

THE SHIPMATE

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2009

FISH FRY

Thank you Lanier, Roy, Frank and everyone else who made the fish fry so much fun, and especially the Cahoon daughters. What a team! Every year the fish fry gets better and better. The weather was so cooperative we could not ask for a better day. About 44 people attended and it was a constant buzz just trying to listen to all the conversations going on. Roy not only caught the fish but he cooked them too. Of course Frank is our designated cook for hushpuppies, and what a selection of food, especially desserts! No one left hungry. Several people attended that haven't been coming. Barbara Jopson Jordan, and Beverly Kayton Byrd, Betty Cummings Klise and Arleen Schwab, was home for her 55th Cradock reunion. She now lives in Hawaii. Everyone had a wonderful time and appreciate all the hard work. Thanks to Barbara Johnson for providing pictures taken at the fish fry.

I sure hope all of you are checking the Cradock website, www.cradock.org. The webmaster is so good about keeping us up-to-date about Cradock happenings. The "Coming Home To Cradock 2009" was so well planned. Not too many from our class were on the Square when I was there, but I appreciate the hard work of the committee. The entertainment was good too, and you should have smelled the food! Bev Sell said she has the very best committee ever.

Our next event is the Christmas Luncheon which will be December 12th at 1:00 p.m. This will be at the home of Juanita and Woody Wood. 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 the third house 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, third house on 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. Please bring a vegetable or dessert. Fried chicken will be furnished so please mark your calendar today and plan to attend. The Calling Committee will be calling to find out if you plan to attend.

Betty Klise, Chesapeake, VA writes: Just a note to tell you how much your card meant to me. A card may seem a small thing but it can have a very big impact. This one certainly did with me. Also, the many hugs and kind thoughts expressed at the fish fry touched my heart more than you can know. What a great group of people. But hey! That is the kind of folks Cradock produced back in my day!

Our group has experienced many losses -

Our group has experienced many losses - spouses, children, other family members, and of course our class members. We know that is a part of life, but we also know that life continues for us and for those who have gone on ahead. Thanks be to God.

I am looking forward to the Christmas Party because the fish fry was terrific.

Thanks again for everything. Love, Betty

Al Lassiter, Vienna, VA writes that he really appreciates the Shipmate and all the news and says it really makes for a nice day when the Shipmate arrives. "Earlene and I are truly blessed many times over. We have two children, ages 48 and 53 and seven grandchildren. Thanks to a great God all are healthy and well." Al and Earlene are quite involved with their church. They have been living in the same house for I believe he said 48 years and he enjoys yard work. He is looking forward to our 60th reunion.

Many of our classmates have been making news lately. Roy McGehee just celebrated his 80th birthday. His children and grandchildren had his picture in the Virginian Pilot saying how proud they are of him and that he is the best Dad ever. Isn't that wonderful? Looking good Roy and we all wish you a great year.

Richard Hudson's picture was in the paper recently. Richard plays basketball for the Portsmouth Area Golden Olympics. His team has been competing in both state and national tournaments since 1992 trying to win a national title in men's basketball at the Senior Olympic Games. Richard, we wish your team luck in winning!

Irma DeLauri, Chesapeake, VA writes:

Greeting Alumni,
What a great time we all had at the fish fry. Lanier and Roy are great to share their home with us and the fall gathering has become an annual thing. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas Party (and of course, the food has nothing to do with it).

I want to share some thoughts on friendship that a very good friend sent me. I keep it close so I can read it often.

Friendship is the sunshine
that turns the sky to gold.
Friendship is the fragrance
A thousand blessings hold.
Friendship is the pathway that
Leads to dreams come true.
For friendship is the blessing
of knowing people like you.

Notice the word blessing appears twice in this little poem. That is what I consider each and everyone of you, a blessing in my life. Boy, am I glad we all got together in 1990 and celebrated our 40th reunion. I can't imagine what my life would have been like without the parties, gathering, reunions, etc., we have had over the past 60 years. Thank you for keeping the group going. Now, I am going to challenge some of you. We need to hear from you what's happening in your life. Brag about your grand kids, boast about what your spouse has been doing lately, share a favorite recipe, tell a joke (clean, of course), just help Mae to fill the newsletter with pictures and stories about our alumni. We all love to read them and she does such an excellent job in developing, writing, printing and mailing. Wow! She has a BIG job. Maybe some of us need to offer our help once in a while. Okay, one more reminder. Pay your dues so we can keep sending the newsletter and get ready for our 60th reunion.

Enough for now, have a great holiday and don't eat too much. Remember to think nice and pray those who don't.

Thanks, Irma, your email covers a lot so I'll just say emails are welcome. My email address is maerthompson@cox.net, or you can send a note to my address 4200 Summerset Drive, Portsmouth, VA 23703 or include it with your dues to June Dickerson, 829 Colony Manor Rd., Chesapeake, VA 23321.

Also, I want to reiterate what a great group you all are. What a priceless collections of antiques! For instance, would you believe a classmate was first to come to my home when she heard of my husband's death. I'll never forget how thoughtful you all were. It's hard to believe it's been 15 years ago in December.

Please note there are no obituaries since the last Shipmate. I hope I have not overlooked anyone. If so, please let me know.

Lanier Cahoon has indicated she would like to pass the torch to someone else to lead the class in 2010. Please keep this in mind to discuss at the Christmas luncheon. Also, we will need to discuss date and place for the reunion.

"So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and ... soon they become inevitable."

Christopher Reeve

Rudy Simpson told me the other day he has been delivering Meals On Wheels for 28 years and his wife told me he has given 59 pints of blood, but cannot give any more because of health problems.

As I sit here on this gloomy day waiting for the rain and hopefully the last falling leaf, I realize just how long I have procrastinated in getting this newsletter out. Too much raking and raking and raking, but I have learned how to use the blower. Now if I can just control where I blow the leaves! Last week I killed my first snake. I thought it was a stick until it moved! I threw a hatchet at it and chopped it in two. This was not on my Bucket List!

Just want to take this space to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and to let you know I'll be expecting to hear from you soon.

Please try to come to the Christmas Luncheon. Maybe you will be in the next set of pictures!

Merry Christmas,

Mae Thompson



Roy Cottone Leneal Simpson 57.
Mel Thompson - "Lynn" = "Lynn" Cottone



Virginia Lanier Nina Fox

Donnie
Wimberly

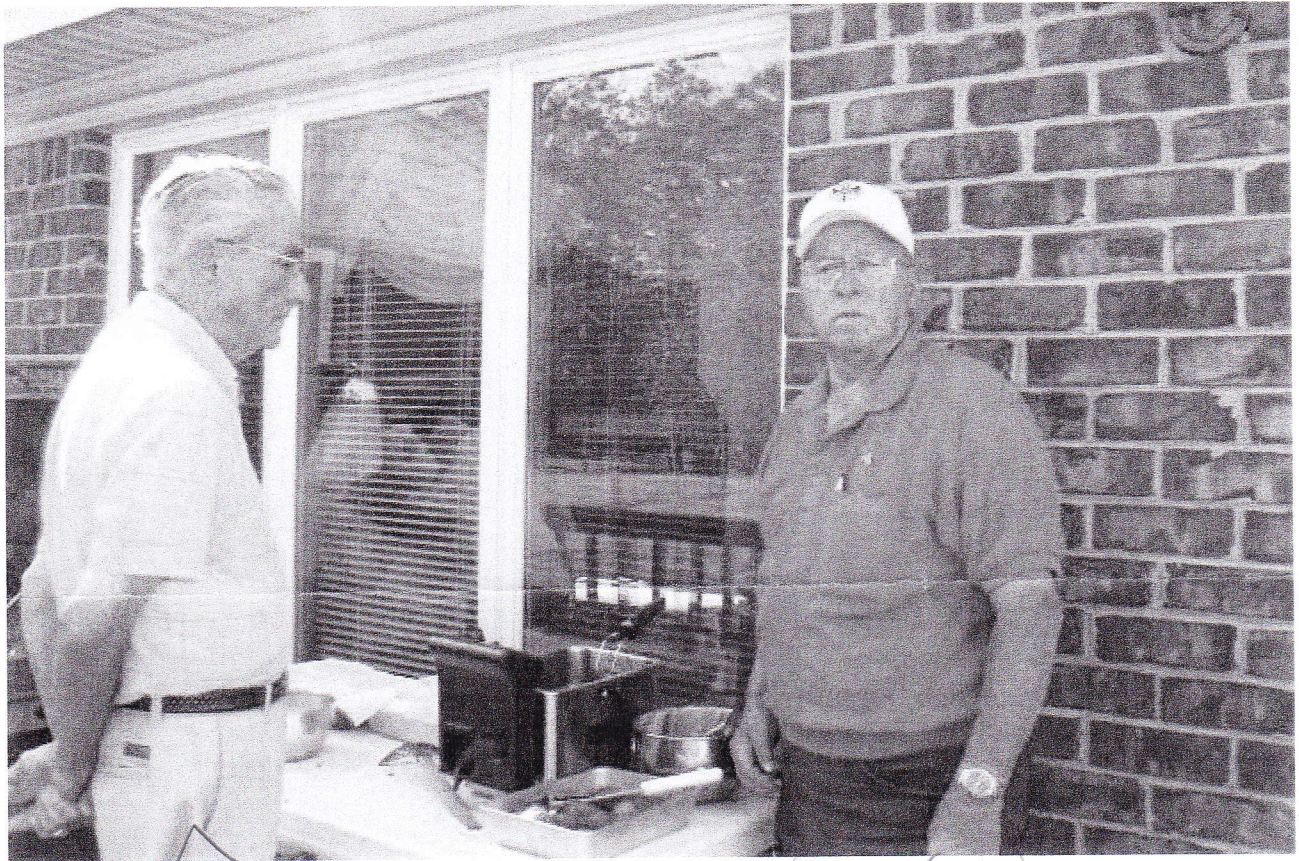


Spudley
Horteligo

Barbara
weikert



Herb Harlow



↑
Barbara Weikert's
husband

Frank ('47)
Barbara Gerber's husband



49

Pat Dawley '50
Pat Dawley '50?





Josie '49

Alia Simpson
(Wilson H.S.)



Josie

Gina
Woodward