



13th Edition

# GLEN ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1960

Our 48th Anniversary

By Classmate Dewey E. Fox

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Kenny Morrison
- I Remember—Just Barely
- Drought Lake James
- WCIS Gospel Station
- Old but Goldie News
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- The Purpose in Life
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### Self -Appointed Editor:

Dewey E. Fox  
 P. O. Box 2877  
 Morganton, N. C. 28680  
 Email— deweyfox@deweyfox.com  
 Phone work (828) 437-9898  
 Fax work (828) 430-4444  
 Phone Home (828) 437-3723

**50th Anniversary**  
**GAHS Class of '60**



*This 1960 Class Newsletter is an attempt to keep in contact with our classmates and update their happenings in life.*

Website to Browse:

[www.deweyfox.com](http://www.deweyfox.com)

**KENNY MORRISON  
 STILL BARBERING  
 AND HAS BEEN  
 SINCE AGE 21**



I called Kenny and ask him about featuring him in this Class of '60 Newsletter. We got together at his barber shop and we spent over an hour talking and reminiscing about old times. He pulled his annuals out and we looked at some familiar faces and classmates we hadn't seen for a long time. (He keeps his annuals in the shop.) Kenny is still barbering in Glen Alpine, less than a stone's throw from the house he grew up in. He has never got too far away from his

roots.

Kenny came from a fairly large family. There were brothers Ralph, Carl, Bob, Glenn, and sisters Eloise and Dorothy. If I counted correctly I believe that he has six siblings. They all live here in Burke County. According to Kenny his mother and father said that they were going to continue until they had the perfect child. So if you haven't figured it out by now, Kenny is the youngest. I don't know if that was a correct story or if the story was when they saw him, they said "this is enough,

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If you choose to be off this mailing list, please let me know. No questions asked.

Please send me any news you may have and your email address for faster updates.



### New Contact Inf. for:

Pansy FOX Ross  
 P O Box 2431  
 Hildebran, N. C. 28637  
 Phone (828) 597-9095

Becky Biggerstaff Powell  
 4004 Williams Loop Lot 7  
 Morganton, N. C. 28655  
 Phone (828) 334-0247

### Joe Greene's New Email

joecathygreene@yahoo.com

### New Found Classmate Contact Information:

Beth Benfield - known as;  
 Charlie Beth BENFIELD Miller  
 2942 N C 181  
 Morganton, N. C. 28655

Phone (828) 437-5527  
 Email— davadj@bellsouth.net

Photo by Dewey Fox



Butterfly In Garden

## CONTINUED HAPPENINGS AND MESSAGES FROM CLASSMATES OF 1960

**“I Remember.....Just Barely!!!!”** by Dewey E. Fox

You know, I just got back from a funeral a few days ago and I suddenly realized that funerals and deaths are so final. There is no more getting up in the morning or going to bed at night. I will no longer be able to see and communicate with that one that has passed on. “Hopefully they are resting in Jesus.” Even in our small school of classmates that we went to school with, I know of at least 15 that have died .

These events brought me to think about the first time



July 8, 1950 – March 8, 1951

I remembered death and someone close to me that had died. I think that first real death experience was when my baby sister died in 1951, “Andrea E. Fox,” she was less than one year old at the time of death.

A life that was cut short. I wonder sometimes what life would have been like if she had lived. Would I be fussing and fighting at times with her as I did my other two sisters? Would my life have gone in another direction? Would she be grown now with kids and grandchildren? We will never know what would have been, and maybe it was meant to be that way!

When she died we lived in Shreveport, LA., since my father was in the military at the time. I was eight years old. I remember getting out of bed early one morning and walking with my pajamas on to the living room where my mother and father were sitting. I think I said something like, “What are you doing up so early this morning.” Their reply was that “Tootsie,” which is what we called her, had died earlier that morning.

Here we were, a daughter and sister that has died and



we were in Louisiana and our hometown was Glen Alpine, North Carolina. For whatever reason the decision was made to bring “Tootsie” back to Glen Alpine to bury her.

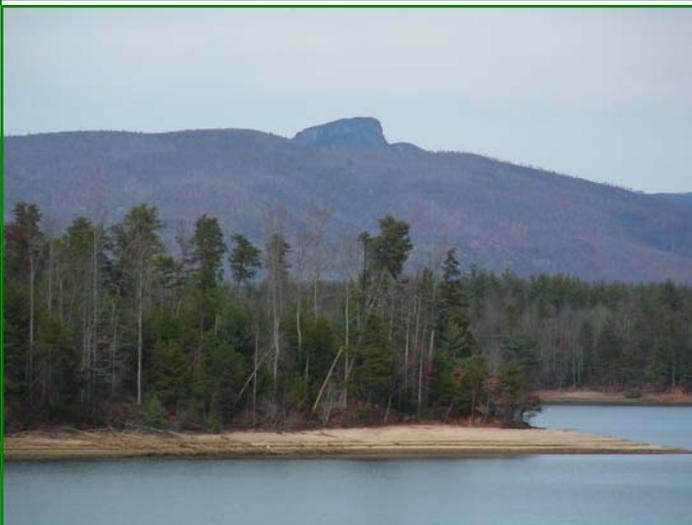
I guess things would have been done differently now-a-days, but remember this was back in 1951, over fifty-five years ago. She was put in a small casket and then in the trunk of our vehicle and we headed to Glen Alpine. I barely remember the trip except that we drove until we got here without staying the night.

Upon arrival we turned the small body over to Sossoman Funeral Home who handled the arrangements. She was buried at Gibbs Chapel Wesleyan Church on Jamestown Road outside of Glen Alpine. This was the Church the family went to and we had been raised in up to that point of our life.

This brings me back to what I started writing about, “Funerals and Deaths” “Are so final.” I remember us coming back from the cemetery after the burial. We all came to my Grandmother’s house, “Big Mom” we called her. As my heart felt so heavy and sad for the passing of my sister, we had just buried her, it seemed everyone else was having a good time at the gathering, eating and rejoicing. I remember food was brought in by many other friends and church members. But I wasn’t hungry, my sister had just been buried in a cold grave, never to be seen again. Never would I be able to aggravate her or to run and play with her. She was gone, “It was final.” Only the memories lingered that we had for that short time she was here on earth.

Even as I write my heart is heavy to the point of tears. So if you see wet spots on this writing you will know they are tears from a heavy and broken heart. But this life has survived all these years. Why I’m even writing this I don’t know, “Only God knows.” Why do we do things? Sometimes we don’t know, but something inside tells us to DO IT. As the saying goes “Just Do It.” Why do we climb mountains? “Because they are there.” “And we are fool enough to risk it all.”

Yes, Funerals and Deaths here on earth are final, but we have the blessed HOPE of eternal life through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can live forever with our loved ones, for this is a “Hope” message.



**The Drought in Burke County and Lake James—  
Water levels down approximately 14 feet.**

You guys around here in Burke County probably have seen what the drought has done to the water levels in Lake James. The above pictures give you a snap-shot view of the situation. These pictures were taken the end of December 2007. Now, as of this date the “God given rain” has helped the lake to return to almost normal. I’m sure where-ever you other classmates out of Burke County are residing you probably have the same drought conditions if you live in the southeast..

**THE SENILITY PRAYER :**  
Grant me the senility to forget the people  
I never liked anyway,  
the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and  
the eyesight to tell the difference.

**From Page 1 Kenny Morrison**

let’s quit.” Either way we are glad to have him around. Kenny married Earleen Waters from the Salem area and still lives in that area. They have one child, Kenny, Jr. and he lives at home.

Kenny said, “Come September of this year he will have been barbering for 45 years.” Folks that’s a long time. I wouldn’t be able to count the number of haircuts that Kenny has done over the years. **“Congratulations”** In high school Kenny played three years of football where he played halfback and safety. Back then they had a lot of different team formations. Coach Jug Wilson was a pro at these different plays and procedures. I asked Kenny if there were any good tales he could tell us, but he declined. He said, “they were best left unknown at this time in his life.”

Kenny also played a little baseball while in high school, but his main sport was football.

Golf has been his passion and sport for years even though he doesn’t play as much as he used to. Maybe age has something to do with it. Don’t know about Kenny, but it had an effect on me. Kenny also enjoys fishing the local lakes and rivers.

He also loves old classic cars and he buys, sells and trades every now-and-then. He recently had a Volkswagen Bug and sold it. I don’t know what they are worth now, but they sure can save on your gas bill.

In 1965 Kenny purchased new a 1965 Olds 442. Wow what a motor? You talk about a gas burner when you shower down on the gas-pedal. Boy, did those old muscle cars have the power! Good Luck and thank you Kenny for this interview and being a GAHS Classmate of 1960. Kenny would like to hear from you either by telephone or even a personal visit.

**“Joe Greene writes about 4th Grade Teacher”**

**Joe Greene** has written a story about his fond memories of Miss Francis Ensley. She was a fourth and fifth grade teacher at Glen Alpine. Joe spent a lot of time collecting, traveling and writing this article.

Miss Ensley died April 22, 2006 at the age of 85.

I have enclosed the article and obituary of Miss Ensley for your reading enjoyment. It just may bring back some memories of old times. Read On!

Received 4/4/2008 the following email from Nancy DUCKWORTH Arrowood: "Welcome to the Club."

We are so thrilled to finally join the Grandparent's Club. Bryant Gregory Arrowood made his grand appearance into this world on March 25th, and the proud parents are Bradley and Christy Arrowood. We are all so excited!! Brad just graduated from Appalachian State University with an Educational Specialist Degree in Public Administration, and we are so very proud of him in this great accomplishment. He is currently Assistant Principal at Salem Elementary. **Bobby and Nancy**

**Death of a son— Bradley Evans Fox**

For any of you that did not know, I lost a son to sickness March 24, 2008. He was also the son of our classmate Faye KELLY Stephenson. He was 47 years old and was the first born to our marriage. Bradley had lived in California for the last 25 or so years. He was a R.N. at Seton Hospital. Just as I never would have thought that I would be age 65 one day, I never would have thought that I would join the most unwanted club in the world, "Where the parents out live their children."

We had a "Celebration of Life" for him on April 20, 2008 at Gibbs Chapel Wesleyan Church where he was raised as a fifth generation member. One of the hardest things I have ever done was to give the message or Eulogy for his celebration. Pray for us, Dewey E. Fox



May 18, 2008 News Herald

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Annelle Mullwee accepts a name plaque of her father, W.A. Young, from the Morganton Kiwanis Club's Doug Shepherd.**

**Plaque in honor of W.A. Young**

Annelle Mulwee, daughter of Mr. W.A. Young, recently received a name plaque to be placed on her father's picture which hangs in the hallway at the W.A. Young Elementary School.

Young served as the superintendent of the Glen Alpine

City Schools from 1945 to 1967.

The plaque was donated by the Morganton Kiwanis Club that sponsors the Terrific Kids program at the school.

Doug Shepherd is the Kiwanis representative.

**QUOTE**

" If you get up early, work late, and pay your taxes, you will get ahead -- if you strike oil ." -- J. Paul Getty

**Burke County Trivia— News Herald April 14, 2008**

During the 1800s, many free schools for whites and blacks were founded across Burke County by communities and churches. Where was the first public county high school built with local tax dollars? **Page 5**

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.  
Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.



**WCIS Southern Gospel Radio Station Burns**

WCIS Gospel Radio station burned February 01, 2008 and left only a shell of the structure. WCIS music was spread throughout Burke County as well as surrounding counties. It rained about all night during the early morning blaze. I saw in the paper a few weeks later that the fire was intentionally set. Who would do this act?

In the local News Herald of February 2008 in “50 Years Ago in Burke County” we saw the following:

“Mrs. Winnie Smith, a teacher for 44 years and currently with the Glen Alpine schools, was surprised with a cake and candles in celebration of her birthday.” I think Mrs. Smith was our teacher in elementary school, maybe the fifth or six grade?

Also in this article of 50 years ago, which would be 1958. We read: “Nationwide gasoline war going on with gas being sold at 9.5 cents per gallon.” Today as I write this, the gas price is \$3.14 for regular. It currently takes about \$50.00 of gas to fill my small pickup truck. “Isn’t it a great world!”

“50 Years Ago in Burke County” article dated March 17, 2008 in the local News Herald was the following. “Winning honors at Boone in a district music contest are Mary Stafford Patton, Jean Ward and ANNE EGGERS.” Annie may remember this? Yes!

“50 Years Ago in Burke County” article dated April 28, 2008. Ralph Edward Wilson, coach at Glen Alpine, remarking that “I like everything about teaching, including my bosses.” On students—“they give me a great deal of satisfaction and I begin to think of them as my own.”

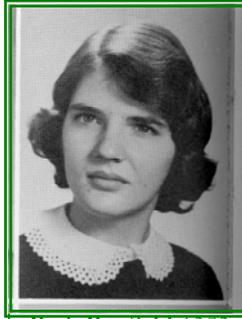
Patsy FOX Ross (no kin) called to change her address. She has moved from Morganton to Hildebran to be closer to her children. She wanted to let us know how she appreciated and enjoyed the newsletters. It brought back a lot of memories. Her contact information is on the front page. She is looking forward to our 50th Anniversary in 2010.



Cobb Taylor wearing a GA Letter Jacket. Are there any of these jackets that you guys still have? If so bring to the 50th.

#### From Page 4—Answer Burke County Trivia!

Glen Alpine (1912). Later high schools were constructed in Hildebran (1917), Valdese (1919) and Drexel (?). Morganton city high school built in 1905.



Beth Benfield 1959

#### FOUND—Beth BENFIELD

Or should I have said, she found us. I received an email from her on February 26, 2008 asking to be put on the mailing list of our Class of ‘60 Newsletter. It so happened that Mary (Ollis) Johnson is

a neighbor of hers and she was showing the Newsletter to Beth which happened to be one of our missing classmates. Isn’t life great and kind-of-strange!

She was Beth Benfield which is the name in the Junior Year Annual. But, now I noticed that her full name is Charlie Beth BENFIELD Miller. Charlie Beth (I like that name) may have been named after her father. Back in the old days, people our age, we were known and records were in the name you were generally called by others. In some cases it was not your full legal name and usually no middle name.

Being lost reminds me of the song, “I was lost but now I’m found.” Beth was still here in Burke County. She lives up Hwy. 181 beyond Oak Hill School. Her full name is Charlie Beth BENFIELD Miller. Yes, she married a Miller, Robert Miller, which at one time was a teacher at Glen Alpine and Freedom and later at WPCC here in Morganton.

Beth moved to Oak Hill during her Junior year which is the reason we didn’t see her after that year. She has two children, one son and one daughter. She is also blessed with 6 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

During her 47 years she was a stay-at-home mom when the children were small and later worked at Highlanders, Wamsutta, Henredon, Morganton Dying and Finishing, and Drexel Furniture.

She is now a regular scheduled volunteer at Asheville VA Medical Center. She provides transportation to and from the VA Medical Center for patients with no other means of travel for scheduled appointments. This is a program through Disabled American Veterans Transportation Program. This sounds like a very note-worthy ministry for Charlie Beth.

Charlie Beth, “Welcome aboard,” Hope to see you sometime soon, if not plan on our 50th Anniversary.

## The Purpose in Life

1. There is a reason for everything that happens.
2. Find your own purpose in life.
3. Do not be a slave to time.
4. Appreciate things for what they are.
5. Do not allow yourself to be dominated by the thoughts or expectations of others.
6. Do not be concerned with what others think of you.
7. Remember, you are not your body.
8. Don't fear pain or death.
9. Be open to life and live it to its fullest.
10. Money and material things are not particularly important in the scheme of things.
11. Helping others is what counts in life.
12. Do not trouble yourself with competition - just enjoy the show.



### Email Received From Jimmy Beach 04/09/2008—Most of you classmates will probably remember him.

DEWEY, THIS IS JIMMY BEACH. MY BROTHER, JERRY SENT YOUR WEB SITE TO ME AND I HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT IT FOR THE LAST TWO NIGHTS. IT IS VERY INTERESTING. I WISH SOMEONE WOULD DO THIS FOR OUR CLASS. I ENJOYED LISTENING TO YOUR PREACHING. THE MESSAGE ABOUT NEVER LETTING GO OF THE ROPE. YOU SHOULD PUT MORE OF THEM WHERE THEY CAN BE HEARD. ARE YOU A PASTOR OR LAY PERSON? ALSO WHICH CHURCH ARE YOU IN? MAYBE THE NEXT TIME I AM DOWN THERE I CAN COME HEAR YOU IN PERSON. I AM A DEACON IN OUR CHURCH WHICH IS A SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH. I GUESS WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE OLD DAYS. WE LIVE IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY VA. JUST SOUTH OF RICHMOND. I HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE 1962. WELL I WILL QUIT BORING YOU FOR NOW BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD PUT ME ON YOUR MAILING LIST. I WAS JUST ONE YEAR BEHIND ALL OF YOU BUT I KNOW JUST ABOUT EVERYONE OF THE CLASS OF 1960. IT SURE IS SAD TO SEE SO MANY THAT HAVE PASSED AWAY. WE HAVE LOST SEVERAL OF OUR CLASSMATES.

ONE OTHER THING I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT WAS THE YOUNG MAN I READ ABOUT IN THE NEWS HEARD A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO YOUR SON THAT HAD PASSED. IF SO I AM SO SORRY. I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW THIS WOULD FEEL. BUT WITH GOD ON YOUR SIDE YOU CAN MAKE IT THROUGH ALL THINGS. I WILL BE PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY. WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. JIMMY BEACH E-MAIL JIMMY38@COMCAST.NET