

Hello Dave:

This is a series of messages I sent concerning my years during and after high school.

Eleanor Wertz Alpha

----- Original Message -----

From: Eleanor L. Alpha

To: Virginia Giusti ; Sandy Johnson ; Martha Currier

Cc: Ginny Humphrey ; Renee' FLHS ; Bonnie Linane ; Jeannine ; Ava Ann Camp ; Babs ; Barb Greene 2012 ; Barb Roman ; Betsy ; Bev ; Bonnie Patterson ; Dian Scott ; Gretchen Meisenburg ; Harriat Basset 2012 ; Janis McLean ; Joan Jansen ; judi Philpot ; Judi Wright ; Karen Stevens ; Karen Wood ; Kathy McKamey ; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net ; Marcia ; Martiel Ross 5/2012 ; MarySue ; Nancy Arnott ; Nedra ; Pat Booth ; patboal@tampabay.rr.com ; Sharron Osterhoudt ; tracebarrett@yahoo.com ; Wendy Taylor ; Norma Combs

Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2014 7:16 PM

Subject: Re: questions

I've been debating about to respond Re: questions. Actually, my mother became seriously ill during my sophomore year,

and as a result I stayed home taking care of her and the meals. I was not able to participate in most of the school activities

other than swimming and the class prom. As a reward for my efforts, my dad gave me a little aqua Metropolitan car, with the

wheel in the back, which I drove to school my senior year. My dad gave me a ride to school my junior year since he worked

in the City Hall. I made up for lost time at Florida State when we had four house guests that were girlfriends that came to

Ft. Lauderdale for Spring Break. Our boyfriends slept outside in the front yard. One of these breaks we went to a house

party off Las Olas during the filming of Where The Boys Are, and George Harrison and some of the stars were there. I was

going with a young man I met during Spring Break from his college, and he stayed in Ft. Lauderdale during my senior year,

and visited me at Florida State proposing for me to marry him. My dad said I had to finish college first. However, I met my

husband there and got married after my junior year since he had graduated a year before me. And, when he got his

commission in Naval Air we were married in the Navy Chapel at Pensacole since Frank had only the weekend off.

----- Original Message -----

From: Virginia Giusti

To: Sandy Johnson ; Martha Currier

Cc: Ginny Humphrey ; Renee' FLHS ; Bonnie Linane ; Jeannine ; Ava Ann Camp ; Babs ; Barb Greene 2012 ; Barb Roman ; Betsy ; Bev ; Bonnie Patterson ; Dian Scott ; Eleanor Wertz ; Gretchen Meisenburg ; Harriat Basset 2012 ; Janis McLean ; Joan Jansen ; judi Philpot ; Judi Wright ; Karen Stevens ; Karen Wood ; Kathy McKamey ; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net ; Marcia ; Martiel Ross 5/2012 ; MarySue ; Nancy Arnott ; Nedra ; Pat Booth ; patboal@tampabay.rr.com ; Sharron Osterhoudt ; tracebarrett@yahoo.com ; Wendy Taylor ; Norma Combs

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:24 PM

Subject: RE: questions

Right. Leave it to the preacher's wife to pull it off looking like a star. Thanks also for mentioning the dogs, Sandy, as that was a strong party of my memory. Ginny F/G

Subject: Re: questions

From: sandy1941@gmail.com

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2014 21:19:04 -0400

CC: giustifamily@hotmail.com; matwisso@aol.com; rbksd1@aol.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com; kjkott63@yahoo.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com;

whatazoo6@mac.com; joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; sharronosmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

To: remayii@aol.com

Marty, I think you might have had the best "over the wall to the Bonnet House (Birch Estate) " experience of all. Many of us got as far as peeping over the wall and running away when the dogs came, some even went over the wall but to have an escorted tour... that's the best!!!

Sandy

On Mar 18, 2014, at 9:13 PM, Bob wrote:

In July after 9th grade, my parents, brother & sister went to NC for a week and I didn't want to go with them. My grandmother came & spent the nights with me but during the day I was allowed to "roam free" as long as I had another girl with me on my adventures. One day we took the family ski boat down to North Miami and back in the intracoastal waterway. Another day two of us (I can't remember who) rode our bikes all over Victoria Park, Gateway and Sunrise Blvd. I wanted to explore the Bonnet House Estate so I talked her into climbing the wall with me. We decided that if we got caught, we'd pretend my dog had run under the gate and we climbed in to find her when she wouldn't come back to us. We got all the way to the house without seeing anyone and figured it was empty, but the lady caretaker caught us. I spun our tale and we were very polite so she invited us in to have a glass of water and showed us around the house because the owner was not down at the time. Even then I was fairly sure she didn't really believe us, but I even gave her my phone number in case my dog showed up. She even directed us to the path to the beach gate in case the dog went that way. We left by the beach gate and walked around back to the main gate to retrieve our bikes breathing great sighs of relief that she didn't have us arrested. What an amazing experience, but I guess I learned to function well under pressure early (something that has stood me well for 50 years in the ministry as a "preacher's wife").LOL When Bob & I took the official tour there last year, I was amazed at how much of the place and rooms had been imprinted on my mind on my first visit, probably from pure fear. I never told anyone except Bob about this experience and can't remember who was with me. Does this ring a bell with any of you?

Martie (Currier) May

-----Original Message-----

From: Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com>

To: Ginny Humphrey <matwisso@aol.com>; Renee' FLHS <rbksd1@aol.com>; Bonnie Linane <twinklingb@yahoo.com>; Jeannine <kjkott63@yahoo.com>; Ava Ann Camp <gramchatter2@hotmail.com>; Babs <babs723@hotmail.com>; Barb Greene 2012 <artistbgj@gmail.com>; Barb Roman <barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com>; Betsy <betsylady@sbcglobal.net>; Bev <b_bounds@msn.com>; Bonnie Patterson <bonnierdh@msn.com>; Dian Scott <diantate@aol.com>; Eleanor Wertz <ellalpha@att.net>; Gretchen Meisenburg <cw_gv@bellsouth.net>; Harriat Basset 2012 <harriatb@gmail.com>; Janis McLean <whatazoo6@mac.com>; Joan Jansen <joaniegirl11@me.com>; judi Philpot <judi@streamlinerinc.com>; Judi Wright <chapman0138@gmail.com>; Karen Stevens <ksp@cfl.rr.com>; Karen Wood <milanesif@bellsouth.net>; Kathy McKamey <mkb583@aol.com>; kcdavis7 <kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net>; Marcia <marciaftmyers@aol.com>; Martha Currier <remayii@aol.com>; Martiel Ross 5/2012 <martielross@yahoo.com>; MarySue <hikelady@aol.com>; Nancy Arnott <naf1313@yahoo.com>; Nedra <nsgurry@verizon.net>; Pat Booth <pwilson@htcnet.org>; patboal <patboal@tampabay.rr.com>; Sandy Johnson <sandy1941@gmail.com>; Sharron Osterhoudt <sharronosmith@gmail.com>; tracebarrett <tracebarrett@yahoo.com>; Wendy Taylor <wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 17, 2014 10:00 pm

Subject: RE: questions

I was one of the gals who crawled over a fence (or some such thing) but I'm not totally sure where I was going. I just know we weren't supposed to be there and I was so scared, that like you Ginny H, I never did it again. I was probably with Janis Milligan or Sharon Newsham and a bunch of other kids. Let's see if either of them fess up. Now that I think about it, I do remember putting a quarter for gas in the bandage box on dashboard of Bonnie Llnane's car rather often, so maybe she was the one who led me astray..... :) Perhaps the same evening that we raided gas station bathrooms for toilet paper to be used in decorating friend's yards.....

Ginny H, I love your idea of gathering all of us gals for a mini reunion inside of the traditional 55th reunion, but think we should extend the invitation to any gals who might want to join in on girls' time. There are probably lots of girls who would have loved to have been there in '12, but weren't able to join us for one reason or another. As you suggested maybe Saturday AM would be a good time to gather. I nominate you to pull it off...some time some place. :)

Let's also take advantage of gathering in the hospitality room when we don't have anything else on the agenda so we make the most of this time together. Ginny F/G

From: Matwisso@aol.com

Date: Mon, 17 Mar 2014 19:01:29 -0400

Subject: Re: questions

To: Rbksd1@aol.com; giustifamily@hotmail.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com; kjkott63@yahoo.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com; joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com; remayii@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; sandy1941@gmail.com; sharronosmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

After we moved to Lauderdale, my parents took every person who came to visit on the Jungle Queen and we went to see the Seminoles make dolls and the men "fought" the alligators! I think I had about 10 of the dolls but my thrifty Mom was always getting rid of things so where they are today is anyone's guess.... My Dad took his friends from DC Sailfish fishing and they all seemed to catch one... no catch and release those days... we also took them south of Lauderdale where you could eat all the Florida Lobster tails you wanted... very inexpensive then and probably the reason they are expensive today! We did live in a marvellous time!!!

Who crawled over the fence and went into the estate where the Bonnet House is now?? I was terrified and never did it but once!! Always had an excuse after that!! I was such a chicken!!! After all, I was a "good girl"!!

St Patrick's Day is tomorrow....anyone putting green food coloring in their hair??? Nedra's was a lovely shade of green due to the blonde hair where mine was an army green color... ICK!!!

Can someone please set up a mini reunion during the reunion?? Maybe one morning after breakfast we could meet by the pool or another area just to check in with anyone who is able to come to the reunion that was there.....just call it the "St Pete Girls 2012"..like last time with each of the Elementary schools meeting.

xo Ginny H

In a message dated 17/03/2014 1:59:41 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Rbksd1@aol.com writes:

I wish all this would come to me at once...but does not. Thought I would share that the boat we lived on was sold to Marshall Fishburn (Betsy, I think was in the class behind us) and was the first or one of the first sightseeing boats on New River.....predecessor to the Jungle Queens. Renee'

In a message dated 3/16/2014 7:22:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, giustifamily@hotmail.com writes:

My older brother, Ed, recently told me a story about Mrs Jett showing up at his graduation from Un of FL...long story, but a testimony to her dedication to education and her students perhaps. :)

Date: Sun, 16 Mar 2014 16:18:28 -0700

From: twinklingb@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: questions

To: kjkott63@yahoo.com; giustifamily@hotmail.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; matwisso@aol.com; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com; joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com; remayii@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; rbksd1@aol.com; sandy1941@gmail.com; sharronosmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

As to Mrs. Jett in Spanish, she ran a tight ship even though most diminutive in

stature. I liked her a lot. When I would stand up and ask the class (in English), "Does anyone have your dues today?" Mrs. Jett would correct me, "Does anyone have his dues today?" TODAY it would be, "Does anyone have his or her dues today?" (If it was not dues it was something else.) Bonnie Linane

On Sunday, March 16, 2014 7:04 PM, Ken Kott <kjkott63@yahoo.com> wrote:

I too had Mr Herndon at Naval Air for first year Latin. My two memories of him were that he often taught while sitting on the top of his desk crosslegged and that on our daily work, one wrong was a "B" I certainly did not get an "A" in his class. He was very strange. After that year I switched to Spanish with Mrs Jett.

Jeannine

On Sunday, March 16, 2014 6:25 PM, Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com> wrote:

Not sure that I forwarded this contribution from Harriat.....

I was a Latin student, even though I hated it. The first monster was Mr. Herndon at Naval Air. And then the Monstress Miss Sears. She was a spinster from Georgia. She favored the boys in the classroom. I suspect she had never had a date in her life.

I beg to differ with Marcia about the academic possibilities at FLHS in our time there.

Some of us were on a College Prep route---where this began, I don't know. We were encouraged to take Latin at Naval Air. That would have been in the 9th grade.

There were 3 years of Latin, several, maybe 3, of Spanish (it WAS a foreign language then) and French at FLHS.

Mathematics offered Plane Geometry, Algebra II and Solid Geometry/Trig. No Calculus was taught during our time in high school as far as I know.

Science offered some advanced curriculum in Physics. I took Physics. Gayle Sawyer and I were the only 2 girls in the class. I opted out of the "advanced" part and left it to the boys.

In general, girls were not encouraged to follow what is now STEM. In fact, girls were not encouraged to become anything except possibly a teacher. Congratulations to all of you who have learned to do something!!!

If any area was weak, I believe that the English department was. Critical reading, writing and thinking were not something I learned to do until my 3rd year in college. You who worked on the newspaper may have had a better literary education than we received in the classroom!

Basically, we had very devoted teachers. They stayed after hours with us when we were decorating for the dance or preparing for Homecoming or whatever. They came to the school at night---that's when the service clubs met. They received no extra pay for doing this.

And, the service clubs were an issue themselves. Many people were looked over. You were more likely to be "in" if you went to elementary school in FLL. It only took me 50 years to figure this out!

We had 3 National Merit Finalists: Pat Booth, Gayle Sawyer and Squire Knox. Classes of 58 and 57 boast lots of successful people as well. Lots of "late bloomers" have shown up at reunions in the past.

Even though College Board requirements were not so demanding at the time, quite a few students went on to succeed at Ivy League schools and private universities. I happen to remember Bob Lewis telling me about what it was like to be at Princeton where the majority of the fellows (OMG! No girls!) had been to NE prep schools and the challenges he faced. He and Squire liked that song " I Was a Big Man Yesterday, but Boy You Oughta See Me Now". They both made it!

I suggest you all go to the website FLHS59 and read Phil Pauze's letter about the Simbari brothers--- another real in depth look at what it was like to come to FLHS in the 10th grade.

It is so very fascinating to me to see how we all view these issues through our different windows!

Jeannine, what began with The Help has inspired a lot of super communication! Some shrink would pay you money for your "study"!

Harriat

On Sat, Mar 15, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com> wrote:

Yes, that's right, Nedra. Miss Sears was the Latin teacher I remembered. I also remember Mr Herndon's name and think I must have had him for a teacher for a class of some kind. Speaking of teachers, does anyone remember the teacher who got caught in the downtown bus station having sex with another man? I think he taught us math as I remember learning how to write checks in his class. I also think that he married and was a member of our church, Park Temple Methodist. I remember that I liked him a lot and his arrest and the subsequent story was a shocking eye-opener for me. Ginny F

Ken took two years of Latin from Miss Sears (I think that was her name). I took one year at Naval Air from Mr Herndon. Will share more when I get to my computer.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2014, at 9:29 AM, Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com> wrote:

The account from Marcia gave me chills as I read it. However, her experience with the lack of Latin classes left questions in my mind as I remember taking one year of Latin and not enjoying it. I can still picture the teacher, a tall gray haired woman. When I get a chance, I'll look in my year books to see if I can find her photo. Perhaps she retired and they retired the Latin program at the same time. My sister who was 8 years ahead of us at FLHS loved Latin and was offered a college scholarship to major in Latin with her 3rd year in Rome. Sad thing is that my dad died 3 days after my sister graduated from high school and "she felt" that she needed to get a job to help mother with the financial picture and thus she turned down the scholarship. As I understood it from Mother years later, it wasn't necessary for my sister to make that choice, but understandably it was a difficult decision and time for my sister. Nice thing is that since she was so smart she was able to use her Latin to work as a medical secretary until she retired to marry and have a family. She died of ovarian cancer at age 69.

CC: giustifamily@hotmail.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsy lady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com; kjkott63@yahoo.com; jehplus8@frontiernet.net; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; remayii@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net;

pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; rbksd1@aol.com; sandy1941@gmail.com;
sharronosmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

From: marciaftmyers@aol.com

Subject: Re: questions

Date: Sat, 15 Mar 2014 06:23:48 -0400

To: Matwisso@aol.com

I moved from Ridgewood N.J. To Ft Lauderdale at beginning of 10th grade. Most traumatic was leaving my good friends and discovering there was no Latin class at Ft Lauderdale hs. I soon made new friends, however, and adjusted to fact there was not only no Latin but no academic challenge. At that point in my life, I loved learning. I was shocked by separate bathrooms and drinking fountains and blacks having to sit at back of the bus. I asked why and was told that was the way it was.

One of the good things in hs were the Service clubs. I volunteered to work at the deaf school and helped with English. Once a week, I took kids to beach. I remember vividly how people at the beach pointed and laughed because kids could not hear. I went to William and Mary College where there were no black students. In fact, Sports Teams from other schools were not allowed to bring their black players to play on W & M campus. I do not recall knowing anyone Jewish prior to going to W & M where I met Jeanette. When it became time to pledge a sorority, she informed me she was not allowed to pledge because she was Jewish. I asked administration why and was told that was just the way it was. I was so incensed that I never did pledge a sorority. I went to Paris after two years and never returned to W & M.

On the way to Paris I met Dan and we developed a friendship. Dan is Jewish. My Father forbid me to have anything to do with him. Dan was at Edinborough and we corresponded. My Father was to right of Gangus Khan. He would have nothing to do with "nigglets" or Jews. After I returned to the states, Dan and I dated and ultimately married. My Father did not attend the wedding and did not acknowledge fact I was married for two years until he showed up in Providence where Dan was attending Brown University grad school and asked if he could stay for dinner! Ultimately, I converted to Judiasm and brought my two sons up in Jewish religion.

I will never understand why people treated the blacks or Jews as they did. Thank God for Lincoln and Martin Luther King and thousands who helped Jews come to this country.

So many memories and stories to share.....M

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 14, 2014, at 1:08 PM, Matwisso@aol.com wrote:

Jeannine ...I am going to answer inside your text of the email..easier not to forget....

In a message dated 14/03/2014 7:04:19 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, justifamily@hotmail.com writes:

From Jeannine....and I added a PS in regard to Catholics:

Bonnie,

Thanks for your thoughts. I do think that as bad as segregation was in Lauderdale, it seems it was even worse in places in the "deep south" Does anyone remember if the blacks were allowed to use the library? Not that I am aware of....An older lady(older than us!) that I often visit with here in Atlanta told me that things were not the same in Atlanta (not that they were good) as Jackson was portrayed in the novel.Jackson was true South and I am sure quite worse than Florida.. but not as bad a Mississippi and Georgia... any thoughts?

Several of you have mentioned the high stepping Dillard band. Did our HS actually play games against Dillard or do I just remember them from maybe a parade?.They played in parades but we never played them..I was at the University of Florida and we had a good football team but nothing like it was after I left and blacks started to play!! The black university had a 100% winning schedule..playing football was one way to get out of the norm and make a good living in the NFL. They were probably paid less in the beginning.

Bonnie, as to knowing Catholics---Bonnie Patterson Flanagan was my best friend all my life(we were born 5 days apart at Broward General and our parents were already good friends) and she is and was a very devout Catholic. She could probably tell you others in our class.Barbara Guercia is Catholic and I remember going to church with her when only Latin was read...times have sure changed. I don't remember much about who was what religion..I don't think any of us really cared....as long as you were a good friend.

I agree with you about feeling the shame of the things that went on in Lauderdale that I was so blind to. Just accepting things that were. Going to Wheaton College in the Chicago suburbs was so good for me. There I met black students that were totally accepted by the student body and well liked.

Thanks for all these responses. The novel made me want to try to remember what it was like back then for blacks in our community. But , of course, we only know it from the outside. That's why the novel was so powerful, because it was from the point of view of those who were living under those Jim Crow laws.I think most blacks walked on thin ice when we were in school..I remember trying to talk to my Mom's maid in the 1970's and she was very quiet and said very little but in 1980 when my mom died, we had some "equal" conversations and she was a huge help to my Dad until he died...one on one and not "the help"... There will always be prejudice but today we are much better off than in our teen years. Great conversations girls!! Ginny H

PS: From Ginny F

BTW, my friend, Sharon Newsham, is Catholic and the only one I remember from high school. When I went to college I dated and married an Italian Catholic. I had dated a Jewish boy in our class, Tom Tilchin, if memory serves me correct.....but didn't know anything about Italians. By the time I had to come to terms with raising our daughters in the Catholic church rather than in my comfort zone of the Methodist church, we moved to Pittsburgh and ALL of my neighbors were/are Catholic. But I did tell Dave that I went to his church for 25 years and then it was his turn to come to my church for the next 25. Now that we've been married 50 years we don't go at all. Just kidding....sort of. :) Ginny

On Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:48 PM, naf1313 <naf1313@yahoo.com> wrote:

I was at the University of Georgia when the first two black students came. There were riots which were broken up with tear gas and the students had to be escorted to class. The female student, Charlene Hunter later became a journalist for NPR.

From: Bonnie Stowell <twinklingb@yahoo.com>

To: "Matwisso@aol.com" <Matwisso@aol.com>; "giustifamily@hotmail.com" <giustifamily@hotmail.com>; "gramchatter2@hotmail.com" <gramchatter2@hotmail.com>; "babs723@hotmail.com" <babs723@hotmail.com>; "artistbgj@gmail.com" <artistbgj@gmail.com>; "barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com" <barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com>; "betsylady@sbcglobal.net" <betsylady@sbcglobal.net>; "b_bounds@msn.com" <b_bounds@msn.com>; "bonnierdh@msn.com" <bonnierdh@msn.com>; "diantate@aol.com" <diantate@aol.com>; "ellalpha@att.net" <ellalpha@att.net>; "cw_gv@bellsouth.net" <cw_gv@bellsouth.net>; "harriatb@gmail.com" <harriatb@gmail.com>; "whatazoo6@mac.com" <whatazoo6@mac.com>; "kjkott63@yahoo.com" <kjkott63@yahoo.com>; "jehplus8@frontiernet.net" <jehplus8@frontiernet.net>; "judi@streamlinerinc.com" <judi@streamlinerinc.com>; "chapman0138@gmail.com" <chapman0138@gmail.com>; "ksp@cfl.rr.com" <ksp@cfl.rr.com>; "milanesif@bellsouth.net" <milanesif@bellsouth.net>; "mkb583@aol.com" <mkb583@aol.com>; "kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net" <kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net>; "marciaftmyers@aol.com" <marciaftmyers@aol.com>; "remayii@aol.com" <remayii@aol.com>; "martielross@yahoo.com" <martielross@yahoo.com>; "hikelady@aol.com" <hikelady@aol.com>; "naf1313@yahoo.com" <naf1313@yahoo.com>; "nsgurry@verizon.net" <nsgurry@verizon.net>; "pwilson@htcnet.org" <pwilson@htcnet.org>; "patboal@tampabay.rr.com"

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Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:33 PM

Subject: Re: FW: questions

Hello, All,

There is much to say, but nothing in Ft. L. ever could compare with what I experienced in Nashville at Vanderbilt. I was truly shocked at the openly racist comments. At the time only the Divinity School at Vanderbilt was integrated. During my jr. yr., there was a student referendum (non binding) re integrating the undergraduate schools, sponsored by the Student Senate. I believe that it passed (to integrate), but in the various discussions, I can assure you that my opinion of voting to integrate didn't make me popular among many. As Vanderbilt was a residential university, the dorms would have to be integrated. One of the really hateful things said was, "Yes, but would you want to take a shower with one?" Believe me, nothing sexual was implied; just being near naked together. And as I recall, the women's showers were all individual, anyway, not a 'shower room.'

I didn't really know any blacks in h.s. Remember that there were few Catholics in our school - I can't remember any - so the schools were all segregated. I never had a Catholic friend until I worked at Burdine's on the college board in 1960. I went to her wedding at the Catholic Church. It was just the way it was, but I never recall any hatefulness, esp. in the home in which I was raised.

After I went to Vanderbilt, I saw that my mom would make lunch for the cleaning lady and then sit with her and eat together. I realized that that would never have happened in Nashville or the Deep South.

Someone mentioned the 'black beach.' I never saw it, but I recall generally where it was due to having a speed boat that we drove everywhere. In about 1995 a black man was trained as a Stephen Leader in my church. I was already trained. (Not many blacks in my United Methodist Church, but this man was, married to a white wm.) Anyway, one day we were talking and he mentioned that he grew up in Ft. L. I can't recall how old he was, but I remember for days feelings of SHAME that he must have had to go to the black beach and I could go almost anywhere to the ocean. He and his wife changed churches soon after that, but I have never forgotten it.

So much to say....

Bonnie Linane Stowell

On Thursday, March 13, 2014 6:37 PM, "Matwisso@aol.com" <Matwisso@aol.com> wrote:

In a message dated 11/03/2014 12:47:17 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, giustifamily@hotmail.com writes:

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 2014 12:41:55 -0700

From: kjkott63@yahoo.com

Subject: questions

To: giustifamily@hotmail.com

Hi All,

I know I'm a little behind on this book, but I finally got around to reading The Help. I thought it was so good. But it made me start trying to remember what things were like in Lauderdale when we were little. Of course there were the separate schools, water fountains, restrooms, but does anyone remember two hospitals and were the blacks kept out of the library? My mother only had help once a week so I didn't have the experience of being raised by a black maid. I would love to hear from those of you who grew up in Lauderdale of the things you remember about race issues during that time. I think I was oblivious to most of what was happening in the black community.

Jeannine

=

Hello..

Growing up in Washington, D.C. until I was nine was very different than living in Ft Lauderdale for many reasons..weather for sure but "Blacks" were very prevalent in the D.C. area, not that they had any terrific jobs but they seemed to me to be treated with a bit more respect. We had a maid who came once a week to 'help out' as my Mom would say. She ate in the kitchen and used our bathroom so I was shocked when I saw "THE HELP" and the bathroom was such an issue !!

We moved to Ft Lauderdale in 1950...I vividly remember taking our ironing to a wonderful black lady in "Colored Town" during the mid to late 50's.... we would drop it off and she would tell us when to

return... one day in the late 50's I drove by myself to get the ironing and she invited me in from her porch... I asked her how much and she said \$1.50 which I thought was a lot of money until I stepped inside and saw what she lived with... nothing was new but nothing was dirty... the floors were certainly cleaner than my bedroom and her children all got up and greeted me. Her son who was my age carried the ironing to the car. I thanked him and he said I should never come around any later in the day than when I came... he said it might not be that safe for a girl to be around here due to the "things" that were going on there after dark.. he then said he didn't feel safe so I surely wouldn't. It made me think at the time that the Blacks might not be very trustworthy but my mother said that the KKK was doing awful things after dark and he was only telling me for my safety. I really didn't give it much thought until a few years later in 1964 when I was married and living in Jacksonville. My first husband and I went out to see a movie and on our way back we saw flames in the distance so we drove closer... there was a big open field (like a soccer field) ..in the middle of it was a huge burning cross surrounded by men in white hoods and robes. All members of the KKK. They carried burning torches... it frightened me like I have never been frightened before! My husband turned the car around as quickly as possible and we sped home.... my first husband is Jewish and knew all too well that it was not just a warning to Blacks. I think I had nightmares for weeks after that. We moved to Canada about a year or two later. I watched TV with horror as the cities erupted in chaos during the next few years.

Getting back to "THE HELP", I remember having a Bridge Club once a week after our kids were in bed, of course! We dressed up and always had a lovely dessert and coffee. but no maids in sight.. I had a Black lady come in once every two weeks to clean my two bedroom apartment courtesy of my parents. I thought I was very special to have someone help me. She was kind and funny and we watched "Days of Our Lives" together when my daughter was asleep!! I never told anyone then as I guess I knew they would say it wasn't right... oh my how things changed.

Living in Canada in the late 1960's was quite different as there were no Blacks to speak of and all my friends could not believe Blacks were treated as second class citizens in the States. However, Native Indians were certainly treated very poorly here then.

I have gone on long enough... hope to see you many of you in May!!

Ginny Humphrey (Twiss)

More of my story since it is more involved.

Eleanor

----- Original Message -----

From: Eleanor L. Alpha

To: Virginia Giusti ; Sandy Johnson ; Martha Currier

Cc: Ginny Humphrey ; Renee' FLHS ; Bonnie Linane ; Jeannine ; Ava Ann Camp ; Babs ; Barb Greene 2012 ; Barb Roman ; Betsy ; Bev ; Bonnie Patterson ; Dian Scott ; Gretchen Meisenburg ; Harriat Basset 2012 ; Janis McLean ; Joan Jansen ; judi Philpot ; Judi Wright ; Karen Stevens ; Karen Wood ; Kathy McKamey ; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net ; Marcia ; Martiel Ross 5/2012 ; MarySue ; Nancy Arnott ; Nedra ; Pat Booth ; patboal@tampabay.rr.com ; Sharron Osterhoudt ; tracebarrett@yahoo.com ; Wendy Taylor ; Norma Combs

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:48 AM

Subject: Re: questions

Hi Ginny and all:

I stopped because it would have been a long story. My husband, Lt. Frank E. Rojas, after serving in Viet Nam as an Intelligence Officer in the Mekong Delta was killed in an auto accident two years after he returned and my daughter, Laura, was six months old. Unbelievable!! God got my attention, and I taught high school at McArthur High in Hollywood, and Piper High in Ft. Lauderdale. Then I taught at Westminster Academy at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church for 10 years where Laura went to grade school. I remarried when she was 13 to Granville Alpha, Jr. who was a Manufacturer's Rep for General Electric and we were transferred to Little Rock, Arkansas where I taught high school at the Little Rock Central High for 20 years. (The same historic high school that was integrated in 1954 with U. S. Marshalls.)

More Later, Eleanor

----- Original Message -----

From: Virginia Giusti

To: Eleanor Wertz ; Sandy Johnson ; Martha Currier

Cc: Ginny Humphrey ; Renee' FLHS ; Bonnie Linane ; Jeannine ; Ava Ann Camp ; Babs ; Barb Greene 2012 ; Barb Roman ; Betsy ; Bev ; Bonnie Patterson ; Dian Scott ; Gretchen Meisenburg ; Harriat Basset 2012 ; Janis McLean ; Joan Jansen ; judi Philpot ; Judi Wright ; Karen Stevens ; Karen Wood ; Kathy McKamey ; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net ; Marcia ; Martiel Ross 5/2012 ; MarySue ; Nancy Arnott ; Nedra ; Pat Booth ; patboal@tampabay.rr.com ; Sharron Osterhoudt ; tracebarrett@yahoo.com ; Wendy Taylor ; Norma Combs

Sent: Monday, March 24, 2014 3:18 PM

Subject: RE: questions

Eleanor: You stopped the story at a happy point, but if I remember correctly your first husband died in an auto accident at a very young age. Martiel, our neighbor and co-Girl Scouter (I made up that word) was also widowed at a very young age when her first husband was killed in Viet Nam. I think you two gals were the first from our class to suffer that kind of heart wrenching loss. But our other neighbor and co-Girl Scouter, Judi Wright, had a daughter die at a very young age from ALS. Ginny F/G

From: ellalpha@att.net

To: giustifamily@hotmail.com; sandy1941@gmail.com; remayii@aol.com

CC: matwisso@aol.com; rbksd1@aol.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com; kjkott63@yahoo.com;

gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com;
barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com;
diantate@aol.com; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com;
joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com;
milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com;
martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net;
pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; sharronsmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com;
wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com; patrick_norma@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: questions

Date: Sun, 23 Mar 2014 19:16:06 -0700

I've been debating about to respond Re: questions. Actually, my mother became seriously ill during my sophomore year, and as a result I stayed home taking care of her and the meals. I was not able to participate in most of the school activities other than swimming and the class prom. As a reward for my efforts, my dad gave me a little aqua Metropolitan car, with the wheel in the back, which I drove to school my senior year. My dad gave me a ride to school my junior year since he worked in the City Hall. I made up for lost time at Florida State when we had four house guests that were girlfriends that came to Ft. Lauderdale for Spring Break. Our boyfriends slept outside in the front yard. One of these breaks we went to a house party off Las Olas during the filming of Where The Boys Are, and George Harrison and some of the stars were there. I was going with a young man I met during Spring Break from his college, and he stayed in Ft. Lauderdale during my senior year, and visited me at Florida State proposing for me to marry him. My dad said I had to finish college first. However, I met my husband there and got married after my junior year since he had graduated a year before me. And, when he got his commission in Naval Air we were married in the Navy Chapel at Pensacole since Frank had only the weekend off.

----- Original Message -----

From: Virginia Giusti

To: Sandy Johnson ; Martha Currier

Cc: Ginny Humphrey ; Renee' FLHS ; Bonnie Linane ; Jeannine ; Ava Ann Camp ; Babs ; Barb Greene 2012 ; Barb Roman ; Betsy ; Bev ; Bonnie Patterson ; Dian Scott ; Eleanor Wertz ; Gretchen Meisenburg ; Harriat Basset 2012 ; Janis McLean ; Joan Jansen ; judi Philpot ; Judi Wright ; Karen Stevens ; Karen Wood ; Kathy McKamey ; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net ; Marcia ; Martiel Ross 5/2012 ; MarySue ; Nancy Arnott ; Nedra ; Pat Booth ; patboal@tampabay.rr.com ; Sharron Osterhoudt ; tracebarrett@yahoo.com ; Wendy Taylor ; Norma Combs

Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:24 PM

Subject: RE: questions

Right. Leave it to the preacher's wife to pull it off looking like a star. Thanks also for mentioning the dogs, Sandy, as that was a strong party of my memory. Ginny F/G

Subject: Re: questions

From: sandy1941@gmail.com

Date: Tue, 18 Mar 2014 21:19:04 -0400

CC: giustifamily@hotmail.com; matwisso@aol.com; rbksd1@aol.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com;
kjkott63@yahoo.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com;
barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com;
diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com;

joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; sharronosmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com
To: remayii@aol.com

Marty, I think you might have had the best "over the wall to the Bonnet House (Birch Estate) " experience of all. Many of us got as far as peeping over the wall and running away when the dogs came, some even went over the wall but to have an escorted tour... that's the best!!!

Sandy

On Mar 18, 2014, at 9:13 PM, Bob wrote:

In July after 9th grade, my parents, brother & sister went to NC for a week and I didn't want to go with them. My grandmother came& spent the nights with me but during the day I was allowed to "roam free" as long as I had another girl with me on my adventures. One day we took the family ski boat down to North Miami and back in the intracoastal waterway. Another day two of us (I can't remember who) rode our bikes all aver Victoria Park, Gateway and Sunrise Blvd. I wanted to explore the Bonnet House Estate so I talked her into climbing the wall with me. We decided that if we got caught, we'd pretend my dog had run under the gate and we climbed in to find her when she wouldn't come back to us. We got all the way to the house without seeing anyone and figured it was empty, but the lady caretaker caught us.. I spun our tale and we were very polite so she invited us in to have a glass of water and showed us around the house because the owner was not down at the time. Even then I was fairly sure she didn't really believe us, but I even gave her my phone number in case my dog showed up. She even directed us to the path to the beach gate in case the dog went that way. We left by the beach gate and walked around back to the main gate to retrieve our bikes breathing great sighs of relief that she didn't have us arrested. What an amazing experience, but I guess I learned to function well under pressure early (something that has stood me well for 50 years in the ministry as a "preacher's wife").LOL When Bob& I took the official tour there last year, I was amazed at how much of the place and rooms had been imprinted on my mind on my first visit, probably from pure fear. I never told anyone except Bob about this experience and can't remember who was with me. Does this ring a bell with any of you?

Martie (Currier) May

-----Original Message-----

From: Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com>

To: Ginny Humphrey <matwisso@aol.com>; Renee' FLHS< rbksd1@aol.com>; Bonnie Linane

<twinklingb@yahoo.com>; Jeannine <kjkott63@yahoo.com>; Ava Ann Camp

<gramchatter2@hotmail.com>; Babs <babs723@hotmail.com>; Barb Greene 2012

<artistbgj@gmail.com>; Barb Roman <barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com>; Betsy

<betsylady@sbcglobal.net>; Bev <b_bounds@msn.com>; Bonnie Patterson <bonnierdh@msn.com>;

Dian Scott< diantate@aol.com>; Eleanor Wertz <ellalpha@att.net>; Gretchen Meisenburg

<cw_gv@bellsouth.net>; Harriat Basset 2012 <harriatb@gmail.com>; Janis McLean

<whatazoo6@mac.com>; Joan Jansen <joaniegirl11@me.com>; judi Philpot <judi@streamlinerinc.com>;

Judi Wright <chapman0138@gmail.com>; Karen Stevens <ksp@cfl.rr.com>; Karen Wood

<milanesif@bellsouth.net>; Kathy McKamey <mkb583@aol.com>; kcdavis7 <kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net>;

Marcia <marciaftmyers@aol.com>; Martha Currier <remayii@aol.com>; Martiel Ross 5/2012

<martielross@yahoo.com>; MarySue <hikelady@aol.com>; Nancy Arnott <naf1313@yahoo.com>; Nedra

<nsgurry@verizon.net>; Pat Booth< pwilson@htcnet.org>; patboal <patboal@tampabay.rr.com>; Sandy

Johnson <sandy1941@gmail.com>; Sharron Osterhoudt <sharronosmith@gmail.com>; tracebarrett

<tracebarrett@yahoo.com>; Wendy Taylor <wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com>

Sent: Mon, Mar 17, 2014 10:00 pm

Subject: RE: questions

I was one of the gals who crawled over a fence (or some such thing) but I'm not totally sure where I was going. I just know we weren't supposed to be there and I was so scared, that like you Ginny H, I never did it again. I was probably with Janis Milligan or Sharon Newsham and a bunch of other kids. Let's see if either of them fess up. Now that I think about it, I do remember putting a quarter for gas in the bandage box on dashboard of Bonnie Llane's car rather often, so maybe she was the one who led me astray..... :) Perhaps the same evening that we raided gas station bathrooms for toilet paper to be used in decorating friend's yards.....

Ginny H, I love your idea of gathering all of us gals for a mini reunion inside of the traditional 55th reunion, but think we should extend the invitation to any gals who might want to join in on girls' time. There are probably lots of girls who would have loved to have been there in '12, but weren't able to join us for one reason or another. As you suggested maybe Saturday AM would be a good time to gather. I nominate you to pull it off...some time some place. :)

Let's also take advantage of gathering in the hospitality room when we don't have anything else on the agenda so we make the most of this time together. Ginny F/G

From: Matwisso@aol.com

Date: Mon, 17 Mar 2014 19:01:29 -0400

Subject: Re: questions

To: Rbksd1@aol.com; giustifamily@hotmail.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com; kjkott63@yahoo.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com; joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com; remayii@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; sandy1941@gmail.com; sharronsmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

After we moved to Lauderdale, my parents took every person who came to visit on the Jungle Queen and we went to see the Seminoles make dolls and the men "fought" the alligators! I think I had about 10 of the dolls but my thrifty Mom was always getting rid of things so where they are today is anyone's guess.... My Dad took his friends from DC Sailfish fishing and they all seemed to catch one... no catch and release those days... we also took them south of Lauderdale where you could eat all the Florida Lobster tails you wanted... very inexpensive then and probably the reason they are expensive today! We did live in a marvellous time!!!

Who crawled over the fence and went into the estate where the Bonnet House is now?? I was terrified and never did it but once!! Always had an excuse after that!! I was such a chicken!!! After all, I was a "good girl"!!

St Patrick's Day is tomorrow....anyone putting green food coloring in their hair??? Nedra's was a lovely shade of green due to the blonde hair where mine was an army green color... ICK!!!

Can someone please set up a mini reunion during the reunion?? Maybe one morning after breakfast we could meet by the pool or another area just to check in with anyone who is able to come to the reunion that was there.....just call it the "St Pete Girls 2012" ..like last time with each of the Elementary schools meeting.

xo Ginny H

In a message dated 17/03/2014 1:59:41 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, Rbksd1@aol.com writes:

I wish all this would come to me at once...but does not. Thought I would share that the boat we lived on was sold to Marshall Fishburn (Betsy, I think was in the class behind us) and was the first or one of the first sightseeing boats on New River.....predecessor to the Jungle Queens. Renee'

In a message dated 3/16/2014 7:22:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, giustifamily@hotmail.com writes: My older brother, Ed, recently told me a story about Mrs Jett showing up at his graduation from Un of FL...long story, but a testimony to her dedication to education and her students perhaps. :)

Date: Sun, 16 Mar 2014 16:18:28 -0700

From: twinklingb@yahoo.com

Subject: Re: questions

To: kjkott63@yahoo.com; giustifamily@hotmail.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; matwisso@aol.com; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com; joaniegirl11@me.com; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcDavis7@sbcglobal.net; marciaftmyers@aol.com; remayii@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; rbksd1@aol.com; sandy1941@gmail.com; sharronsmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

As to Mrs. Jett in Spanish, she ran a tight ship even though most diminutive in

stature. I liked her a lot. When I would stand up and ask the class (in English), "Does anyone have your dues today?" Mrs. Jett would correct me, "Does anyone have his dues today?" TODAY it would be, "Does

anyone have his or her dues today?" (If it was not dues it was something else.) Bonnie Linane

On Sunday, March 16, 2014 7:04 PM, Ken Kott <kjkott63@yahoo.com>wrote:

I too had Mr Herndon at Naval Air for first year Latin. My two memories of him were that he often taught while sitting on the top of his desk crosslegged and that on our daily work, one wrong was a "B" I certainly did not get an "A" in his class. He was very strange. After that year I switched to Spanish with Mrs Jett.

Jeannine

On Sunday, March 16, 2014 6:25 PM, Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com>wrote:

Not sure that I forwarded this contribution from Harriat.....

I was a Latin student, even though I hated it. The first monster was Mr. Herndon at Naval Air. And then the Monstress Miss Sears. She was a spinster from Georgia. She favored the boys in the classroom. I suspect she had never had a date in her life.

I beg to differ with Marcia about the academic possibilities at FLHS in our time there.

Some of us were on a College Prep route---where this began, I don't know. We were encouraged to take Latin at Naval Air. That would have been in the 9th grade.

There were 3 years of Latin, several, maybe 3, of Spanish (it WAS a foreign language then) and French at FLHS.

Mathematics offered Plane Geometry, Algebra II and Solid Geometry/Trig. No Calculus was taught during our time in high school as far as I know.

Science offered some advanced curriculum in Physics. I took Physics. Gayle Sawyer and I were the only 2 girls in the class. I opted out of the "advanced" part and left it to the boys.

In general, girls were not encouraged to follow what is now STEM. In fact, girls were not encouraged to become anything except possibly a teacher. Congratulations to all of you who have learned to do something!!!

If any area was weak, I believe that the English department was. Critical reading, writing and thinking were not something I learned to do until my 3rd year in college. You who worked on the newspaper may have had a better literary education than we received in the classroom!

Basically, we had very devoted teachers. They stayed after hours with us when we were decorating for the dance or preparing for Homecoming or whatever. They came to

the school at night---that's when the service clubs met. They received no extra pay for doing this.

And, the service clubs were an issue themselves. Many people were looked over. You were more likely to be "in" if you went to elementary school in FLL. It only took me 50 years to figure this out!

We had 3 National Merit Finalists: Pat Booth, Gayle Sawyer and Squire Knox. Classes of 58 and 57 boast lots of successful people as well. Lots of "late bloomers" have shown up at reunions in the past.

Even though College Board requirements were not so demanding at the time, quite a few students went on to succeed at Ivy League schools and private universities. I happen to remember Bob Lewis telling me about what it was like to be at Princeton where the majority of the fellows (OMG! No girls!) had been to NE prep schools and the challenges he faced. He and Squire liked that song " I Was a Big Man Yesterday, but Boy You Oughta See Me Now". They both made it!

I suggest you all go to the website FLHS59 and read Phil Pauze's letter about the Simbari brothers---another real in depth look at what it was like to come to FLHS in the 10th grade.

It is so very fascinating to me to see how we all view these issues through our different windows!

Jeannine, what began with The Help has inspired a lot of super communication! Some shrink would pay you money for your "study"!

Harriat

On Sat, Mar 15, 2014 at 11:03 AM, Virginia Giusti <giustifamily@hotmail.com> wrote: Yes, that's right, Nedra. Miss Sears was the Latin teacher I remembered. I also remember Mr Herndon's name and think I must have had him for a teacher for a class of some kind. Speaking of teachers, does anyone remember the teacher who got caught in the downtown bus station having sex with another man? I think he taught us math as I remember learning how to write checks in his class. I also think that he married and was a member of our church, Park Temple Methodist. I remember that I liked him a lot and his arrest and the subsequent story was a shocking eye-opener for me. Ginny F

Ken took two years of Latin from Miss Sears (I think that was her name). I took one year at Naval Air from Mr Herndon. Will share more when I get to my computer.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2014, at 9:29 AM, Virginia Giusti< giustifamily@hotmail.com> wrote:

The account from Marcia gave me chills as I read it. However, her experience with the lack of Latin classes left questions in my mind as I remember taking one year of Latin and not enjoying it. I can still picture the teacher, a tall gray haired woman. When I get a chance, I'll look in my year books to see if I can find her photo. Perhaps she retired and they retired the Latin program at the same time. My sister who was 8 years ahead of us at FLHS loved Latin and was offered a college scholarship to major in Latin with her 3rd year in Rome. Sad thing is that my dad died 3 days after my sister graduated from high school and "she felt" that she needed to get a job to help mother with the financial picture and thus she turned down the scholarship. As I understood it from Mother years later, it wasn't necessary for my sister to make that choice, but understandably it was a difficult decision and time for my sister. Nice thing is that since she was so smart she was able to use her Latin to work as a medical secretary until she retired to marry and have a family. She died of ovarian cancer at age 69.

CC: giustifamily@hotmail.com; gramchatter2@hotmail.com; babs723@hotmail.com; artistbgj@gmail.com; barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com; betsylady@sbcglobal.net; b_bounds@msn.com; twinklingb@yahoo.com; bonnierdh@msn.com; diantate@aol.com; ellalpha@att.net; cw_gv@bellsouth.net; harriatb@gmail.com; whatazoo6@mac.com; kjkott63@yahoo.com; jehplus8@frontiernet.net; judi@streamlinerinc.com; chapman0138@gmail.com; ksp@cfl.rr.com; milanesif@bellsouth.net; mkb583@aol.com; kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net; remayii@aol.com; martielross@yahoo.com; hikelady@aol.com; naf1313@yahoo.com; nsgurry@verizon.net; pwilson@htcnet.org; patboal@tampabay.rr.com; rbksd1@aol.com; sandy1941@gmail.com; sharronosmith@gmail.com; tracebarrett@yahoo.com; wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

From: marciaftmyers@aol.com

Subject: Re: questions

Date: Sat, 15 Mar 2014 06:23:48 -0400

To: Matwisso@aol.com

I moved from Ridgewood N.J. To Ft Lauderdale at beginning of 10th grade. Most traumatic was leaving my good friends and discovering there was no Latin class at Ft Lauderdale hs. I soon made new friends, however, and adjusted to fact there was not only no Latin but no academic challenge. At that point in my life, I loved learning. I was shocked by separate bathrooms and drinking fountains and blacks having to sit at back of the bus. I asked why and was told that was the way it was.

One of the good things in hs were the Service clubs. I volunteered to work at the deaf school and helped with English. Once a week, I took kids to beach. I remember vividly how people at the beach pointed and laughed because kids could not hear. I went to William and Mary College where there were no black students. In fact, Sports Teams from other schools were not allowed to bring their black players to play on W& M

campus. I do not recall knowing anyone Jewish prior to going to W & M where I met Jeanette. When it became time to pledge a sorority, she informed me she was not allowed to pledge because she was Jewish. I asked administration why and was told that was just the way it was. I was so incensed that I never did pledge a sorority. I went to Paris after two years and never returned to W & M.

On the way to Paris I met Dan and we developed a friendship. Dan is Jewish. My Father forbid me to have anything to do with him. Dan was at Edinborough and we corresponded. My Father was to right of Gangus Khan. He would have nothing to do with "nigglets" or Jews. After I returned to the states, Dan and I dated and ultimately married. My Father did not attend the wedding and did not acknowledge fact I was married for two years until he showed up in Providence where Dan was attending Brown University grad school and asked if he could stay for dinner! Ultimately, I converted to Judiasm and brought my two sons up in Jewish religion.

I will never understand why people treated the blacks or Jews as they did. Thank God for Lincoln and Martin Luther King and thousands who helped Jews come to this country.

So many memories and stories to share.....M

Sent from my iPad

On Mar 14, 2014, at 1:08 PM, Matwisso@aol.com wrote:

Jeannine ...I am going to answer inside your text of the email..easier not to forget....

In a message dated 14/03/2014 7:04:19 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, giustifamily@hotmail.com writes:

From Jeannine....and I added a PS in regard to Catholics:
Bonnie,

Thanks for your thoughts. I do think that as bad as segregation was in Lauderdale, it seems it was even worse in places in the "deep south" Does anyone remember if the blacks were allowed to use the library? **Not that I am aware of....**An older lady(older than us!) that I often visit with here in Atlanta told me that things were not the same in Atlanta (not that they were good) as Jackson was portrayed in the novel.**Jackson was true South and I am sure quite worse than Florida.. but not as bad a Mississippi and Georgia... any thoughts?**

Several of you have mentioned the high stepping Dillard band. Did our HS actually play games against Dillard or do I just remember them from maybe a parade?. **They**

played in parades but we never played them..I was at the University of Florida and we had a good football team but nothing like it was after I left and blacks started to play!! The black university had a 100% winning schedule..playing football was one way to get out of the norm and make a good living in the NFL. They were probably paid less in the beginning.

Bonnie, as to knowing Catholics---Bonnie Patterson Flanagan was my best friend all my life(we were born 5 days apart at Broward General and our parents were already good friends) and she is and was a very devout Catholic. She could probably tell you others in our class.**Barbara Guercia is Catholic and I remember going to church with her when only Latin was read...times have sure changed. I don't remember much about who was what religion..I don't think any of us really cared...as long as you were a good friend.**

I agree with you about feeling the shame of the things that went on in Lauderdale that I was so blind to. Just accepting things that were. Going to Wheaton College in the Chicago suburbs was so good for me. There I met black students that were totally accepted by the student body and well liked.

Thanks for all these responses. The novel made me want to try to remember what it was like back then for blacks in our community. But , of course, we only know it from the outside. That's why the novel was so powerful, because it was from the point of view of those who were living under those Jim Crow laws.**I think most blacks walked on thin ice when we were in school..I remember trying to talk to my Mom's maid in the 1970's and she was very quiet and said very little but in 1980 when my mom died, we had some "equal" conversations and she was a huge help to my Dad until he died...one on one and not "the help"... There will always be prejudice but today we are much better off than in our teen years. Great conversations girls!! Ginny H**

PS: From Ginny F

BTW, my friend, Sharon Newsham, is Catholic and the only one I remember from high school. When I went to college I dated and married an Italian Catholic. I had dated a Jewish boy in our class, Tom Tilchin, if memory serves me correct.....but didn't know anything about Italians. By the time I had to come to terms with raising our daughters in the Catholic church rather than in my comfort zone of the Methodist church, we moved to Pittsburgh and ALL of my neighbors were/are Catholic. But I did tell Dave that I went to his church for 25 years and then it was his turn to come to my church for the next 25. Now that we've been married 50 years we don't go at all. Just kidding.....sort of. :) Ginny

On Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:48 PM, naf1313 <naf1313@yahoo.com> wrote:

I was at the University of Georgia when the first two black students came. There were riots which were broken up with tear gas and the students had to be escorted to class. The female student, Charlene Hunter later became a journalist for NPR.

From: Bonnie Stowell< twinklingb@yahoo.com>

To: "Matwisso@aol.com" <Matwisso@aol.com>; "giustifamily@hotmail.com" <giustifamily@hotmail.com>; "gramchatter2@hotmail.com" <gramchatter2@hotmail.com>; "babs723@hotmail.com" <babs723@hotmail.com>; "artistbgj@gmail.com" <artistbgj@gmail.com>; "barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com" <barbbrowngreiner@gmail.com>; "betsylady@sbcglobal.net" <betsylady@sbcglobal.net>; "b_bounds@msn.com" <b_bounds@msn.com>; "bonnierdh@msn.com" <bonnierdh@msn.com>; "diantate@aol.com" <diantate@aol.com>; "ellalpha@att.net" <ellalpha@att.net>; "cw_gv@bellsouth.net" <cw_gv@bellsouth.net>; "harriatb@gmail.com" <harriatb@gmail.com>; "whatazoo6@mac.com" <whatazoo6@mac.com>; "kjkott63@yahoo.com" <kjkott63@yahoo.com>; "jehplus8@frontiernet.net" <jehplus8@frontiernet.net>; "judi@streamlinerinc.com" <judi@streamlinerinc.com>; "chapman0138@gmail.com" <chapman0138@gmail.com>; "ksp@cfl.rr.com" <ksp@cfl.rr.com>; "milanesif@bellsouth.net" <milanesif@bellsouth.net>; "mkb583@aol.com" <mkb583@aol.com>; "kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net" <kcdavis7@sbcglobal.net>; "marciaftmyers@aol.com" <marciaftmyers@aol.com>; "remayii@aol.com" <remayii@aol.com>; "martielross@yahoo.com" <martielross@yahoo.com>; "hikelady@aol.com" <hikelady@aol.com>; "naf1313@yahoo.com" <naf1313@yahoo.com>; "nsgurry@verizon.net" <nsgurry@verizon.net>; "pwilson@htcnet.org" <pwilson@htcnet.org>; "patboal@tampabay.rr.com" <patboal@tampabay.rr.com>; "rbksd1@aol.com" <rbksd1@aol.com>; "sandy1941@gmail.com" <sandy1941@gmail.com>; "sharronosmith@gmail.com" <sharronosmith@gmail.com>; "tracebarrett@yahoo.com" <tracebarrett@yahoo.com>; "wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com" <wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:33 PM

Subject: Re: FW: questions

Hello, All,

There is much to say, but nothing in Ft. L. ever could compare with what I experienced in Nashville at Vanderbilt. I was truly shocked at the openly racist comments. At the time only the Divinity School at Vanderbilt was integrated. During my jr. yr., there was a student referendum (non binding) re integrating the undergraduate schools, sponsored by the Student Senate. I believe that it passed (to integrate), but in the various discussions, I can assure you that my opinion of voting to integrate didn't make me popular among many. As Vanderbilt was a residential university, the dorms would have to be integrated. One of the really hateful things said was, "Yes, but would you want to take a shower with one?" Believe me, nothing sexual was implied; just being near naked together. And as I

recall, the women's showers were all individual, anyway, not a 'shower room.'

I didn't really know any blacks in h.s. Remember that there were few Catholics in our school - I can't remember any - so the schools were all segregated. I never had a Catholic friend until I worked at Burdine's on the college board in 1960. I went to her wedding at the Catholic Church. It was just the way it was, but I never recall any hatefulness, esp. in the home in which I was raised.

After I went to Vanderbilt, I saw that my mom would make lunch for the cleaning lady and then sit with her and eat together. I realized that that would never have happened in Nashville or the Deep South.

Someone mentioned the 'black beach.' I never saw it, but I recall generally where it was due to having a speed boat that we drove everywhere. In about 1995 a black man was trained as a Stephen Leader in my church. I was already trained. (Not many blacks in my United Methodist Church, but this man was, married to a white wm.) Anyway, one day we were talking and he mentioned that he grew up in Ft. L. I can't recall how old he was, but I remember for days feelings of SHAME that he must have had to go to the black beach and I could go almost anywhere to the ocean. He and his wife changed churches soon after that, but I have never forgotten it.

So much to say....

Bonnie Linane Stowell

On Thursday, March 13, 2014 6:37 PM, "Matwisso@aol.com" <Matwisso@aol.com> wrote:

In a message dated 11/03/2014 12:47:17 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time, giustifamily@hotmail.com writes:

Date: Tue, 11 Mar 2014 12:41:55 -0700

From: kjkott63@yahoo.com

Subject: questions

To: giustifamily@hotmail.com

Hi All,

I know I'm a little behind on this book, but I finally got around to reading *The Help*. I thought it was so good. But it made me start trying to remember what things were like in Lauderdale when we were little. Of course there were the separate schools, water fountains, restrooms, but does anyone remember two hospitals and were the blacks kept out of the library? My mother only had help once a week so I didn't have the experience of being raised by a black maid. I would love to hear from those of you who grew up in Lauderdale of the things you remember about race issues during that time. I think I was oblivious to most of what was happening in the black community.

Jeannine

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Hello..

Growing up in Washington, D.C. until I was nine was very different than living in Ft Lauderdale for many reasons..weather for sure but "Blacks" were very prevalent in the D.C. area, not that they had any terrific jobs but they seemed to me to be treated with a bit more respect. We had a maid who came once a week to 'help out' as my Mom would say. She ate in the kitchen and used our bathroom so I was shocked when I saw "THE HELP" and the bathroom was such an issue !!

We moved to Ft Lauderdale in 1950...I vividly remember taking our ironing to a wonderful black lady in "Colored Town" during the mid to late 50's.... we would drop it off and she would tell us when to return... one day in the late 50's I drove by myself to get the ironing and she invited me in from her porch... I asked her how much and she said \$1.50 which I thought was alot of money until I stepped inside and saw what she lived with... nothing was new but nothing was dirty... the floors were certainly cleaner than my bedroom and her children all got up and greeted me. Her son who was my age carried the ironing to the car . I thanked him and he said I should never come around any later in the day than when I came... he said it might not be that safe for a girl to be around here due to the "things" that were going on there after dark.. he then said he didn't feel safe so I surely wouldn't. It made me think at the time that the Blacks might not be very trustworthy but my mother said that the KKK was doing awful things after dark and he was only telling me for my safety. I really didn't give it much thought until a few years later in 1964 when I was married and living in Jacksonville. My first husband and I went out to see a movie and on our way back we saw flames in the distance so we drove closer... there was a big open field (like a soccer field) ..in the middle of it was a huge burning cross surrounded by men in white hoods and robes. All members of the KKK. They carried burning torches... it frightened me like I have never been frightened before! My husband turned the car around as quickly as possible and we sped home.... my first husband is Jewish and knew all too well that it was not just a warning to Blacks. I think I had nightmares for weeks after that. We moved to Canada about a year or two

later. I watched TV with horror as the cities erupted in chaos during the next few years.

Getting back to "THE HELP", I remember having a Bridge Club once a week after our kids were in bed, of course! We dressed up and always had a lovely dessert and coffee. but no maids in sight.. I had a Black lady come in once every two weeks to clean my two bedroom apartment courtesy of my parents. I thought I was very special to have someone help me. She was kind and funny and we watched "Days of Our Lives" together when my daughter was asleep!! I never told anyone then as I guess I knew they would say it wasn't right... oh my how things changed.

Living in Canada in the late 1960's was quite different as there were no Blacks to speak of and all my friends could not believe Blacks were treated as second class citizens in the States. However, Native Indians were certainly treated very poorly here then.

I have gone on long enough... hope to see you many of you in May!!
Ginny Humphrey (Twiss)

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This fills in the rest of my story; which is a brief synopsis of 50 years or more.

Thanks,

Eleanor

----- Original Message -----

From: [Eleanor L. Alpha](#)

To: [Eleanor L. Alpha](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:34 PM

Subject: Re: questions

----- Original Message -----

From: [Eleanor L. Alpha](#)

To: wendycarlisle717@hotmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 8:32 PM

Subject: Re: questions

No, I retired from teaching in 2003 and my husband passed away from a stroke. So I moved to

Memphis where my daughter and her husband and three children lived. He was a physician at

St. Jude's Research Hospital. We moved to California in 2008 where he is at Children's Hospital

in Fresno.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Wendy T Carlisle](#)

To: [Eleanor L. Alpha](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:57 AM

Subject: Re: questions

Eleanor--

Do you still live in Arkansas?

wendy