



Andrews, Bingham

Lonnie Bingham and Courtney Andrews were united in marriage on Nov. 27, 2006.

The bride is a native of the Denham community near Waynesboro, Miss. She is a graduate of Wayne County High School and attended Jones County Jr. College.

She is the daughter of John and Rebecca Andrews, and the granddaughter of Fred and Shirlene Andrews, and Marie Perry Douglas and the late Vanie Perry.

The groom is a lifelong resident of Millry, Ala. He is a 2002 grad-

uate of Millry High School and a 2005 graduate of Alabama Southern Community College. He is employed by Rock-Tenn in Demopolis.

He is the son of Dennis and Maudie Bingham, of Millry, and the grandson of Rev. and Mrs. Thomas A. Bingham, of Forest Home, and Christine James and the late Rudell James of the Mosley Bridge community near Gilbertown.

The couple resides in Linden.

AT LEFT: Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Bingham nee Courtney Andrews

PFC Harrison graduates from Petroleum Officer Course with U.S. Army

PETERSBURG, Virginia — Army PFC David M. Harrison has graduated from the Petroleum Officer Course at Fort Lee, Petersburg, VA.

The eight-week course is the senior petroleum and water management course offered in the Army. Its purpose is to provide officers and Dept. of Defense civilians with joint service, theater-level management skills. The students received inten-

sive training and planning in all areas of petroleum, water and laboratory operations, including five field trips to various defense department and civilian petroleum facilities.

Harrison is the son of Jackie A. Harrison of Butler.

He is a 2006 graduate of Southern Choctaw High School in Gilbertown.

Thank you, U.S. Military, for your sacrifices for our freedom!

Tommy

From page 4-A

than Ford himself ... not one of those "automated" form letters rubber-stamped with his signature, but a personal, handwritten note that said how much he appreciated hearing from a young man in rural Alabama.

I still have that letter and will treasure it for the rest of my life.

"While I did not seek this great office, I will not shirk the duties and responsibilities that have been entrusted to me," he wrote. "I pledge to you that I will do my best for you and for all of the people of the United

States of America who are seeking answers to the many difficulties that lie ahead. I ask only that you hold me in your prayers and that you, and all Americans, will have faith that better days are ahead. Sincerely yours, Gerald R. Ford."

Without a doubt, Ford's plate was heaped high with problems from the get-go.

The war in Vietnam was still raging, America's economy was in a shambles, the U.S. budget was drowning in red ink, the Watergate scandal was all you could read in the news, the people distrusted politicians in general, and now the country was faced with the very real possibility of having to put a former American president on trial for criminal conspiracy

and obstruction of justice ... a trial that would likely last for months, if not years, and further destroy America's already battered and bruised image both at home and abroad.

Wanting to spare the country from further embarrassment, barely a month into his presidency, Ford declared a full pardon for Nixon.

"Our long national nightmare is over," he said.

It was the right thing for the country, but for Ford it was political suicide: the pardon cost him the 1976 Presidential election and brought Jimmy Carter to power ... a move that ultimately proved to be more detrimental and embarrassing to America than Nixon and the whole Watergate affair put

together.

I remember watching his first State of the Union address, in January, 1975, when Ford courageously stood before the American people and faced the issues head on and honestly declared that the state of the union was anything but good.

In the months ahead, Ford courageously vetoed more than 60 spending bills that were loaded down with political pork ... vetoes which were sustained by a Democratically-controlled Congress, proving that — when the chips are down — Republicans and Democrats alike can work together and put politics aside and work for the good of the people.

In one of his speeches, Ford made one of the most profound

statements that I have ever heard come from the mouth of any President:

"A government that is big enough to give you everything you want is a government that is big enough to take everything you have." He served only two and one-half years and he never received the recognition or credit that he deserved for restoring trust in our federal government and for turning this nation around. He indeed left a legacy of which his family can be proud of.

Gerald Ford was a good, sincere, decent public servant, a man of faith and integrity, and it would be a blessing if we had more people like him today on both sides of the political aisle in Washington.

Letters

From page 4-A

McFadyen brothers who came with their parents and siblings from Islay, Scotland to North Carolina in 1818 and on to Alabama in 1838.

Leaving the remainder of the family in Dale County, Colin(1811-1867) purchased

land in Clarke County near Grove Hill in 1860 and Daniel (1813-1875), who had changed the spelling to McFadden, obtained a land grant near Silas, in Choctaw County, Ala., the same year.

Colin's widow remarried and the family moved to Texas but son Daniel F. returned to marry Virginia Bradley, remaining in Clarke County until his death about 1915.

Children born to them were Joel Colin (1892), Leola (1894), Angus Franklin (1897) and James A. (1900). Children born to Daniel and Margaret Ann Godwin McFadden were Mary Elizabeth(1844), John Patton (1848), Frances (1852), Maria Jane (1853), Margaret Ann(1855), Daniel Alexander (1857), William Thomas Powe (1859), Jefferson Davis(1861) and Cornelia (1868).

Surnames of descendants remaining in the area in addition to McFadden are Taylor, Causey, Cooper, Campbell, Stokley, Giles, Phillips and Jackson.

Any help will be appreciated.

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The family of John Goines would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of love and sympathy during our time of loss.

We will always cherish each visit, each call, each card, each hug and all other acts of kindness shown to us.

Please keep our family in your thoughts and prayers.

The Goines family

The Exhibit at Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital

Featuring the needlework of Linden resident

Kate Mutschler

The softer side of art will be featured when the latest show in The Exhibit at Bryan W. Whitfield Memorial Hospital opens on January 7, 2007 featuring the needlework of Linden resident Kate Mutschler. Join us in the hospital's main hall for the opening reception as your hometown hospital continues to add local art to the "healing arts".

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2007 2:00 P.M.

Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital
105 Highway 80 East
Demopolis, Alabama

SoundOff

From page 4-A

If animal control would do their job people would not have to take matters in their own hands about the dog killings. I know. I have asked several times for a dog trap. They bring the trap, the neighbor sees the trap and makes sure his dog is penned or chained up. The trap leaves my house and the dog comes out and tries to attack us in my own yard again. I am told by some officers to do whatever I have to do if the dog comes around. They told me that if a dog came into their yard and acted in a vicious way towards them or their children that they would do whatever they had to do to protect their families. I am told that dogs that are vicious and attack are not supposed to be in neighborhoods that have children. Why can't the cops go to the person's house where the dog resides and tell them that people are complaining?

(ED. NOTE: Choctaw County as a whole has no county-wide animal control ordinances. As far as we know, the Town of Butler is the only municipality that does. — Tommy.)

I think the School Board should have held a VOTE on whether or not to raise the salary of the Superintendent and the Bus Drivers. We, the people, want to know where our board members stand on this. I think they didn't vote because they are TOO SCARED to take a stand! If they are for a raise, they could vote YES. If they are against a raise, they could vote NO. So I ask you elected board members, WHY DID YOU NOT STAND UP AND LET YOUR VOTE BE COUNTED??? You all need to know that the PEOPLES' votes WILL be counted in the next election and we will be rid of some of you.

HOORAY FOR THE NEW TWICE-A-WEEK SUN! We can hardly wait! What time can we expect it to be on sale?

(ED. NOTE: The Sun

will be on sale in vending boxes and on countertops at area businesses on Tuesday mornings and Friday mornings. The "early week" papers will remain on sale until the "late week" issue goes on sale, and vice-versa. — Tommy.)

I know that there is a big concern on whether or not to raise to the salaries of the superintendent and bus drivers. I have two parents that are employed in the school system and I feel that there is a great need for salary increases overall. Bus drivers' salaries usually range about \$675-700 a month and if you divide that by four weeks, then that equals to \$169-175. What is \$175 a week? A person can barely live off that and still survive. Believe me I know because of the struggle my family has gone through. Bus drivers deserve the raise. They have to care for our children as they travel the dangerous highways. It takes a concern and caring person to be able to take that responsibility. Our school systems faculty and staff (bus driver, cafeteria workers, janitors, aides, etc.) are not paid enough money, either.

In my opinion, I doubt that the probate judge travels any of the bad roads in this county because he knows that the roads would tear up his expensive automobile that our taxes paid for. He should have to ride in some of the cars or 18-wheelers just to see what we go through. I would also like to know what roads are in better shape today than six years ago? Might be the street he lives on, or the road that carries people to Meridian to shop, but not mine. I say, take the tax money that is spent for Hawaiian trips and use it on our roads.

It is shameful how some people treat our ambulance workers. I witnessed an incident last week where the Butler ambulance had to respond to a Gilbertown call because the Gilbertown ambulance was on the way to Meridian on

another call. First, a relative of the patient started to interrogate the EMT's as to why it took them so long to reach the patient's house. The EMTs tried to explain that Gilbertown's ambulance was on a call and they had to travel 25 miles to get to the residence. The relative went on to say that an ambulance should cover the south end of the county at all times. Well, in an idealistic world, she would have her wish granted. However, we live in the REAL WORLD which means that the ambulance service is for all of the citizens of Choctaw County, and calls are taken in the order that they occur. Next, the relative continued to harass the EMT's while they were trying to assess the patient's situation. Whether you know it or not, EMT's are in great demand everywhere and we should not take ours for granted or else they may leave and go elsewhere. People, when an emergency situation arises in your family you must remember that you are not alone. With that being said, please allow these dedicated people to do their jobs and let the patient get quality care without your interference.

It has been said that men die as they have lived. This may never have been more graphically illustrated than the two deaths we have watched on our TV screens in the last week. Each man had served in the highest office in his land, yet one died peacefully at a ripe old age, receiving the highest honors a country can give; the other died in disgrace at the end of a hangman's noose and may be buried in an unmarked grave. Gerald Ford and Saddam Hussein had not met in this life and it is highly unlikely that they will meet in the next because the Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment.

People, use your TURN SIGNALS, please. I almost hit someone today because they turned right in front of me and never gave a signal.