



THE SPOTLIGHT

Official publication of the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association

www.oxfordorphanagealumni.com

FALL 2010

Coming Homecoming...

Schedule for October 8, 2010 – October 10, 2010

Friday, October 8, 2010

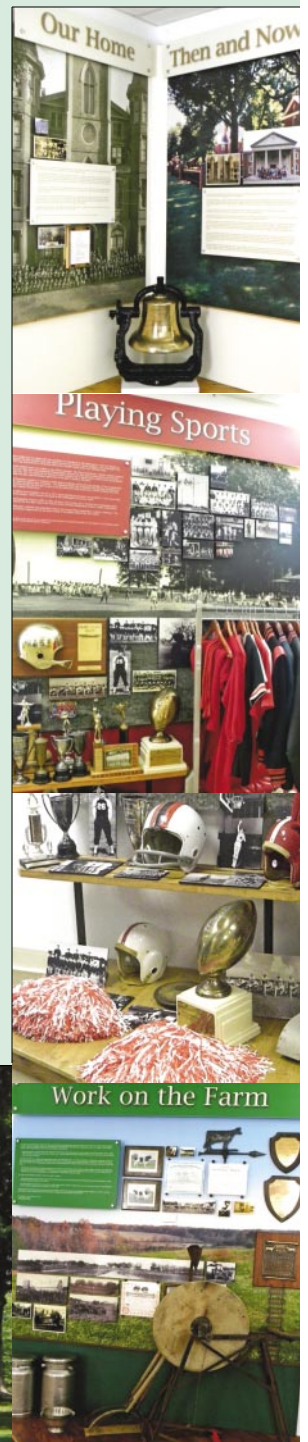
- 6:30 AM - Mid-Afternoon Chipshots for Children Golf Tournament
Kerr Lake Golf Course
- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM "Reflections" (Cobb Center) – Featuring John Wiley and Herb Colenda

Saturday, October 9, 2010

- 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Registration (Main Building)
- 9:00 AM - 11:00 PM Musuem & Archives Open for Visitation (Cobb Center)
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM OOOA Board of Director's Meeting (Cobb Center)
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Orphans Lodge Stated Communication (Masonic Center) – Open to all Master Masons
- 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM Memorial Service (God's Half Acre Cemetery)
- 10:30 AM Volleyball – Alumni & Staff vs. Lady Red Devils (Gym)
- 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch (Under the Oaks – Served behind Cafeteria)
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Registration (Main Building)
- 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Musuem & Archives Open for Visitation (Cobb Center)
- 1:00 PM Varsity Soccer Game (Soccer Field)
- 2:15 PM (Approximate) Crowning of Homecoming Queen (Soccer Field)
- 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Homecoming Roast. *SURPRISE!* (Dining Room)
- 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM Homecoming Dance (Granville County Shrine Club)

Sunday, October 10, 2010

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Registration (Main Building)
- 10:00 AM Worship Service (York Rite Chapel)
Speaker: Rev. Kim Strickland
- 11:00 AM OOOA Annual Business Meeting (York Rite Chapel)
- 1:00 PM Lunch (Under the Oaks – Served behind Cafeteria)
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Musuem & Archives Open for Visitation (Cobb Center)
- 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Registration (Main Building)



Becky's Health Corner

Sweet Heart . . . Here's some sweet news!

Beat the "sugar blues" by eating chocolate every day. It may help lower your blood pressure and reduce your risk for heart disease! German researchers who followed more than 19,000 people between the ages of 35 and 65 for approximately 10 years discovered that those who ate an average of 7.5 grams a day, a little more than two chocolate Hershey kisses, had lower blood pressure levels than those who ate less chocolate. They were also 39% less likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke.

Skip the milk chocolate, though. It's the dark chocolate with a cocoa content of at least 70% that does the best job of protecting your heart. Why? Cocoa contains flavonols, a substance that may improve blood flow — and better blood flow can lower blood pressure. For all its benefits, eating dark chocolate will still add calories to your diet — about 55 calories for each 7.5 grams. Over indulging can affect both your waistline and your health. To help you get your daily dose of chocolate without tipping the scales, we've listed a number of foods that contain about the same amount of calories. By swapping out one food or snack for a delicious bite of dark chocolate, you can indulge guilt-free. You'll not only do your heart good but your waistline too.

Eat chocolate instead of . . .

1/4 cup of ice cream	1/2 cup of apple juice
1 egg yolk	1 light beer
1 tablespoon of cream cheese	1 tablespoon of jam
1 tablespoon of sugar	2 cups of microwave popcorn
8 small pretzel twists	10 cheese crackers

Beat the Sugar Blues . . .

Cutting back on sweets may help your heart and your teeth. According to a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, consuming excessive amounts of sugar may lead to unhealthy cholesterol levels.

Specifically, researchers found added sugar to be the problem. That includes sugar cane, high-fructose corn syrup, evaporated cane juice and honey, all of which sweeten packaged foods like sodas and fruit drinks, cereal and candy. Eating too much added sugar, according to the study, can result in lower-than-normal levels of HDL ("good") cholesterol, and higher-than-normal levels of blood fats known as triglycerides. Both factors increase chances of developing heart disease. Fruit and low-fat dairy products, however, are packed with healthy nutrients like fiber, vitamins and minerals, as well as natural sugar.

The American Heart Association recommends that women eat less than 10 calories of added sugar a day (about 6 teaspoons), and that men have less than 150 calories (about 9 teaspoons). It adds up fast: A single 12-ounce soda has 9 teaspoons of added sugar. Processed foods are often packed with hidden added sugar.

Cutting Back . . . Know good from bad.

Reading food labels can be tricky. Labels don't differentiate between added and natural sugars. Look for words like syrup, or words that end in 'ose' (sucrose, fructose) as these are added sugars.

Limit sugary drinks. Many fruit and sports drinks contain added sugar. Stick to plain water flavored with pieces of fruit, or naturally flavored seltzer. Eat fewer processed foods. Trade in packaged products for natural options that are low in added sugars. Shop the perimeter of your grocery store for fruit, veggies, whole grains, low-fat dairy products, lean meats, poultry and fish.

What Your Blood Reveals . . .

Blood tests reveal a lot of information about your heart health. In fact, because of that, a standard part of almost any medical check-up today is a blood lipid profile, also called a blood fat test or cholesterol test. Most doctors consider four lipid numbers when monitoring heart health and heart-disease risks:

The Spotlight is a publication of the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association and is published quarterly for its members, their families, all present and former staff members, and each Masonic Lodge in the State of North Carolina. Publication of The Spotlight is supported solely by contributions to the Alumni Association. The annual dues are \$25.00 per year payable to the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Association; and mailed to: Bob Critcher, Treasurer, 5639 Hebron Road, Oxford, NC 27565.

Send all correspondence, photos, and e-mails to: Becky Lee, 543 Barwick Drive, Durham, NC 27704; E-mail is blee012@nc.rr.com.

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From the Editor

Hey ya'll!

To kick off this year's Homecoming is the **Golf Tournament**: Friday the 8th, Kerr Lake Golf Course, 8:30 a.m. Tee-off. Registration and breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m. Snack and beverage carts begin around 9:00 a.m. Our own **Randy Williams and Son** will be cooking the lunch. Prizes, awards, and the "silent auction" table are a few of the highlights. We are also going to have **Chip Shots T-shirts** for sale this year instead of the golf shirts. We always have a great time, so any of you that would like to join us, please come on out!

The weekend is full of activities this year, and is also the **Class of 1970's Fortieth Reunion**. So, ya'll come! The **Dinner** and **Roast** kick-off Saturday night, and you'll never guess who's being roasted!

Ben Currin and the Konnection Band will be playing again this year at the Dance, and, as usual, it will be a good time! They know how to put on a show! And if it's like last year, **Timmy Jones** will join in for a song or two. *Trust me, well worth it!*

A lot of our brothers and sisters have had a rough year this year. Just goes to show you never know, you never really know! Don't be one of those to say, "I wish I had been there, but too late now." Come on and be with us this year! It's only a few days, so we try to pack in as much as we can.

My many, many thanks to all of you that have written to me and helped in every way you could. I can't thank you enough!

Looking forward to seeing you all, and my love to you.

Becky Lee



The four key blood lipid numbers are: 1. **Total cholesterol**. 2. **Low-density lipoprotein (LDL)**, "bad" cholesterol. 3. **High-density lipoprotein (HDL)**, "good" cholesterol. 4. **Triglycerides (Trigs)**.

A blood lipid profile will let your doctor know if you have too much or too little of any blood lipid. For instance, having too much "bad" cholesterol or high amounts of triglycerides in your blood can put you at risk for heart disease, while having too little "good" cholesterol can do the same.

What's Good, Optimal Total Cholesterol

- Less than 200
- Optimal LDL "Bad" Cholesterol: Less than 100
- Optimal HDL "Good" Cholesterol
 - For Women: More than 50
 - For Men: More than 40
- Optimal Triglycerides: Less than 150

The Endurance of Orphans' Friendships

In order to endure the blistering, hot and dry summer days, why not enjoy visiting everlasting and longtime friends. This is exactly what I set out to do. During the necessity of being in North Carolina, down from Ohio for a week enjoying the company of a grandson, I decided why not take an extra week and enjoy the company of my some of my orphan friends.

My starting point was in Durham, NC catching a few hours of family visitation with my brother, James Strum ('56) and his wife, Shirley Strum Duck ('60). We chatted for several hours about the possibility of having a "Strum" reunion during Homecoming and thought this would be a good time since they would be coming for the event.

After several hours, I proceeded to Lake Gaston (Gasburg), Va. to spend several days with Doris Hensley Stephens ('57). After the initial short visit, we just had to get out and to go over to Roanoke Rapids for shopping. While in Roanoke Rapids, I had contacted some friends from Newark, Ohio to see if we could enjoy lunch with them. We all graciously fellowshiped while eating fish and afterwards so journeyed back to Doris' lake place. We thought of many orphan sisters whom we would like to visit so we got busy compiling a list as we needed to start out early the next morning.

First, on the list was Jean Hensley Ferguson ('61). She is a patient at the Britthaven Nursing Facilities and has been for a few years. So if you wish, please send her a cheery card. Her address is: Britthaven Facility, 1704 Hwy 39N, Louisburg, 27549-8329.

Next, we had lunch with Frances Tausch ('67) in Wake Forest. By this time, the rain were really coming down. Does rain hinder the ambition of orphans? It never did!

Frances showed us her beautiful home and truly it is a magazine model home. Frances was recovering from surgeries prior to our visit but she wanted to go with us anyway.

Almost an hour gone by, and we must be moving on to accomplish all that was on our list. As we drove through Raleigh, Frances pointed out a very nice restaurant that serves "soul" food. Of course, that being the kind of gourmet we grew up enjoying, we opted for that as we all were starving.

It was rather strange that all three of us ordered collards. During the many conversation crossing the table, I mentioned a staff member and Frances could not place the lady. So I mimicked the lady with my eyes closed and Frances started laughing because she could not recall her and my gestures. When I opened my eyes and saw Frances laughing, she had a piece of collards stuck to one of her front teeth. Doris and I both started laughing, pointing out to her what the subject of the laughter was.

Just as soon as we were outside, one of the three of us (I refuse to say which one) jerked her dentures out and picked a piece of collards off and held them out for us to see. "Look, there are no collards on my teeth." Lord forbid if we did not burst out laughing again, bumping into people as they entered. Heard one say, "Durn, them senile seniors." God knows how good it is to have fun and laughter is so good for the soul.

We beat the clock and arrived at Gae Hill Boyette ('57) and Ernest Boyette ('56) a few minutes before scheduled time. Still pouring down rain. Hoping to get out of the rain quickly, we ran around to the back of the house (just like an orphan) and Ernest was going to the front door never thinking we orphans were at the back one. "We enjoyed the rain." Yep, sure did! He then came to the back and greeted us so graciously with a big strong Southern hug. We strolled right through her remodeled kitchen and all the time were eying a big plate of "Blonde Brownies."

We were offered some but we were full from eating collards.

As the five of us sat laughing for a lengthy time, recalling so many happy memories as an orphan growing up, we decided it was time to slow down and let everyone tell about their medical experiences. From the head down to the foot we have scars, and many words to share with each other regarding our senior conditions and about the treatments received to better our conditions. It makes one feel better when aches, pains and results of such are shared with friends and we can laugh, talk and share.

We had yet another stop to make, the Boyettes graciously bade us farewell and back through the kitchen eyeing those brownies. We paused there to say a few words, all the while all of us still eyeing those brownies which Gladys has made. Doris said, "I just gotta pinch one." Frances said, "I gotta have one to take to Paul," and I said, "I gotta have one to eat and right now." We felt guilty about taking them as I think the Boyettes might have wanted to take them to a dinner meeting. They were so good that we just had to ask for the recipe. Haven't tried the recipe but I might just try baking soon.

The Boyettes said their good byes, and the rains continued as we went by Frances' house to drop her off. Paul, Frances husband, came out in the rain to speak to his orphan sisters.

Our next stop was in Oxford. We had called Mary Helen Parrott (town student, finance staff at OO presently) and persuaded her to spend the night with us at the lake. Her husband died two weeks prior to our visit and we wanted to see if we could share some fun time with her. She was impressed with the Gaston Lake as her husband used to go fishing there. Mary Helen doesn't fish.

Well, you would think by now that we had had enough laughs and fun but no it continued into the night. Doris gets out her wine, hands us all a glass and we toasted all the good times past and yet to come.

We went to bed some time into the night, and up early to tour the lake, and do some "necessary" shopping. All good things and times come to an end and the time was ending. I took Mary Helen back to Oxford enroute to Durham and then on to Statesville. What a joyous time all of us had, even though we carried burdens and sickness upon our shoulders. God allows all to have fun and forget all about the hardships, as good laughter with good friends is the medicine we all should heap upon our shelves.

May God bless each of you . . . Hazel Strum Koffel, '56



Masonic Home Board of Directors Report, August 2010

Financial Operations

In spite of the downturn in donations and almost everything costing more than we had anticipated, the Home continues to operate under budget. Comparison of expenses and revenues within the budget shows revenues below projections, while expenses were less than budgeted for the year. All the departments except Archives are well below expected expenses. The construction being done on Masters Cottage is below projected expenses and that project and is coming in on the projected schedule.

Personnel

We currently have fifty-one full-time and five part-time employees, with forty-two of those being in direct care and six in the School of Graphic arts. Campus census is still down and the decline has triggered a few concerns about job stability. At this time no immediate cuts are planned, but if the census remains at its current level through September when the new school year is in progress, there may be a need to consolidate some cottages which might result in a reduction of staff. Every measure is being taken to hold onto the staff we have because of the cost incurred in recruiting and training new staff.

MHCO Board of Directors . . .

Charity Auction

August 25 – November 1, 2010

The 3rd Annual Masonic Home for Children at Oxford's Board of Directors Charity Auction is looking to be the biggest and best ever. There are many great opportunities to bid on sporting event tickets, Masonic memorabilia, and college and professional sports items, autographed pieces, and various unique collectibles — all available for your charitable bid.

Proceeds from the auction, held on EBay courtesy of Mission Fish Charitable Auctions, benefit the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford, caring for disadvantaged children in need of a safe and stable home. The money raised will be used for the daily and special needs of the children.

The auction will begin August 25 and run through November 1, 2010, offering a new item for bid every three to five days. A *general* list of items available for this year's event can be found on the News and Events page. For more information or to participate in this year's auction by bidding on an item visit our auction website at:

http://donations.ebay.com/charity/charity.jsp?NP_ID=27142,
or visit the auction site by clicking the button,
"2010 MHCO Charity Auction".

Some items available for auction include Carolina Panther Tickets, UNC vs East Carolina Football Tickets, Durham Bulls Final Home Games Box Seats, and tickets for the defending NCAA Champions Duke Men's Basketball Team.

Tina Gilreath,
Financial Development Assistant

We do seem to be getting more appropriate referrals and indications are that the census will be going back up. A Vision Committee was formed to decide on the future direction of our Home with the final task of identifying candidates for an administrator, one who will lead us into the future using the vision formed.

Development

Donations are pretty much keeping up the ten-year average for figures at this time in the year. Masonic donations, investment income, and legacies are all down from the same period last year. This is encouraging in spite of the current economic conditions. Historically, a large percentage of our yearly donations have been received during the last three months of the year, so we are still hopeful that these figures will turn in our favor. The Home has been named in several wills although dates and amounts of distribution have not been determined. We still believe that as long as we are offering a stable and safe environment for our children, individuals and organizations will continue to contribute to the Home, even in depressed economic times.

The Little Miss North Carolina Pageant raised \$16,443.70 for our Home, with about \$10,000 being generated by just one queen. The feeling from the Board of Directors is that the attendance for St. John's Day has not been what was expected when the change was made from the previous format. There is much talk about what direction we should take for future events.

Program Planning

A the time of writing this report there were eight cottages being utilized, housing forty-two children, thirty-two in Residential Care and ten in Independent Living.

Most of the children took advantage of their scheduled vacations during the summer months with their families. Fours of the residents were not returned following their vacation period. The Independent Living residents and some of the high school students with off-campus jobs remained here to meet work commitments.

The summer months were a busy time for the children with special events and trips which included Wet n' Wild in Greensboro, a Durham Bulls baseball game followed by a meal at Golden Corral, camping trips, Vacation Bible School, Camp Rainbow, and trips to the lake. Two of our residents took leadership training at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, sponsored by the National Sojourners.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie Dickerson

Alumni Representative to the Board of Directors

Dear Becky,

I have retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad and have come back to North Carolina. I am living about five minutes from my oldest son and his wife in Greensboro. Please add my E-mail address to your list: mail@mrmurphy.net.

Thank You,

Mike Murphy, Class of 1968

MHCO Update

Allen Hughes, Administrator

Our numbers are down, but several different attempts have been made to increase our admissions; still most of the calls we receive are for youth with major discipline problems or who require intensive supervision and counseling that MHCO currently is not staffed and organized to provide. We probably could fill every bed on campus if we accepted high-risk youth, but that would create an unsafe environment for the other children here and would necessitate restrictions of movement that would create the appearance of a confinement facility rather than a home. We do not use corporal punishment and are limited in the discipline measures we can use in disruptive and non-compliant situations. My goal has been, and continues to be, to make MHCO "a home away from home" for the children who are placed here.

The current resident census is 43, with 34 (14 males and 20 females) in Residential Care and 9 (4 males and 5 females) in Independent Living. At the time of this report we are awaiting pre-placement interviews for three middle school girls who appear to be appropriate for admission, and we are awaiting additional information for two high school girls. We anticipate an increase in applications the first couple of months of the new school year.

We provided a home and care for 79 different children since last Homecoming. Unlike the pre-1970 years, there is more frequent transition of children in and out of our care. A key component of our mission now is to work with the families and keep them involved with their children to try to help resolve the problems that led to the placement at MHCO. Many of the problems are temporary and children are able to return with family within a year or two, but in other cases the children may remain in our care until they finish college. The average length of stay of those here now is 3 years, but 3 of our seniors have lived here more than 13 years. The average age of the children in the Residential Care program is 12 years, 10 months, with ages ranging from 5 to 18 years old. The 9 in Independent Living are from 18 to 22 years old.

Current capacity in Residential Care is 62, with 16 additional spaces available for Independent Living. Bemis and Jefcoat Cottages (one for teenage boys and one for teenage girls) have been closed temporarily due to the drop in the number of residents. Closing of the cottages was timed with the resignation of child care workers and we have made staff adjustments by not filling vacancies until there is a need. We could admit up to 28 children without having to hire additional staff. Most of the recent referrals have been for middle school and high school females. If this trend continues we'll have to hire additional child care workers and reopen Jefcoat Cottage.

Four of the five seniors who graduated in June are participating in the Independent Living Program. Of the nine currently in the program, six are attending Vance-Granville Community College, two are attending 4-year colleges, and the other is at a 2-year school. We also are providing financial assistance to a recent graduate who is finishing her Master's Degree.

The children had a busy summer with numerous trips and activities. They hit the swimming pool every chance they had to get out of the heat. We often had the pool open at night when the temperatures were extremely hot. We continued our summer enrichment program for the elementary school children with remediation and assistance in math, reading, and other topics. Age-appropriate life skills' training was conducted for all children this summer.

With school back in session our focus returns academics. The Granville County Schools system is implementing a program to eliminate in- and out-of-school suspensions for all middle and high school students who disrupt classroom training. The alternative plan may adversely affect the special assistance we receive from Granville County Schools. Currently, MHCO will continue to have a certified teacher assigned to work with our students on

campus during suspensions or while new students transition into the school system. Most of our elementary students receive remedial assistance and tutoring after school, and middle school and high school students who are failing or need extra assistance attend supervised study with tutors. The overall campus average last year was slightly less than a B average, with five of the nine homes attaining a B average.

Receipt of a major legacy and other large gifts enabled The Home to meet operational expenses and add to the investment accounts in 2009. This year MHCO has not been as fortunate. Year-to-date expenses have been held to 18% below budget, but we still have had to draw from prior year investment income to meet financial obligations. That being said, investment income from third party trusts and MHCO investments has declined significantly as a result of the lingering impact of the poor economic conditions. Several Masonic Lodges and individual donors have made significant donations for special projects and trips so we have not had to cut back on any activities for the children.

The campus looks good and overall the facilities are in excellent condition. We have a continuing program of preventive maintenance to maintain the condition and appearance of the buildings. Masters Cottage has been renovated and converted into six apartments to help provide adequate off-duty housing for the child care workers. The work was funded by a recent gift which was partially designated for construction to recognize the donor. To recognize the gift Masters Cottage will be renamed as Hunt Hall and will be rededicated following the meeting of the MHCO Board of Directors on Nov. 12, 2010. We are contemplating demolition of the two-story wooden residence (circa 1890s) which was used for many years as the residence of the staff. The building is not safe for occupancy and is not economically repairable. Walker Building is gradually falling in the same category. We do not have justification for restoring the buildings and eventually may have to remove them.

I again ask for your help to bring more children to our Home. We can care for many more without much additional expense. I know there are many families with children we can help, but they may not know about MHCO or may think that their children are not eligible for admission here. We want to help families in need to take care of their children until they can provide a safe and secure home for them, and we will care for the children until the family can be reunified or the children achieve independence. The conditions and services we offer are more nurturing and more inclusive than when most of us lived here. It would be wonderful if we did not need homes like MHCO because all children could live safely at home with their families; unfortunately, that is not the case and many parents refuse to seek help unless they are encouraged to do so for the benefit of the children. If you know of families in need, please tell them about MHCO and suggest that they call us at 1-888-505-4357. Help them contact us! We aren't able to go out and find the children but we will do all we can to help once we're contacted by parents or custodians.

Search for Next Administrator

The Home's Board of Directors is taking a deliberate approach to the selection of the next administrator. The first step is the appointment of a Vision and Mission Committee to review what the Home is doing now. Then determine what the Home can do to help more children and families, and suggest plans and goals for the next three to five years, and identify resources and qualifications of personnel required to achieve the vision and mission. Several of the committee appointments have been announced and discussions have begun pending other appointments. The committee does not have a firm timeline but recognizes the need to finish its assignment to allow sufficient time for effective recruitment and selection of a new administrator.

Operations of the Home will continue as they are now unless the Board of Directors determines a need to implement changes. The only specific deadline set is that the current Administrator plans to be retired on July 1, 2011.

— See Admissions Support Team article on page 11.

From Orphan Boy to a Bronze Star

Dear Becky,

I am enclosing an article that was published in the 100th Infantry Division Newsletter. You may want to include it in the Spotlight. I am from the class of 1943. I had ten good years at Oxford Orphanage from 1933–1943. I worked in the Printing Shop for five of those years. After three years in the Army during World War II, I made my living as a printer in commercial shops, newspapers, and book manufacturing.

I am 86 years old as of July 3. I have heart and breathing problems, but am still able to move around. I am not able to travel. I miss going to homecoming. Until a few years ago, I went every year except two years in the army overseas.

You are doing a great job with the Spotlight.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Earnhardt

(843) 357-2693 • 506 Bay Drive Ext., Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

IN 1933 AT THE AGE OF NINE, I was placed in Oxford Orphanage, Oxford, NC after my father had passed away. I spent the following ten years there, along with the 150 boys and 150 girls that I always felt to be my brothers and sisters. In years to come it is also how I felt about all the guys in the 100 Military Police.

The orphanage had what was called a “Home Guard” with uniforms we wore while out in the neighborhoods collecting scrap metal for the war effort. The news of Pearl Harbor made us realize we weren’t just playing soldiers and a number of the boys who were of age joined the Navy, Army and Marines right after learning the news that war had been declared.

After graduating from John Nichols High School at Oxford and their School of Printing in 1943, I was inducted into the Army on the 4 June 1943 at Fort Bragg, N.C. On 18 June, I received my orders and found myself on the way to Fort McClellan, Alabama, where I received my thirteen weeks of basic training. As in all basic training, we learned to march, took twenty-five-mile hikes, along with the weapons training covering M1 rifle and the Browning BAR. The one thing that sticks in my mind the most about there was that is was about the hottest place on earth. We would be on the parade field for long periods of time and they would have to carry soldiers who had fainted off to some shade trees.

After completing my basic training on 23 September 1943, I was transferred to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, along with eleven other guys who also had been in the ASTP. We were ordered to report to Major Cherry in the Provost Marshal’s, office of the 100th Infantry Division. There he explained what it would be like as an infantryman in an infantry regiment, and said he would like to have us join this Military Police Platoon — all twelve of us chose the MPs.

It wasn’t long after that part of a platoon was sent to bring prisoners back to the base that had come in from Africa. Another duty we had to pull was patrolling around the base and in the city of Columbia, South Carolina.

On 7 November 1943 we left Fort Jackson to join up with the 100th while it was on Tennessee Maneuvers, which matured us and built our confidence in preparing us for what laid ahead of us in France and Germany. On these maneuvers we learned how to operate in the mountains in all kinds of weather while directing traffic, moving troops and equipment. Along with this we had the duty to patrol and police the town in the areas. From Cartage to Murfreesboro, the 100th Division learned how to fight as a team while living under almost impossible conditions caused by rain to mud.

By 17 January 1944 we finished our winter maneuvers and moved to Fort Bragg, North Carolina for more training while the division built up to full strength. As military police, we continued

our duties of directing traffic on the base and pulling patrol duty in Fayetteville. For the most part, the troops from the 100th while on pass in Fayetteville didn’t cause trouble, whereas the 82nd Airborne on the other hand gave us a few problems. Those who were arrested for fighting and drinking were locked up at the local jail and remained there until 0200 hours.

At one point I had become a little disappointed due to having been promised a higher rank, but never received it because most of the new troops coming into the division ranked corporal to sergeant.

It was while at Fort Bragg, I learn how to handle and ride a Harley 45 motorcycle up embankments and to dismount it without getting hurt. Other MP training included judo, defending ourselves with a nightstick, and learning to fire the .45 pistol.

By 30 Sept. 1944 we were boarded a train to a staging area a Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, where we waited for further orders. As we waited, I was able to get a pass and went over to New York a few times with a buddy who knew some girls who worked in a bank. It was quite an experience for this country boy.

Word finally came down and we found ourselves boarding a transport ship bound for the European Theater of Operations. On 6 October, I boarded the George Washington with our Military Police Platoon along with some 6,000 other guys of the 399th.

After being at sea for some two weeks, we pulled into the harbor of Marseilles, France, on 20 October.

Late that night I climbed down a rope ladder to a landing craft, which took us ashore. I was glad to put my feet back on dry ground once again. It was dark by the time I got ashore and no sooner had we arrived than we were strafed by a plane. After the all clear was given, we climbed in the back of a truck which took us twelve miles to an area where we set up our tents for the night. The following morning I helped in the digging or the latrines.

Within days we began our duty of directing traffic, equipment, and troop movement as they came ashore and moved into a staging area. At the end of the following weeks orders came to pack up to move out and we found ourselves heading north to the area near the Rhine River where the 100th Division was to relieve the 45th Division near St. Remy. As the convoy moved north, we would go along in our jeeps, keeping things moving along. Civilians along the way would be waving as the convoy passed by and gave wine and flowers to the GIs. It was here the Vosges Mountain campaign began on 3 November 1944.

From 15 to 24 November, the 397th and 399th liberated fourteen towns from Raon l’Etape to Oberhaslach and covered some thirty-five miles with the taking of 1,037 prisoners. As we came into Raon l’Etape, we set up in the town hall, with Division headquarters arriving the following day and setting up in the town’s square. No sooner had we arrived than we came under sniper fire and had to have troops take out the sniper who was in the church steeple. The civilians had rounded up some women who had collaborated with the Germans and were shaving their heads before they stripped them of their clothes and ran them out of town.

Captain Alden K. Small was in headquarters as an assistant to General Burress. After the war he retired and became an active member of the 100th Infantry Division, North and South Carolina Chapter.

Sergeant Henry L. Houston was my squad leader and after the war worked with the Charlotte, NC school system. Henry and his wife, along with my wife and myself, attended ten 10th Division reunions together. He and his wife always invited about a dozen MP’s couples to their mountain home each year.

One of the first things we had to help with as we came into the towns and villages was the collecting of all the firearms. By the time we had finished there would be a wagonload of guns. I recall having



received a letter from my grandfather — with whom I had lived before being sent the orphanage — asking if I came across a shotgun, he would like it. Returning to the town and after explaining to them how I would like to send one to my grandfather, I was told to leave his address and it would be taken care of. As I left I thought that maybe they will, but if they didn't it wasn't going to be a big deal. Do you know they didn't send him just one, but three!

From Raon l'Etape we worked our way north liberating towns and villages along the way through the Maginot Line until we reached the area of Bitche. While the battle for Bitche was going on, we military police to guarded a large motor pool.

While at Rohrbach, Fred Mills was the only one in our squad who was wounded. He took a hit in his leg by a sniper and was the only one in the MPs to receive a Purple Heart.

My biggest problem during the winter was trying to keep my feet from freezing as I stood in knee-deep snow while directing traffic at night. To keep my feet warm, I wrapped my feet in paper before putting my boots on. We directed some British vehicles and these British soldiers would stop along the roadside and have tea.

Most of our duties were behind the lines but that's not to say we were far from the shelling and strafing. There were times I would be directing convoys and had to jump into the roadside ditch due to strafing by enemy planes. As individual vehicles came by we would stop them and ask a number of questions because German troops were dressing in American uniforms.

After Bitche was taken, it seemed like the Germans started surrendering by the droves. I recall in one town of having to stand guard over about 100 prisoners as we waited for trucks to pick them up to take them back to a POW camp. We were getting so many prisoners at a time we couldn't get trucks fast enough to take them off our hands. As we received the Germans one of the first things we did was searched their wallets. When we came across the SS soldiers we separated them from the other soldiers. For the most part they never gave us any trouble and were glad the war was over for them. They would even give us the pictures they had and tell us of their families.

The civilians of the towns and villages that the division liberated were glad to see us. They would come out to hug you and offer something to eat or drink. In these towns and villages the civilian made a homemade whiskey and on one occasion Edward Bahn, from Denver, Colorado, had overdone it, so to speak. We took cover as Eddie stood there firing his rifle in the air until he had cooled off.

My most impressive memory was the battle for Heilbronn, Germany. We had just laid out bedrolls for the night in an old mill building in Eppingen, Germany, which is near Heilbronn. Around 0200 hours, an officer came in saying he needed a detail to go into Heilbronn. Joe Myers and I were picked. We arrived at a building from which they were directing tanks across a pontoon bridge. I advised the officer we were from the 100th MP Platoon and were there to help in the directing of the tanks across the bridge. No sooner had the engineers completed one track across the bridge, I ran for the other side. As I did the bridge took a hit from the Germans, knocking out a part of it. I had taken cover against an embankment.

On the other side, Joe and I had dug a hole just under the bridge in the embankment and were maybe about 100 yards from the pontoon bridge. As we sat there a signalman came running across dragging a phone line and phone. After putting a stick in the ground next to our hole he hung the bag and phone on it. Looking at him I said, "Ain't no one going to be calling here." Lo and behold, a colonel from the artillery called a number of times for help in directing fire.

As we set there waiting on the engineers to finish working on the bridge, we could hear the fighting raging just above us in the factory. For the most part as we sat there, we had more incoming shelling there on the banks of the river than small arms fire.

A few hours later the engineers had laid a new track and the first tank made its way across. I guided it a 100 yards to the right and behind a white two-story house. From there the tank made its way down a narrow dirt road and every time it left the cover of the building it came until small arms fire. While this was going on the second

tank had started making its way across the bridge and as it did another round came in and hit the bridge, knocking a track out again. This went on for about twelve hours and we had only gotten four tanks across safely. By evening Joe and I were advised that we were being relieved and in so doing we started running back across the bridge with Joe behind me. I made it into the building where headquarters was set up and Joe had taken cover behind the old bridge. Just as I got inside they told me my buddy had been hit by an incoming round. Hearing it I

rushed back to where Joe was lying just as they were placing him on the stretcher. The following day Joe died from the shrapnel that had hit him in his head and I felt as if I had lost my brother. We learned later that they found some German youths who had been sitting in the top of a tower directing fire for the German troops who were shelling the bridge. Joe Myers was the only person out of the Military Police Platoon — which was made up of ninety men — who was lost during the war. Joe was awarded the Silver Star and I was awarded the Bronze Star for our action during the battle for Heilbronn. Joe's father and brother were members of the New York City Police Department.

Our Orphanage English teacher, Mrs. Sallie Mae Ligon, kept up with the boys who were in the service. She would write me if one of my classmates was near me and I would try to look them up. I remember this one time she had written to tell me about a boy who was nearby and after getting permission I went to see him, only to learn he had been killed the day before.

Following Heilbronn the division liberated town after town until we reached Stuttgart, Germany. Our platoon lived in Gieslingen until 3 July 1945. While here we built a ball field honoring Joe Myers.

At the time of the German surrender the division had been in continuous front line fighting for over seven months.

After the war was over, we were sent to Stuttgart, Germany, as occupation troops where we did our usual MP duties working with the local police until 20 November 1945. We didn't have any big problems with the ex-German soldiers or civilians. The biggest problem we had to deal with was the black market that was going on in the plaza in the middle of Stuttgart. The big thing was we had to break up arguments. One of the areas I had to patrol was the autobahn, which I did on motorcycle.

From there we were moved to Esslingen, Germany, and remained there until 25 January. Or next stop was Elwangen, Germany, and we were there until 3 February.

Our last stop in Europe was Camp Top Hat in Antwerp, Belgium, where, after living in twelve-man tents, rain, and mud for two weeks, we crowded onto the victory ship SS Sheepshead Bay and headed home. On 1 March 1946 as we arrived in port at New York City and the Statue of Liberty came into view. A big shout went up. Everyone was thankful and glad to be home again. *We just wanted to get home and start a good life.*



Alumni servicemen on a visit to Oxford Orphanage in 1944, left to right: Bob White, US Marines; Bill Langston, US Navy; and Joe Earnhardt, US Army.

Ben Currin: "Town/Orphanage Boy"

Anyone who ever lived on campus, or went to school at John Nichols knew the difference between a "townboy" and an "orphan boy." Ben Currin got caught up in the middle. His father, Tomas B. Currin, and mother, Lois Currin, were educators at the school, dad being the principal, and mom teaching third grade. Attending school at the Orphanage gave him a great education and taught lifelong lessons in discipline and respect, and gave friendships that still remain today. He cherishes those days so much, and like all of us, not a day goes by without the memory of a coach or teacher, and life lessons he learned from them.

Shortly after graduation in 1968, Ben enlisted into the U.S. Army. There were several reasons for that decision, but one sticks out more than others. He remembers seeing J.D. Page return to campus in his dress uniform and said, "That's what I want to look like." J.D. was a sharp looking soldier and military policeman.

Ben completed Basic Training and Infantry Training, and received his orders for Vietnam, in which he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. His tour in Vietnam was a "challenge," but again, campus life and the love and support from friends and family made it bearable.

After returning home in August 1970, he remained in the Army as a career soldier. Other assignments that followed were Drill Instructor duties at Ft. Jackson, SC; a paratrooper and jump master in the 82nd Airborne Division at Ft. Bragg; US Army Recruiting Command in the Raleigh recruiting Battalion; and, finished his career by serving as member and Team Leader with the Army Parachute Team Golden Knights, again at Fort Bragg. He retired from the Army in 1991, just a block from where he began in 1968.

The years that followed carried him here, there, and everywhere, but in 2002, he returned to Oxford, where he still resides. His beloved father passed away in 1994; however, his mom is doing well at the youthful age of 92.

Ben is enjoying life! He took his music and band years from the nightclubs to the church, where presently he is a Deacon and Praise Team leader at New Horizon Baptist Church in Oxford.

Ben stated that, "Looking back, I have been blessed. I had the best family and friends growing up, especially my orphanage friends, whom I considered family."

His military career was a remarkable experience, and taught him so many of life's lessons, which he uses today. However, the ultimate highlight in his life, is the work he does for the Lord on a daily basis! Being a Christian make other things we do and have done mean something, and make life very worthwhile. He continues to remain and keep his social life quite active — golf, motorcycles, and yes, an occasional sky dive.

Ben is still a Town/Orphanage boy! Recently, he became a member of the Oxford Orphanage Alumni Board, which has been a wonderful reconnection with his Orphanage family.



Ben, left, with Army buddy, "Bandito."

Caught at this Summer's Farmer's Market Breakfast



Summer Fun Recipe from Becky . . .

No-Machine Vanilla Ice Cream

(Adapted from Cook's Country Magazine, June/July 2010)

- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- Scant 2/3 cup white chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 cups heavy cream, chilled

Combine sweetened condensed milk and white chocolate chips in a large bowl. Microwave for 30 seconds, then stir. Microwave 15 seconds longer, if needed, stirring just until chips melt. Let stand a couple of minutes until cool, then stir in vanilla, salt and sour cream.

Whip heavy cream with an electric mixer about 2 to 3 minutes, until soft peaks form. (When whisk attachment or beater is lifted, the cream will form a peak that slumps over at the top.) Whisk a third of the whipped cream into the white chocolate mixture.

Fold in remaining whipped cream, drawing gently up and through mixture with a rubber spatula, mixing well but trying not to deflate the whipped cream.

You could also stir in mini chocolate chips or pureed fruit when you fold in the cream, or dissolve a little instant coffee with the condensed milk.

Place in an airtight container and freeze until firm. At least 6 hours. Press a sheet of plastic wrap on the surface of the ice cream to keep ice crystals from forming during longer storage.

Class of 1970 to Celebrate 40th Reunion this Year

THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING will be the 40th Class Reunion for the John Nichols School Class of 1970. Where has all the time gone? Seems just like yesterday that we were running the halls, flirting, playing sports, and hiding from staff members. Pictured are a few of the 1970 Class members. Join them for this special Class Reunion at Homecoming 2010 — October 8, 9, 10.



Clayton Peele, left, and Timmy Jones, with Donnie Payne, '65, middle, sneaking up on them. "What you boys laughing 'bout?"



Good friends and Class of '70 members: JoAnn Jones, left, and Kathy Ellis.

Monroe Tart's "Oxford Orphanage" Eastern North Carolina Bar-B-Que

(This recipe feeds 40 people at 0.45 Pounds per Plate.)

MEAT: 4 medium size Boston Butts, or approximately 28 lbs.

Salt for Meat: 6 oz. Black Pepper for Meat: 2 4-oz. cans

SAUCE: 1.3 gallons

Vinegar: 108 oz.

Worcestershire Sauce: 7 Tbs.

Crushed Red Pepper: 4 Tbs. Tomato Sauce: 3 12-oz. cans

Tomato Paste: 3 6-oz. cans

PREPARATION OF MEAT: Salt and Black Pepper to pre-season meat prior to cooking. Sprinkle Salt and Black Pepper over all sides of the Boston Butt. Place on the grill or in a baking dish in the oven (fat side up). Cook meat for 2½ to 3 hours at 375 F. Use fork to break the fat apart or a knife to score tic-tac-toe style, and turn over. Cook meat for an additional 2½ to 3 hours.

PREPARATION OF SAUCE: While the meat is cooking, prepare the sauce. Put all the ingredients into a stainless steel pot (*not aluminum*). Bring to a boil and let simmer for as long as you desire. The longer it boils, the hotter the sauce becomes. Check occasionally! Usually 25-30 minutes is plenty of cooking time. Try to plan to have the sauce done about the same time the meat is done. Sauce should be added to the chopped meat when both the meat and sauce are hot. Be careful adding hot sauce to the meat.

When meat is done, fork should easily go in and out without any effort. Only clear juices should come out. Bone should easily pull out without much effort. Take meat out of oven and let it cool for a little while so that the meat can be handled. When chopping remove any slimy/greasy fat. Leave crispy/crunch fat as that adds flavoring.

MIX MEAT & SAUCE: When meat is done, chop to desired consistency and add sauce to chopped meat to the desired seasoning. Remember, you can add more but you can't take it out if you add too much. Additional sauce may be added to the meat afterwards, if some prefer it that way. Serve hot.

STORE LEFTOVERS: Leftovers may be stored for several days in the refrigerator or placed in freezer bags and frozen. Remove from freezer and place in refrigerator a day before you plan to use the leftovers. Warm in a pot or microwave.

MEMORIES OF RICKY VICK

Recently, I was saddened to learn of the death of Ricky Vick who lived in Butner, North Carolina.

I remember when he first came to Oxford Orphanage in 1957. He was about three years younger than I and his first job on campus was working on the farm. His first assignment was hoeing corn. A new boy would always begin by working with an older boy. He was on one side of the row, and I on the other side. We spent a week hoeing corn in the 40-acre field and in the bottom land near the big creek. I showed him how to tie blades of johnson grass around his hands so he would not get blisters. I had the opportunity to show Ricky all of the foolish and fun things to do, like saining the big creek, playing in the swimming hole, rolling snakes, and smoking monkey cigars (seed pods from a catawba tree).

He and I remained friends until I graduated in 1965. Later, when my wife, Sandra Rice, '65, and I opened our print shop in Creedmoor in 1993, Ricky came in to get some printing done for his swimming pool maintenance company. I did not recognize him for he had white hair and a long white beard. After a moment it came to him who I was and we immediately renewed our friendship. I always enjoyed his visits to our shop.

I miss him and the memories we shared. Too soon, our friends are gone. He was a good student at the orphanage, and a good man.

— Hiram Webb, '65

from Becky's Healthy Recipes . . .

Melon Salsa

Make an easy summer melon salsa!

Mix ¼ cup lime juice, 1 tablespoon honey, ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, and ⅛ teaspoon salt in a bowl. Add 3 cups diced seeded melon (use any ripe melon or combinations of melons you like), 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro, and 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced. Toss gently to combine; cover and chill until ready to serve.



Alumni E-mails

Year	Name	E-mail Address	Year	Name	E-mail Address
	Richard B	Adams flspa@msn.com	1956	Steve	Faucett steve.faucette@durhamnc.gov
	Theresa	Adams tkb181@yahoo.com	1956	Rebecca	Flores rflores@dhgc.com
1957	William D	Albertson walber2531@aol.com	1959	Robert	Forbes cforbes1@carolina.rr.com
1947	Mary Newsome	Anstead ga7652713@aol.com		Martha Gardner	Forehand commercialprintingservice@yahoo.com
1975	Sandra Baskerville	Anstead ansteads@bellsouth.net		Jimmy Sunny	Frederick jusjimntx@worldnet.att.net
1951	Ernestine Clark	Armstrong clark60@comcast.net		Loretta & Robert Dillehay	Ganderson sunnyganderson@yahoo.com
1967	Mike & Kathy	Arrington Mike.Arrington@altec.com	1953	Tangia Whitaker	Garner halca35@live.com
1954	Maynard Libby	Austell glaustell@aol.com		Floyd M	Gatlin tangia84@yahoo.com
1986	Melissa	Avery toodamtired@msn.com	1939	Terry Mills	Gibbs educateoof@aol.com
	Marion L	Aydt daydt16109@charter.net	1976	Bill	Gilliland terry.gilliland@volkert.com
	Chris	Barker catsdaddy-1@hotmail.com	1989	Tina Givens	Gilreath feller33@yahoo.com
1963	Frances Hunter	Bearden jcbwoodchips@yahoo.com	1989	Nicholas	Gonzalez oxfordorphan89@gmail.com
	John	Belk jnbelk@aol.com	1969	Deborah Brown	Gough goughd@gcs.k12.nc.us
1971	Rita Murray	Benson benson1@sccoast.net	1955	Hazel Powell	Gunns hgunnss@wooil.com
1955	Bunnie Harris	Black bhb@bhblack.com	1973	Henry Archie	Guyton hguyton2@nc.rr.com
	Robert Lee	Bowman bowmanrobertlee@bellsouth.net	1975	Cindy Guyton	Hall cindy_hall@ncsu.edu
1952	Ernest Lee	Boyette ernestboyette@bellsouth.net	1967	Earlene Heath	Halliwell earlyseptember@yahoo.com
1957	Gae Hill	Boyette gae@bellsouth.net		Emily Cole	Hamrick ecole200@msn.com
1952	Willie Lee	Brannon, Jr. WJR5301@aol.com	1971	Melvins Eddings	Harris mharris@windstreams.net
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	David L	Bryant csdlbryant@verizon.net	1967	Larry	Heath carlisnot4sale@aol.com
1961	David A.	Bryant dbryant18@ec.rr.com	1945	Don	Hensley outracin@hotmail.com
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1947	Herb & Betty	Colenda colenda3707@yahoo.com		Hazel Strum	Koffel hazel2@bellsouth.net
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1972	Steve	Colenda inspector@cityofcreedmoor.org		Pat Ward	Koshada dreamcicle56@yahoo.com
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1965	Robert H	Critcher critchersbc@gloryroad.net	1970	Bonnie Gray	Lamb blambr@aol.com
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1976	Dorothy Regan	Daughtry ehd312@aol.com	1975	John Russell	Liverett rstar2000@triad.rr.com
1943	Bill	Davenport willdavenport@comcast.net	1955	Shelby Adams	Lloyd salloyd@ec.rr.com
1943	Lynwood L	Davenport lldavenport@aol.com		George	Loftis georgeloftis@yahoo.com
1954	Violet Sowers	Davenport vdavenport@nc.rr.com	1955	Patty Cobb	Lorah cobbllorah@aol.com
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	Larry E	Davis ldavis3@triad.rr.com	1950	Cecil W	Mashburn Cecilw@verizon.net
1955	Victor Jack	Debnam jdebnam836@aol.com	2001	Jonathan	Mastro jonjoemastro@gmail.com
1967	Laurie & Bunny E	DeBose lbdebose@ec.rr.com	1970	Jo Ann Jones	Mastro jomaxhimer@gmail.com
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1984	Angie Givens	Doby sugarbuggy2@yahoo.com	1959	Bob W	McLendon bobandsara0211@aol.com
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1971	James	Earp caearps@aol.com	1958	Andrew F	McMillan mcmillan13@nc.rr.com
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1956	Phillip	Edwards beepjtown@northstate.net	1955	Mary Willis	Merrill mmerrill5@ec.rr.com
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			1985	Debbie	Mullis msdude@carolina.rr.com
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1961	Benjie	Rice	Provost benpro@sbcglobal.net
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1992	Wendy	Rivers	wrice@mhc-oxford.org
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1967	Andy	Smith	asilva7@nc.rr.com
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Continuation of Administrator's Report from Page 5 . . .

Admissions Support Team

Allen Hughes, Administrator

Several alumni and Masons have responded to my plea for assistance in finding children we can help, and some have come together as a group to coordinate efforts to help increase admissions to the Home. Bob Batchelor has assembled a team to address the challenge, and several of the volunteers met on campus after the OAAA Board meeting on August 21 to address the problem. I appreciate the support of all that attended the meeting. In addition to Bob, the following have volunteered to work with the team: John Belk, David Braswell, Earl Bryant, Nita Bunker, Van Edwards, Tina Gilreath, Frank McMillan, Donnie Payne, Art Stone, John Stone, Newton Wilder, and Billy Willis

The low census of children currently in residence is a major concern to me as well as to the MHCO Board of Directors and many alumni. The census has declined as a result of national and state initiatives by child welfare agencies to keep children with their families and out of residential homes like MHCO. Frequent reports of abuse or death of children caused by family members is evidence that sometimes children need to be moved away from their family and community to get the safety and care they need.

Practically all residential homes, especially those which do not care for children with major mental health issues, have had a decline in resident census. In the past two years, the number of children in foster care in North Carolina also has declined. Although the low numbers coincide with recent changes in child welfare programs, they have triggered a lot of speculation and rumors about the future of our Home. We can ensure that our Home continues to operate as we do now by getting the number of children in care back to near capacity. The care we offer, at little or no cost to the taxpayers, should make MHCO an attractive alternative when out-of-home placement is appropriate.

Our Home should be an easy "sell" if we find the right audience. We should make this challenge of filling our beds with disadvantaged children a primary focus of our alumni.

We request that as many alumni as possible attend Homecoming, October 9-10, and participate in the business meeting at 11:00 a.m., Sunday morning, October 10, to join in the efforts to support our Home.

Why would you even think of not coming to Homecoming this year? . . . Looks like lots of fun!



The Spotlight

c/o Becky Lee
2543 Barwick Drive
Durham, NC 27704
