

THE SHIPMATE

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CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The next event planned is our Christmas Luncheon which will be December 17th at 1:00 p.m. This will give Juanita and Woody a couple of days to unpack from their cruise. Juanita said she will have the house decorated for the holidays before they leave. Mark your social calendar now and plan to be there.

Their address is 1420 Bridgeport Trail, Suffolk, VA 23432. Directions are as follows: Route 17 across Godwin Bridge, at the stoplight turn left on Crittenden Road. Go to the end and turn left on King's Highway. At the second street turn left. Their home is on the left.

If you are coming from Route 58, take the bypass to Route 10, come off ramp like going to Smithfield to Route 125, turn right on King's Highway at the Old Country Store and the 7-11. Go to Bridge Point Trail, turn left. In case you get lost, please call Juanita or Woody for directions. Their telephone number is 757-255-2456.

This will be a covered dish luncheon. Please bring a vegetable dish or dessert. Fried chicken will be furnished. The Calling Committee will be calling to find out if you plan to attend. Just remember this is on Friday, December 17th.

What a busy year this has been for everyone!

Hasn't it been wonderful with all the activities? What a great reunion celebration. The committee did a terrific job - I don't think anyone was ready to leave. The place was perfect, not to mention the music, and everyone seemed to enjoy seeing friends and just "catching up." One teacher was present and she sat at my table, Mrs. Metzler. She confided in me that she never could get her typing up to the speed she wanted to accomplish. Remember all those speed tests she used to give us? I thanked her for all the typing drills because typing has certainly been an asset. (If only I could master the computer.)

Irma DeLauri wrote the following and sent it to me via e-mail:

"What a fabulous reunion! I will always remember our 60th with fond memories. Barbara Jordon and her committee out did themselves. Everything was just perfect and not only showed great creativity and good taste but brought back happy memories. Beverly K. Byrd and her committee did the decorations. While Beverly did not graduate with us, she is a vital and loved part of our group. The alumni are in debt to those agreeing to serve. I personally want to thank each one of them and commend them for a job well done. (I believe I heard some of them say they would be glad to do it all again in 2015!)

Please accept this as my humble expression of appreciation for the lovely corsage. I have 'pressed' it into my bible and will remember you all with fondness.

(Remember when we would press our flowers from the proms and other occasions?) To those of you who could not make the reunion, put on your calendar the third weekend of October 2015 for our 65th. After all, we may not be around for many more!) Can you just imagine what we will all look like at our 65th!

While I am giving out kudos, let's all give a big thank you to June Dickerson, our treasurer, for keeping our finances straight and for being such a good steward for our classes. The thread that keeps us together and still going strong after 20 years is our newsletter. Not only does Mae Thompson make us aware of what's going on, but she also shares important information through The Shipmate. She does all of this in a creative way and most of the time all by herself. Send in your news, creative writings, joke, pictures, etc. Phyllis Carruthers developed our program and provided all of us with addresses, both street and e-mail. And what would we do without our "card lady"? Mary Annarino has been sending all those thoughtful, funny and meaningful cards for a long time. We can help Mary by letting her know who needs any expression of good thoughts or well wishes. You can reach her at 757-487-0121.

Lynear Cahoon is our chairlady. She and her husband, Roy, hosts the fantastic annual fish fry every October.

Alice Simpson is Lynear's sister-in law, co-chairs our group. Alice and Rudy hosts the annual picnic at their lovely home on the Elizabeth River, in June of each year. Our annual Christmas party is hosted by Juanita and Woody Woods. What a wonderful time we have each December!

To those of you who did not get a program

at our reunion, our poet Howard (Dan) Mallison wrote the poem and you can reach him at hdmark@hotmail.com. Well, I suppose I have left someone out, oh yeah, that couple who are always behind the scenes helping out. B and F Johnson are not seeking commendations, they help out for the good of the group. Nina and Joe Simons have taken on the responsibility of our name tags. After all, we would not know who we are without them! If I've left you out, forgive me and chalk it up to senility.

Again, I did so love the flowers and the meaning behind them. If you consider me your God Mother, I am truly blessed and know somebody up there does love me in spite of all my faults. My family and I thank you all for the cards, prayers, phone calls, concerns and warm wishes.

Have blessed holidays and Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas to you all."

Class God Mother, Irma

Barbara Jordan sent a picture of those attending the breakfast on Saturday morning at Lillian's. Those attending were Irma DeLauri and son, Jimmy, Eleanor Guthrie Jackson and daughter, Mike Cole Jackson (1945), Jerri Cole Byrum and Dick, Barbara Ferebee, Lowell and Janice Eller, Iris Davenport Kolesar and George, Joyce Overton Jonak, Hugh and Vivian Smith, Gwen Riffle Clements, Ruth Williams Buck, Betty Lou Johnson and Reggie Sweat, Beverly Kayton Byrd, Barbara and Stan Jordan. I'm told the breakfast was a good time of fellowship.

Anyone who would like a picture of those attending the reunion, please let June Dickerson know as soon as possible. The cost is \$25.00. This will have individual

pictures as well as candid shots.

Pat Delauri, Irma's son and our adopted classmate, said this morning he is sorry he could not make the reunion and breakfast, but to let everyone know he'll plans to be at the next event. He is feeling much better and thanks to everyone for the prayers and cards.

Lowell Eller and Janice write from Tarboro, NC a few lines expressing their gratitude for all who helped with the 60th reunion. Janice says "this was my first but Lowell has been once before. There was such a good turnout, everyone seemed to be having a good time. So well organized, food was good, music was excellent.

Lowell had such a great time trying to figure out the names with faces. It's been a long time since he had been to Cradock.

We also enjoyed the breakfast the next morning. We really got to talk to a lot of classmates - more intimate group, only about 20 people.

Before going back home to Tarboro, we took time to cruise through Cradock and Brentwood (where Lowell's parents lived when I met him). Hasn't changed much!

Lowell and I have been married 53 years. We have two sons and one daughter, four grandsons. We have a very full life.

In closing we would also like to thank all of you who make The Shipmate possible and get it out to all of us. Bravo!"

I have the pictures Janice sent and will bring them to the spring luncheon to see if someone can help identify the people. Lowell wants the pictures returned to him.

June Dickerson, Chesapeake writes: "I just thought I would like to let everyone know how much I enjoyed the 60th Cradock Reunion. The Hilton Garden Inn was a really nice place to have the reunion. The outer lobby provided a great space for all the memorabilia and for everyone to congregate and visit and renew acquaintances before being seated at a table. The food was very good and the service too.

Thanks to the Reunion Chairman and her committees for a wonderful job in making it a most pleasurable evening. The decorations were beautiful, thanks to Beverly Byrd and others. The music (provided by Dick Meeker) was most enjoyable and the novel idea Barbara had for entertainment was so good idea. I think everyone enjoyed the brief glimpses into the memories each shared.

A special thanks to Phyllis Carruthers for the time and effort she put forth to make the reunion booklet which we all received, Jim Myers for the memory boards, Nina Lou Simons for having all our picture badges, to all who contributed time and effort and to all who came from far and near to make it the memorable reunion it was.

And here's hoping the Memory Book with all the photographs that were taken will turn as well as the reunion."

Bet all those who could not be here for whatever reason, will plan to attend the next one! Five years pass to quickly.

Milton Elliott, Richmond, VA sent this Letter to the Editor of the Richmond Times Dispatch and it appeared in the Saturday, October 30 edition.

High School Memories Should Stay Untouched

"In mid-October, members of the 1950 senior class of Cradock High School gathered for its 60th reunion. I declined the invitation because I wish to retain vivid memories of the approximately 720 days of high school (1946-1950) we shared - remembrances of how we were.

Our class numbered a few more than 150, just about all of whom I knew and many of whom I considered close friend. Those years have long since vanished, as has Cradock High School, and the then independent town of Cradock in Norfolk County where it was located. Yet that does not diminish our education experience, guided by teachers of quality and administration that insisted on strict standards of behavior - always supported by parents who expected nothing less.

Even now my thoughts are animated by a simple cheer. There was a moment when - across the planning surface of Cradock Memorial Stadium, used primarily for football, and within the confines of our then gymnasium, primarily for basketball - there echoed an exhortation: "Two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar - all for Cradock, stand up and holler"!

When articulated by Nina Lou, Billie Sue, Mary Ruth and other members of the cheerleading squad, clad in their bulky white knit sweaters featuring a gleaming gold A (we were the Admirals) on the front, crisp white pleated skirts, rolled-down bobby socks over those ubiquitous brown and white saddle oxfords, it always evoked a boisterous response as hundreds of supporters rose and roared.

What more appropriate metaphor for friendships acquired and validated by associations and the commonality of teenage accomplishment and anxiety; 60 years later it remains time to be cherished. That's the Cradock High School - and those who joined me then through its halls, classroom and experiences -- I choose to remember.

Milton J. Elliott III, Richmond.

Please remember the Christmas Luncheon on December 17th at 1:00 p.m. Also its almost time for the annual dues of \$10.00 which are to be sent to June Dickerson, 829 Colony Manor Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23321. Mary Annarino is the one to call if she should send a card.

Time and space are running out and there is so much to tell you. That will have to wait until the next Shipmate which should be sent out in early February. Please send me news for this letter and let us know what's going on with you. My address is 4200 Summerset Dr., Portsmouth, VA 23703, e-mail maerthompson@cox.net, phone 757-483-6902. Next letter will have pictures from the reunion and/or Christmas Luncheon.

I haven't even mention the October Fish Fry at the Cahoons. It was so much fun and the food was so good. Lynear and Roy always do a wonderful job. Thanks to Frank Johnson and all those to helped. Thanks to the Cahoons for opening their home and putting up with us each year. We love you!

Take care! Wishing everyone the very best for the coming year.

Mae Thompson, Editor
(Forgive errors, all mine)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.