



Happy 50th Birthday
class of



Happy Birthday to Us!

Memphis Memories

Blount Class of '72

June 18-20, 2004

Emory C. Alexander, Memphis, TN (no photo available)

Family: I'm married to a wonderful lady, Iris C.J. Alexander from Birmingham. We were blessed with one son, Torey Asim Alexander. He is now 21 years of age and a junior majoring in Computer Engineering and Music at Tennessee State University.

Education: After graduating, I attended S. D. Bishop State Junior College and Lawson State Community College for two years.

Work: I was in the United States Marine Corps for four years. Upon completion of my military service, my career with the airlines began. I started with Southern Airways (now Northwest Airlines) based in Birmingham. In 1985 I got transferred to Memphis. Presently I'm the lead instructor for Memphis base and I have been in this position for five years. I will complete twenty-seven years with Northwest Airlines on July 1.

Family: After high school I married John Overstreet, but I have been married to my loving husband James Edward Anderson for 16 years. I have four daughters and nine grandchildren.

Work: I worked for the Albert P. Brewer Center for three years but moved to Chicago and lived there for three years. After returning to Mobile, I worked at Ingalls Shipyard before later returning to the Albert Brewer Center until my retirement in 2003.

Church/Activities: I am enjoying my retirement by working in my church, Basin Temple Church of God, on the Pastor's Aid Board and volunteering with the elderly.



**James and Doris (Hatcher) Anderson
Lucedale, MS**

In 1954...

- ~ Elvis Presley released his first recordings on Sun Records "Blue Moon of Kentucky" & "That's All Right"
- ~ First successful kidney transplant is performed
- ~ Sports Illustrated is first published on August 16
- ~ A major fast food franchise, McDonald's, first opened in California

In 1954...

- ~ The Supreme Court decided that racial segregation in schools was unconstitutional in the "Brown vs. Board of Education" case
- ~ The Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine, is launched
- ~ Polio vaccine is given to children the first time ever
- ~ Putt-Putt miniature golf courses are invented by Don Clayton



**Iris Langham Chapman and Family
Rowlett, TX**

Family: I live with my husband Brad in a suburb of Dallas and we have five daughters: Monica, 12; Miriam, 30; Melissa, 17; Kimberly, 16; and Kathryn, 20.

Education: I attended Wiley College.

Work: I am an administrative assistant at General Reinsurance Company.

Church/Activities: I am an active member of Meadow View Church, involved with youth activities and organizing Prime Timers luncheons. I enjoy tennis, walking, and just having fun with friends and family.

Larry Chestang, Mobile, AL (no photo available)

Family: I'm married to Debra Chestang and we have one daughter.

Work: I'm retired.

Fred (Conner) Croon (no photo available)

Family: I'm married to Carol Croon and we have five children.

Work: I'm the Florida District IV director for DYB Baseball. I'm also the Union President for Local 3114. I know we all are getting older because I just had my 30th year anniversary with Bell South in April.

Family: I'm married to Calvin Crosby (Class of '64), and the mother of three great children: Tomika (29), public relations/social work; Kevin (25), minor league pro basketball player; and Keith (18), recent high school graduate and college bound!

Work: I'm an administrative coordinator with UOP LLC, employed there for 26 years.

Church: I attend Mt. Hebron Baptist Church.

Interests: Volunteer & member of the African American Archives Museum; Blount Alumni Association; NAESAAS.

Favorites: Non-fiction books, entertainment, conservative politics, genealogical research, interior decorating, music.

Accomplishments: Being born again, having great family and friends and a great career.



**Diane Franklin Crosby
Mobile, AL**

Maurice Dortch, Prichard, AL (no photo available)

Family: I'm single.

Church: I'm an active member of True Light Church.

Interests: Computers.

Ricky Dunigan, Eight Mile, AL (no photo available)

Family: I'm married to Laura Dunigan and we have two wonderful kids, Jarvis and Ryan.

Work: I work for Northwest Airlines at Gulfport/Biloxi Airport and have been a customer service agent for 29 years.

Family: I'm divorced, but have three children: Ronald, Glenn, Patrick; and five grandchildren: Ronald, Donna, Satoria, Reginald and Anthony.
Work: I've been a teacher of Specific Learning Disabilities for 23 years, at Hamilton Elementary School for 20 of those years.

Education: I have B.S. and Master's degrees.

Church/Activities: I attend St. James A.M.E. Church and I am the director of all church choirs. I enjoy singing and working with children.



**Patricia Davis Harbin
Mobile, AL**



**Rev. Willie Houze
Tyler, TX**

Family: I'm married to Janice Annette Franklin Houze. We have two daughters, LaNasha and Courtney Houze.

Work: I'm the assistant principal of John Tyler High School.

Education: I received a BS degree from Wiley College in Marshall, TX, and a Master of Education degree in Administration and Supervision from Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, TX.

Church: I pastor College Hill Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas.

In 1954...

~ The Boeing Aircraft Company conducts its first test flight, on July 15, of the new Model 707 jet liner

~ The Northland Center opens on the outskirts of Detroit, Michigan. Seen by many as a turning point, this precursor to the modern shopping mall features enclosed pedestrian walkways that are both heated and airconditioned.

In 1954...

~ 27th Annual Academy Awards:

Best Picture: *On the Waterfront*
Best Actress: Grace Kelly in *The Country Girl*
Best Actor: Marlon Brando in *On the Waterfront*

~ Emmy Awards:

Best Drama: US Steel Hour
Best Comedy: Make Room For Daddy

Family: God has been really good to me and one of the greatest gifts he has blessed me with is my son Brandon.

Work: Employed by BP America Production Company in Houston, Texas.

School: After graduation, I attended Dillard University

Interests: I enjoy singing, listening to music, dancing, reading and participating in sports activities when the knees don't ache. Don't laugh! I'm sure several of you know what I am talking about!!

Accomplishments: One of my greatest accomplishments has been organizing the Blount High School "All Class Reunion" and the support that I have received from the best graduating class to leave Blount, the Class of 1972!!



**Don G. Hudson
Houston, TX**

Lottie A. Hughes, Fort Valley, GA (no photo available)

Family: I'm unmarried with no children.

Work: I'm a second grade teacher and have been teaching for 23 years.

Activities: I'm president of the local chapter of the Georgia Association of Educators (G.A.E.) and vice president of Fort Valley State University Area Alumni Chapter, where I am also a life member.



**Ron Jackson
Atlanta, GA**

Family: I'm single, no children (that I know of).

Work: I'm a physician, board certified in psychiatry. I specialize in addiction medicine, inpatient psychiatry and correctional mental health. I'm currently the medical director of an acute psychiatric and detox unit in Atlanta. I'm also a psychiatric consultant for the Fulton County Jail.

Activities: I'm a workaholic but believe in having fun and traveling. Attached is a snapshot of me having fun at Carnival in Brazil.

Family: I've been divorced 12 glorious years. I have two daughters, ages 25 and 21.

Work: I worked for K-Mart Corporation for 21 years.

Activities: I enjoy traveling, listening to music, Victorian doll collecting, and power walking.



Devonne Anderson Kimbrough
Mobile, AL



Patricia Smith Jenkins and Charles A. Milligan
Mobile, AL

FYI: I'm 49 this year – NOT 50!

Family: I'm a divorced mother of two sons, Andre M. and Shawn M. Jenkins. I'm the grandmother of seven.

I'm engaged to Charles A. Milligan.

Work: I've been employed at Bell South for 30 years as a service technician.

Church: I'm a member of Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Prichard.

Activities: I'm a member and business manager of Emerald, Inc., a social and civic organization, which is also a member of the Mobile Area Mardi Gras Association (MAMGA). I'm also a member of the Mattie T. Blount High School Alumni Association.

In 1954...

- ~ January 14, New York Yankees baseball star Joe DiMaggio marries Marilyn Monroe
- ~ Swanson & Sons introduces a nifty new idea, the T.V. Dinner
- ~ On July 4, Marilyn Sheppard is found murdered by her husband, Sam. The events surrounding the case lead to a long running television show, "The Fugitive"
- ~ In Los Angeles, a six year study concludes that the city's infamous smog is caused by the chemical reaction of sunlight with automobile and industrial emissions

In 1954...

- ~ Women can expect to reach the age of 73 years while men can expect to live to an average of more than 66 years
- ~ The median salary is \$3,200
- ~ On February 12, the results of a U.S. study are released which suggests a strong link between smoking and cancer

Family: I'm married to Joann Goodwin Ladd (Vigor High School Class of '72). I have two sons: Kalon (23) - currently a senior at the University of Alabama (Electrical Engineering); and Emmett, II (25) - currently serving in the U.S. Air Force (Computer Systems), AAS in Electronic Systems Technology, BS in Education.

Work: I served 24 years in U.S. Air Force (Secure Communications Systems/Computers) and retired in 1997. I had out of country tours took us to Japan, Korea, Spain, Greece, Guam, Germany and Hawaii. I'm currently employed as a telecommunications specialist with Defense Information Systems Agency - Continental United States (DISA-CONUS) at Scott Air Force Base, IL. I plan to move back to Mobile after retiring from DISA-CONUS.

Activities: I'm a high school sports official - basketball, volleyball, and soccer. I'm also a youth Bible study instructor. I enjoy traveling and meeting people, and outdoor activities. Other hobbies include stamp and coin collecting, and investing.



**Emmett Ladd
Scott Air Force Base, IL**

Carolyn Ward Marshall, Jackson, MS (no photo available)

Family: I am the proud mother of one son who recently graduated from high school.

Work: Management

Future Plans: I've lived in South Carolina, Louisiana and now Mississippi, but I hope to move back home to Mobile soon.



**Pamela Curtis McGill
Mobile, AL**

Family: I'm the mother of two beautiful children, Jermela McGill James and Parome McGill, and have three grandsons: JerPaul, Parome and Jamal.

Work: I'm currently employed at Hertz Corporation.

Church: I'm a member of Friendship Primitive Baptist Church where I serve as Matron President.

Education: I am studying Mortuary Science at Bishop State Community College.

Activities: I enjoy family, friends and meeting new people. I like to sing, dance, exercise, crack jokes and read. I love visiting the sick.

Accomplishments: I am most proud of my sense of humor and the compassionate spirit the Lord has blessed me with.

Family: I'm married to fellow classmate Melvin Bernard (Nod) Moore.

Work: I've been employed by the Mobile County Board of School Commissioners as a teacher for 27 years.

Education: I received my B. S. Degree in Early

Family: I'm married to fellow classmate Bernadine Strother Moore.

Work: I've been employed with Northrop Grumman Ship Systems (formerly Ingall's) for 28 years.

Education: I attended Grambling University and

Childhood Education from Alabama A&M University and my Master's Degree in Education from the University of South Alabama.

Activities: Played clarinet both in high school and college banks. Now my interests are playing tennis and dancing.



**Bernadine Stother Moore and
Melvin Bernard Moore
Mobile, AL**

played baseball.

Activities: I love sports! I played several high school sports: basketball (guard), football (quarterback), and baseball (center field). I'm also a member of the Blount Alumni Association.

Accomplishments: I was voted Best Athlete and Most Popular at Blount.

Inez Hughes Neal, Highland, CA (no photo available)

Family: I'm married to Tommie Neal and have three stepchildren.

Work: I'm a claims representative at St. Paul Travelers Insurance, employed 29 years.

Activities: My favorite activities are exercising, interior design and attending auctions.



**Derek and Ida Norwood
Mobile, AL**

Family: I am married to a wonderful woman by the name of Ida Norwood. She is my wife as well as my best friend. I thank God for her everyday.

Work: Mobile County operations supervisor for 15 years.

Interests: Member of the Utopias by the Bay, Inc., Crewe of Goats Mystic Society; Onyx 676 Masonic Lodge.

Church: Cedar Street Baptist Church.

Larry Anthony Smith, Marrero, LA (no photo available)

Family: I'm married to Patricia Smith and have two children, a son and a daughter.

Work: After high school I served in the U.S. Army and now in sales.

Activities: I enjoy playing chess.

Family: I'm married to John Pruitt and have three children: Maari, Kyrenn and Chyna.

Education: I attended California State University in Sacramento and received a degree in Merchandising from Wesland College in Sacramento.

Work: I manage a women's clothing store and own my own personal shopping service.

Church: I'm a member of Ruth Chapel A.M.E. Church.



**John and Paula (Westry) Pruitt
Mobile, AL**



**Floyd W. Pough
Mobile, AL**

Family: I'm married to Cheryl Perkins Pough. We have three children: Tracy, Danielle and Joseph.

Work: Consultant, Pough & Associates, which provides consulting services to small businesses and professionals (business plans, bookkeeping, income tax and sales tax preparation, payroll reporting, etc.).

Education: I received a degree in accounting from Dillard University.

Church: I'm a member of Word of Life Community Church.

Activities: My hobbies are surfing the net, volunteering with youth athletics (football, basketball, chess and daughter's cheerleading activities). I'm a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and treasurer/accountant for BHS Alumni Association.



**Marion and Antoinette Sprivey
Mobile, AL**

Family: Antoinette (Agee) Sprivey and I have been a couple for 32 years and married for 28. She is a Vigor Wolf ('74)! We have two sons, Mark and Darnell, and seven grandchildren.

Work: After graduation I served in the U.S. Army for four years, two of which were spent as a boxer. I was the light heavyweight champion of Korea and the Philippines in 1975 and 76 (44-2). I had the honor of fighting the exhibition bout during the Heavyweight Championship of the World contest in February 1976 (George Forman). I also served with the Prichard Police Department and the Mobile Sheriff's Department. I have been employed as a chemical operator with Cytec (formerly American Cyanamid) for 22 years. Antoinette and I are entrepreneurs and have owned a buffet, florist and promotional business.

Quote: "We are looking forward to growing old together and spoiling our grandkids," said the Spriveys. "We realize who is the source of our supply and who is holding our hands and our future and He is God."



Dorothy Stone
Mobile, AL

Work: I am employed in the medical field.

Church: I am a member of St. Joseph Baptist Church in Whistler where I mainly work with children.

Education: I attended S. D. Bishop State Community College and the University of South Alabama.

Activities: I am a very active member of the M. T. Blount Alumni Association.

Family: I'm married to Leroy S. Williams, Jr. and we've been married 23 1/2 years. We have three daughters: Jarmelle Z. Roberts, Melissa S. Williams and LaZandra C. Williams.

Work: I worked for K-Mart Corporation for 21 years and am currently working for IBC Interstate Brands Company.

Activities: Collecting porcelain elephants, fishing, listening to music, traveling when possible. I'm a member of Florida Lanes Bowling League (bowling for 26 years).



Malanda Davis Williams
Mobile, AL

In 1954...

~ On August 31, Hurricane Carol, the first major storm to carry a name, hits the northeastern United States, leaving 70 people dead and millions of dollars in damage in her wake

~ On March 1 five congressmen are shot when Puerto Rican nationalists invade the House of Representatives

~ On November 30, Elizabeth Hodges was napping on her couch in Sylacauga, Alabama, when an eight-and-a-half pound rock crashed through her roof, hit her arm, and left a nasty bruise. The rock, it turns out, had come straight from outer space and was probably part of the annual Leonids meteor showers, which occur about this time every year.



***Regards from our classmates
who couldn't make the trip...***

I've been reading the emails on the trip to Memphis and I know it's going to be big fun!!! I won't be able to attend due to other plans but tell everyone hello. I'm just happy that I'm finally on the email list to hear about all of the happenings.

Rosalyn Woodyard Cannon
Nashville

I will not be attending, but I am getting excited for all that are and wish that you all have a wonderful trip. I have not been involved with any of the past activities and just reading some of the emails, it brings back fond memories of people and Mattie T. I certainly have plans to begin participating and looking forward to the next event.

Roger D. Bendolph
Mobile

Unfortunately, I will not be attending the event due to untimely sickness and deaths in my family....However, I am sure you 50-year-olds will have a great time. Prayerfully, I will be available for the next gathering. Keep me informed!!!! Give my regards.

Kathy Thomas Miller
Cincinnati

Thanks for the info. At this point, I'd love to come ... but may not be able to get off. I celebrated my birthday on Saturday, January 24. It was a wonderful event. Stella Gardner came and one of my husband's friends who also went to Blount was there. So, I guess I started the 50th off in January.

Phillippa Stephens Williams
Oakland

Diane, I am not going to be able to make the Memphis trip. Just started a new job last month. Have a great time and tell everyone I said hello.

Patricia Porterfield Bythwood

Sorry, I'm not going to make it, I fractured my ankle while on business travel a week ago. May be next time. Enjoy enough for me, I will be expecting to see pictures.

Jackie Woodard
Virginia

Sorry I won't be able to make the trip this time. I was really looking forward to it.

Shirley Essex Young
Mobile

Looks like I am going to miss all this fun, and all of you too!

Catria Sharpe
Atlanta

Sorry I can't make it this time but I hope everyone has a great time.

Brenda Summers Daniels
Mobile, AL

Sorry, I won't be able to make the trip to Memphis. As some of you know, I recently returned from Kuwait. Thanks to all that prayed for me. Hope you all have a good time. God bless.

James Campbell
Jackson, AL

(Note: James was called into the ministry and gave his initial sermon on June 6th)



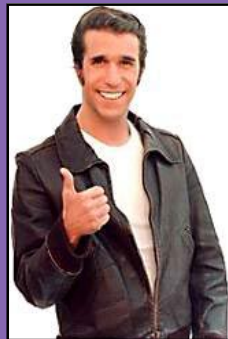
This was the Way of the Wo

The Clothes



men wore:

crew-cuts, leather jackets, white T-shirts, jeans, pompadours, duck-tails, preppy sweaters, cords, pegged pants, Hawaiian shirts, cloth sports jackets with leather sleeves



ladies wore:

strapless evening gowns, jeans & trousers, sweater sets, poodle skirts, suits, full skirts, hats, gloves, saddle shoes, penny loafers, bobby socks, cat's-eye glasses, detachable Peter Pan collars, pearl necklaces



And what did items cost in 1954?

Cars: A 1954 Chevrolet was \$2,888; a Ford Coupe was \$3,189 and a 1954 Pontiac was \$3,245.

Housing: A 2-bedroom house was \$6,950, \$295 down, no loan costs. A 3-bedroom house was \$7,950, \$375 down. Apartments rented for \$50 to \$75 a month.

Food: sugar, 10 pound, \$1.00; Best Foods Mayonnaise 65 cents a quart; T-bone steak 49 cents a pound; Sirloin 85 cents a pound and Hamburger 29 cents.

A loaf of bread was 25 cents; a two-pound loaf of cheese 69 cents; Campbell soup, 8 for \$1.00; a pound of butter, 79 cents; 57 cents for a dozen eggs; a quart of milk cost 24 cents; and coffee 89 cents a pound.

Clothes: A suit was \$29 and a top coat \$19.95.

Kids: Top pay for babysitters was 35 cents an hour.

The population of the USA was 162 million.

We were 6% of the world population yet we had 60% of the cars, 58% of the phones, 45% of the radios and 54% of the railroads. The births in the US were 4 million, there were 1 1/2 million marriages and only 379,000 divorces.

World the Year We Were Born

Now you can say "YES" when you grandkids ask, "Did they have that when you were growing up?"

Cannon towels, Northern Tissue, World Book, Buick, Ronson, Quaker State, Mennen, General Electric, Firestone, Florsheim, Mercury, Boeing, Campbell Soup, Chef Boy-ar-dee, Rexall, Jello, Westinghouse, Aunt Jemima Pancakes, Sanka, Beautyrest, Union Pacific, Cutex, Quaker Oats, Minute Rice (before Uncle Ben took over), Johnsons Baby Shampoo (59 cents for a big bottle), Borden, Seven Up, Tums, Rice Krispies, Kotex, Nescafe, Fruit of the Loom, John Hancock, Lea & Perrins, Honeywell, Canada Dry, Maytag, Greyhound, Swanson frozen TV dinners, Holiday Inn

And a computer in 1954?



This 1954 IBM looks more like what? A couple of Sub Zero refrigerators and a washer/dryer combo?



'54 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible Coupe

The Cars



'54 Oldsmobile 98 Holiday



'54 Chrysler Imperial Coupe

REMEMBER.....

Hide-and-go seek at dusk...
 Red light, Green light...Spin the bottle...
 Playing ball until your porch light came on...
 Mother May I?...
 Hula Hoops...
 Running through the sprinkler on a hot summer day...
 Watching Saturday Morning cartoons
 Playing Dukes of Hazard...
 Catching lightning bugs in a jar...
 Christmas morning...
 Your first day of school...
 Bedtime Prayers and Goodnight Kisses...
 Climbing trees...
 Getting an Ice Cream off the Ice Cream Truck ...
 The mosquito man riding through the hood with his noisy truck...
 Jump rope, jacks, hopscotch, tic tac toe, dominos, checkers
 Jumping on the bed...Pillow fights...
 Running `til you were out of breath...
 Laughing so hard that your stomach hurt...
 Being tired from playing...
 Your first crush...
 Rainy days at school...
 Remember that? I'm not finished yet...
 Red Kool-aid was the drink...
 Toting your friends on your handle bars...
 Wearing your new shoes on the first day of school...
 When a quarter seemed like a fair allowance, and another quarter a miracle...
 When any parent could discipline any kid, or feed him or use him to carry groceries, and
 nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it...
 When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited a
 misbehaving student at home...
 Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! And some of us are still afraid
 of them!!!
 Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-mo"
 Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "DO OVER!"
 Catching the fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening...
 It wasn't odd to have two or three "best" friends...
 Being old, referred to anyone over 20...
 The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was cooties...
 Nobody was prettier than Mom...
 Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better...
 It was a big deal to finally be tall enough to ride the "big people" rides at the amusement
 park...
 Abilities were discovered because of a "double-dog-dare"...
 Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles...
 The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team...
 Water balloons were the ultimate, ultimate weapon...

If you can remember most or all of these, then you have LIVED!!!!



The Year We Were Born

On TV: Jack Benny Show, Adventures of Rin Tin Tin, George Gobel Show

Books: The Lord of the Rings, Lord of the Flies

Fads: Davy Crockett becomes a national fad, sales of "coonskin" caps soar

Faith: The phrase "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Year We Graduated

Top Hits of 1972:

Lean on Me, Let's Stay Together, First Time Ever I Saw Your Face, I'll Take You There, Outa Space, If Loving You Is Wrong, Ben, Everybody Plays the Fool, I'll Be Around, Back Stabbers, Too Late to Turn Back Now, If You Don't Know Me By Now, Heart of Gold, Betcha By Golly, Wow, I Gotcha, Papa Was A Rolling Stone, I Am Woman, I'm Still in Love With You, Clean Up Woman, Burning Love, You Are Everything, Look What You Done For Me, Last Night I Didn't Get to Sleep, Me and Mrs.



Jones, Freddie's Dead, Day Dreaming, Sugar Daddy, You Ought To Be With me, Got to Be There, I Wanna Be Where You Are, I'm Stone in Love With You, Where is the Love, Use Me

Top 40 - This Month's Best Buys - 1972-1973

'53 2 Door SEDANS \$995
\$195 DOWN \$35 PER WEEK
TRADE IN ANY CREDIT ACCEPTED

51 Ford Escort Sedan \$995	48 Ford Escort Sedan \$495
51 Chevrolet 3 Door \$995	48 Chevrolet 3 Door \$495

'54 FORD-CHEV-PONTS \$1595
\$245 DOWN \$65 PER MONTH

50 Ford 4 Door Sedan \$795	48 Chevrolet 3 Door \$495
49 Ford F-Series \$495	66 Mercury Fordor Sedan \$395

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Girls' Jeans
177
each pair

