



# TIGER RAG

Little Rock Central High School  
Class of 1957  
Little Rock, Arkansas



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## *Editor's Corner*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!



We can hardly believe it's now 2010!! Remember when this 'new age' seemed so far away? Life has a way of sneaking up on us. This must mean we've had a happy life. Sad lives drag on and on. We could attribute this to preparing for our future life, rolling with the unexpectedness life bestows from time to time (sometimes good, sometimes not so good) and friendship with others. We think the longest friendships are nearly always the most meaningful. Aside from our relatives, we might think of those we've known since we were small. We could say that those friendships helped mold us from early childhood to the present and, hopefully, our tomorrows. Environment plays a big part in us, but in the environment, we think close relationships with like personalities play an even greater one. We're thinking here about all of you – those of you some of us have known since we began school, thru junior high schools, on into high school and college and even beyond. We've got a few fellow students who fell in love with each other early on, married, lived a productive life and are now retired and enjoying each other's company...still!!



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To sum up on this newest century, this new decade and this new year, HERE'S TO YOU!

May all of you have the happiest, most prosperous and the healthiest year of all! Here's a few articles in the January Tiger Rag to help you maintain that lasting togetherness with all of us from LRCHS, Class of '57.

*Beni Brown Wilson & Joyce Whittecar Brewer, Co-Editors*

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## FEATURED ARTICLE

### FRANCES ROOTS MITCHELL ROSS

*By: Joyce Whittecar Brewer & Beni Brown Wilson, Co-Editors*



We made up our wish list of classmates we wanted to interview for each publication. One more we selected has come to fruition! We are impressed with Frances Roots Mitchell Ross's life. We liked her as a teenager and we like her as an adult as well. She has a devoted sense of love and duty toward her friends and family, which we admire. We are so lucky to have Frances as a friend and classmate. Please enjoy a slice of her life with us here.

Q. When and where were you born?

A. Trinity Hospital, Little Rock, February 7, 1939

Q. Can you give us a summary of your life during the decade between 1957 and 1967?

A. In September of 1957, Lucy Belle Murphy and I left Little Rock on the train for Hollins College, now Hollins University, in Roanoke, Virginia. I remained for two years then transferred to the University of Arkansas, graduated in 1961, completed a Master's Degree in History there and taught for a semester as a graduate assistant. After completing my M.A. in 1962, I was offered a one year teaching appointment with the History Department and completed that in the spring of 1963. On June 15 of 1963, Bob Ross, who was a lawyer in Little Rock, and I married. About a month later I began teaching history at Little Rock University, now UALR. In 1966 our first child, Mitchell, was born and the next year I received tenure at the university.

Q. Please tell us how you met your husband. Was it 'love at first sight'?

A. Bob and I both remembered a 1961 Moot Court Trial during his law school days in Fayetteville as the first time we met. He was one of the attorneys. My father, Will Mitchell, who at that time was president of the Arkansas Bar Association, was the judge and I was on the jury, recruited by a law student. I ended up as foreman of the jury. Bob's team lost – he always joked about the jurors being partial to the lawyers on the other team more than to the facts – but that was our first meeting. We didn't really start going out until 1962.

Bob died quite suddenly on June 19, 2008, two weeks after our anniversary and two weeks after he and Mitchell had returned from a business rewards trip of Mitchell's to the Cayman Islands. Bob loved that trip. He also attended all of our LRCHS reunions. He and Dave Thorne, attending with his wife, Peg Hannah Thorne, often teamed up and had as much fun at the parties as the class did.

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Q. Have you always lived in Arkansas? Where has been your favorite place?

A. Except for the years away in school, Little Rock has been home.

Q. Would you tell us briefly about your family members? We noted that lovely cover photo of your daughter in the Soiree Magazine, October issue, 2009, for instance.....

A. Thank you. All three children, who are all Central High graduates, live in Little Rock. Mitchell married Kelly Fausett and has two children, a daughter, Courtney and a son, Mitch. Ginny, born in 1968, married John Deuschle and has four daughters, Starr, Lila and twins Blakeslee and Hollis. The six little ones range in age from thirteen to eight. Mary Starr, born in 1972, and Wade Brock married in November 2008. Their child at the moment is Howie the dog, who is about eight months old.

The Soiree Magazine that you mentioned featured a story on the Centers for Youth and Families in Little Rock. Mitchell, Ginny and Mary Starr have all been active with the Centers. The organization began with their great, great grandmother, Elizabeth Mitchell. For thirty-four years Mitchell was president of the Children's Aid Society in Little Rock, which was later named the Elizabeth Mitchell Memorial Home in her honor. This is the oldest agency that is now part of the Centers and celebrated 125 years in 2009. Both Bob and my mother, Virginia Mitchell, were also involved with the agency.

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Q. What are you doing at present?

A. I'm still at UALR. During my years there I have taught a variety of European and American History classes, Women's History and Oral History. Most recently I've focused on World History, an expansion of what many would remember as Western Civilization. Research has included women in territorial Arkansas, Arkansas women at the turn of the twentieth century, a history of women in the Arkansas legal profession as well as histories and oral histories of United States District Judges of Arkansas.

Q. Any highlights in your life that stand out for you?

A. These fairly recent events would be some. In late July of 2001, Ginny's and John's twins were born. That in itself was a highlight and one that I expected, although since they arrived over seven weeks early, we had a lot of anxiety. They were small, but fine. The family was living in Manhattan. I had arrived the day the babies were born to stay for several months for whatever help I could be with them and with their two and four year old sisters. Then the unexpected happened. Just a few weeks after the babies' births, the towers went down. While we were not close enough to see the buildings, smells from the burning were strong. As the horror of it became increasingly clear, we called a hospital to give blood and were put on a list. The next day I went to the hospital to try again. I was put on the list again. Then, on the way home, I passed a long line of folks wanting to donate and got in that line. We were given slips of paper indicating that we'd be contacted. I never was. All I could determine was that there were so few survivors there wasn't a great demand for blood. We spent the rest of that fall watching all four girls thrive and sharing in the sorrow with New Yorkers as they worked toward recovery.

Q. What do you do for fun and relaxation?

A. Not much, but what I do is usually kid oriented. On the weekends, and some weekdays, I go to basketball games, football games, soccer games, volleyball games, etc. Whatever sports are in season that they are playing. One day each week I have a different one of them over after school. We'll do something – in October it was painting mini pumpkins and doing other things for Halloween – then we have supper. They usually do some homework, too, which takes me way back in time.



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Q. Do you travel? If so, any favorite destinations? Why?

A. Some really outstanding travel opportunities happened many years ago. For example, spending several weeks in the interior of Alaska in and near the village of Tanana. A few years later, I had a trip of about six weeks traveling in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt with stops in London, Paris, Rome and Athens. The latter trip occurred in 1965 when my brother, Jim, was teaching in Beirut and my mother and I were fortunate to be able to visit. Bob taught some of my classes at LRU while I was gone. We arrived in Beirut at the time of the Hajj, the pilgrimage season of Muslims to Mecca. Our travel within and between these countries was by taxi, Volkswagen bus and a couple of plane trips. Jim and I also took a daytrip by motorcycle into the mountains and small towns of Lebanon. Each country, the cities and rural regions all offered unique insights into the history and culture of the area.

While in and around Beirut, visits took us to the ski lifts at the Cedars of Lebanon, Roman ruins at Baalbek, horse races, "Zorba the Greek" at the movie and the coastal town of Sidon. A skilled taxi driver transported us from home base in Beirut to Damascus, for a stop that included a visit to the beautiful Grand Mosque or Umayyad Mosque built in the early 700s that holds a shrine said to contain the head of John the Baptist, considered a prophet in Islam. Our arrival in Damascus coincided with Syria's Independence Day, which residents celebrated throughout the streets of the city. After a night in Damascus, we drove on to Jordan and soon passed a short procession – about three cars. In the third car was the 30 year old King Hussein, who waved. By nightfall, after a stop in the old Roman city of Jerash, we reached Jerusalem, much of which was controlled by Jordan at that time. The lands west of the Jordan River, including Jerusalem and an area called the West Bank, have been controlled by Israel since the 1967 War. This put us in Jerusalem for several days during the Easter season with stops at sites holy to religions and with more in Bethlehem. Jerusalem, at the time, was divided between Israel and Jordan, which was evident by walls, barbed wire and Israeli soldiers perched in windows of buildings, whom we were assured would shoot anyone who went too close. The road out of Jerusalem led to a village that was expecting a visit from the recently named Crown Prince of Jordan, brother of King Hussein, who arrived in his heavily armed light blue Mustang convertible. We were invited to join in the festivities. Then came Petra, Jericho and nearby refugee camps, signs of the ongoing conflict; Qumran and the Dead Sea where we tried to swim but mostly floated, and finally Cairo with side trips to climb Khufu's pyramid and visits to Memphis and Sakkara. All in all, it was an amazing time.



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More recently, in February of 2008, Bob and I, with Little Rock friends Virginia Ann and James Buttry, joined my brother Jim and his wife, Libby, who now live in Maine, for the Quebec Winter Carnival and celebration of Quebec's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From there we drove to Greenville, Maine, rented snowmobiles and crossed frozen Moosehead Lake to get to the Mitchell vacation house on Kineo Island. (Well, it's really a peninsula, but without auto access.) James, who was by himself and travelling for his first time in a snowmobile, got separated from the rest of us on snow covered unmarked paths and trails as dark was setting in. We all felt a great relief when his snowmobile finally showed up.

Maine is often a destination point. I went back in December of 2008, in the summer of 2009 and since my sister-in-law, Libby, is a candidate for public office in 2010, and a niece is getting married, I'll be going again.



Q. If you could go back in time, what would you do differently?

A. Probably work in more trips, although there have been some other grand ones.

Q. Is there anything special that people don't know about you?

A. Many wouldn't know that in the mid 1990s I suggested the name 'Six Bridges' to identify a proposed district linking the downtowns of Little Rock and North Little Rock. The name came from an early 1960s Highway Department photograph titled "Six Bridges at Little Rock," that documented completion of the sixth bridge. My copy of the photograph originally belonged to my father.

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Q. Community history and preservation interests?

A. For almost 100 years my parents owned a wonderful home on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Scott, across Scott Street from the former East Side Junior High School. With my interest in history and belonging to a family with a historic home, preservation was a natural. Through friendship with the late Peg Smith of Little Rock, in about 1970 I joined the Quapaw Quarter Association of Little Rock and later served as president for two terms. Following that was an appointment to the Capitol Zoning District Commission, set up to protect the neighborhoods around the capitol and the mansion, which I chaired for a few years. I presently chair the commission of the Historic Arkansas Museum (formerly Arkansas Territorial Restoration) of which Gordon Rather is also a member, and serve on the board of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas. It's been good news that the city has been working on a new historic preservation plan.

Q. Can you name three people you would like to meet, assuming you could choose anybody from the past to the future of the world?

A. My interest in history has included family history and I would love to meet my great grandparents. There would, of course, be more than three. I've written short articles about some of them and have found their lives and work really fascinating. The three, about whom I've written, are Elizabeth Mitchell, mentioned earlier, her husband, James Mitchell, who founded the Arkansas Democrat Newspaper and Logan H. Roots, who helped negotiate a property trade between Little Rock, the state, and the federal government that resulted in the establishment of Fort Roots in North Little Rock.

Q. Who would you invite to a cozy fantasy dinner party...and why?

A. While it might not be considered a cozy, fantasy dinner, Bob and I always enjoyed having the family to last minute suppers on Sunday evenings. I still do that some. I'd like to do it regularly with children, grandchildren, sisters, brother, and their families and with Bob and my parents joining in.

Q. When people remember you, what would you like to stand out?

A. Love of family, friends, living in the present and learning about the past.



## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

### SNOWFALL

(No Pun Intended)

*By: Tom Bates, Contributing Editor (Europe)*

EDITORS' NOTE: This piece was written in February 2009.



Bavarian Chapel in the Snow

Our weather over here has been awful. We have had snow almost every day since Christmas. Now the problems are really showing up down in Bavaria. They have had about 12 feet of snow, in the Garmisch area the biggest problem is 3 meters of snow on the roof tops...this is a real danger due to the weight.

One man who is 83 years young was up on his roof shoveling snow but the shovel got stuck. As he was trying to free the shovel it started to slide; he rode the shovel down; he picked up speed riding the shovel, hit the road below and went up the other side landing on his neighbor's roof. He was not hurt at all.. The Rescue Team from the fire department saw him and got to him within 3 minutes. He asked them not to tell his wife..."she would worry about it"...they learned later that she didn't know where he was. He went to the local Gasthaus for a drink and to gather his wits after the incident. His wife only saw him coming from the tavern, headed for home. Do you think she might have had a few choice words for him as he 'weaved' home?

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- Quote -

Ideas are funny things: They don't work unless you do. -- Lou Holtz

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## MOONLIGHT, OLD SPICE AND KETCHUP

*By: Joe Garrison, Contributing Editor*



REMEMBER back in the '50s, when the weekly "Dragnet" show came on and Sgt. Joe Friday would open it with "The story you are about to see is true; only the names have been changed to protect the "innocent"? In presenting the next tale, I shall coin his phrase with minor modifications. "The story you are about to read is true, only the names have been changed to protect the "guilty". DUM-DA-DUM-DUM!

We begin our story in the hallowed halls of Central High School in the year of 1956. It is approximately 8:30 a.m. and the corridors are crowded with students visiting prior to the first bell signaling them to make their way to their respective home rooms. Guys and gals meet briefly with their circle of friends to catch up on the latest happenings. In the group I hung around with the topics discussed were never about English, History, Math, etc., but invariably focused on the beautiful flowers who walked past us in their bobby sox and saddle oxfords. These innocent beauties caused an intoxicating stupor in many of us and would have (as Webster defines the word) "an effect on the nervous system so as to lose control of it and make wild with excitement". Yep! I think Mr. Webster got it right when he describes the girls of '57.

One morning, Ernie Ducktail (as I shall call him) entertained the group with his exploits on the previous evening and the unbelievable good luck he'd had with his date. He rambled on and on about it even though it seemed a little exaggerated. He had met two very attractive sisters from another school west of Little Rock whose parents were so strict, that whenever they had an opportunity to slip out they were eager to make up for lost time. When out, the rules and taboos of which they felt prisoners, were tossed out the window. Ernie had discovered that the parents would be going to a church function the coming Friday night, leaving them alone for a few hours and he was sure they'd be more than willing to get out for a while. Then, Ernie said that he needed someone to go with him for the other sister. Now, if this sounds too good to be true, it is! A trap was being set for some poor soul.

Fast Eddie Quick (as I shall call him) was gifted with many attributes such as being a member of the Key Club, a halfback on the Tiger football team, and was state champion in the 100 yard dash for the track team. However, if he should receive a grade on his success with the girls, he would probably get a C-. Eddie was quick to volunteer to accompany Ernie the coming Friday night. Who knows, maybe his luck was beginning to change. Anyway, he needed the experience. Eddie had fallen victim to a ruse conjured up by a few devilish fellows known as "The Shotgun Trick".

At the agreed place to meet the girls, their father and brothers (played by some of the guys in the group) would appear instead. As violators of his daughters' purity, Eddie and Ernie would be confronted in the darkness with a bright flashlight which blinded Eddie, then the angry voice of the father accusing them of spoiling his daughters, and lastly, the firing of a shotgun into the air at which time Ernie (part of the plot) falls to the ground slapping a packet of ketchup on his white t-shirt pretending to be fatally wounded. The plan called for getting Eddie down on his knees confessing his sins and pleading for mercy -- but that didn't happen. The natural instinct of a 17 year old boy when he hears a shotgun blast close to him is to run like never before and this would be Eddie's reaction. He'd come that Friday night bathed and reeking with his Old Spice aftershave (you could smell him a block away), seeking love with a very amorous girl but stark terror

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would be there to greet him. It went down this way: the flashlight went on, the angry 'father' spoke, the shotgun went off and Eddie vanished! All that could be heard in the darkness was the sound of his feet hitting the ground and fading in the distance as he sought to avoid the violent end which had just happened to Ernie. He, being a champion of the 100 yard dash, reached top speed in a few seconds, then we heard a SPLAT, then only silence. Eddie had run into a small tree ending his rapid escape. We hurried to where we'd heard the sound and found him on the ground dazed, disoriented and a little scratched up but, thankfully, no broken bones.

As we helped Eddie up, he asked for a cigarette which was strange since he didn't smoke. I guess he figured he deserved one after the fright. Someone handed him a smoke and another offered a lighter but Eddie's hands shook so badly that one of the guys lit it for him. Then, it was time for all to laugh! When Eddie left in his car for home, he peeled rubber for about a block.

I saw Eddie at his locker the next day and looking at his back side, he appeared normal. It was only when he turned around that his face and head looked like he'd stuck it in a bobcat's cage. As he left his locker, he gave a smile and a wave. I think he was just glad to be alive. He seemed to have a new outlook and perspective on life. What a sport!

Others fell prey to the shotgun trick including a minister's son (no, not Carl). He, too, would become stupefied by the possibility of meeting these voluptuous sirens. Everything went off as planned except the shotgun failed to fire. He being a minister's son was then threatened with Biblical stoning. Laughter in the background ended the episode for him.

You may wonder who were the instigators of this insidious prank. Ask some of the members of the '57 Tiger football team. They know.

As I said earlier, the beauties of '57 had an intoxicating effect and kept many of us guys walking around in a fog for three years. In fact, when our school days ended, I took one of these flowers home with me. We've been together 52 years and her beauty increases with time. She still keeps me warm on these cold winter nights.

The Big Bopper said it best for our Wonder Years: "Chantilly lace and a pretty face...and a pony tail a hangin' down...a wiggle when she walks and a giggle when she talks...makes the world go round...ain't nothin' in the world like a big eyed girl, makes me act so funny, makes me spend my money...makes me feel real loose, like a long necked goose...like a girl! AW, baby, that's what I like!" Yes, they did! I feel like dancing! Where's Barbara!



## COFFEE TOGO?

*By: Tom Bates, Contributing Editor (Europe)*

Benjamin is our grandson here in Germany. He lives with his mother, Diana. Benny is very good in school and makes top grades in all of his classes. Every time he gets a chance, he speaks English with us. Yesterday he told us about his English class. His teacher is a young woman who has never been to any country where English is spoken.

Benny said it was a reading assignment they had to read aloud ... the topic was "Phrases & Expressions." One of the boys was reading a paragraph where he pretended to be a customer at MacDonald's... "I would like a Big Mac, hold the pickles, and a cola with ice" ... the class would critique the reading and give their interpretation of it and the meaning. One girl asked why someone would hold a gurken (pickle) ... was it something for arthritis? Would not a cola with ice be a Coke Float? ... Germans call ice cream "Ice" ... it is spelled "Eis"... sounds the same either way. Benny had to explain the meaning of these phrases.

What really brought down the class was one boy's reading as another customer placing his order at MacDonald's... "I would like a coffee togo." ... this stumped the teacher ... she looked at Benny and asked if this was a misprint. Benny looked at the book. It read "A coffee to go". He read it correctly, and said the whole class had a good laugh and his teacher was embarrassed with a big red face.

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## IRISH EYES

(TWO IRISH TRIPS)

*By: Jim Carvell*

I have always had an affinity for Ireland. It probably started with my mother singing Irish songs to me when I was young. Tracing back on her father's side, I find that I am one quarter Irish. Most of the other tree branches go back to England but there were probably some Irish sprinkled in there so I maintain I am OVER one quarter Irish. (Cousin Ned Downie, LRCHS '57 can make the same claim.) In any event, my wife, Nell, and I made treks to the Emerald Isle in March 1992 and in September 2009.

On our 1992 trip, there was still some conflict between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland as we were checked at the borders and saw armed soldiers in public places in Northern Ireland. While we were somewhat apprehensive, there were no incidents. As one of our hosts in the Republic said, "You are probably safer than you are in downtown Dallas but if you see a car parked all by itself, don't go stand by it." Only a little reassuring. By 2009, tensions had eased to a large extent. No soldiers, no border checks and fewer political slogans painted on buildings.

The Irish people are personable, friendly and helpful. They like to talk and tell stories. I would only suggest that you not get into political discussions, especially in the pubs. No need to fan the fire of hundreds of years of tension. Besides, they have their opinions on American policies as well. They have a wonderful sense of humor. See the picture below for an interesting commercial enterprise.

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### 1992 A Seacoast Trip

We made it our goal to cover as much territory and see as many things as possible in two weeks time. Accordingly, we drove (on the left side of the road except when I forgot and Nell would remind me: "Left. LEFT, **LEFT**") around the entire coast of Ireland, staying in a different B&B each night. Although it was not always as comfortable as a hotel, we found staying in B&Bs a very good way to get to know the people and to get suggestions of sites to visit that might not be in the guide book. After spending St. Patrick's Day in Dublin (I think there were more Americans in the parade than Irish), we drove south through County Wicklow and the beautiful Wicklow Mountains to County Waterford where we toured the Waterford Crystal Factory. No factory outlet store there; any item with a flaw goes back into the glass pile to be melted again.

We went on to Cork, the second largest city in the Republic, mainly to see Blarney Castle and I hung upside down and kissed the stone. A bit touristy but I just had to do it. We took the coastline road to experience the beautiful sea views and sheer cliffs then to Dingle, a pretty little fishing town where several movies have been filmed including *Ryan's Daughter*. From there we headed along the coast toward Galway, stopping at the spectacular Cliffs of Moher rising some 700 feet above the Atlantic. Not far from Galway, we visited Cong, where one of my all time favorite movies, *The Quiet Man*, was filmed.

From there we went to County Donegal in northwest Ireland – my personal favorite in all of Ireland. It is an unspoiled area where the predominant language is Gaelic, also known as Irish. Where previously the road signs had both English and Gaelic, there they are only Gaelic. The countryside and views of the Atlantic are beautiful and the houses look like a painting with their white walls and thatched roofs. If one didn't do

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anything but look at the beautiful fields of green with their rustic stone walls, it would be worth the trip. Forty shades of green is not an exaggeration. There are remnants of stone castles everywhere with sheep or cattle grazing nearby. Just the names of the towns, some familiar, some not make you want to visit: Killarney, Shannon, Enniskillen, Kinsale, Ballycastle, Limerick, Cork, Galway, Innisfree, Rosscarbey, Letterkenny, Killybegs and on and on.



#### 2009 A Northern Roots Trip

This time, we made a ten day driving trip but concentrated on the northwest of the Republic and on Northern Ireland, the place from where my Great Great Grandparents emigrated in 1842. On this trip, we stayed two or three days at each stop and just drove out to experience the countryside. We stayed in guest houses of five to ten rooms and were somewhat more comfortable than B&Bs (after all, we are as old as you) but still had Irish ownership and served the famous "full Irish breakfasts." After spending several days in County Donegal, we headed for County Down in Northern Ireland. On our previous trips we had visited attractions such as the Giants Causeway, Londonderry and Belfast so we concentrated on root tracing and the beautiful Mourne Mountains. I had already found through family records that my GG Grandparents, John and Mary Downie, had been married at Knockbracken Presbyterian Church in County Down in 1824. They and my Great Grandfather immigrated to America in 1842. Research on the internet showed that it was still an active congregation in the same building. It was a thrill to attend worship in that very church and wonder if I were sitting in my grandparents' pew. This is me standing in front of the church and as you can see, it was built in 1806 although the congregation was formed in early 1772.

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I highly recommend a visit to Ireland, both the Republic and Northern Ireland. The scenery is beautiful, the culture and history are evident, the people are warm and friendly, and despite what you might have heard, the food is good – especially the full Irish breakfast. I'd pass on the blood pudding though.

#### IRISH BOOKS AND MOVIES:

There are many books about Ireland but here are three that give its flavor and storied history as well. And some movies, too.

*McCarthy's Bar* by Pete McCarthy. This is an entertaining book about contemporary Ireland. The English author goes to Ireland to visit some of the places from where his ancestors emigrated and to visit relatives still there. Along the way, he makes it his goal to visit any pub named McCarthy's. He certainly enjoyed having a pint or two at the local pubs and in doing so gained insights into the locals, particularly outside the cities. He also makes observations on foreign visitors, not always complimentary. He ends his trek in County Donegal at St. Patrick's Purgatory where, while though not particularly religious, he takes part in a grueling pilgrimage where legend says St. Patrick did the same.

*Jaywalking with the Irish* by David Monigan. This is another contemporary book, a non-fiction story about an American family with Irish roots that decide to move to Cork with the possibility of making it their permanent home. Their experience with the locals and getting an understanding of the real Ireland is very interesting. You'll have to read the book to see if they decide to stay or return to their Connecticut home.

*Trinity* by Leon Uris. This classic book of historical fiction will give the reader an insight into the history of Ireland and how "the troubles" came to be. It follows families on both sides of the political spectrum. A wonderful read. *Redemption* is a sequel which follows the same families as in *Trinity*.

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*The Quiet Man.* This movie features John Wayne as an American fighter who killed a man in the ring and returns to his parent's birthplace in Ireland to find some peace. It is a romanticized picture of Ireland but the scenery, the accents and the characters are wonderful. Maureen O'Hara is cast perfectly as the headstrong Kate who is the Duke's love interest. Of course there is a wonderful fight with Wayne and O'Hara's brother that takes place over several acres of Irish countryside and ends in a pub with the combatants as best of friends.

*Michael Collins.* Collins was an Irish leader who in the 1920s was a key player in establishing Ireland as a free state, independent of England. With an excellent cast of Neeson, Quinn and Roberts it gives a vivid but painful picture of the fight for independence. The country did not become completely independent as the settlement Collins brokered left six northern counties (Northern Ireland) as part of Great Britain. The tensions continue even until today, although conflicts have abated.

*Ryan's Daughter.* The movie is set during WWI and while Ireland was not a participant, the conflicts for an Ireland free from the British rule continued. Watch a critical role by John Mills as the mute "village idiot."

*Waking Ned Divine.* A rollicking Irish tale (although it was filmed on the Isle of Man) of Ned who dies of shock when he wins the lottery. The townsfolk conspire to make it appear that Ned is still alive and collect the winnings. Plenty of Irish humor and beautiful scenery.

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## THIS & THAT

If you have a friend, you have it all.....

*By: Joyce Whittecar Brewer, Co-Editor*

*Excerpts from the Miami Herald*

I've been blessed with a small devoted group of friends from my school days in Little Rock, Arkansas. It's strange but these friends were some of my closest friends in school but we lost contact with one another for many years. In fact, most of these friendships were just reunited less than ten years ago!

Now, I keep up with them via email, phone calls, pictures and visits. Though we live hundreds of miles apart, we can tell each other anything, picking up the strands of various subplots.....spouses, children, siblings, work, retirement, health and juicy gossip.....right where we left off so many years ago. We vent, we rage, we analyze, we pick apart, we gossip and most of all, we laugh. A lot! Laughter is a wonderful thing for all of us.

I've also been blessed with some new friends that I didn't know in school. They have become equally important to me and are a part of my life. Most of them I've met from the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion or through working on the Tiger Rag.

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None are 'yes' people, and that is a trait I especially value. They encourage me when I'm right, tell me when I'm off base and they guide me in the right direction. As disparate as their backgrounds are, they all excel at listening, an essential quality in a friend. But most of all, they CARE about me.

We should all engage in friend-to-friend sessions on a regular basis, as diligently as we take our vitamins. We take medications for cholesterol, high blood pressure and, in my case, a bum back; why not fill a prescription for our psyches? Having a strong network of friendships will make your life better.

My friends have leveled out those tough hills in my life.

Yes, if you have friends, you have it all.....

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## WHY THE 1956 TIGERS WERE UNDEFEATED

*By: Buddy Laing*

reprinted from Writers' Rendezvous - 1957

Many people think the 1956 Tigers were one of the finest football teams ever to be at Little Rock Central, if not the finest. There are several reasons why the fans should feel that way, for the Tigers set numerous records on the gridiron this past year.

One of the major reasons for their success was the superior coaching they received. The coaches at Little Rock devote much time to football, trying to smooth away the rough spots in the offensive and defensive maneuvers. The system is highly organized and comparable to many of the medium-sized colleges in the United States. The plays are both deceptive and powerful, with enough versatility to meet any need. The defenses are the result of many hours of thought and trial, polished for maximum efficiency. The Tiger mentors also stress the fundamentals; therefore, this program prepares the team for situations in the game which could not be met otherwise.

Scouting is another advantage of the Tigers. Each week the players on the team received several mimeographed sheets with information on their next opponent. This booklet showed what type of offense and defense the team played and gave the number of times they ran each play. This was very helpful to all in preparing for the game, but was more beneficial to the defense than to the offense.

Another benefactor was the superior players of the Tigers. It was the general opinion before the season that the team would not be too strong, but the boys had the desire to be better football players, and therefore improved week by week until they had achieved what no other Tiger football team had in a decade, an undefeated season.

The Tigers, then, had the material to be a good team, although they were not experienced at the start of the season. The backs had the power for the short yardage play and also the speed for the breakaway run. The passing game and kicking game were also more efficient than in the past years. The line was inexperienced at first, but as the games passed and the boys became more experienced, all opposition was crushed by a very strong Tiger line.

Continued



The defense, who held seven opponents scoreless, was also very instrumental in the success of the Tigers. Their stiff defending kept the chances of defeat slim, by holding the opponent's score down. This aided tremendously in the fight to an undefeated season.

The excellent facilities at Tiger Stadium also aided the cause. The Tigers practiced and played garbed in the best equipment money could buy. The games were played in one of the finest high school stadiums in the nation. With dressing rooms conveniently located in the stadium, the Tigers could use either Kavanaugh Field or Tiger Stadium.

The training room is the finest in the South for a high school, and each injured player received the best care possible. The equipment is modern and ranges from muscle stimulators to heat lamps. This is indeed a great boon to Tiger athletics.

These Tigers started green and inexperienced, but through hard work, good coaching, and desire to play football, became one of the finest teams ever to play for the black and gold.

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## THIS MAN? AND THE HAT....

*By: John Jacobsen*

reprinted from Writers' Rendezvous - 1957

I once saw a man wearing a hat,  
But his head was too short and too flat,  
And when he put it on  
The poor man, he was gone,  
And we never saw him again after that.

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## SONNET ON SNOW

*By: Gail Burke*

reprinted from Writers' Rendezvous - 1957

The angry sky is clouded with dark gray,  
And the freezing wind has ceased to blow.  
What could brighten this dull and dreary day?  
Why nothing but the soft whiteness of snow!  
Soon delicate feathers begin to fall  
Silently, softly, to the frozen ground  
Where they settle quietly over all,  
Covering everything with purest down.

Continued

The sun shines brilliantly from above,  
Making the crystals sparkle with its rays.  
A blinding light hovers like a gay dove  
Over the quiet hills for many days,  
Snow gives radiant beauty to the bleak,  
A bright personality to the meek.

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## Movie and Book Reviews

Jo Nell Kelly Kocisko, class of 1958, loves to read the Tiger Rag and she is now helping us out with some movie reviews.

Jo Nell and her husband bought a series of tickets to attend a screening of movies that come out in theaters about two weeks later. This event was sponsored by their Educational TV Channel and the films were shown in a nice theater at the Academy of Television Arts and Science. (Jo Nell lives in southern California)

At the conclusion of each movie, there was a question and answer period from the audience and the guests could act as the producer, director or actor starring in the film. This experience was very enlightening and gave them a broader range in viewing different movies.

### "That Evening Sun"

This movie starred Hal Holbrook and Mia Wasilkowska and was filmed in Tennessee. There were a lot of 'twists' in the film regarding raising children and understanding them as they grow into adult hood.

At the end of the film the director encouraged the audience to explore different possibilities for the outcome of the story. He made us realize there is never a winner in a no – win situation. Surprisingly, there was a happy ending!

### "JULIE & JULIA"

Beni Brown Wilson saw this movie back in September, 2009. She felt it was delightful with Meryl Streep portraying the famous Julia Child and Stanley Tucci as her husband, Paul. The story involved some of their life together as well as a young woman, unknown to Julia Child, who decided to cook every recipe in the Child Cookbook! It was a 'feel good' movie of superior quality.

### "THE GUERNSEY LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY"

Beni gave this book a 'thumbs up' review. She said this was a terrific read - just about the best thing she's read in a long time, except for 'Water For Elephants.' The author, Annie Barrows, did a lot of research for this story involving the Channel Islands during the German Occupation as a backdrop – actually, it's aftermath in 1946. The novel evolves through letters written by a British writer to people who inhabit the Isle of Guernsey.

Continued

## "WATER FOR ELEPHANTS" – by Sara Gruen

Ms. Gruen adapts a life in the circus to one of the best reads we've had in a long, long time. Her novel tells us of the life of a senior citizen presently in a nursing home and his memoirs of his circus days – and there were many interesting ones! It was recommended reading by two of our classmates and we're so glad we took their advice and read it.

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"Count stars. Listen to the wind. Laugh. Play. Dream."

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Yellow Knife, Canada - a warm glow, 40 below!

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## CLASSMATE UPDATE



Bob Axtell



Paul Shepherd, Sr.



Sylvia Swaim McWilliams

Continued

Captain Bob Axtell, Paul Shepherd, Sr. and Sylvia Swaim McWilliams – We are sorry to report that we have lost our beloved classmates Bob, Paul and Sylvia. There is a full obituary of each, reprinted on our class website under the “In Memoriam” section. They will be missed.

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## **‘DO NOT STAND AT MY GRAVE AND WEEP’**

Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there.....I do not sleep.  
I am the thousand winds that blow  
I am the diamond glints on snow  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain  
I am the gentle autumn rain  
When you waken me in the morning’s hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of gentle birds in circling flight  
I am the soft star that shines at night  
Do not stand at my grave and cry  
I am not there....I did not die.

Author Unknown

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## **LOVING and LIVING**

“To love abundantly is to live abundantly, and to love forever is to live forever.”

~ Henry Drummond

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The first issue of the Tiger Rag came out in January 2008. Charles Humphrey published the first issue.

In April 2008, Joyce Whittecar Brewer wrote the following announcement regarding the Tiger Rag.



Are you tired of reading the same old thing every day in your newspaper? Wouldn't you prefer to read something new? Well, I think we have something just for you!

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, you should go to our web site, [www.lrchs57.com](http://www.lrchs57.com) and you will be surprised to see that we have a brand new newsletter. It's called the 'TIGER RAG.' Pour yourself something to drink, sit back, relax and enjoy.

This is the first edition of the 'TIGER RAG' and our only hope is that it will continue to get better and better. This newsletter is for you!

Enjoy!

We believe that the 'Rag' has gotten better and better AND it has been and will continue to be a success. Everybody on our staff has done an outstanding job but now the job requires a tremendous amount of time and work. Therefore, we have decided to reduce the number of issues from four per year to two per year. We will have a JANUARY issue and a JULY issue for you to enjoy.

Sincerely,

The Tiger Rag Staff

### 'IMPORTANT NEWS ALERT FOR THOSE THAT ENJOY OUR LRCHS57.com WEBSITE'

It's now 2010 and we need your help in order to keep our Website active.

We want to extend a very special 'Thank You' for those who have made contributions in the past and we hope that others will be encouraged to participate by making a contribution this year.

A few classmates thought they were paying only for the Tiger Rag. This is NOT the case. The Tiger Rag is just part of the website.

Your contributions pay for the Hosting Fees which have to be paid to our Hosting Provider, Earthlink.

Our Goal is to keep the website until 2012. We cannot achieve this Goal without your help.

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS

Continued

## Make checks payable to:

Advanced Consumer Enterprises  
210 East Caldwell Drive  
Beaumont, Texas 77707-1920

Thank you,

Charles C. Humphrey  
LRCHS Class of 1957  
Webmaster

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## CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION



In the July 2009 Tiger Rag, we said that Jerry Lee Masters, class of 1957, was in the process of writing his Memoirs. The title of his book would be "BEEN THERE DONE THAT" and it would be released in the fall. After checking, we discovered that there are over 4,500 books with that title.

Jerry and his publisher have decided to change the title to, "HANGING FROM A TREE BY MY KNEE'S." The Jerry Lee Masters Story. "Let It All Hang Out." The new release date will be issued after the first of the year 2010.

This is a book you definitely will want to read. We'll keep you posted!

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## Readers Forum

We are happy to say that we received many nice compliments on our October issue of the Tiger Rag. We thank you for your support and we're pleased that so many classmates are enjoying the 'Rag.'

Readers are always welcome and encouraged to send emails to us regarding their thoughts and opinions.

Please email us if you would like to write an article or be a featured guest.

Tiger Rag Staff & Editors,

[bbwilsontiger@comcast.net](mailto:bbwilsontiger@comcast.net)

[joycebapt@gmail.com](mailto:joycebapt@gmail.com)

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2010

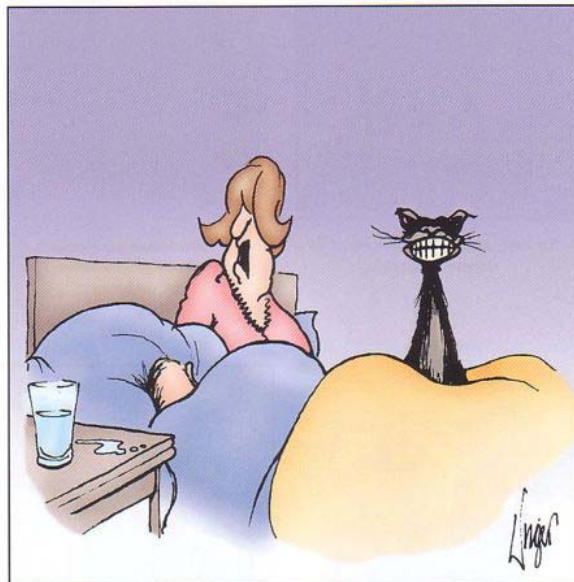
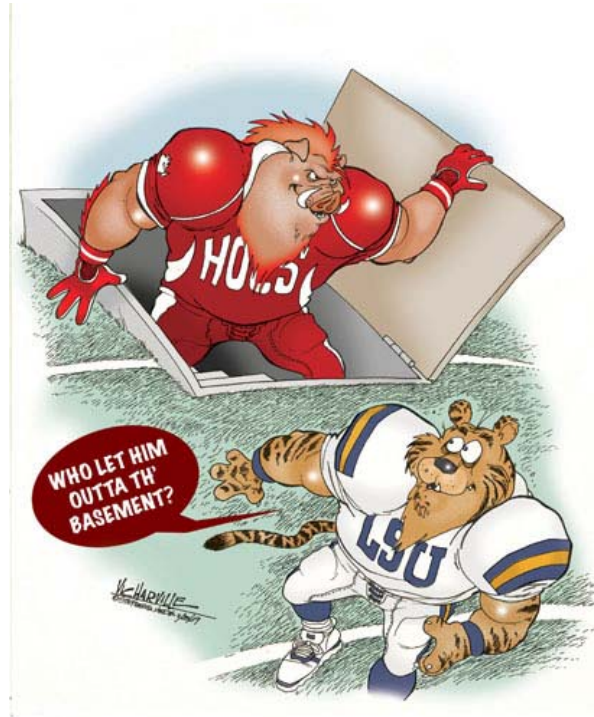
### 'A Pattern for Living'

Keep a prayer on your lips  
A song in your heart,  
And a reverence for life in your soul.  
Let faith be your courage  
and hope be your star,  
and love be your ultimate goal.  
Then care about others,  
And help them along  
Give freely when someone's in need.  
Be ready to teach  
And willing to learn  
Be able to follow or lead.  
Keep a heart that remembers  
The good, not the bad,  
Keep the power and grace to forgive.  
With life's finest and best,  
And contentment each day that you live.

author unknown.....

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## TIGER RAG CARTOONS



"Wake up. The cat's got your teeth."





PLEASE COME BACK  
FOR FUTURE ISSUES  
OF TIGER RAG

YOUR TIGER RAG STAFF

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