

# *Coward Family Newsletter*

## *April 2004*

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### **113th Coward Family Reunion To Be Held in Cullowhee**

The Coward Family  
Newsletter  
Volume 4, Issue 1  
April 2004

The 113th Coward Family Reunion will be held in Cullowhee on Sunday, June 13, 2004. It will be held in the park on the campus of Western Carolina University. We will meet around noon for the festivities. Bring enough food to feed your family and we will combine it into the most scrumptious picnic you have ever seen! We hope to have a good crowd since it is not Father's Day this year. We appreciate Jack Norton being so willing to reserve the Pavilion for us each year.

I will not be in attendance at the reunion this year because of an important engagement, but Bob Wilson and Judy Tayloe will fulfill my duties. Eat something for me!

## **FLASHBACK!!!**

**Jo Ann Smith** sent this little tidbit about Ray Hooper :):)

**Robert Nathan Smith** operated a citrus packing house in Polk County, Florida. Several of his NC relatives went to Florida at various times to work for him. **Ray Hooper** of Jackson County, NC was one of those relatives who went to Florida and worked for a while.

One day the Smiths' youngest child, Jo Ann, decided to climb a very tall tree in their yard. She did not look down, but kept climbing until she got to the top. Then she looked down and was very frightened. She screamed for help!!! Fortunately, Ray Hooper was at the Smith's home at the time. He came out, climbed the tree, and rescued this child, who probably was four years old at the time. Thereafter, she always referred to Ray as "My Hero". After he moved to Croisdale Village in Durham, NC, Jo Ann and her husband, Jack, had some good times with Ray. Jo Ann presented him with a "My Hero" certificate which he hung on his wall.



## Congratulations!!! New Cowards Arrive!

**Smythe Cy Goforth, Jr.** was born July 23, 2003. C.J. is the son of Cy and Farrah Goforth of Charleston, SC. His grandmother is **Connie Coward Goforth** of the James Coward branch of the family. Needless to say, Connie makes frequent trips to Charleston!



**Austin Lee Johns**, son of Leroy Johns and Corrie Adams, was born January 25, 2004. His grandparents are **Bill and Judy Adams** and his great grandparents are **Bob and Trudy Adams** (Dave Coward branch). Siblings Ashley, Justin, and Emily are very proud!

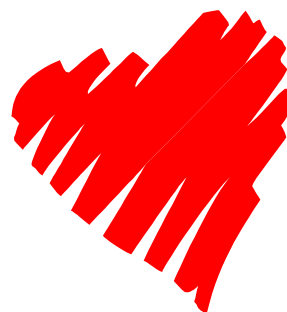
## WHERE ARE YOU???

The following are missing in action. Can you help me find them?

**Madge Kirchner, Columbus, OH**  
**Dennis Kidwell, Knightdale, NC**  
**Cara Kidwell, East Hollywood, CA**  
**Jeff and Heather Chastain, Woodstock, GA**

Thanks to all of you who have donated to the cause of the newsletter publication. I have funds for this newsletter and then I run out. It takes a lot to print and mail 300 copies so everything is greatly appreciated. Don't forget your family! Special thanks to the following for their donations this time.

**Gayle Keith**



## Family News:

**Judge David Russell** (US Courts, OK) and his wife Dana have two children, Lisa and Sarah. **Lisa** is the mother of their two grandchildren, **Gordon and Max**, and **Sarah** recently graduated from the University of Virginia Law School. She is currently working as a law clerk to a federal judge in Houston.

**Jack and Jo Ann Smith** celebrated their 50th anniversary on December 19, 2003. My how time flies! Jo Ann sends a wonderful newsletter each year detailing all the many activities in their lives. I know we all hope we can remain as active as they are!

**Lynn and Jim Riggsbee** are renovating their home in Cashiers with the intention of moving to the mountains when Jim retires. It's a **real** mess and has become an all-consuming task. Like Jack and Jo Ann, they just take things one day at a time!

**Ray Coward** will celebrate his 80th birthday on May 8. I think there's a surprise in the works!

**Mary Elaine Bird Nichols** will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 19th. I've got to remember to get her a card! She says, "Old age is NOT for sissies. Just ask me as I slowly; actually, **not** so slowly, fall apart piece by piece." She does good! Don't let her fool you!

**Bob and Betsea Wilson** report that their children are well. **Avery** is teaching honors classes at a middle school in Georgia. **Bryan** got a job with an advertising firm in Manhattan and, in Bob's words, "doing the cliché bohemian thing". He has one commercial on TV. I know you've seen it...a Cingular commercial showing a blindfolded guy shooting a basketball. Our claim to fame!

**Lee Tayloe** is completing his first year at GTCC

in Guilford County where he is taking a Sound and Lighting Engineering course and is on the Dean's List. He has devoted a lot of his year as Assistant Scout Master in the troop where he received his Eagle Scout rank.

**David Tayloe** is completing his junior year in high school at the North Carolina School of the Arts where he shows a real interest in opera. He competed in a statewide voice competition at Western Carolina University where he placed second in his category (classical). The regional competition was held at the University of Maryland on April 3, 2004. David placed 3rd in this competition. Of course, this unbelievable talent came from the Cowards! Go, David!

**Connie Coward Goforth** (James B. Coward branch) reports that her daughter and son-in-law, **Kari and Brian Green** are expecting a son. Brian was just discharged from the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune and he and Kari have moved back to Anderson, SC.

**Ruth Hooper Fuson's** family (Sally Coward branch) has had some hard times lately. Sister-in-law, **Louise Hooper** (James Hooper's wife) has had a stroke and has been transferred to a therapy center in Asheville. She is working hard and the hope of all is that she will regain the use of her arm and leg. Ruth, herself, has had a second cataract surgery, but is hoping to be singing "I Can See Clearly Now" in a very short time. Their second son, **Kent Fuson** is still waiting for a kidney transplant. Pray with them for a miracle! Ruth's sister, **Sally Hooper Bose** has had pneumonia, but is recovering. On a lighter note, another sister, **Hazel Hooper Lewis** has just recently moved to Cullowhee for the summer. Perhaps we'll see her at the reunion. Here's hoping everybody gets well!!!

# A WORD FROM YOUR COUSIN

My name is Mary Elaine Bird (Marilane) Nichols, daughter of Charles Roy and Edna Coward Bird, granddaughter of Jonathan David and Lou Norton Coward, great granddaughter of Nathan and Jane Rogers Coward.

This is the beginning of my eighty first year and I can never remember not attending the Coward reunion (my mother saw to that!). Perhaps I will attend more. If not, I sincerely hope my children will keep up the tradition.

Speaking of children, my husband, John (now deceased), and I are the parents of four wonderful (not perfect; just wonderful) children. Our eldest is Lynn Nichols Riggsbee. She is retired from, but continues to work with, the educational community in some way. You'll have to ask her just what it is. She and son-in-law, Jim, are parents of two sons, Jonathan and Adam. Jonathan is the father of my two great granddaughters, Katelyn and Lauren.

Judy Nichols Tayloe is currently a stay at home mother. Upon graduating from WCU, she was employed with the American Red Cross and spent some time in Vietnam during the war as a recreational director. She is currently "driving David" (an inside joke) though not as often now since he has his license. She also tutors adults in reading and is very involved in her church. She and her husband, John, are parents of three boys, Nathan, Lee, and David.

John Charles Nichols, our only son, after attending Brevard College and USC, returned to Greensboro and joined his father in the family speedometer business. His input and dedication was, and continues to be, instrumental in the growth and success of the company. He and wife, Renee, are parents of two sons, Curtis and Jacob.

Mary Nichols Diaz resides in Huffman, Texas. She is the mother of twins, Ana and Zachary; owns two horses, two dogs, two cats, but only one husband. She owns "Kritter Sitters", a pet sitting service and does substitute teaching. Her cup is full.

John and I were blessed with the most wonderful set of "outlaws" that one could ever want. Jim Riggsbee, John Tayloe, Renee Yarborough Nichols, and Rob Diaz are loved and appreciated very much. Before John died he often referred to them as "The Spice"!

There's only one thing, though. So far, none of my children have referred to me as "our dear sainted mother" as one of Nathan and Jane's children did. Wonder why?

## In Memoriam: David Honaker

David Honaker died suddenly on February 9, 2004. He was a native of Johnson County, TN.

David had a degree in Sociology and a Masters in Criminology, but had not been able to work for a number of years due to chronic, severe back problems.

In the last months he had been helping care for his elderly mother along with his sister.

This was very important to him, though it was stressful in a number of ways. He was a good man and is sorely missed by his family.

David is survived by his wife of 25 years, Laura Gray Honaker, and one daughter, Erin Honaker Willis.

Our sympathies are extended to David's



## In Memoriam: Paul Edwin Rhode III

Paul Edwin Rohde of Winter Haven, Florida died of coronary failure on December 18, 2003. He was 56.

Ed was a native and lifelong resident of Winter Haven and was employed as a supervisor at Bass Pro Shop and Ed's Gun and Bow. He was a veteran of the U. S. Air Force. He was also a member of Boy Scouts of America, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout; a member of the National Wild Turkey Federation; Ducks Unlimited; N. R. A; National Shooting Sport Federation; and the Winter Haven Skeet Club. He served as a Winter

From 1975-1977. He was a graduate of Winter Haven High School and was of the Baptist faith.

Ed is survived by his wife, Barbara D. Rohde, of Winter Haven; a son, Mitchell Rohde of Lakeland, Florida; a daughter, Jennifer Williamson also of Lakeland; and two sisters, Marilyn Buchanan of Melbourne, Florida and Linda Maxwell of Kingport, Tennessee.

Ed is buried at Rolling Hills Cemetery in Winter Haven.

Memorial donations may be made to Boy Scouts of America Troop 123 or the

Department K-9 Account.

Our sympathies are extended to Ed's family.



## Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

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**CELEBRATE  
YOUR  
FAMILY!!!**

## Notes From Lynn's Desk

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***Bob Wilson** continues to explore a Coward Family website and is in the first stages of developing one. In the meantime, **John Tayloe** (who is married to my sister) and nephew **Nathan** are constructing a website for the Tayloe family and our family lines. Most of the **Coward** information is on this site. Bob may try to piggyback on John's site to avoid duplication of effort. I will leave that to the technologically savvy! The web address is [www.myfamilynames.com](http://www.myfamilynames.com). Although it is still under construction you will enjoy a visit to it. I am going to post the newsletter on this site and will notify those of you for whom I have e-mail addresses of its publication and you can read it online rather than getting a hard copy.*

*In order to do that I really need a complete data base of e-mail addresses. It would certainly save cost on postage and printing if we reduced the requirements for mailing. Please, please, please, take a few moments to let me know your e-mail address and when you change it please let me know, too. If you don't have e-mail, I will continue to send you a hard copy.*

*Relatively Yours,*