

Life Stories - 1st Quarter 2010

If you haven't wrote YOUR'S yet---Please Do and Share it.....

Thanks Michael Sermons

These are in the order that they were received;

- #1--Donna Asland-Drake
- #2--Clifton Estes
- #3--Sara Mikell-Berry
- #4--Lynne Schofield
- #5--Anita Peters-Barber
- #6--Carol A. Ozinga
- #7--Cheryl Porter-Brill
- #8--Carl & Cynthia Wells
- #9--Trenae Mathew-Frederick
- #10--Mike Howell
- #11--Tommy Griffis
- #12--Lynn Sullivan-Sternett
- #13--Pam Martin
- #14--Susan Wrede Oglesby
- #15--Sue Wilson Vize
- #16--(Janice) Yvonne Wilson Soles

received from Donna Aslan-Drake

Michael,

Didn't want to get left out of the mix...I'm still a resident of Jacksonville or as my oldest son calls it "Dysfunctionville." I visited a lot of places but never found any place I liked more than I liked being at home. I lost my dad in 1993. Lost my mom this past April and just this week, I lost my brother, Jimmy. I'm still kicking and very glad to be around. I have 2 sons, Michael 41 and Caleb 21, yes, they are 20 years apart! What was I thinking? The younger one made me "grammie" to Chase Michael who is 3 going on 13!

I love how the newest generation is so smart and clever. So far ahead of us when we were their ages. I still live on the Westside but left Woodstock Park over 35 years ago. I live in a rural area on 5 acres with lots of grass to cut but I love the space. I work at Citi bank in the Fraud department for Home Depot busting bad guys who steal people's identity. Enjoying FACEBOOK these days catching up with childhood friends and memories I thought were almost forgotten. Hope to see you there!

received from Clifton Estes part "2" Well after graduation I did a "hitch" w/ The Regular Air Force Ended up in a place called "Da-Nang Air Base" in the fun capitol of war torn South East Asia in 1972.

did 9 years with the Fla Air National Guard, finished up with the Air Force Reserve (315th MAW) at Charleston S.C.

Met the mother of our Three Daughters, & 9 Grand Children at FJC where we Graduated in 1979. I picked up my B.A. from Luther Rice in 1984. contrary to myth I did Graduate, I was not Paroled. We celebrated our 28th anniversary December 25th PM. We live in Marietta Forest.

Vicki works as an office manager/bookkeeper at the Jacksonville Scottish Rite Bodies (A Masonic Body). For the last 26+ years she has supplied them with adult supervision.

I have worked at First Baptist Church Down Town for all most 21 years in the security department.

I am active with the "Mason's" Past Master & Past Secretary of Woodstock Park Lodge 313 F&AM. Past Presiding Officer in two of the four Scottish Rite Bodies (33rd Degree) active in the York Rite (Chaplin Jacksonville Chapter #12 Royal Arch Masons) York Rite College, Red Cross of Constantine Grotto & Shrine. We attend Ortega Presbyterian Church.

We attended Vicki's 40th reunion at "Lee" 1968. Even she admitted they were, shall we say "**Snobbish**". Not to be intimidated we just parked our "**Saturn**" next to some "Rude", "Dude's" "**Bentley**" & **thought secretly how thankful I was that we were taught to live practically and realistically with respect for others, rather than to put on "Airs". She thinks our reunion Rocked!**

Now don't get me wrong the Bentley looked nice but I doubt it could "Lay Rubber" going down Melson Ave.

Tom Brokaw's Generation raised us & I think they did a darn good job. We are all getting older, but we still know how to laugh and enjoy life and respect and appreciate our friends.

I wonder if the "Angel's" at the big teachers lounge in the sky yell at Millie Glass for not occasionally emptying her ash tray of all those old unfiltered "Camel Cigarettes"? (yuch)

I Love all you guy's and always will!
Clif Estes PHD (Paxon High Diploma)

received from Sara Mikell-Berry

Mike,

received from Lynne Schofield

Hi Mike and fellow classmates. Lynne Toppo Schofield here. My life after graduation was extremely rocky. But, I got very lucky in 1983, and met a terrific guy. His name is Jerry. He had 4 daughters, Barb, Suzi, Becki, and Melissa. I have a son, Eric. His girls adopted us and we adopted them. We have 8 grand children-6girls, and 2 boys. There's another boy due any day now. We also have a great granddaughter-Brooklyn who will be 2 in April. I've been in touch with a couple of classmates, and would love to hear from more of you. My work history runs from secretarial, to fork lift operator. For the last 14 years we have been running a pet boarding kennel in Champaign, Il. I come back to Florida at least once a year to see Eric, My daughter in law, Jenny and my gorgeous grand daughter Olivia. My sister lives in Kissimmee, and my mom is trying to sell her place in Sun City Center, to move to Orlando or Kissimmee to be closer. Hope to hear from you guys. Lynne

received from Anita Peters Barber

After graduation I majored in Music Education and graduated from UF in '73. I stayed in the Gainesville area and taught for 33 years in Williston, which is 15 mi. South of Gainesville in Levy Co. I became certified in Elem. Ed. as well as Music Ed. and taught 4th and 5th grade half my career and music the last half. I was married to the local band director and had two sons, Matthew (30) and Jeffrey (25). I remarried in '88 to Bobby, who works at CH2M Hill Engineering. We moved to ATL in '07 with his job transfer and I am enjoying retirement and all of the opportunities and things to do here. With the news of a grandson arriving in April 2010 we have our condo up for sale in anticipation of moving back to the Gainesville area to enjoy him.

received from Carol A. Ozinga

Dear Mike I have enjoyed reading the life history of our class mates and thought I would contribute. I met my husband (Ken) of 40 years in my sophomore year of high school. He was stationed at Cecil Field in the Navy when we met at the skate rink. We married in September after I graduated. We had 2 girls, Kim and Pam and a son, Jay. Pam passed away in 1994 of a heart condition. She had a long medical history of heart and lung issues. She was very special and loved her very much, she has no pain in heaven. And we will see her again someday.

Kim has blessed us with 3 grands and Jay has also blessed us with 2 grand girls. The grand kids are the

light of our life, they range in age from 18 to 2. We lived in Ken's home state of Iowa for 13 years after he was discharged from the Navy, where we farmed for about 10 years. We moved to FL in 1983 and lived there until we moved to Columbia, SC in 1992. In 1994 we moved to North Carolina and have been here ever since. All of our moves were work related, I am a retired accountant with a new career in real estate and Ken has his own business as a draftsman.

We both have Harley Davidson Heritage Softails and enjoy riding and seeing the country. We purchased a 1928 farm house in 2005 and was refurbishing it when I discovered I had breast cancer. After surgery, chemo and radiation, I have been cancer free for 3 years now!

I still have 4 sisters in Jacksonville and hope to get home for a visit in April.
Thanks again for keeping us in touch.

received from Cheryl Porter-Brill

Thanks for including us in the email!

Here goes: Moved around a lot after graduation, Calif., Sc, Tenn, Alaska, Ga and always seem to return to Jax. finally settled here in 1980 with 2 boys. Married my present husband in 1995 and together we have 6 children and 10 grandchildren. I work in a physical therapy clinic as an office manager. My husband and I love to travel, just returned from 2 1/2 weeks in the Philippines...time to retire right?

Thanks again and love reading all the stories!

received from Carl and Cynthia Wells

I am writing both Carl and my (Cynthia) Wells life stories. We married in 1970 and are still married 40 years later. We have 3 children, 2 sons, and 1 daughter. From them we have 3 grandchildren. Carl and I were saved in 1971 and have been active in church since then. Carl worked for 32 years at NAS as a machinist. I stayed home for the first 11 years after our children came, then 7 years at Trinity Christian. I have work for the last 15 at Cedar Hills Baptist Christian School. Our daughter is the music teacher there. Our youngest son is the worship leader at 1st baptist in Lake Butler. Our oldest son drives for Fed-Ex in Savannah. Carl retired in 2005 and now has his own business of appliance repair. He also served 30 years in the Marine Corp reserves. We attend Old Plank Rd Baptist church. We have lived in the same home for 38 of these 40 years. The best thing in our life now is being Nannie and Poppie.. 2 grandsons, 1 grand daughter, and 1 due in Aug. The Lord has been more than gracious to us and we are blessed indeed.

received from Trenae (Matthew) Frederick

My life pales in comparison! I never made that fortune, never finished college, never became famous - Oh wait! no, those were someone else's goals. (LOL)

I was blessed with three beautiful children (now grown). They have in turn blessed me with eight fantastic grandchildren, I was married once to Rich who died in 2004.

I have run the roads like the true Gypsy that I am having tasted life on so many levels I could fill a book and still have more to share. Hopped around the US a bit, did the Canada thing, Europe thing, and still here I am in Florida, I love it. I live a very simple uncomplicated life having packed my memory cells into overload with pictures of places, stories and people who's lives has touched mine along the way.

I am a very unmotivated, chilled, cool person. God is Awesome and life has been great. "So glad I didn't miss this ride!"

received from Mike Howell

High Mike. Mike Howell. As mentioned by Nancy Byrd Goodman we were married in high school and had a son Michael (wife Victoria granddaughter Chloe). I remarried in 1978 to Susan Hartley Howell (Paxon majorett graduated in 1968) we have been together 32 years. We have 1 daughter Regan Lynn 29 years old (grandson Ryleigh 7 years old) I am still with Baker Distributing 40 years (formally Baker Bros.) in our Commercial Refrigeration Division sales. Susan is still with Allied Automotive (30 years). We still live in Jax. in Confederate Point on fishing creek. We have one dog (Precious - jack russel) We live our lives for the grandbabies. We are into riding Harleys and camping.

received from Tommy Griffis

Hey Mike,

I enjoyed the read. It's nice to know that many of us have a common bond. Long term marriage. I have been married for 37 years to the same hottie, Teresa, who graduated from Lee in 1969. I am the operations manager for United Environmental Services, a division of Suez. No I'm not a "Greenie". I do a lot of archery hunting, play a lot of golf (8-handicap) work very little and waste a lot of money. Of course, I have a son a daughter, both great but they have given me no grandchildren.

Oddly enough, I, have encountered only 4 people from Paxon in all of these years. Gene Holt (died last year), Ronnie Hilliard, John Teeter and Danny Davis. I live in south Mandarin, but maybe that's too far from our old core area.

I have been all over America and the islands, but have refused to travel to Europe. I like it just fine here in the south.

I Look forward to future correspondence from you guys and gals.
Special thanks to **John Teeter** for hooking me up.

received from Lynn Sullivan-Sternett

I've been married to Paul Sternett for 40 years. He's from Michigan and I met him during high school. We have three children...Bryan is 36 (Married to Cara and they have a two year old daughter. Ferin Lynn) and son, Andrew. Lindsey is 22 and our Chip would be 30 now...he died of cancer when he was 16. We live out in the country in Bryceville, Florida and love it. Paul is retired from General Motors and now works as a CSX engineer. We owned a small business and closed it in 07 and I now work in Clay county in Pre-k and plan to stay until Paul retires. I also have a home business creating memory videos. I am a born again Christian and am so happy to see that so many of our class have chosen that path.

received from Pam Martin

Pam Martin- From 1969-1982 I was one of those fun loving party girls in the Jacksonville Florida scene. In 1982 I relocated to Denver, Colorado so I could enjoy my nieces growing up years. In 1986 I met Dan Gehle(he was born and raised in Iowa) and we married in 1987 moved to the Atlanta, Georgia area the next day. I was very involved with Lifelink of Georgia for 10 years and worked in the Medical Insurance field. In 2003, I relocated back to Jacksonville and my divorce was final in 2004. Glad to be back home after 23 years.

Since I returned home, I have reconnected with wonderful man I dated in the early 80's. Marriage is in the near future as he is a TRUE KEEPER.

In 2004 I started volunteering 2 Saturday nights a month and Ronald McDonald House in Jacksonville, Florida and for the past 3 years I have been a Relief Manager.

received from Susan Wrede Oglesby

Hi Mike: This is Susan Wrede Oglesby. I have been married March 30th for 26 years to Ron Oglesby. Ron is from Kentucky and he got his Masters Degree at Florida State. We have one daughter Angela Stokes Sarman (30) who has been married to John Sarman for nine years and has three beautiful children; Aliya (7), John (5), and Joshua (2). Having Grandkids is SO MUCH more fun than having kids of your own. You can love them, spoil them, and then send them home when your worn out. Ron and I have always lived on the West-side and currently I am working for Winn-Dixie at their Corporate office. We have always been involved in church and Ron has done some work with prison ministries. When we have the time we love to go out West for vacation.

Last year I decide to buy my self a horse, I didn't want to wake up some day in a rocking chair and have regrets over not doing something I love. I have a 7 year old Tennessee Walker, named Untouchable Roadrunner. I board him at Diamond D Stables and I try to go out there at least twice a week. I go trail riding with a bunch of other mature riders (that means we are mostly over 50). That is my therapy and how I cope with a very busy life. God has richly blessed me, and I am truly thankful.

Susan

received From Sue Wilson Vize:--**UPDATED HER 1ST LIFE STORY**

I started working with Southern Bell when I was in the 10th grade in high school. I worked with Southern Bell until I transferred to Dubuque, Iowa, and worked for Northwestern Bell.

The reason that I transferred was that I was engaged, then married my husband, Richard Vize, in Jacksonville, and then we moved to his hometown of Dubuque, Iowa (sight unseen). It was a BIG shock when I moved to Iowa. It took me about 3 years to adjust! It is really beautiful up here, but it's not the ocean! Ha! Dick is an engineer with John Deere. He has retired, but John Deere asked him to work as a contractor; so he continues to work.

Dick and I were married 37 years in December 1972. We have two sons (ages 36 and 33). Our oldest son is married to Melissa, age 36, with three sons (Logan, Ethan, and Braydan) and a baby daughter named Chloe (born Nov 2009). Our grandchildren are over at our house every week (which we love). Our youngest son has not married yet, and I think it will be a while before he marries. He visits us every week too.

I worked with Bell Systems for 20 years in Dubuque until the breakup of the Bell System. I took several years off work, and then went to work as an Executive Assistant for 11 years, and then retired. I enjoy genealogy, DAR, gardening, stitching, walking, doing things with the children and grandchildren, and generally doing what I want to do.

I usually come to Florida each year for 2 - 3 months (August to October). I come down alone, rent a vehicle, and visit friends and relatives, and travel all over. I have never heard anything about the reunions (but who would know how to reach me?), and my sisters didn't know about my class reunions. Sorry that I just missed this past 40th reunion.

I have been sick for almost 10 years. The doctors have told me everything is not fatal, but I have many things wrong with me (about 15 things) that I won't go into. I have to stay on a strict regimen to stay in as good of health as I can be. It seems like my doctors are my best friends! Ha!

I never thought I would be in contact with old school classmates. It has been great to see what everyone is doing. I look forward to reading more interesting notes. Perhaps we can get together one day this year. I am planning my trip already.

Sincerely,
Sue Wilson Vize
Monday, March 22, 2010

received from (Janice) Yvonne Wilson Soles

Hi Michael,

Thank you for sharing these life stories from the 1969 Paxon graduates! Wow, it has been a few years! I have not attended any of the reunions so it is so nice to read these stories and see what everyone is up to. Thank you for the effort that you have put into this.

My life story: After graduation, I went to work for Southern Bell (name changed to BellSouth) and I worked there for 36 years. I retired in 2006 as a manager in the large business group.

My husband, Tim, and I are both retired and the majority of our time is spent keeping up with our three grandsons. We have a wonderful 'blended' family. I have two children of my own, Tim Tobin and Angi Tobin Kilpatrick and Angi has a 14 year old son, Nick. My stepdaughter Aubrey has two boys. John Mark is four and Bennett is three. My youngest stepdaughter, Katie, will graduate from the University of West Florida next year.

We attend Mandarin Presbyterian Church, along with two of our children and our three grandchildren. I am a volunteer with North Florida Community Hospice.

My husband and I traveled to Alaska in 2003 and loved it. We visited Idaho, Wyoming and Montana in 2005-beautiful country. I visited New York City for the first time last May, been on several cruises with friends, visited several States and just went to Gatlinburg last month and took my grandson to see his first snow. Love just hanging out and enjoying life.

Again, thank you for keeping up with our classmates.
(Janice) Yvonne Wilson Soles