas of San Diego for a week with friends with whom we have traveled. And in May of this year we cruised the Mediterranean from Barcelona, stopping in ports of Nice, Monaco, Florence, Rome, Naples and Palermo, Sicily, before our return by way of Dublin, Ireland . . . a very nice cruise. I decided geography would have been so much more interesting if we could have made these trips back in high school. And if I look a bit haggard at this point, before driving to Alabama, I entertained four of my grandchildren for two weeks. They range in age from 3 ½ to 9 – 2 girls and 3 boys. I've had two friends visit from my invitation to you all to "come see us" at Hilton Head . . . Geri Tatum Mitchell came for a week and Carolyn Pratt Brown and husband came for an overnight. The invitation still stands for South Carolina and/or Virginia. **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." **8/12/08 Update:** Carolyn (Pratt) and James Ray Brown have four children, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. We are both retired, but we stay busy. I enrolled at Lee University for the Spring 2008 semester, taking Accounting and Intro to Business, earning a 4.0 on each! I will be taking two more classes this Fall. Lee University has an "Encore" program whereby anyone over 60 can take up to two classes (for credit or audit) for \$50. This was such a bargain that I couldn't pass it up. Ray and I even went to Florida during "spring break" in March. See you on the 20th. **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*

Morris Reagin (mnreag@peoplepc.com), 8/10/08 – I, Morris was a '56 class member. We are continuing to live in southwest Decatur on Sweetbriar Rd. S.W. My wife, Nell, is a NASCAR fan and we are taking a RV twice a year to the Talladega races. She says we will be going out of state for future races. I am still enjoying golfing very regularly. Graduated to the senior tees this year. Shot a 71 @ Chesley Oaks & a 75 @ Deer Run recently. We traveled to Toronto, Canada, across central Michigan, Chicago, Milwaukee, to Cedarburg, Wisconsin by auto last month. The 3,000-mile trip had many new wonderful sights. Toronto is truly an international city of 3 million. The Great Lakes area is prosperous and has friendly people. We are barely surviving the heat. At our age, the wife stays inside (cool) and I try to dry the sweat outside. We are traveling over to Guntersville on Wednesday, Aug. 20, with two other couples for friendship, card playing, fishing, eating good food, etc. We will miss seeing you but will be in touch later. Thank you all for the "good memories" and the invitation. Until later, Morris Reagin, 3216 Sweetbriar Rd. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603

Peggy Self McLemore (pm9347@charter.net), 7/4/08 – Peggy & Ted and “a surprise guest” will join us on Aug. 20!

Happy 4th of July to you!

Marcel Sanford Roper (pamarcel@yahoo.com), 8/14/08 – My husband Ken died 10 yrs. ago. I have 4 daughters, 7 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. After 30 years as an Interior Designer and large projects in Washington, D.C.; Seattle, Wash.; and Knoxville, TN, I decided it was time to retire. I revived my love for writing and have written ten Christian romance stories. Don't know what I will do with them yet but it's fun and keeps your mind alert, they say, which I really need. I do some Christian counseling and participate in intercessory prayer groups. I am leading a full, blessed life, for which I am very thankful.

He will yet fill your mouth with laughing, and your lips with rejoicing. – Job 8:21

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*

Bill Stone (stonelmbr@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.” **Update, 8/3/08:** “Suzanne and I, along with my cousin, Scotty Stone and wife, Marguerite (Livingston), and Janet and Peggy Francis Atkins saw “Tabernacle: Upon This Rock” at a dinner-outdoor theater in Hartselle at the Hartselle Camp Meeting grounds on July 25. The play was an original musical by our neighbor, Chuck Puckett and his wife, Carol. Many of the actors were our neighbors. All thoroughly enjoyed it! Our son, Jack, and his wife, Tara, live in Decatur, along with three of our grandchildren. Daughter, Mary Carol, and husband, Frank, live in the Birmingham area, with our other two grandchildren, Janie and Frank, Jr.”

Bill & Suzanne Stone

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 50th reunion, but I did enjoy the DVD and photos. Best to you and all.”

Keith Taylor Underwood

Mary Whittle Sessions (oldgold56@bellsouth.net), 8/12/08 – “I received the notice about the Class Mini-Reunion a few days ago. Phillip and I will not be able to attend for we have moved back to Lanett, AL, about a month ago and we are just getting settled in the parsonage. We are retired (for the 2nd time), but Phillip has accepted the Associate Pastor position at the Lanett First Church, where we pastored for 7 years before being elected District Superintendent of the Alabama South District Church of the Nazarene. We served here 20 years ago as senior pastor. We now live close to our oldest son Ronald Phillip, Jr., in Valley, Ala., and Mark, our middle son, who lives in Auburn. We were living about 1 hour away from our daughter, Cheryl, who lives in Montevallo and 1-1/2 hours away from Scott, our youngest son, who is Senior Pastor of the Sheffield First Church of the Nazarene in Sheffield, Ala. I guess you can say we have divided our time living close to some of our children at one time or another. For the last 3 years, we lived in Smoke Rise in Warrior, Ala., pastoring the Faith Church of the Nazarene (retired status). Do you remember some of the churches being burned about 2 years ago? Well, our church was one of 15 that were destroyed by fire. It was arson, and the police never found out who was guilty. Now there is a beautiful church just off the 284 exit going toward Birmingham. Phillip and I are enjoying a slower pace in our ministry, with time to visit our children, and without the stress of full-time responsibilities. We are honored the congregation wanted us back after 20 years. God has been so good to us and to our children. All four of our children are in church taking leadership roles. We do not take this for granted either! It has been a joy getting to see our 12 grandchildren in their many activities. We will miss being with such great classmates, and we hope you all have a great time of fellowship and fun at the reunion.”

Mary Whittle Sessions