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Psalm 100:3

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75¢



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Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Where Did The Funny Go?

People need to laugh. It is good for them and also, fun! Have you ever been around someone that is laughing really hard? Watching them laugh is probably funnier than what made them laugh.

Any-woof, there used to be shows on TV called comedies. Similar shows are still called comedy but, they are all so political, pushing the same left wing agenda. They don't even record in front of audiences anymore. Real comedy is timeless. I Love

Lucy, Home Improvement, Cosby, Friends, Reba, Happy Days. Shows like that have stood the test of time because they were relatable and funny! They didn't try to push a political agenda.



They didn't try to de-mean half the country or demonize demonize Christians, Jews, or any other religion. They were just funny!

They didn't make dad obsolete, even if the parents were divorced.

Facial expressions, physical comedy, or even a single word can be funny. Such as "Lucy!" "Pivot!" Or, even a grunting sound. The casts were funny due to chemistry between them because they didn't try to force "diversity" or skin color.

I think we should go back to those kinds of comedies and dramas too, for that matter. When actors were good because they were good, not because they fit this mold or that group. Just my two cents on the matter.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
GAS
UTILITY DISTRICT**
MORGAN of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 13	56°/38°	
Wed 14	47°/22°	
Thu 15	29°/21°	
Fri 16	42°/31°	
Sat 17	39°/20°	
Sun 18	28°/19°	
Mon 19	40°/19°	

Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

— In Loving Memory —

**David Francis Rogers, 81
United States Army Veteran**



David Francis Rogers, 81, passed away on December 21, 2025, at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He was born on February 22, 1944, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and raised in Coalfield, Tennessee. A lifelong resident of Coalfield, he carried the spirit of his community with him throughout his life, grounded in the values and connections formed in the place he always called home.

David proudly served his country in the United States Army from November 15, 1966, to November 14, 1972. He achieved the rank of Sergeant while serving in Battery A, 15th

Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division. His service included a deployment to Korea from November 29, 1967, to October 31, 1968, where he fulfilled his duties with dedication and honor.

Following his military service, David built a distinguished 35-year career at ORNL, K25, and Y12, where he held a variety of roles and responsibilities. He retired in 1999 as a Maintenance Supervisor from the Y12 National Security Complex, remembered for his strong work ethic, steady leadership, and commitment to those he worked alongside.

He was a Master Mason with Faith Masonic Lodge #756 F&AM in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a devoted member of the Church of Christ in Oliver Springs, Tennessee. His faith and fellowship were important parts of his life and the values he carried with him.

David was a skilled electrician, carpenter, and mason—talents

he used generously to help others, solve problems, and build things that lasted. His craftsmanship was matched only by his patience and willingness to lend a hand whenever someone needed him.

He enjoyed a wide range of hobbies, including Amateur Radio, shooting, hunting, fishing, gardening, woodworking, and working on automobiles. Whether tending a garden, repairing an engine, or connecting with others over the airwaves, David found joy in working with his hands and sharing his knowledge.

David was preceded in death by his father, Johnny Rogers; his mother, Carrie Jackson Rogers; his brother, Lincoln Rogers; and his sister, Carol Joan Rogers Sloat.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janet Toney Rogers; his daughter, Kimberly Rogers Jones, and son-in-law, Dan Jones; his grandson, Nich-

olas Jones, and fiancée, Helen Wagner; his brother, Paul Rogers; and his sisters, Mary Stewart, Catherine Holbrook, Carla Gant, and Karen Griffin.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 26, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 5:00 p.m. Gravesides services will be Monday, December 29, 2025 in the Roane Memorial Gardens at 2:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Rogers.

The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

- Lamentations 3:24

Holly LaVelle Duncan Hall



Mrs. Holly LaVelle Duncan Hall of Lancing, formerly of Petros departed from this world on Christmas morning, December 25, 2025. Holly was of Christian faith and enjoyed being in church service, listening to gospel music, and coloring with her niece Whitley.

She is preceded in death by her father, Roger Duncan and mother, Brenda Gibson; and nephew, Isaiah Nathaniel Peddicord.

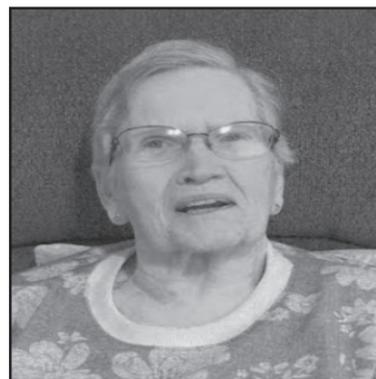
She is survived by her son, Jordan Hall; sister Wendy Duncan Potter (Tom Feezell); nephews William Michael (Jenny) Potter and Walter McKinley Potter II; special niece, Whitley Meadows Potter; Godmother, Lora Davis, and a host of cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends Monday December 29, 2025 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. A graveside service will immediately follow at New Petros Cemetery, Petros TN.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that contributions be made to Schubert Funeral Home P.O. Box 326 Wartburg, TN 37887.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Holly Duncan Hall.

Dorothy "Dot" Sexton



*Dorothy "Dot" Sexton
1/14/1938 12/22/2025*

Dot is survived by twin daughters, Marlene Jerrolds and Charlene Kennedy, grandson Jacob Jerrolds and wife, Sabrina Dooley, sisters Elizabeth Jones and Faye Williams, many nephews and nieces, and friends.

Her daughters and family will miss her greatly but rejoice that she is not suffering or in pain anymore.

The family will be receiving friends at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, Tennessee, on Saturday 12/27/2025 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm EST with service from 12:00 pm EST. Interment will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge, Tennessee.

Beloved Mother, sister, aunt, and friend, went home to be with Our Lord on Monday evening, 12/22/2025.

Dot was born in Kentucky but lived most of her life in Tennessee. She married the love of her life, Bob Sexton on 7/16/1958, and they enjoyed many great adventures together.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Dorothy "Dot" Sexton.



— In Loving Memory —

Joshua Roy Shelton, 36



Joshua Roy Shelton
December 1, 1989 – December
16, 2025

Joshua Roy Shelton, 36, of Alexander, North Carolina, passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2025. Joshua was born on December 1, 1989 in Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County.

Joshua was the son of Frederick and Janine Shelton. Joshua was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Roy and Georgia Shelton; his maternal grandparents, Lloyd and Anne Blunt; his aunt, LeDema Griffith; and his uncles, Lloyd Blunt Jr. and Michael Blunt.

Joshua was known to his family—especially to his niece and nephew—as “Joshie.” Though it was a nickname he wasn’t particularly fond of, he wore it like a badge of honor, a quiet reflection of the love he had for his family.

Josh was a hardworking, blue-collar man who took pride in working with his hands. He had a deep love for the outdoors and cherished time spent on his grandpa’s land in Tennessee. He especially enjoyed hunting and fishing, finding peace and joy in nature. He also had a passion for dirt bike riding and was an avid video gamer, often spending late nights gaming with his brother, Ryan—memories that will be forever treasured.

In addition to his loving parents, Joshua is survived by his sister, Elaine Hensley (Jimmie) along with their children Sarah and Lukas, of Leicester, North Carolina; and brother, Ryan Shelton, (Erica) of Alexander, North Carolina;

Joshua is also survived by his aunts Sandra Helton (James), of Oakdale, Tennessee; Tabitha Hamby (Dennis), of Wartburg, Tennessee; and Andrea Merida, of Barbourville, Kentucky. Joshua was also deeply loved by a host of cousins.

Joshua will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his love of family, and the quiet loyalty he showed to those closest to him. He leaves behind a legacy of shared memories, laughter, and love that will never be forgotten.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Shelton, Jimmie Hensley, Kinley Hamby, Kyle Ruppe, Elijah Ruppe, Eric Goldston, Lyndell Goldston, and Chad Ellege.

The visitation and funeral service will be held at Schubert Funeral Home, 1318 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg, TN 37887. His family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21, at the funeral home, followed by the funeral service, officiated by Rev. Dr. Keith Hutchinson, at 2:00 p.m. The burial will then take place at Camp Austin Cemetery, 1976 Camp Austin Rd, Oakdale, TN 37829.

Schubert Funeral Home is
honored to serve the family
of Joshua Roy Shelton.

Gloria Jean Redmon, 73



It is with great sadness that the family of Gloria Jean Redmon announces that she has passed away. Gloria Jean Redmon, age 73 of Lansing, TN, passed away at Methodist Medical Center peacefully while surrounded by her family on December 23, 2025.

She was born in Scottsbluff, NE on March 29, 1952 to parents Nicholas and Maggie Reyes. She worked at Wartburg Middle School in food service for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nicholas and Maggie Reyes; brothers: Senovio Reyes, Carmelo Reyes, Marshall Reyes, and Jesse Reyes; and sisters: Kathe Reyes and Virginia Ojeda.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 43 years, Wendell Redmon; children: Jonathan (Meagan) Redmon, Christopher (Whitney) Redmon, and Sarah; grandchildren: Gabriel Redmon, Landon Redmon, Coton Isham, Emery Redmon, Kara Redmon, Ariadne Martin, and Maddox McGhee; brothers: Angel Reyes (Darlene Fiest) and children: Michael and Mario along with their spouses and kids; Nick (Bea) Reyes and children: Nikki, Stephan and Patrick, along with their spouses and kids, and Jesse Reyes; sister, Victoria Reyes; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday December 31, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with a memorial service at 7:00.

*Schubert Funeral Home is
honored to serve the family
of Gloria Jean Redmon.*

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



— In Loving Memory —

Robert “Bobby” Hicks, 61



Bobby was very talented and loved by his co-workers. Bobby’s careers ranged from building underground tunnels to operating heavy equipment in radioactive areas. One of his most recent adventures was Grey Beards Lawn care, where he partnered with his close friend Dave Hall. Bobby worked long hours and yet he had time for his family and community.

Bobby was well known for his coaching abilities at Sunbright High School where he graduated in 1983. He assisted the coaching staff at Sunbright High School where he impacted many young lives on and off the field.

Bobby is survived by his four beautiful children (of whom he was extremely proud), Johnathan Hicks, Dustin and Wife

Madison Hicks, Daughter Halee Hicks and Fiancé Zack and Daughter Natalie Diaz.

Bobby is further survived by his Mother- Ettie Jo Hicks, His Brother-James and wife Lynn Hicks of Georgia, Sister- Lisa and Husband Chris Russell, Nieces- Autumn, Mariah & Hollyann Russell, Nephews- Brian and wife Ashley Bledsoe, Aaron Moore and Amber along with a host of great nieces, nephews, uncles, and cousins.

Bobby is preceded in death by his Father Wilford Hicks. Aunts Eva England, Dorine Devaney and Doris Lawson and Uncle’s Billy Hicks, Jim Devaney.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from

5:00-8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at Schubert Funeral Home with Bro. Charles Webb officiating. Interment will follow in Neal’s Cemetery.

Pall Bearers- Dustin Hicks, Johnathan Hicks, Evan England, Jessie England, Dave Hall, Chris Russell.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Robert “Bob” Hicks.

“Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day... unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.” – Unknown

Robert “Bobby” Hicks transitioned peacefully from his home in Sunbright, TN to his Heavenly home with his Lord Saviour on Monday December 22, 2025. Bobby was born on May 30, 1964, to Wilford and Ettie Jo Hicks of Sunbright.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**



Mary Lou Daugherty Lindsay, 78



and wife Maddie. Great-grandchildren: Wyatt, Waylon and Walker Campbell, Case Ochoa, and Maverick Lindsay. Sisters: Kathryn Daugherty, Phyllis White and husband Connie, and Karen Daugherty. Best friends since birth Terry and Teddy Basler.

Also, a special place in Mary’s heart goes to Paula, Sonya, Marilyn and everyone with the Quality Family.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Smile Train at smiletrain.org and/or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at stjude.org.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 5, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with the funeral to follow at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in the Family Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Lou Daugherty Lindsay.

Mary Lou Daugherty Lindsay, age 78, of Oakdale passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jack C. Lindsay, parents Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Daugherty, brothers Dennis Ray and Kenneth Daugherty Jr., grandmothers Rose Wallace and Louvernia Carroll, and aunt Sally Basler.

Survivors include her children: Deanna Rose “Gidgett” Daugherty, Rita Lynn Lindsay Huffstetler and husband Wayne, and Johnny “Goose” Lindsay and wife Dee Ann. Grandchildren: Kiara Elkins, Leslie Lively and husband Everett, Victoria Ochoa, and Michael Lindsay



— In Loving Memory —

Randy Arthur Gibson, 58



Randy Arthur Gibson, age 58 of Deer Lodge passed away on January 2, 2026, at the Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge after a short battle with cancer.

Randy was born on May 12, 1967, in Chicago, Illinois, but

grew up in Deer Lodge. Randy married the love of his life, Sherry, and together they raised their son, Andrew. He was a cable TV lineman for years and then ran his auto repair garage in Deer Lodge with his dad. He loved his music, and he had a great sense of humor, loved to laugh, and wanted to make others laugh. Those that knew him were often the recipient of his quick wit and desire to make you laugh.

Randy is preceded in death by his mother Patricia (Patti) Gibson and father Henry (H.C.) Gibson; grandparents Arthur and Beulah Robinson and Chester and Ada

Gibson; uncles Ross Branstetter and Jerry Robinson; and mother-in-law Dean Lavender.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Sherry; son Andrew and fiancée Bonnie Chaboudy; sister Debra Vertner-Brown and brother-in-law Jay Brown; father-in-law Wilfred Lavender; sister-in-law Karen Starr (David); aunt Kathy Branstetter; nephews, great nephews/niece, and cousins; and many great friends.

Randy loved his fur babies and to rescue those that needed a home so in lieu of flowers, you may want to donate to a pet shel-

ter or your charity of choice.

The family will receive friends on Monday, January 5, 2026 from 5-7 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Services will follow at 7 pm. Graveside services will be Tuesday, January 6th at 11 am at the Mt. Hope Cemetery, Deer Lodge, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Randy Arthur Gibson.

Ken Bonham



Ken Bonham has left the planet. He exited in the early days of 2026 in his sleep. He left a guitar propped against the living room table as well as 19 flat picks and three thumb picks on the side table (I counted them). The other 15 guitars were in cases or on stands in every room except the bathroom. He took all ten fingers and his unequalled talent with him.

Ken came into the world in 1939, the same year that saw the premier of "The Wizard of

Oz". He followed a yellow brick road out of Nashville for a few years as a journeyman guitarist for a number of country music singers. He rode countless miles in the back of a station wagon to make music in a hundred Emerald cities across the US. He came back with fifty dollars. But he was on the Grand Ole Opry!

He left the rarified world of country music entertainment for a more domestic life with a wife, two kids, a couple of Heinz 57 dogs named Flop and Brutus and a small brick house in an East Tennessee mill town. But he always played music. He remained a musician's musician. He leaves us while the "Wizard of Oz" enjoys a rebirth in the cinema, and we like to think his second act is onstage now as well. He played his final gig here a couple of weeks before moving on.

He leaves a big hole in a lot of lives and an empty spot on the bandstand. He leaves a lot of memories and funny stories from the perspective of the world's most lovable smart-ass.

He had 10 siblings and a grandchild who went on before him. Two children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and another on the way as well as a host of admiring musicians, friends and fans who will sorely miss his dry wit, big heart and peerless guitar skills.

He will be remembered and celebrated at Ciderville Music Store on Clinton Highway in Powell, Tennessee on January 17 from noon until everyone has had a good time. Bring an instrument if you'd like to play or sing. Bring stories and memories to share. Tears are optional but the goal is to remember the joy of a life well lived.

Ken would surely like you to skip the flowers and support local music and local musicians... except banjo players.

The family will have a Ken Bonham Celebration of Life "Ken-fest", on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 12 to 3 pm ish at the Ciderville Music Barn 2836 Clinton Hwy, Powell, TN 37849.

RSVP: appreciated but not required: 336-971-2997.

Please check back for the full obituary.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Ken Bonham.



— In Loving Memory —

Joey Allen Wright “Big Joe,” 61



Joey Allen Wright
“Big Joe”
September 1, 1965 –
January 5, 2026

Joey went to his heavenly home on January 5, 2026.

He is preceded in death by his son Joey Michael Wright; parents John and Gladys Wright; sister Gail Lawson and Jerry “Pacos” Lively.

He leaves behind his wife and best friend of 43 years Gail Trunzo Wright; son Jimmy Wright & Sarah; grandchildren Stevie, Lucas, Tyson, Oliver, and Bonnie Gail Wright, London and James Wright, Emma and Sawyer Howard; daughter-in-law Megan Crabtree; sister and brother-in-law Nikkie and Ken Paprocki; sister-in-law Nicole Trunzo and a host of nieces, nephews, to many to name specifically but

loved individually.

Joey was many things, a wonderful loving husband, and father. The best “Pappy” around. His passion and career was HVAC, which he passed down to both his sons helping shape their careers.

His life has been dedicated to his family spending many weekends and holidays celebrating at the river. Sledding on Gobey with his boys and grandkids. There wasn’t a day he didn’t spend with at least one of the grandchildren. His whole heart was his family.

The family will receive friends Saturday, January 10, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 11:00-12:00 p.m. with Bro. Chris Bumbalough officiating. Interment will follow in the Choate Cemetery in Jamestown.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joey Allen Wright.

Buffie Price McKeehan



Buffie Price McKeehan, of Petros passed away January 7, 2026 at her home.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents James and Helen Price; parents C.B. Barbara Phillips mother and father-in-law Murray and Ann McKeehan.

She is survived by her children Kimberly and Adam Terry, Eric

and Shannon Crabtree, Miranda McKeehan and Derrick Nolan; grandchildren Naomi Davis, Jase and Jayden Terry, Bentley and Zylas Crabtree, and Cameron and Devon Nolan.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 12, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Petros Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Buffie Price McKeehan.

Timothy Hall, 53



Timothy Hall, age 53, of Wartburg passed away January 6, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge. He was born May 7, 1972.

He is preceded in death by his parents David and Creasie Hall; grandparents Timberline and Betty Hall.

He leaves behind brother Jason and Penny Hall; nieces Hannah and Haven Hall; nephew Austin Hall.

Timmy loved racing, hunting, and fishing. Timmy was a friend to everyone he was around. He will be truly missed.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 12, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Dustin Bonham officiating. Timmy’s wishes are to be cremated.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Timothy Hall.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



— In Loving Memory —

Judy Kaye Simpson, 81



Born on March 2nd, 1942, Judy Kaye Simpson passed away January 8, 2026 peacefully at home surrounded by family.

To know Judy was to love her. She was the heart of her family, a beacon of kindness and warmth. She was a devoted wife to Granville Simpson for many cherished years and a beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend.

Judy was known for her unwavering faith in Jesus Christ, which brought comfort and consolation to all who knew

her. She was Granny to everyone, and she had a unique gift for making everyone feel loved and valued. Her home was truly a place of solace, especially for her grandchildren.

Family was at the center of Judy's world, and she found immense joy in gatherings and moments shared with loved ones. Her kindness, generosity, and the joy she brought to everyone around her will always be remembered.

Judy was preceded in death by husband Granville Simpson and infant daughter Angela June; parents Paul and Ella Lloyd; sisters and their spouses Ruth and Jim Carender, Myrtle and Gene Terry, Pauline and Bertis Neal, Barbara and Roger Beu, Patsy and James Shelton, Brenda and Jim Evans; brothers James Edward (Jeb) and wife June Lloyd, Franklin Don Lloyd, and Doug Lloyd; nieces Chris McKinney,

Libby Neal; nephews JB Neal, Sonny Carender, great nephews Jordan Carender, Charles Lloyd; Father and mother-in-law James and Lena Simpson; Sisters and brothers in law Blannie, Tommy, Ruble, and Donna Simpson, Nick and Edra Simpson, Carol and Arnold Sheppard, Joyce and Gordon Pemberton; nephews Nicholas Simpson and Richard Simpson and niece Sheila Fleming.

She is survived by her daughter Patti and husband Will Gouge, daughter Tamra and husband Kevin Raymond Duncan and son Kevin and wife Tina Simpson; Grandchildren: Jessica Davidson, Paul Gouge (Casie), Jake Simpson (Sarah), Kaity Beth McCarter (Phillip), Jasmine Lowe, Dalton Simpson (Angel), and Luke Gouge; Great grandchildren: Jaxon, Jobey and Ace Davidson, Kendyl and Kaylea Gouge, Lorelei and Willa Simpson, Salem McCarter, Zander

Lowe, Obediah, Ezekiel and Rainleigh Joy Simpson; Precious sister Terrie Morgan (she and daughter Ginger truly were our angels on earth) and husband James; Sisters in law Agnes Lloyd, Becky Lloyd, and Ruth Simpson; and a multitude of nieces and nephews. Judy's legacy of love and compassion will continue to live on in the hearts of all who had the pleasure and honor to know her.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 11:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Will Gouge officiating. Interment will follow in the Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.



Historically Speaking

Larry Lunsford Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Benita Albert brings us another insightful series on a person who graduated from Oak Ridge schools.

Fifty-five years after Oak Ridge High School Class of 1970 graduate Larry Lunsford was first featured in an Oak Ridger article written by Ruth Carey, it is time we follow up on Larry's life story. Ruth Carey, a long-time community activist, journalist, and photographer, chose Larry as one of five Oak Ridge teens whom she described as "deeply involved in a constructive way."

Carey's five-part series spotlighting exceptional teens was her way of responding to community and school concerns for local youth and the potential threat of drugs. The articles led with the question: "Is there not enough in Oak Ridge community life to keep local young people constructively involved?" Larry Lunsford's story was of an enterprising young man who secured the position of sportswriter for *The Oak Ridger*, a job that entailed two hours of work in the news office before he reported for classes at ORHS each day. And that was not all, there was more work time after school and on weekends, not to forget Larry's attendance at all school games.

Larry was a Renaissance teen with strong interests in the arts, sports, and music. He was in several plays at the Oak Ridge Playhouse as well as holding many more backstage and tech crew assignments. He played sports and ran track. A fun reward from his sports writing job was working halftime broadcasts of ORHS games with the legendary Joe Vann of WATO radio. His musical interests included writing folk songs, performing some guitar improvisation, and later serving on the University of Tennessee's All-Sing Advisory Board.

The year 1970 is memorable for such events as the Apollo-13 near-fatal mission, the National Guard shootings of four Kent State student protestors of the Vietnam War, the break-up of the Beatles, and the number one hit song, "Bridge Over Troubled Waters," by Simon and Garfunkel. The first Vietnam War draft lottery was held on December 1, 1969 with subsequent yearly lotteries through 1972. The baby boomer generation of 1970 high school graduates were facing an American society marked by significant social and political change.

Other memorable events from Larry's childhood in Oak Ridge helped shape his future professional life and avocational pursuits. I was privileged to meet Larry during the ORHS Class of 1970 reunion in August of 2025. I was struck by his warm personality, by the gift of a book, *Brad*, that he had recently authored, and by a brief conversation with him regarding his unique professional career in higher education. After reading *Brad*, a semi-biographical and Oak-Ridge-inspired coming-of-age novel set in 1960s America, I was convinced that I wanted to know more about Larry, that I wanted to share his story.

Larry recalls his Oak Ridge upbringing in this part one of a two-part feature. Part two will delve into his professional journey as an educator, college administrator, and writer.

Larry's parents, A.B. and Edna Lunsford, arrived in Oak Ridge in 1944. A.B. was a guard at the security gates on the edge of town. When the town opened, A.B. helped start the original Oak Ridge Police Department, a job he held until retiring in the late 1970s. He was active in the Fraternal Order of Police and related police activities. Edna worked as a cafeteria cook at

Oak Ridge elementary schools and was active in church projects, the Police Women's Auxiliary, and Eastern Star.

Larry had one older brother, Gary, an ORHS Class of 1962 alum, who became an educator and college administrator. Gary took great pride in being a member of the 1962 State Championship track team, where he won the pole vault. Both Larry's parents and Gary have predeceased him.

Larry attended Highland View Elementary School for grades K-6, followed by Robertsville Junior High School for grades 7-9. Larry wrote, "I loved my third-grade teacher, Estelle Hendrix Joyce. I attended her wedding and wrote a short story which I gave to her...I still have the napkin from her wedding with her and her husband's names and date on it."

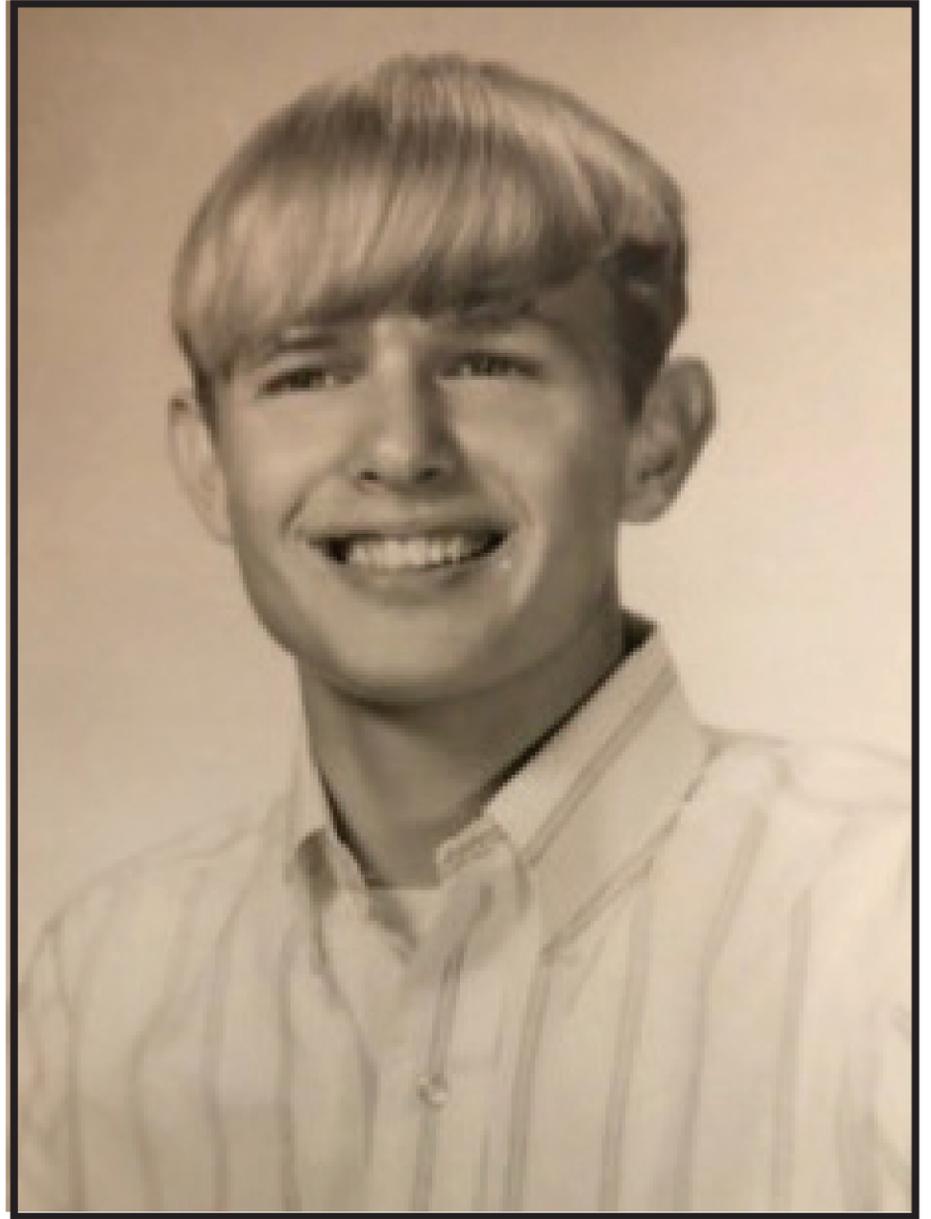
This young writer was prolific and ambitious. By age ten, he was appealing to Dick Smyser, the editor of *The Oak Ridger*, to consider giving him the chance to write an advice column for the paper. Larry suggested, "My idea is for people who have troubles in their home—someone writes me and asks, 'Our family doesn't get along, how can we get along?' I would answer and tell them how to get along." Smyser's response was artfully proffered on the editorial page: "Larry is ten and will be in the fifth-grade next school term. He certainly exhibits a lot of ingenuity and confidence in suggesting the idea, and we wish we could take him up on it. However, we fear we'll have to wait until he's a bit older." Larry brought a copy of the editorial to share with Smyser when he was hired as the sports editor in his senior year. He said, "We had a good laugh out of it."

Larry has published a collection of his writings across the years, including many of his early writings. *Reflections: An Anthology of the Early Works of Larry Lunsford* includes poetry, playwriting, short stories, and personal memoirs. His books are available on Amazon.

An especially poignant memory from Highland View was recalled by Larry in our interview. "I was a member of the Safety Patrol and raised the flag each morning. I was also a Junior Fire Marshall. On November 22, 1963, Principal Gordon Crouch came to our room shortly before the day's end and informed us that President Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas. I remember people crying, and my dad picked me up from school. I usually walked home. I was taught how to raise the flag entirely to the top and then lower it to half-staff for the next 30 days."

At Robertsville, Larry was on the track team all three years. He fondly remembered having a solo in the school chorus Christmas show and becoming active in the Oak Ridge Playhouse.

ORHS was an opportunity for new and greater challenges. Larry joined the track and cross-country teams for his first two years. He won the Oak Ridge Optimist Club's Oratorical



Larry Lunsford, when he was in Oak Ridge High School
(Courtesy of Benita Albert)

Contest with his speech entitled "Patriotic Citizenship Needs Optimism." (Included in *Reflections*). As a junior he was tapped for Key Club. He fondly remembers the trips to the East Tennessee Psychiatric Hospital in Knoxville where Key Club members played games and football with the children. Larry mused, "It made me appreciate my life."

In his senior year, Larry was elected the class treasurer. He went on his first airplane trip to the Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC where he was a member of an ORHS delegation representing The Gambia. Larry was chosen to speak to the entire assembly of delegates. His speech, representing Gambian citizens, and thus using the pronouns we and our, follows: "The Gambia is the smallest country on the African continent and was part of the British Empire until we gained independence in 1965. We are almost surrounded by Senegal, and our economy is supported by farming, fishing, and tourism. The population is less than two million. As an independent country, we are proud to be here with this esteemed body." (As recalled in *Brad*.)

He loved the chance to sightsee in the national capital: monuments, museums, and one special visit to the graves of John and Robert Kennedy evoked poignant memories of the half-staff flag duties he performed in sixth grade. Larry's high school years included other difficult realities, the death of a friend in Vietnam in 1968 and the tragic death of a fellow classmate during his senior year. Larry registered for the draft, agonized over the Vietnam War, and saw firsthand the antiwar protests at a Billy Graham Crusade event held on the UT campus in Neyland Stadium on May 28, 1970. He recalled that President Nixon was the special guest that evening, and his brief speech to the audience provoked taunts and jeers. Walking into the stadium through the crowd of antiwar protestors, Larry remembered a sign reading, "Thou shalt not kill."

- Continued on next page

Historically Speaking

Larry Lunsford Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

There was no doubt in Larry's mind that he would go to college. He had worked various jobs to help finance this goal including as a theater usher, as a stock and bag boy in a Gatlinburg grocery store the summer before his senior year, and with his work for The Oak Ridger. The latter assignment continued through his college years as he chose admission nearby at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK).

Larry praised many mentors, local educators and others who supported, inspired, and encouraged his dreams. English teachers, Alice Hughes in eighth grade and Christine Lenihan at ORHS, nurtured his interest in literature and writing. His track coach Bill Lewis and ORHS Principal Tom Dunigan were strong role models. He cited Oak Ridge Playhouse Directors Paul and Marguerite Ebert as having a great influence on his life and future interests. Finally, though his newspaper job in his senior year forced him to limit many other favorite activities such as the track team and playhouse work, Larry greatly appreciated the rare opportunity afforded him to be mentored by Editor Dick Smyser and Publisher Tom Hill at The Oak Ridger.

Larry wrote of his transition to UTK: "Surprisingly, majoring in journalism in college was not my first choice when I entered UT in the fall of 1970. I decided to major in political

science in hopes of attending law school. While working for The Oak Ridger, I became acquainted with Bill Lantrip, Oak Ridge City Attorney. He ignited my interest in becoming an attorney. I was a first-generation college student. I did poorly in political science classes my freshman year and decided to switch to my first love of journalism." Reporting that it was a long and difficult slog to overcome the grade point disadvantage, Larry prevailed and earned one of the highest honors at UT, induction into Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. The Society recognizes students who have distinguished themselves in academics and in leadership roles.

Larry thrived in the plethora of opportunities available on the UT campus including Greek life in the Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity where he has established a lifelong resume' of leadership activities. In his senior year, Larry served as the Vice President of the chapter and was voted the UT Chapter's Brother of the Year. Later, Larry held the position of International Vice-President of Pi Kappa Alpha (1988-92) and broader duties as President of The Association of Fraternity Advisors. He is currently a board member of the Order of Omega Honor Society and of the Pi Kappa Alpha Historical Society.

Larry's social life in high school included membership in a selective male social club, a fraught experience from his sophomore and junior years that he historically fictionalized in Brad. It was 'fraught' due to the secrecy from his peers, ORHS officials, and family--and for the menacing initiation activities. As a busy ORHS senior

with regrets for continuing the stressful induction activities, Larry spoke against such harassment. His unsuccessful campaign for change ultimately led to his resignation from the club. This experience stayed with him as he chose to reenter the world of social fraternizing in college. Later in his career as a higher education ombudsman and a leader in campus student affairs, Larry brought valuable, experiential wisdom to the complexities of policing, advising, and encouraging college students.

Life offers many lessons through experiences, both failures and successes. Larry learned at an early age to be resilient, to define his own moral credo, embrace challenges, and to persevere. For over five decades since his graduation from UT in 1974, Larry has passionately pursued a professional career combining collegiate administrative work, classroom teaching, student advisement, and writing. More on this follows in a part two installment.

But finally, let us return to the question posed in 1970 by the Ruth Carey article cited at the beginning of this feature. "Is there not enough in Oak Ridge to keep local young people constructively involved?" In retrospect, my answer most certainly would be "yes" for Larry Lunsford. In fact, I feel it was a prescient question for what Larry's professional and personal life became.

Thank you, Benita, for telling us about Larry Lunsford. The next part of his story will tell about his later experiences and bring the story up to the present in his life.



Larry at his sports desk

Their Own Thing - 2

Job Meant Giving Up But He Feels Lucky He Got It

Editor's note — is there not enough in Oak Ridge community life to keep local young people constructively involved? There's been a lot of panel discussions and school seminars in recent months, much of it centering on concern for the drug habit among local youth. Ruth Carey has written a series of five articles about local young people who find themselves deeply involved in a constructive way — very much doing their "own thing." This is the second.

By RUTH CAREY

Could you report it objectively if your own team lost a ballgame?

Larry Lunsford always yearns for the pleasure of reporting a win for the Oak Ridge High Wildcats. After all, he's an Oak

Ridge High senior who knows how it feels to win or lose — as a fan or a player.

But then he's also sports editor for The Oak Ridger and he tells it like it is.

Larry puts a lot of heart into his work. And he gets a lot of it.

One of the things he puts into it is — now hear this — solid hours of work at the staff office BEFORE reporting for classes in the morning. Then there's work at school, on weekend games, covering all the game action.

Covering a game to report is nothing like just seeing the action, matter how big a fan you are or how you might see the coaches and players in action. And of course,

(Continued on page

Romans 1



Melvin Howard

(Romans 1:1-7) the salutation: with a customary greeting, Paul introduces himself: in his relation to Christ (his servant) and to others (a specially endowed messenger of God---an apostle). His mission is to carry on that begun by the Old Testament prophets as revealed in the former Scriptures. Jesus is David's offspring and God's Son---as demonstrated by his resurrection from the grave. Through Christ, Paul had received

grace in the salvation of his soul, and an apostolic appointment, which was to be expressed by an obedience that results from faith (namely immersion into Christ, Acts 22:16). From the opening moment of this letter there is a negation of the false idea that "faith alone" justifies, independent of obedience. Paul emphasizes his ministry to "all nations," even to those "called" (by the gospel) (2 Thes. 2:14). His feelings toward these beloved saints in Rome are tenderly expressed in the greeting of grace and peace.

(Romans 1:8-15) desire to visit Christians in Rome: Paul thanks God for the faith of these Christians, so widely known throughout the Roman world (16:19). God knows how Paul has loved these saints and had them in his prayers so frequently. One focus of this was that he might be allowed to visit them (though he never dreamed at this time how that would come about). One object of his coming would be to impart "some spiritual gift" to them (v.11), the precise miraculous gifts to confirm their gospel message from the very beginning of the church. This gift may be something miraculous or that of a more general nature (Acts 8:18).

Paul is confident that his visit would be a blessing---to him and to them (v.12). Often he had planned to come to them to assist them spiritually, but more pressing circumstances had hindered such. He acknowledges the significant Gentile element of this church (v. 13). Paul labored under a heavy "debt" to proclaim the gospel to all. The debt doubtless involved: (a) his abiding memories of how he had persecuted the Christian Way (1 Tim. 1:12-13); (b) his passionate love for Christ: (c) his awareness of the horrible consequence of being lost. The debt also includes his passion to proclaim more advanced elements of the gospel to these brothers in Rome (v. 15).

(Romans 1:16-17) the just shall live by faith: these two verses could be called the thesis of this gospel. They embody a number of great truths. (a) Paul was not ashamed of the gospel because its origin was with God (Mk. 1:14). He thus believed it, had embraced it, loved it, proclaimed it, defended it, and was persecuted for it. He was so welded to it that, in a sense, he could refer to it as "my gospel" (2:16). Ultimately, he died for it (2 Tim. 4:6-8). (b) The nature of the gospel was in the reality of its "good news"---good in content (concerning Christ's atoning death, his resurrection, and glorification), good in regulating earthly conduct, and good for directing one's life heavenward. (c) Moreover, it was powerful in force, divine in essence, and effective in procuring salvation from sin. It was not-discriminating in that it embraced the two major segments of humanity---Jew and Gentile alike.

Additionally, the apostle notes that the blessings of the gospel are conditional. The gospel conveys information about how to access the power of God to save the lost. But this power is efficacious only on behalf of those who believe its message. The verb "believe" reflects a Greek tense that indicates it is an active faith which remains sustained (Heb. 3:12). Belief is not a one-time expression that forever saves beyond the possibility of forfeiture and condemnation (Heb. 10:39). Belief is neither a mere acknowledgement of historical facts nor simply an emotional disposition to "trust" Christ as Savior. Instead, it also embraces obedience (Jn. 3:36; Heb. 5:8-9). Even in this letter to Roman Christians, the apostle plainly demonstrates these people were made "free from sin" as a result of having been "obedient from the heart" to a specific "form of teaching" (6:17-18; 3-4).

Within the gospel of Christ (and nowhere else) the "righteousness of God" is revealed. The "righteousness of God" is the divine pattern whereby sinful people may be "credited" (Rom. 4:3) as righteous. Such is not on the basis of meritorious, humanly devised works (Tit. 3:5), but by means of the sacrificial death of Jesus, when accessed by

obedient faith, as indicated later in this letter (3:21-26; 5:1; 6:3-4).

The expression, "from faith unto faith," is highly controversial. It certainly does not suggest the idea that salvation is obtained solely by faith---if faith is viewed in the sense of an isolated act of believing, divorced from supplementary conditions of redemption. It would be a different matter if "faith unto faith" signified a life of obedient faith, as reflected by the examples of dedication catalogued in Hebrews 11 (Jas. 2:14-16). The "faith unto faith" expression may express the idea of faith's growth from weakness to strength (14:1; 15:1; Psa. 84:5-7).

Finally, the apostolic declaration is undergirded by inspired Old Testament precedent---"as it stands written" (Hab. 2:4)---a verbal tense expressing the validity of what has been written. The principle of having life by being credited as just by means of faithfulness spans the ages.

(Romans 1:18-32) God's indictment of the pagan world: the theme of God's wrath, while unpopular with self-absorbed society, is entirely biblical. Divine wrath, however, must not be viewed as analogous to human anger. The Lord's wrath is not impulsive or explosive. It is the measured justice that responds to human rebellion. God's wrath is revealed because of sin; it is revealed in: (a) the violent acts of nature (8:22), (b) the testimony of history (Gen. 6-9), (c) the sacrifice of the cross, and (d) the prophecies of the end of time (Rev. 14:9-12).

The Gentile world is the particular focus of this segment. The unity and character of God was universally manifested to the ancient world. Even though Jehovah did not manifest himself visibly, since the dawn of creation evidence of his existence was apparent in his marvelously designed universe. Such is so clearly manifest that those who reject the evidence of his power and divine nature are utterly (without excuse (v.18-20) note: the inference that humanity has existed since) the beginning of the creation. Man was not a later development!

Many, both of the ancient and modern worlds, possess a sense of the divine (from logical deductions or emotional impressions), but they refuse to glorify the Creator as God (by submitting to his authority); rather, they reveal their vanity and senseless blindness (v. 21). They act the role of the fool (Psa. 14:1) and express their "worship urge" in absurd ways, the deification of the lowest creatures of earth's environment (v. 22-23).

Three times the apostle will declare: "God gave them up" (v.24, 26, 28). The meaning is not that they were beyond salvation, but that the Lord permitted them to dredge progressively deeper into sin, hardening themselves in so doing. Turning away from the Creator does not leave one with a mere void; it allows the empty space to gradually fill with the basest of corruptions. There is a tragic consequence to exchanging the truth of God for a lie (v. 24-25). Many moderns do not know there is a difference.

Rebellion against Jehovah especially seems to express itself in the basest forms of sexual perversion (v. 26-27). The debauchery of ancient Sodom manifested itself in the Roman Empire.

When human beings "refuse to have God in their knowledge," a moral cause-and-effect law becomes manifest. A catalog of vices, both generic and specific, develop. Unrighteousness and wickedness bear bitter fruits, in both attitudes and acts. Malignant dispositions (maliciousness and envy) produce acts like murder, rebellion, and a barrenness of conscience that is void of any degree of "natural affection" (when parents murder their own children---born or pre-born). Such moral insanity and acquired depravity deserve nothing short of "death" (eternal separation from Almighty God and all that is good [6:23; 2 Thes. 1:9]). And those who "consent" to such godlessness are equally culpable (v. 28-32).

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