



The Barker



The *official* newsletter of

The Lexington Alumni Association

P. O Box 263, Lexington, OK, 73051 <http://www.lexokalumni.org>

Once a Bulldog...**ALWAYS** a Bulldog!

Volume 1, Number 3

Make plans to join us on Saturday, June 19th, 2010, for the next Alumni Reunion!

Leader of the Pack-a message from the alumni President

You've all heard the tired cliché, "It's a small world." I'm sure that some of you have used that saying yourself. I have, personally, used it many times. You never really know when you are going to bump into somebody with an association to Lexington. Though it's a small town, I've actually come across people with a connection to Lexington schools in some of the oddest places without even trying, just by happenstance.

One such encounter was back around 1988. I was taking a short vacation in the thriving metropolis of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. I had a motel room at the edge of town. Directly across the street was one of those country hoe-down shows. Since I'd just gotten into town that day and it was too late for shopping or sightseeing, I decided to take in the show that night. I bought tickets for the wife and I and we took our seats in the audience next to a young couple. The show was nice, lots of good music, some comedy and, generally, an all around good time. During the intermission, they were giving recognition to some of the attendees that night. They called out several visitors, birthday celebrations, tour groups-you know the kind. They then called the First Baptist Church of Noble, Oklahoma. The young man beside me turned to his female companion and said, "Well, they were close to us." I couldn't help eavesdropping.....err, I mean, HEARING what he said. I wheeled around and asked the young couple, "Close to you, where are you from?" The nice young man said, "Lexington." Startled, I said, "You're kidding!" He said, "No." I was flabbergasted, sitting in a seat next to a guy from my small hometown in Eureka Springs. It turns out that he moved to Lexington and started going to Lexington schools the fall of 1976, the semester after I graduated from good old LHS. As we talked, he told me he had quarterbacked the Bulldogs. His name was Glenn Hughes from the **Class of 1981** and he was with his wife. We talked about LHS, the show and life. I believe I remember him inviting me to fish for trout in the nearby river, but since I was born void of the fishing gene, I declined. But, it was definitely a great time talking

In the House-news from Lexington Public Schools

Drug-free puppies...

The Lexington fifth grade graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program in a ceremony held on March 24th in the high school auditorium. Kenslee McKiddy, Kolton McDonald, Jonathan Dawley and Destiny Ramsey won backpacks by being declared winners of the essay contest. Kolton McDonald also won a basketball for writing the best essay of the four winners. All students that completed the class received a certificate and a t-shirt. The Intermediate/Middle School Principal is former Alumni President Terri (Peery) Helvey, **Class of 1981**.

Smart puppies...

The third nine-week honor rolls have been announced. For the Superintendent's Honor Roll, students can have no grade lower than an "A". For the Principal's Honor Roll, students must have no grade lower than a "B".

Congratulations for making the **Superintendent's Honor Roll** to:

Class of 2008: Kara Burchett, Ashley Cole, Tamara Cooper, Jesus Franco, Nicole Gifford, Tanisha Hamm, Logan Hayes, Laurel Holasek, Alyssa Lafferre, Kristen Lee, David Skinner, Zak Sukenis, Emily Tarp, Jenifer VanSchuyver, Traci VanSchuyver and Justing Washburn.

Class of 2009: James Briscoe, Matthew Caldwell, Kori Ellison, Lindsey Geyer, Joshua Gordon, Ashley Guthrie, Bryan McCaffrey, Ethan Murphy, Cesar Ocampo and Shannon West.

Class of 2010: Jordyn Coker, Ryan Coker, Thad Mowdy, Aerial Smith and Paige Warren.

Class of 2011: Jodi Idlett, Brooke Klimek, Brittany Sawyer, Jordyn Snow, Jacob Weigel, Blake Wilson and Kayla Wright.

about home. I wonder whatever happened to him....

Fast forward to June of 1997. Wanda and I boarded a plane at Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City bound for Lakeland, and eventually Port Canaveral, Florida, for a cruise. After we boarded the plane, I noticed a familiar face or two on the plane. One of them was John Williams (Williams Pharmacy), **Class of 1964**. He and a group of friends from Lexington were headed to another part of Florida for a different cruise. The names of the others escape me now, but I was rather amazed to be travelling on the same first flight of the day as other fellow alumni.

Four years ago, I happened to go to the office of a mechanical engineering consultant that I was using on a building design project. The engineer's wife, who was also the office manager, was busy with what she called "alumni stuff". Inquisitive (nosy) as I am, I asked questions, and she said she graduated from Verdin High School (outside Chickasha) and was working on their reunion. I mentioned to her that Lexington's was coming up and that I was an Alumni Association officer. We began talking about Lexington and she said she taught at Lexington High School for a year a long time ago. She said Mr. (James) Walraven had hired her fresh out of the University of Oklahoma, back in the day when a person could get a teaching degree in three years. She was only three years out of high school herself, but he hired her anyway. Now, if you were in Home Economics or one particular class of Freshman English, you were a student of Mrs. Janice Howell. She remembers living in a house that was owned by the Pearsons down by the bridge. Though she couldn't remember the other teacher's name, there was another one that lived in the same area. She says she remembers the Burketts. She can't remember any students' names, but if she heard them, she would. She says she really enjoyed her year of teaching in Lexington, but moved to Dibble, where she taught for three years. Now, her husband, Ray, is a successful mechanical engineering consultant (he was taking classes at OU while Janice taught in Lexington) and she is the Receptionist/Bookkeeper/Office Manager, as well as holding MANY other positions in their firm.

In 2000, Robert Heck, **Class of 1988**, bought my house. Robyn Ramsey, **Class of 1974**, lives in my addition, as does Hallie Peltier from the **Class of 1989** and Terry Ille, **Class of 1957**. In my travels as a football referee, I've encountered Dennis Boettler, **Class of 1973**, on the sidelines of Washington High School keeping their statistics and Billy Boswell, **Class of 1972**, doing the same for Dibble High School.

I have other encounters and I'm sure that most of you have similar experiences. The point is that you never know when or where you'll run into somebody from Lexington, so carry the banner high. We would LOVE to hear about

Congratulations for making the **Principal's Honor Roll** to:

Class of 2008: Broc Bryen, Mindy Edwards, Kiersten Hansmeyer, Brian Helvey, Zach Henderson, Tyler King, Destiny LaGrow, Karen Lara, JL Logue, Jammy Mahaffey, Clayton Meyer, Trent Mitchell, Mary Murnan, Jerry Nottnagel, Caitlin Oliver, Rachel Pratt, Amanda Sawyer, Jakob Shannon, Kevin Skaggs, Justin Washburn, Sarah Wilkey and Kayla Woody.

Class of 2009: Jennifer Adams, Sandra Akerman, Keith Bailey, Heather Bennett, Samantha Brewington, Kenny Bruehl, Brianna Bryant, Brianna Cleveland, Christopher Cornell, Vanessa Donovan, Noah Easton, Jackson Ewing, Blaine Garriott, Magen Gilleland, Katy Gilley, Crystal Henderson, Douglas Idlett, Clint Jeffrey, Amanda Lackey, Nicole Lower, Anthony Maniscalco, Michelle McGehee, Ryan Northcutt, Samantha Parks, Mariene Olguin Chavez, Davis Pearson, Nathan Shelton and Stayce Tuckey.

Class of 2010: Jimi Bryen, Michelle Farley, Rachel Kallis, Mary Cathering Kluth, Tara Nardi, Breana Poston, Kodee Roberts, Daniel Somers and Kelsie Todd.

Class of 2011: Lacey Caskey, Nolan Douglas, Joseph Dunlap, Blake Gifford, Seth Hayes, Kelsey Holsonbake, Julian Jennings, Crissy Joyner, Jade Little, Coy Pfeiffer, Kyle Renbarger, Brett Scott, Sarah Scott, Carly Smith Zach Wilson and Savannah Wood.

Singing dogs...

The Lexington High School vocal music groups performed March 4 at the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activities Association (OSSAA) District Choral Contest in Lawton. Both the high school mixed choir and the men's choir received superior ratings in their competitions and will compete at Vocal State on the campus of Oklahoma Baptist University, in Shawnee, on April 17th. The women's choir received a superior rating at the same competition. The groups are under the direction of Angela Lind, accompanied by Norma Lind.

Three middle school choirs, also under the direction of Angela Lind, along with Patricia Smith, with accompaniment by Norma Lind, also competed in the March 4th event. The men's choir received a superior in performance as well as a superior in sight-reading, which gave them an outstanding achievement award. The mixed choir and ladies' choir each received an excellent rating in performance.

Hooping it up...

Coach Clint York's Bulldogs battled hard, but fell a little short during the regular season, ending it with a record of 7-14. With the difficulties of the regular season behind them, the Bulldogs began a new season by travelling to

your "close encounter" and publish it in future editions. Send them to us! Let's show that it TRULY is a "small world."

Thank you.



Greg Yeary, Class of 1976
President, Lexington Alumni Association

Pack Dogs-class reunion information

If you were a part of the **Class of 1963**, your classmates are looking for you. They want you to come and celebrate your 45th class reunion at the Lexington Elementary School Gymnasium. It will be held on June 14th, 2008. The merriment kicks off at 4:00 p.m. and will end at 10. Festivities include refreshments, a meal, music and visitation. They also invite the Classes of **1962** and **1964** are also invited to the celebration.

For more information, contact Johnson Scott at 527-2754.

If you are planning a class reunion, we would LOVE to know about it. We can supply you with a list of classmates and their addresses, help you plan it and announce it for you. We will do everything we can to help you make your class reunion a complete success! Just email is at: info@lexokalumni.org

In the pack:

Our friends in memoriam.....

Mary Marjorie (Waddle) Smith, 92, **Class of 1933**,
9/16/1915-2/7/2008

Esther Pauline (Holloway) Caldwell 96, **former student**,
5/6/1911-3/24/08

Dorothy Gertrude (Hooper) Mitchell, 76, **Class of 1949**,
6/18/1931-1/27/2008

Margaret Ann (Black) Watkins, 74, **Class of 1952**,
3/1/1934-3/5/2008

John Burton Boyd, 74, **Class of 1952**, 10/8/1933-1/21/2008

Gayla Jo (Turner) Hurley, 51, **Class of 1975**, 10/3/1956-
2/9/2008

Sulphur for the post-season District Tournament and the right to advance onward toward state. Josh Gordon scored seventeen points to lead Lexington's scorers. However, Sulphur won the game 65-57.

After finishing the regular season, Coach Robert Barger's Lady Bulldogs also opened post-season District Tournament play at Sulphur, where they lost to Sulphur 75-45. Bri Bryant and Nicole Gifford each scored seven points to tie for high point total. Both teams advanced to Regional play at Okemah, but another loss by either team would end their season.

The first round of Regionals had the Lady Bulldogs playing Okemah for the right to advance to round two. Riding an eleven point outing by Emily Tarp, Lexington saved their best for the post season as they routed the Panthers by a score of 59-29.

Advancing to the second round, the Lady Bulldogs could not afford another loss, since they had already lost during the District Tournament. Round two had Lexington playing Atoka. The Wampus Cats ended Lexington's season by beating our Lady Bulldogs by a 56-45 decision. Nicole Gifford lead the Lady Bulldogs with 11 points. They ended their season 10-14.

The Bulldog boys ended their season with a loss to Okemah 62-52, eliminating them from post season play. Blaine Garriott scored thirteen points to lead the Bulldogs in the losing effort. Their final season record was 7-16.

Baseball season is getting into full swing...

The Bulldogs baseballers of Coach Eric Muncee opened the season with a loss at Ninnekah by an 11-9 count in spite of freshman Blake Gifford's 3-4 at the plate.

Our Bulldogs redeemed themselves in their second game of the year by downing Maysville by a score of 6-0. Senior Patrick Frazier went 3-3 at the plate with two RBI's while Kyle Renbarger picked up the win by giving up one hit. He also walked one, allowing only two Warriors on base.

Softball is making a hit...

The Lexington High School Lady Bulldogs softball team beat the Blanchard Lady Lions, 4-3, to claim the championship of the Wayne Invitational Tournament. Coach Brian Snow club won all five of its games in the tourney. Their overall record is 11-2.

Dog Star-spotlighting alumni that are giving
back to Lexington schools

Jared K. Stover, 35, **Class of 1990**, 10/31/1972-3/5/2008

Elick Wilford "Billy" Hardy, 28, **Class of 1998**, 7/28/1979-3/8/2008

Congratulations to.....

Calvin Hobson, **Class of 1963**, for being named Interim Executive Director of Operations for the University of Oklahoma's College of Continuing Education.

Tonya (High) Adams, **Class of 1988**, for being elected to the Board of Education of Lexington schools.

Tyler Coker, **Class of 2006**, for being one of only twelve students that received the President's Award for Outstanding Sophomores award at the University of Oklahoma.

Big Dog: - *Fellow Alumnus worth noting*

The year was 1935. Times were tough, indeed. America was suffering through The Great Depression and Oklahoma, along with the rest of the states on the plains, was in the midst of The Dust Bowl. It was the era that would inspire John Steinbeck to write the saga of Okies fleeing the state called The Grapes of Wrath. It was the year that saw the trial of the Lindbergh baby kidnapper, Bruno Richard Hauptman, and the birth of "The King of Rock and Roll," Elvis Presley. Porky Pig was born that year, so was Monopoly, and Babe Ruth hit his 714th and final home run. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President and The Dust Bowl Troubadour, Oklahoma's Woody Guthrie, travelled the country entertaining people with his music. In August of that year, Oklahoma and the nation would say goodbye to two of its favorite sons as Will Rogers and Wiley Post perished in the frozen tundra of Alaska. That's where our story begins. It was the month and year Harold Dean was born.

The date was August 4th. Harold Dean was born an only child. His mother, Dorene, was a homemaker while his father, Ray, owned a local business. The family lived on a farm in Lexington. Harold had met and befriended a boy from Slaughterville named Julian, a lad who was a couple of years his senior. It would be friendship that has endured for over 60 years! In fact, they are so close and their names are so synonymous that a lot of people still believe they are brothers. Now he could have taken over his father's business, but even at a young age Harold Dean had other plans. He would enroll in college to pursue a different path. His boyhood friend would also attend college to pursue his lifelong goal. Because of a choice they made, neither of them would achieve what they had intended as professions. What was the choice?

"It is very important for us to be involved in our children's lives, because if they think that their parents don't care, why should they?" So says the newest member of the Board of Education of Lexington Public Schools, Tonya Adams. That's just the kind of vision that will make Tonya such a wonderful asset to the school board. She cares about kids. She believes they should be your priority. Tonya further says, "Being involved in PTO and Booster Clubs, it saddens me to see how little interest people have in what their children are doing and involved in. Please remember our children are the most precious things in the world."

Just like the feature in our last edition of this newsletter (the person whose spot she is taking since his retirement), she isn't a Lexington native. Tonya Yvonne High was born in Oklahoma City on January 3rd, 1970, but moved to Lexington and attended school here for the last nine years of her education, graduating with the Class of 1988. However, unlike our last feature, she is a legacy. Her dad, James High, worked for Dolese, and her mother, Junelle, was a stay-at-home mom. Tonya's great-grandmother, Gertrude (Illa) Northcutt graduated with the **Class of 1921**, while her great-aunt Elizabeth (Illa) Johns is a 1941 graduate. Her great-grandfather, Claude Northcutt, graduated from Lexington in 1919. Tonya's only sibling, younger sister April (High) Harrison, is a 1992 graduate of Lexington who now lives in Wayne.

Though she is looking forward to her duties on the Board of Education, Tonya has plenty of other things to occupy her time. After studying Business Management at Rose State, she has worked the last eleven years as a mail carrier at the Lexington Post Office. She began working for the United States Postal Service because of the good pay and benefits, but she also enjoys being around people. That's another quality that will serve her well on the school board. When not working, the mother of five spends her time gardening and chasing after her children. She is the proud mother of Andrew (20), Miranda (18), Blaine (17), Christopher (16), Sean (15) and McKenna (8).

Tonya says her fondest memory of Lexington High School was the great friends and the sports. Her favorite class was English, because she loved to read. She says it's a great and cheap way to travel-read a book. Her favorite teacher was Mrs. Hayes. Tonya says Mrs. Hayes was always the one to push her students to their limits and not just let them coast by. While in school, she hung out with Michelle (Caskey) Laurent, Jennifer (Nimmo) Wingate and Amy (Lewis) Chilvers, hanging out on Main Street in Purcell. She also has fond memories of the rivalry with the Dragons and the different pranks each side would pull on each other. While in high school, Tonya was a cheerleader as well as being on both the softball and basketball teams. She also worked on the yearbook. She is a graduate in fashion design from Mid America

What was his dad's business that could have been Harold's? What would Harold have become had his life continued without the career swerve?

Harold Dean was a good student in Lexington schools and was quite athletic, playing both basketball and baseball. His favorite subject in school was FFA, and it was taught by his favorite teacher, Jim Hunter. Harold was devoted to the Future Farmers of America, where he rose to the office of Vice-President. He was so fond of FFA that, to this very day, he owns two FFA jackets-one of them dated 1951-53. It was also his love of farming and animals that would have helped take him on his original career path. His graduating class included twenty-three people who all hung out together.

After graduating from Lexington High School with the Class of 1953, Harold Dean and Julian, the boyhood friend who graduated from Noble High School in 1950, attended the University of Oklahoma together, seeking their chosen professions. Julian's education and career were interrupted by the Korean War. On his return from the service, Julian continued his pursuit of his lifelong ambition to become a lawyer. Though he would eventually graduate from law school, he would never take the bar exam. He and Harold had another interest that was calling them, and they decided to dedicate themselves to it. What was it? Flash back a few years.

In 1946, eleven year-old Harold Dean had saved enough money from selling Cloverine Salve to buy his first guitar. Though he had no great influence musically, he fell in love with music and taught himself how to play chords on that guitar. That guitar would forever change the lives of the two friends. That's the year they started playing music together.

A few years before that, when five year-old Harold would come to town with his parents, often times he would see a man selling tamales. Harold would call the tamale salesman by a name that would, eventually, become his own nickname. Daddy Ray and his buddies began to call Harold the same name the boy called the tamale salesman and the name stuck. Had that not happened, Harold Dean Taylor would never have become our beloved "Jody." Oh yeah, just in case you haven't figured it out by now, the boyhood friend, Julian, is Julian Delane Northcutt, better known now as "Jude."

The boys started playing anywhere they could find an audience. Their first performances were at church pie socials and high school talent shows. The duo found a way to actually make money with music by playing for tips at Burkett's Grocery Store. As their reputation grew, they began to get offers to perform for money. They played their first paying gig at the American Legion Hall in Lexington. Their pay - \$20.

Technology Center, where she was on the design team.

Tonya and her husband, David, along with Blaine and McKenna, live at 501 SE 7th St. in Lexington. Blaine is a junior in Lexington and plays baseball and basketball, while McKenna, a third-grader, plays basketball, softball and soccer. Their two oldest kids live in Norman. Andrew (who went to Lexington schools for a year) and Miranda live in Norman. Chris and Sean live in Tennessee after attending Lexington schools last year. Tonya still keeps in touch with some old friends from high school, namely Michelle Laurent, Marsha (Penner) Herrell and Teresa (Hill) Caldwell. She also invites any old friends and classmates to contact her through her email: dtadams56@juno.com. Tonya wonders whatever became of Mr. James Willis, her third-grade teacher, and classmate, Tim Dodson. Well, Tonya, I have some good news for you. Tim is alive and well. He and his wife, Tiffani, live at 2907 Abbey Field Drive in Pearland, Texas. Mr. James Willis, from what I found, lives in Noble.

Congratulations, Tonya, on being elected to the board. Thank you for allowing us to tell your story. Please send Tonya an email telling her how much you appreciate her giving back to the school system that binds us all, congratulate her, or just say, "Hi."

(Editor's note: We'll be featuring another alumnus that is serving Lexington schools in some capacity. If you are an employee of Lexington schools or involved in the school system in some manner, please let us know).

Dog House-a look at the new Lexington High School



The structural steel and bar joists are being erected at the new Lexington High School. This photo was made looking north across SH-39.

Their music was interrupted by the Korean War and Jude's stint in the United States Army (Jody was in the Air Force Reserves from 1957 to 1963, rising to the rank of Corporal). After Northcutt's return from the service, the duo teamed up again and called their act "Jude 'N' Jody" (that sounds so much catchier than "Julian 'N' Harold", doesn't it?). Big things were on the horizon and they took every advantage. In 1954, after auditioning for a spot on a 30-minute weekly show that was sponsored by the B.L. Owens Furniture Store in Ardmore and broadcast over KTEN-TV in Ada, they were hired for \$50 a week. Being the only station for most of the region and because KTEN's signal covered most of southeastern Oklahoma and also reached large parts of Arkansas and northeast Texas, Jude 'N' Jody's popularity immediately grew. Before they knew it they were receiving numerous offers to perform at sock hops, rodeos and county fairs.

Soon they caught the attention of, and were hired by, county music star Hank Thompson, who was producing his television show in Oklahoma City. They not only appeared on his show, but also joined Thompson performing on the road in his travelling country music show. In 1955, while spending about two weeks a month on the road and performing on television, Jody was invited by the owner of Big Red Warehouse in Oklahoma City to his store. That's where Jody began selling furniture. That move would, eventually, prove to be the perfect confluence for their future careers-music and furniture.

With their success on KTEN, Jude 'N' Jody were hired, in 1956, by Jack Beasley for a regular guest spot on his television variety show that was broadcast on WKY-TV in Oklahoma City. For the next few years, the popularity of Northcutt and Taylor grew enormously, forcing them to keep a grueling pace of television and personal appearances. Their schedule included appearing on three live television shows a week and making personal appearances for the remainder of the week, all while taking classes at the University of Oklahoma. While a career as a professional musician never occurred to Jude, he couldn't ignore the fact that between their personal appearances and television appearances, they were making several thousand dollars a week. They were so successful that Jude, after finishing law school, decided to forgo the bar exam to devote his attention to his music career with Jody.

In 1958, a couple of brothers who owned a small furniture and appliance store came calling. To help advertise their store, the two brothers, named Don and Bud, had just started a new television program and wanted Jude and Jody to host the show, called "The Mathis Brothers Country Social." The Mathis Brothers' offer included \$2,000 per month, their own band (something they really wanted, since, until that point, they had only performed as a duo or with other singer's bands) and 10% ownership in the furniture store in exchange for Jude and Jody's exclusive



Steel columns, beams and joists. This picture was made looking to the east.

Dogs at Play: -sports schedules

Baseball:

Varsity

April 1 Lindsay (V/JV) away 4:30

April 3-5 Bulldog Baseball Tournament home TBD

April 7 Anadarko (V/JV) away 5:00

April 8 Washington (V/JV) away 4:30

April 10-12 Purcell Tournament away TBD

April 14 Pauls Valley (V/JV) away 4:30

April 15 Little Axe (V/JV) away 4:30

April 17 Noble (V/JV) home 4:30

April 21 Wynnewood (V/JH) home 6:00

April 24-25 Districts

May 1-3 Regionals TBD TBD

May 8-10 State TBD TBD

Under the Fence: -catching up with fellow alumni-By (Darlene Lawson) McGonigle, Class of 1963-you can email her at: ariesdancer63@cox.net

services as performers. While most of us would probably have jumped at the opportunity, Northcutt and Taylor didn't. They were reluctant to leave their other television shows and the prestigious spot with Hank Thompson. In the end, though, they decided that having their own show was a more important forward step in their careers and accepted the attractive offer. (Remember-"We've got those fire blazin' prices at Mathis Brothers' Furniture!")

Until 1965, the Mathis Brothers arrangement worked quite well. Soon Jude and Jody were adding even more to their incomes by selling furniture at the store. That year, the Mathis brothers' store had outgrown its original site and a new store was planned. A dispute developed over the exclusion of Jude and Jody's names on the new store's title. The Mathis brothers bought out Jude and Jody's share of the company and began to feature the syndicated "Buck Owens Ranch Show" for their local advertising. They opened their new store at 3434 West Reno. While working for the Mathis brothers, Northcutt and Taylor had learned enough about the furniture business that they decided to open their own store. So, Jude 'N' Jody Furniture started in a building at 509 Southwest 29th in Oklahoma City with their new motto-"We Love Folks!" To promote their new venture, the duo began to produce their own weekly television show. It was a far cry from the days at Burkett's Grocery Store.

The new show, fittingly called "The Jude 'N' Jody Show", followed the same patterns of many of the syndicated country and western music television shows of the time, like "The Porter Wagoner Show." Their new show featured not only Northcutt and Taylor, but also other singers like Winkie Ware and Wilton O'Neil. It also featured appearances by Jody's wife, Norma Jean Beasler (formerly Miss Norma Jean of "The Porter Wagoner Show"), as well as comic performances by the Hokum Sisters and others. "The Jude 'N' Jody Show" also figured prominently in the careers of many notable Oklahoma artists such as Maud's own Wanda Jackson, who made regular appearances throughout her career, as well as Red Zellner, who had several hit records on Capitol Records during the early 1960's. Red got his start on the show and was discovered on the program by Capitol producer, Bobby Boyd. Jackson would often debut her new songs on the program. The show also was instrumental in the promotion of Harlow Wilcox and the Oakies' hit single, "Groovy Grubworm." There was also an agreement with Springlake Amusement Park in Oklahoma City that stipulated that all the artists who appeared at the park on Saturday nights for a concert or dance would first appear on Jude and Jody's Friday night television show. That allowed most of the major country stars of the time to be featured on "The Jude 'N' Jody Show." Some of the noted performers that appeared on the show were Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn, Bob Wills, Merle Haggard, George Jones, Johnny Cash, Mel Tillis and, of course, Hank Thompson.

Well here we are again. I don't know about you all, but I am really tired of this winter weather. For all of you that live in a balmy climate, may the bird of paradise fly up your nose. Just kidding. How many remember that song. I'm sorry, was that really a song? I believe that was called a song a long, long, long, time ago. Really, I hope everyone has had health, their needs met and a little of what they wanted. It seems some areas were hit with a lot of ice. Jim Pierce sent me some pictures of the ice storm that hit, and all I can say is, it was awful. In 2005, we had the same here. It does grow back. The trees that were standing and so messed up have grown again and the area shows no signs of the destruction. God Bless all of you that went through it.

I have heard from a few of you and I enjoyed your letters. When I regain my memory, I am going to find my printed emails and send them in the next news letter. However I have not heard any of the old stories of things that happened at Lexington. You don't have to say who did what, just tell about it. Back in the horse and buggy time, we all probably had a pretty good idea who did most of it, but all it would do is produce a good laugh. Isn't that funny that when we do get older, the things seem funny to us and we were determined to never let anyone know. Now, it just doesn't seem to matter. We just want people to know we had some mobility. We want them to know we had a sense of humor and we especially want our children to know that at one time we had bodies do die for. Well we want to think of it that way at least. Isn't it funny that our kids look at us as if we could never wear a mini skirt, or heaven forbid, if we knew what it was to love a good night kiss. The comment, Mom you just don't understand!!!!!!! Who in the world are they kidding, We do understand, that is what is so frightening to us. BEEN THERE DONE THAT. Oh yes, I adopted a granddaughter and she is 17 1/2 years old, going on 30. I have a 22 year old granddaughter and my youngest biological son is (hold on while I figure his age) 38 so I have just went down the ages with kids. All I can say is THANK GOD FOR GRANDCHILDREN. I STILL SAY WE SHOULD HAVE THEM FIRST.

Well I got a letter (hope It is ok to mention this, if not, oh boy) and it was an invitation to a 45, mind you, FORTY FIVE YEARS THAT WE HAVE BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL, GRADUATED, FINAL HIGH SCHOOL YEAR. Ok I am done.

Please send me all the stories, even the ones about my brothers, Paul Lawson and Curtis Lawson. I may not print them, but I would sure love to know all the gossip. Any of you that have stories on Paul, just email me and I can blackmail him. Isn't that what we are supposed to do to BABY BROTHER'S? Hope life is treating you all kindly.

Good Day----Darlene Lawson McGonigle

The show appeared on all three local television stations for the next several years. Northcutt and Taylor produced their own shows and purchased the air time to broadcast them. That allowed them the freedom to go from one channel to another, based on favorable advertising rates and available program times. The longer the show was on the air, the more expensive it became to produce. At the same time, locally owned television stations were being sold to out-of-town entertainment conglomerates. While that was the most economical choice for stations, station management was (and still is) reluctant to sell air time to anything beyond spot ads, making local programming extremely restrictive. Those two factors were the main reasons why, in 1975, Jude 'N' Jody decided to discontinue their program. Their long-running show, "The Jude 'N' Jody Show," would be no more, reducing their advertising to spot ads. It marked the end of an era.

Though they're not in front of a camera or an audience much these days, Jude and Jody are still taking care of business. Jude 'N' Jody Furniture is now Jude 'N' Jody & Sons Furniture, but their motto is still "We Love Folks!" Jude operates it and performs on occasion. Jody stays busy running the Jude 'N' Jody Ranch in Tribbey, home of the Wildfire Music Festival. Unfortunately, due to a stroke in 1992, Jody can't play his beloved guitar, so he doesn't perform much. What a loss for those of us who remember the show and our hometown boy who made good!

Jody lives at 18550 144th Street in Lexington. He is a loving father, grandfather and great grandfather. He was blessed with three children. His son, Randy, married Patty Brown and they have two children, Ashley and Brad. His daughter, Roma, is married to Jim Daniel and she's the mother of Steven Taylor. Sadly, Jody's other daughter, Sherrie, is deceased. However, she did leave Jody with two grandsons, Brandon Northrup and Justin Smith (who is married to MeLynda Simpson). Justin and MeLynda have Jody's only great-grandchild, Kalynn Renee' Smith.

Jody still tends to his hobbies and has for many years. He has a love for fishing, hunting and collecting antiques. In fact, his passion for hunting has taken Jody on five African safaris. His trophy room is packed with numerous trophies, including the "Big Five" African animals as well as a grizzly bear. In the June 2007, edition of Safari International magazine, his name is listed as an African Big Five Award Recipient. He is also a very proud lifetime member of Safari Club International.

Whether it be around the area, around the state, around the country or around the world. Jody has shared his gift of music and his folksy demeanor with unknown thousands. Of all the places in the country he has played, Jody says his favorite place to perform was "anywhere someone wanted to hear" him. Though he probably could have lived anywhere he wanted, he chose to live

(Editor's note: if you would like to respond to this article or would like to update the rest of the world of what you are up to in the next edition of "The Barker", please email Darlene at ariesdancer63@cox.net)

I have 3 grown children...8 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren and I am only 60. I am divorced. I retired in 2002 from nursing...I retired from the great state of Okla...I do a lot of traveling just for fun...Please feel free to email me at ANTIQUEGALPAL@aol.com Thanks!

Linda Jones, Class of 1965

THROUGH A KNOT HOLE

Tom Yeary

AS WE REMEMBER back in time to yesteryear when we were living in simpler times of the 50s and early 60s, we, the class of 1961, were having a lot of fun.

Late fifties found that the old 2-story high school was still standing, even though it had been condemned since 1940 when my mother graduated. It was a fun, old building, in that there was a big hole in the brick wall to let the outside air in and, of course, some of us would throw things through it, like books and, of course, girls' purses.

When in study hall, you could shake your legs a little and the whole building would shake (scared the kids who were having class below). They thought the building was going to collapse. We sometimes would make it shake just to disturb Mrs. Pearl Burkett's typing and general business class below. Of course, it was only after our class was finished. Ahh, our typing class was fun, the girls learned to type and the guys learned to tear down a typewriter and put it back together again before the teacher returned.

One of the last memories of the old building was during the winter when the guys gathered for a great snowball fight. It was great fun. We did not choose sides; it was every man for himself. If you were leaving the Jr. High building to go to the High School building, do so at your own risk. I think it was Carey Sherman who dared to cross. That's when everybody got the same idea at the same time, let's get Carey.

ALAS, he was too close to the glass door and made it through before the first snowball hit. But, our aim was good and 26 snowballs hit at the same time. The door did not survive, but the area did clear very fast.

in the small community where he grew up, and we thank him for sharing his gift of song. The Lexington Alumni Association proudly thanks Harold Dean "Jody" Taylor for allowing us to celebrate his life and work. He means it when he says, "We Love Folks!" He is known as a warm, friendly man to his classmates and neighbors. I'm sure he would love it if, when you see him (like at the next reunion in 2010), you'll stop, shake his hand and let him know that folks love him, too!

So, what would he be today if he hadn't bought that guitar and music hadn't captured his attention? Would he have taken over his father's business, Ray Taylor's Service Station on North Main in Lexington (the site where Mi Casa Restaurant was located and used to be Trussell's Station)? No, we'd be calling him Dr. Harold Taylor, DVM.



Jude 'n' Jody ... '70's Student Band

A YOUNG Jude 'N' Jody



Jody, old friend M-M-Mel Tillis and Jude at the Hank Thompson Memorial Service in Ft. Worth, TX, 11/14/2007

Well, Darlene, I guess it is time to set the record straight. You were a great neighbor, but your memory is just a couple of years off. The end of our sophomore year, which was in 1959, some of us guys were hired to help clear out the old building. We threw out the old desks from the study hall first. Most of these desks had names of former students carved in them-probably could have been used for blackmail if we knew what that was. I even found my mothers name carved in several of them.

But, the day after school was out there was a pile of old desks on the south side of the building. Within a couple of days, the pile and the building were gone. Construction actually began on the last day of school and did not end until the second semester of the following year, 1960. SOOO the 1960 Seniors were in the building for only one semester. I am proud to say that the 1961 class, which if you turn our rings upside down still read 1961, was the first class to occupy the building for the full year.

Who could ever forget some of those dedicated teachers, Mr. Fred Sawyer who made Science fun; Mrs. Ada Mantooth who taught us all Math; Mrs. Burkett for General Business and Typing (it must have helped-I can find some of the keys on this computer); and, of course, Chuck Burkett, our beloved Principal.

Those of us who shared the OLD BUILDING were a close knit group the classes of 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962. I am looking forward to the next reunion to see who else comes back. It was great to see my good friend, Dean Milligan, whom I hadn't seen since graduation. I hope you can all come back for a great time.

I am Tom Yeary, looking back through a knot hole.

Dogs in Training: *-alumni members furthering their education*

Trent Andrew Tarp, **Class of 2003**, made the President's Honor Roll for the Fall, 207, semester at the University of Oklahoma.

Matthew Lewis Murnan, **Class of 2004**, made the Honor Roll for the Fall, 2007, semester at the University of Oklahoma.

Coty M. Smith, **Class of 2004**, for made the Dean's Honor Roll for the Fall, 2007, semester at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Coty is an elementary education major.

Lost Dogs: *-our classmates with whom we have lost contact. If you know how to contact them, PLEASE let us know.*

Class of 1952: Iona (Graham) Batewell

Class of 1957: Keith Floyd

Class of 1959: Rosemary (Johnson) Hilton

Class of 1962: Helen (Vails) Holloway

Class of 1965: Joe Dodson

Class of 1966: Cathleen Smith

Class of 1968: Sandra (Miller) Jennings

Class of 1977: Jeannie (McKiddy) Ring

Class of 1981: Glenn Hughes

Class of 1986: John Hall

Class of 1991: Kyle Black

Class of 1999: Dakota Davis

Class of 2003: Richard Hill

The Dog Dish: *-a message from your alumni Secretary-Sandy (Phillips) Bruehl, Class of 1983*

I look forward to seeing everyone at graduation in May. I would like to congratulate the newest Lexington Alumni, the graduating class of 2008. What an awesome accomplishment you have all made. I wish you luck in all of your endeavors. Make the most of all you do and remember this quote by Mark Twain. "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

God bless you in all you do.

Sandy (Phillips) Bruehl
Class of 1983

You can also e-mail me at thewhitedaisysalon@yahoo.com . I can't wait to hear from you all.

Do you remember....

....the Lexington Sun?

....The Oklahoma City Times?

....Oklahoma Journal?

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	Darlene (Lawson) McGonigle	Class of 1963	<i>Under the Fence</i>
	Tom Yeary	Class of 1961	<i>Through a Knot Hole</i>
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