

The Hayman



HOLLER

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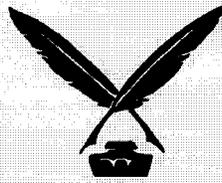
Saturday, July 19, 1997

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Fifth Edition



*From the
Pen of*



*Grandma
Hayman*

In 1994 I was in the hospital and you didn't go ahead with the reunion, and I didn't think I would make it to 1995. But, here it is 1997, and I feel better than I have for some time. I thank God and my family for that and their love.

All six of the children were here for my SO* birthday in March. Some of the grand children and great grand children were also here, but the big 1997 flood kept some of them from coming.

I haven't been doing much traveling this year. I went home with Ted and Sallie one time, and from there to see sister Hazel who is very weak with cancer. She isn't able to go out and walk or go anywhere any more, so her daughter Donna comes over and gets her. Hazel has a big black Lab named Max, who likes to go riding. Donna took us all out one evening. We didn't know where she was going, but she stopped at a drive-in window to get Max a hamburger. He really looks forward to it.

We took a nice drive back home to West Virginia on Memorial Day. Ted, Don, and Donna were here. Rich and Linda, Howard and Emma Jane Robinson, Clara Mae Sargent, Darrell and Evelyn Haught, and sister Pete met us at Mom's and Dad's cemetery near Crestan. Howard made reservations at Shoney's in Ripley, and we all had a great time at their buffet.

Then we went to Evans, Angerona, and up on the hill past my old home place. It is still standing, with a new house beside it. Then we went down over the hill to the Antioch Church where I went to Sunday School and church. There is a cemetery there where my grand parents, Mason and Emmeretta Bennett Casto, are buried. My great grand parents, Joseph Bennett and Martha Parsons Bennett, are also buried there. I even met someone there that I had not seen since my Sunday School days.

Between the old home place and the Antioch Church is a valley, with a creek and road that go up toward the Crestan church and the cemetery where my Dad and Mom are buried. The creek and valley are called "Cow Run". The road is paved now, and that is where we went next. I went up "Cow Run" many times as a young girl. We passed the place where my brother Orville and his wife Focie, who I was named after, lived. We also passed homes of Aunt Lizzie Hoschar Stover's brothers. We hit Route 87 near the Crestan church, and then went back to Evans, Ravenswood, and home.

While going up "Cow Run", I told Ted, Don, and Donna a true story about a church that was built there. It had at least three different names; the New Church, the Loggerhead Church, and the Holy Roller Church. Ted put the story on his computer.

"Church That Turned Around"

The people in the "Cow Run" Community decided to build a church. About half of them believed in chewing tobacco, and they were called the Brown Mules. The other half did not believe in chewing tobacco, and they were called the White Elephants. The creek ran right next to where the community wanted to build the church. The Brown Mules wanted the door facing downstream. The White Elephants wanted the door facing upstream. The Brown Mules won out, and the church was built with the door facing downstream.

A short time later, a flash flood came up to the church, picked it up and turned it around with the door facing upstream like the White Elephants wanted it. It settled right down on its foundation and it never had to be moved an inch. The community left it that way.

Ailey Herdman wrote a song about the church, to the tune of the song about the sinking of the Titanic.

"It was sad when the church turned around,

"It was sad when the church turned around,

George and Ida, Richard and Dud, all went down after the flood,

It was sad when the church turned around."

FAMILY



New Additions

Pete and Lisa Perry were blessed with their first child, **Logan Peter**, on July 25*.

On January 5, 1997, **Brian and Carole Hayman** welcomed the birth of their third child, **Matthew Steven Hayman**. **Sarah and Timothy** are delighted with their younger brother. Guess **Sarah** got her wish, which was for another brother just like **Timothy**.

Aaron and Sarah Davis brought **Michael Aaron** into the world on February 11*. **Michael** achieved celebrity status as the 5* living generation in the Hayman family. That makes **Mindy** a grandma, **Phyllis** a great grandma, and the family matriarch a great great grandma. **Mindy** went to visit for a week, and some photos of the five generations have been taken.

Mark and Beth got a new addition, a Great Dane named **Toby**. He is only nine months old, just a puppy. He was a giveaway that had been abused and malnourished, but has since gained 40 to 50 pounds.

Future Growth

Eddie and Kathy Hayman are expecting their second child in September.

Terry and Melanie Huber are expecting their second child in December.

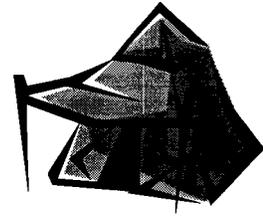
Birthday Party



Grandma Hayman turned 80 this year. It was a two day party with lots of vegetable soup, bolognaola, cake, and punch. All six of her children were able to attend, all the grand children except four, and most of the great grand children. **Bev** wrote a beautiful song for her birthday titled "Focie and Gerald", and sang it for her along with some other songs. **Steve, Don, and Donna** joined in the songfest. She got a curio cabinet for her bird collection, and received some nice birds to go in it from some of the grand children, along with some other nice things. She only asked for one gift, that all six of her children would go to church with her on that Sunday morning. She got her wish. **Sallie** even sang a song for her at church, making it extra special.

*Families, take note. Brice came home by himself for **Grandma Hayman's 80th** Birthday Party. When he got ready to go back home, **Lil** noticed that he had packed all his belongings for the weekend in half of a brown grocery bag. When the family comes, he fills up the van. Is **there a message there somewhere?***

Reunion



Keith says things are looking better at the Reunion Campground this year. The old packing shed is gone and a new 48' x 32' pole barn is in its place. It may be handy if there is bad weather at the campout this year - hope not!

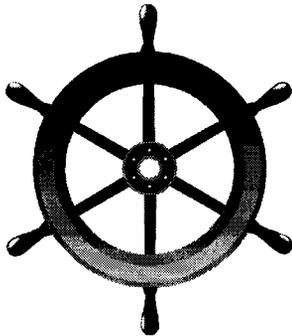
Keith and Leslie have lots of firewood in for the big weekend, and are looking forward to seeing every one around the campfire again this year.

Barbara Jewell says that all in all the Lord has been very good to Curtis and her this year. **Curtis is** growing up so fast, and will be in the 7th grade this fall - it doesn't seem possible. She hopes all is well with everyone, and looks forward to reading about how their year has been! She added that she took the plunge in April and bought a new car, a '97 Chevy Cavalier LS. "It really feels good to drive a brand new car and not have to worry about breaking down all the time."

Jeff and Kim said "S.O.S. / different year." Guess that means they are doing the same old stuff they did last year.

CAREERS

River Life (From the pilot house desk of the M/V Roger W. Kenney) by Keith Hayman



Well, I'm on my own as a River Pilot. This means that I'm in charge of a six million dollar towboat while the captain is in bed for 12 hours a day. I think that Dad is smiling down from heaven.

Pilot's Log - 3/28/97, North Bound Mile 209.8 Ohio River, Long Bottom Bend

With my binoculars I spot a Camper on the Ohio side of the river. A closer look and I see the **Barton** family. One long blast and one short on the pilot house whistle and they know it's me.

Pilot's Log - 3/28/97, Belle-de Lock and Dam, Mile 203.9, Ohio River

While making my northbound approach with 15 barges loaded with 22,500 tons of coal, I notice four spectators on the lock wall. Another look with my binoculars and I see **Kim, Jeff, Tara, and Terry** plus their dog **Sam**. With the head of my tow inside the lock chamber, it's 5:30 p.m. and the Captain comes up to relieve me at the end of my six hour watch.

A very good chance to visit. I grab a life vest from the deck locker and up the lock wall I go. After a short time, the chamber is raised and we are ready to go on our way up river. Having them watch me put a 105 foot wide load of barges in a 110 foot wide lock chamber from 985 feet away just made my day. Just another day on the river.

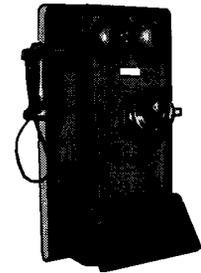
In April **Brian Hayman** spent time in Dallas-Fort Worth at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers for the academic publishing company where he works. Next year it's off to Boston. There's nothing like a series of meetings and panels on climatology, paleontology, glacial erosion, microscopic quartz erosion, data collection methods and problems for Eastern Europe, and the like with editors and authors on subjects you have no background in but need to have a good understanding of who does and what they find important for the future of the publications you produce (If you think you're lost reading this you should have seen **Brian** the first day or so trying to keep up with what in the world they were talking about).



Last fall **Barbara Jewell** was greatly honored when on her job she received the Associate of the Month award. She was given a cash award and a beautiful wooden plaque. Then, on the same day, the group she worked with was given a Team

Award for successfully starting up a brand new department. For this they received plaques, a watch, and recognition at a special luncheon.

John Wilson has been working three twelve-hour days plus every other Sunday with the Bell Atlantic Telephone Company. This past week he transferred to another job with them that is a normal five days per week job.



Olivia Cunningham is delivering flowers for Dudley's in Ravenswood for the summer, and hopes to be hired as a substitute teacher by Jackson County in August.

HOMES



John, Shari, Keri, and Nate Wilson moved into their new house in Columbia on 7 December, “a day that will live in infamy.” It rained cats and dogs all day. Nevertheless, the move went well. Since arriving, they have had many visitors, including a few herds of deer, a fox, a raccoon, and the occasional relative.

The **Brice Harts’** have been quite busy this spring; the reason, they just moved. They finally moved out of the townhouse and into a real single family home! Hooray! Most of the year was spent sprucing up the old place, trying to save money, and searching for a new place. They couldn’t have asked for a more perfect move. Their house sold after being on the market only three weeks, they found a new place pretty quickly, and all the paperwork was done on time with no last minute delays. **Kyle and Kelsey** will have to switch schools, but they’re not worried. Their new school has a good reputation plus the kids always do fine. **Kyle** now has lots of trees to climb, and **Kelsey** likes to play with the water spigot. They also have a new “tire swing”. **Brice** is having fun riding his new mower and mowing the 1 1/3 acres. The other day he was out there mowing and singing

“Greeeeeen Acres is the place to be”. **Marcie** gives it one month and he’ll be sick of the new toy, and then she will have to take over.

The **Bruce Harts’** moved from the flatlands of Indiana to a mountain-side residence in Marietta, Georgia. **Lil** says that makes three of her kids that have moved this year. She told **Bev and Alan** they would have to move to keep up.

This year **Mark and Beth** did their yearly move again, but this time it is for keeps. They just moved into a house that overlooks the Ohio River, and have a beautiful view from their front porch. **Keith** said he would beep when he goes by. **Beth** heard a beep one morning about 7:30, and fell down the stairs trying to get to the front porch. But, it wasn’t **Keith**.

Eddie, Kathy, and David Hayman recently moved from Columbus to Westerville, not far from **Mike and Terri**.



After one year, **Brian** still hasn’t finished working on their kitchen. **Carole** said if she had known he was never going to get around to putting tile on the area behind the counter, she would have just wallpapered it. And then there are the holes that remain in the basement walls.

HEALTH?

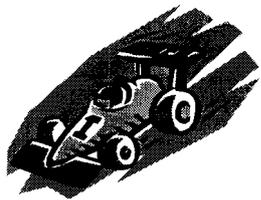


Phyllis had surgery this year and was off work for five months. She had saved up over **1,000** hours of sick leave she earned while working, and continued to receive her paycheck all that time. When she went back, she still had almost **200** hours left. That proves the value of your sick time if you save it until you really need it.

Sallie’s Dad Frank had trouble breathing Memorial Day weekend and had to be taken to the emergency room. He was released, but promised to be admitted to the hospital if he had more problems.

Several relatives of the immediate family passed away this past year. They were **Rob’s** sister Lorene Pyles; **Mark’s** dad Hank Casto; **Mark’s** uncle John Casto; **Alan’s** dad Raymond Cunningham; **Grandpa Hayman’s** cousin Spencer Hayman; and **Sallie’s** mother Rose Taylor. **Ted** prepared a tribute to Rose which he read at her memorial service. It is included as a single page elsewhere for those who would like a keepsake.

LEISURE & HOBBIES



The **Keith Hayman ranch** has two new toys this year – a big 4-wheeler for Mommy and Daddy to play with and also a new Coleman Pop-Up Camper. So far they have gone camping at Forked Run on two different weekends, and are planning to hit two or three other spots while **Shane** is out of school.

Shane and Keith have been taking in the local dirt track racing, and also have gone to Columbus for the Spring Nationals. **Shane** liked the Funny Cars and the cookout in the parking lot.

Amber has been busy riding her battery powered 4-wheeler; when she's not riding on **Shane's** with him, or on the big one, or on Daddy's Dirt Bike, or on Daddy's Go-Kart. Where did she get this from?

Grandma Hayman and Lil cruise the Pomeroy scene once a week, going to Crow's or Wendy's to eat, going to Fruth's Pharmacy, Dollar General, and Krogers. Once in a while they make it to Gallipolis or Ripley. **Lil** bets that all you young people are green with envy. It may sound kind of humdrum, but they really do quite enjoy it. One day when they were dining out, **Lil** told **Grandma** that if anything ever happened to her that she sure would miss eating out. **Grandma** laughed and said "I'm glad you would miss me for something".

When **Mark and Beth** lived in Columbus they got **Rob and Lil** going to yard sales. Then they went with them in Gallipolis, and **Rob** got addicted. Now they go to Ravenswood every Thursday. **Beth** came up sometimes and went, and then **Beverly** started going. She was warned it was addictive, and sure enough she got hooked!! **Olivia** told her she was going to have to go get "dried out." !! **Beverly** even wrote a song titled "Yard Sale Blues."

Rob and Lil keep their summertime busy camping and going to yard sales. They've been to the camp several times this summer already, but no overnight stays yet. They have had two bean dinners with **Rob's** family, and lots of cookouts and homemade ice cream (in a bag).

Kelsey Hart finished up her first year as a Daisy scout. She 'bridged' over to Brownies, which she'll start in the fall. As a Daisy, she's already earned quite a few pins.

Last Fall, Chris and Martin Kratt of Kratt's Creatures put on a live show at the Baltimore Zoo (Kratt's Creatures is a PBS animal show very popular with the young ones). Of course, **Kelsey and Kyle** just had to see it, The show was much like the weekly TV show, and all the kids in the audience were involved, making various animal sounds, pretending to be in the rainforest and such. It was quite good; even **Brice and Marcie** enjoyed it.

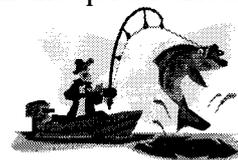


Don and Donna still like to go to the Skyline Drive, especially since Donna loves the mountains. They either camp or stay in a cabin. Last August they had a big campout there with **Shari's and Brian's** families, plus three of **Donna's** sisters' and brothers' families.

They still have season tickets for thirteen Orioles baseball games each year. Last August **Don** captured a souvenir foul ball off the bat of the Orioles' Eddie Murray, a future hall of famer, who was trying for career home run number 499. Capturing a ball at a game with a paid attendance of 47,291 takes a lot of luck.



Brian and Carole recently took **Sarah, Tim and Matthew** to the Shrine Circus. They had ringside seats, which was very exciting. **Matthew** watched wide-eyed, for him the aerialists were like a human mobile. **Timothy** had a few tearful moments during the trapeze and tightrope acts. He kept saying "tell them to get down" and later said he was scared they would fall and get hurt. **Brian and Carole** were quite surprised since they had seen him perform similar acts at home quite fearlessly.



Sarah Hayman went fishing for the first time on her Uncle Michael's brand new boat. She absolutely loved it. They caught lots of fish (all were small and thrown back, although according to Sarah they were quite big).

TRAVEL

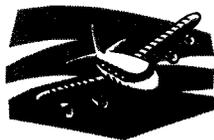
Last October, **Lil** was privileged to go to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center with **Alan, Bev, and Olivia** for **Zac's** graduation from boot camp. "It was really an awesome experience". **Zac** was chosen honor recruit of his division. Because of this, the family was escorted in and seated up front and center as special guests of the Captain.

The ceremony was unlike anything they had ever witnessed. When all the sailors came marching in to the tune of "Anchors Aweigh", **Lil** thought she was going to lose it. The honor recruits from each division were called up front, gave their names, and one by one stepped forward and saluted approximately 50 military officers. After the ceremony, the honor recruit's families were escorted down the center aisle while sailors stood at attention on both sides. They were escorted to a special reception, greeted by a lot of the officers, and served cake and punch. **Lil** said, "I was so proud!" Afterward, they enjoyed the rest of the weekend with **Zac** and got to do some sightseeing, including going downtown Chicago to the mile long strip. They also saw Lake Michigan.

Rich, Linda, Phyllis and her best friend **Ethyl** just returned from a three day "Singing in the Mountains" gospel music festival in Summersville, WV.

Brian, Carole, Sarah, Tim and Matthew recently spent a week in Cape May, NJ along with **Carole's** parents and sister. They took the Cape May-Lewes Ferry where they spotted many dolphins along the way. A trip to nearby Stone

Harbor for ice cream at Springer's was a must (guess who was **there two weeks earlier**). The kids especially liked the location of the miniature golf course- right next door.



Lil went to Indiana last fall to visit **Bruce and Lorna** in spite of breaking her arm out there the year before. She and **Lorna** did their usual antique shopping scene, and also went to some great craft shows. While there she went to the Red Lobster for **Jonathan's** birthday dinner. He was 15, and had no trouble handling the captain's seat!

After the family move to Marietta, Georgia, they offered **Lil** an expenses paid plane trip down there. She is not one to pass up anything free. **Olivia** had just graduated from college, and she didn't turn down the expenses paid trip with **Lil** either.

Since it was **Lil's** first plane flight, **Olivia** was very comforting. **Lil** loved the trip, but had to fight off some dizziness. She is looking forward to flying again, which should be next year when she plans to fly to Vancouver, British Columbia for a cruise to Alaska with **Phyllis, Don, and Donna**. They should have some interesting stories about that next year.

While in Atlanta, **Lil and Olivia** stayed with **Jonathan and Michael** while **Bruce and Lorna** went to Puerto Rico. She enjoyed her stay with the boys, took **Michael** to a couple of his baseball games, and got to watch him play. "He is a good little player who makes grand parents proud."

Olivia and Jonathan had a good time cruising the scene. They went to a movie, ate out, and ordered

pizza. They all had a day of shopping before coming home. **Lil** even found a Roy Rogers puzzle, a real treasure find for her.

Mike, Terri, Rim, and Jeff took their annual trip to the Amish country in June, and **Eddie and Kathy** went along this time. They enjoyed the scenery (especially the llamas, ask **Rim**) and spent all their money on cheese and beef jerky. They finished the day off by eating a family style, all you can eat, gut buster, meal at the Der Dutchman Restaurant. (Dad, where is your travel plunger when we need it)?

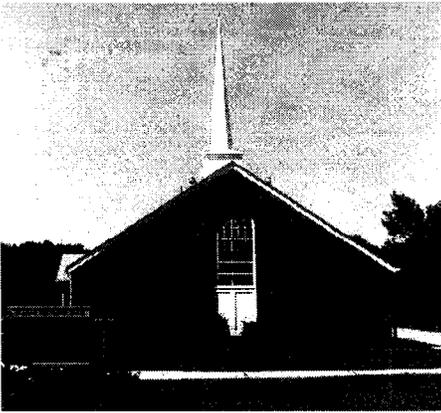
Mike and Terri celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary in Chicago this June. They went shopping on the magnificent mile and took a dinner cruise.



Mark, Laura, Sandi, Wendy, and Russell are getting ready for a big vacation trip to Disney World next weekend. **Mark** has really been burning the midnight oil to meet a management-imposed deadline just before they go. He went to bed one Saturday morning at 6 a.m. and was up and at it again by 10. Then last weekend he caught a virus. Sounds like he will really need that vacation.

Lorna, Jonathan, and Michael visited with **Rob and Lil** three days in June after the boys were out of school. **Rob** had a chance to pitch **Michael** some ball, and take them shopping at Cross' Store in Racine. As **Jonathan** put it "an all expense paid trip to Cross' by Pappy". This is a tradition every time the grand children come to visit.

CHURCH



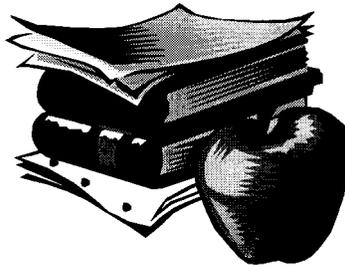
Barb and Curtis Jewell have had a lot going on this year. The first and the best is that they found a new church. It is Southern Baptist, and they are going on a regular basis. Barb says her Mom's prayers were answered - she never gave up on them.

Curtis went to church camp the week of July 7th, and will tell you all about it at the reunion or in next year's Hayman Holler. Barb is playing on the church coed softball team. Her team's record is four wins and two losses (not too bad for a bunch of "old" people).

SCHOOL

Olivia Cunningham graduated from Alderson-Broadus College in Philippi, WV on May 10th. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in music education, and graduated with third highest honors of cum laude. The keynote speaker was Governor Cecil Underwood. Lil was glad that she got to attend her graduation.

Kayla Casto was on the honor roll every semester this year, and she participated in an All American Youth Show in Columbus for three days.



Keri Wilson will be starting 2nd grade in the fall. She can hardly wait to learn how to write in cursive. However, she isn't happy about the prospect of having **15** spelling words a week, instead of the 8 she had in 1st grade.

Kyle Hart won first place among the **1**" graders in a school math poster contest (once again, he won last year in kindergarten). The poster theme was "Using Math in the Workplace". He drew his bus driver adding and counting kiddies as they boarded the bus at various stops. Then the driver subtracted the kiddies when letting them off at school.

Emma Shipkowski has finished preschool where she learned how to take field trips, play games, and eat snacks. This prepared her well for kindergarten this fall.

Sarah Hayman graduated from preschool at Holy Nativity. She is kindergarten bound and very excited. About a week after pre-K ended she asked, "Mom, is kindergarten tomorrow?"

Nate Wilson is looking forward to starting Romper Kollege in the fall. He is mainly interested in the promise of a trip to the pumpkin patch with his class to choose a pumpkin around Halloween and, of course, the Halloween Party. **He doesn't seem too keen on the** idea of having to learn something.

SPORTS



Kayla Casto will be showing in the Ohio State Fair again this year. She got a new four-year-old horse to train for future shows, and is retiring her old horse. Besides horses, she will be in the Hocking County fair in September showing two goats and one lamb, which will be for sale. She even delivered one of the animals at birth, and wants to be a veterinarian.

Lil went to see **Kayla** in a horse show last August, and was very impressed - "She is a great rider." She performed in fifteen different shows, placing in the top five in every one. She placed first in two shows, and second and third in the rest. She had two different horses she showed with. She rode Western and English, and wore some beautiful outfits.

Mike and **Terri** joined the Newark Ski Club again this year and taught **Tara** and **Terry Jr.** how to snow ski. Ask **Terry Jr.** about the Yard Sale he had. He enjoyed it and is ready for the next snowfall so he can ski again. However, **Tara** is content to sit in the lodge and watch the boys.



Kyle Hart's Little League team had a so-so year but during play-off time, what a surprise! They advanced all the way to the championship game; second place is nothing to sneeze at though! **Kyle** made a few good plays and scored a few runs. He mostly played outfield or catcher.



Curtis Jewell is again playing baseball and his team has made it to the "Championship" game. If they win it will mean **1**" place trophies two years in a row!! After the regular season their coach has decided to have them travel and play in tournaments. **Curtis** is really excited.

Barb says she is a glutton for punishment, playing on a second coed softball team in addition to the one at church. The team is the organization that **Curtis** plays for. All the parents get teams together and play each other. The names of the teams are different fruits, and Barb plays for the "Oranges". So far their record is three wins and one loss. As you can tell, she loves to play ball, and is planning on signing up for fall teams also.

Don shoots a couple rounds of trap each week at the local Trap and Skeet Club. His best so far, one time, was 24 out of 25. He even tried it with his old trusty **16** ga. single barrel and 20 ga. bolt action, and got 21 and **19** respectively.

“A Rose”

Lena Mae Rose entered this world on March 31, 1914 as the only child of Fred and Geniveve Rose in Gallipolis, Ohio. Little Lena’s life was changed drastically at the age of four with the loss of her mother. Shortly afterward her father married a woman named Kate. Kate lived up to the reputation of wicked step-mother with both mental and physical abuse. Lena’s best memories of her youth were summers spent on the farm of her uncle in northern Ohio. She had many happy stories of her days there playing with her cousins and uncles who were the same age. The family eventually moved to Columbus, Ohio.

In 1939 Lena’s life was changed again. She married Frank Taylor, a union that was to last fifty seven years. Even though married, the name Rose seemed to stick with her. The nickname “Rose”, as well as “Babe”, is what most people came to know her by over the years. Rose and Frank had two children, Sallie and Chuck. Rose and Frank were wonderful parents with a solid devotion to family and God. Everything they did revolved around their family. Rose retired from Lazarus Department Store after more than twenty years of service. She and Frank worked hard and wanted to give Sallie and Chuck the things they did not have when growing up. The most important thing they were able to give them was a devotion to God and family. In 1981 they saw Chuck go to be with the Lord.

1962 saw another change in the life of Rose. She became a grandparent when Sallie and her husband, Paul, gave birth to Chris. Thereafter followed Melanie, Pete, and Shawn. Chuck and his wife, Eva, were to give them two grandchildren, Mike and Steve. After this Rose was to gain another name, "Nana." She and Frank were to become Nana and Papaw to many people that loved them dearly as if they were their own grandparents. Her grandchildren have many wonderful memories of their Nana. She also taught them many lessons to help them in life. Children often say exactly what they feel and mean. Many occasions Nana corrected one of her grandchildren after hearing the comment “I hate him or her”. She preferred "I dislike their ways” with a reminder to treat others the way you would want to be treated. Nana would want all of us today to remember the lessons she has left behind.

We gather to remember this Rose, but also to celebrate a new life for her. The last few months were not easy for her. Not long ago on one of the few occasions when she was at herself Ted and Sallie were joking and laughing with her. Upon hearing Ted’s laugh, she said “There’s that laugh, I miss hearing that. We have not had much to laugh about lately, have we?” She had a wonderful sense of humor we all remember. She maintained her sense of humor despite the progression of her illness.

Webster’s Dictionary defines a rose as a showy flower, or as in jewelry, diamonds and gems are often cut in the form of a rose. We want to hold on to loved ones as long as possible, but it makes it easier to turn loose when we know that person is in a better place with no pain or sorrow. Today our Rose is laughing again. Today God has a new flower in His heavenly garden.

AN AMERICAN IN BAHRAIN
BY CTOSN Zachary A. Cunningham, United States Navy

Manama, Bahrain- "Where are you going?" An acquaintance asked me while at home on leave.

I answered with a smile, "Bahrain." However, my response was greeted by the usual blank stare of unrecognition. So I immediately switched to the stand-by- but incorrect- answer of Saudi Arabia. Incorrect, because Bahrain is not a part of Saudi but independent country which I had learned few people knew existed. I'd never heard of it until the Gulf War. Anyway with those two words, Saudi Arabia, my friend's unrecognition changed to a look of pity. Pity which is undeserved. My friend was just responding as any American would due to the stereotypes, stories, and history of the misunderstood Middle East. Stories of a land exclusively inhabited by camel riding nomads journeying across a vast, rolling sand desert an eternity away from civilization or zealous suicide bombers on every street corner bent on pleasing Allah (God) and becoming martyrs. The Middle East is far different from those misconceptions. So different that despite all the research and questions I asked prior to departing I was still surprised by the culture I encountered in Bahrain.

Bahrain is a small island nation about twenty-five kilometers off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the Arabian (Persian) Gulf. It is an emirate, like a kingdom, ruled by the Al-Khalifa family. The official head of state is His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Isa bin Sulman Al-Khalifa. The country is composed of thirty-three islands- only three-of which are inhabited- and covers roughly the same area as Singapore. Bahrain is the largest of the group and is home to the capital and largest city, Manama.

People have inhabited this speck of sand for almost 5,000 years. The first to settle here were Sumerians, followed by Babylonians, Alexander the Great's empire, Arabs, Persians, the Portuguese, and finally the British. Each of these cultures left their mark through ancient artifacts, architecture, and customs making Bahrain a crossroads between East and West. Many other nationalities such as Filipinos, Indians, Russians, Germans and Americans add to the nation's modern diversity. I was about to contribute to that diverseness.

I arrived at Norfolk Naval Air Station on the afternoon of May 3rd for my flight across the Atlantic and half the world. The trip took about twenty-four hours with stops in the Azores, Sicily, and finally reaching Manama, Bahrain. The plane touched down early May 4th and taxied to a secluded section of tarmac at Bahrain International Airport. Gathering my carry-on belongings, I headed towards the front of the jet and out into the thick, humid, and stifling heat. I was amazed. Here it was one o'clock in the morning and it felt as if it was ninety-five degrees (IT WAS!). I have learned that it was not at all hot the night of my arrival and that I'm in for a beautifully "mild" August of 120 degrees or more.

The next few days I spent most of my time adjusting to the time difference, heat, and settling into the four-star Ramada Hotel, home for my first few weeks "in country." Bahrain first struck me as a very modern, yet ancient place. Manama is full of modern conveniences like McDonald's, shopping malls, and tall glass and steel skyscrapers. However, these newcomers are surrounded by colonial buildings and old mosques.

Bahrain is a rich country and the influence of oil is easily seen (Bahrain was the first Middle Eastern country to discover oil around 1900). Oil is the number industry in Bahrain and without it all other industries, such as aluminum and banking, would not exist. Perhaps the most visible industry though is banking. Bahrain is the Middle East's financial capital, home to the headquarters of thirty-seven major banks and countless other institutions. Bahrain is not all wealth however and poverty abounds here for this is still a third world country. I have seen some very disturbing living conditions and poorness. The gulf between rich and poor is very wide.

My first dealing with a Bahraini, or Arab, was with the taxi drivers outside the naval base. By law the cabs are required to use their meters but in reality they simply don't. As a result, you must bargain with the driver for a- hopefully- fair price. Bargaining is held in high regard in this region and you are insulting people if you do not haggle with them. It can be frustrating at times but mostly it is good fun. Now, a little education about the native currency is required for this taxi story. 1 Bahrain Dinar (BD 1.000) is about equal to \$3.00. By the meter, it cost me exactly BD 1.000 to get to the Ramada. I would walk out the front gate after work and be surrounded by three different drivers all trying to get me as their fare. The negotiations might go something like this:

"Do you use your meter?" I ask one.

Cleverly, he dodges the question and says in a heavy, Arabic accented English, "Where you go?"

"Ramada," I answer.

"I take you for two Dinar."

I look at him with disgust, as if I'm insulted, and respond, "One Dinar."

“Make it one half, my friend.” For some strange reason I was every cab driver’s friend. I mean I had never met this man in my life and I was his friend. I think he just wanted to be friends with my money.

“No, one BD. That’s it.”

“My friend, very hot today (It’s very hot every day!) and I wait in sun for two hour. One half.”

I respond by saying, “It’s not my fault you sat here all day. You don’t have to sit here.” Then I follow my statement with the greatest bargaining tool known to man, I begin to walk away.

Immediately my “friend”, now waving his arms frantically, calls out to me, “Wait! Come back! I take you. One Dinar! Welcome, my friend. Welcome.”

Getting in the taxi, I smile. Another victory for the United States Navy in the ongoing Bahraini taxi war.

Cab drivers included, Bahrainis are normally extremely friendly and accommodating. The people of this island are not much different from you or me. In fact, I see many similarities to West Virginians in these people. They are an easygoing society and if a task can wait until tomorrow, it most likely will. Family, from oldest grandparent to newest baby are all extremely important in each family member’s life. It is common for three or four generations to all live in the same house or apartment building. Religion, also, plays a vital role in everyday life. Eighty-five percent of Bahrain’s population practices Islam. This includes the Indians, Afghans, Pakistanis, Malaysians, and even Americans that reside here. Here one understands that all Arabs are not Muslim and most Muslims are not Arabs. After all the country with the largest population of Muslims in the world is Indonesia. The two terms, Arab and Muslim are not interchangeable, a misconception common in America. Islam, however is a major force in society and requires that believers profess that there is only one God, or Allah and that Muhammad was his prophet. Other requirements include an alms-tax, fasting during the month of Ramadan, a pilgrimage to the holy city Mecca and prayer, at least, five times a day. These prayers are the most visual part of the faith because television and radio programs simply stop in order for people to pray. Once I was in Baskin-Robbins and had to wait for the cashier to finish praying before I could order. Five times a day the call to prayer echoes over the land, calling the believer to the mosque Islamic places of worship- to commune with Allah. Their faith and overt worship are commendable, no matter how misplaced. For Muslims do not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, to them he was a prophet but not the Saviour of the world as Christians believe. By the way, I am allowed to freely practice my Christianity here without a threat of reprisal from any source.

Bahrainis definitely enjoy the American military presence on the island and for good reason. Bahrain is very uncomfortable with the minute pressures that Iran, its neighbor across the Gulf, places on the country. In reality, there is a growing movement throughout the Middle East region to return to a more conservative and Arabic Islam, for despite all the peoples that have embraced the faith, it was at one time a purely Arab religion. A minority of people, not exclusive to Bahrain, would like for those days to return. As a result there is no denying that a small amount of danger exists for the Americans here. We are liberal outsiders in a very conservative region. This nation does have problems, for example the poorer working class would love to have more say in the governing of their country and as result there tends to be demonstrations and occasional violence. This violence is never directed towards the service members in Bahrain. To set your minds at ease, for the most part I am more safe here than in the United States. In Bahrain, a woman can walk down a Manama street at two o’clock in the morning and never be bothered. You couldn’t do that in New York City or even Charleston, now.

The United States Armed Forces definitely belong in this region, for there are many vital interests to protect here. Oil, of course, being the most important. However, if we remain the stabilizing force that we are in the Gulf, soon different industries will begin to grow in the Middle East, just as aluminum and banking have in Bahrain. As more industries grow, the American presence must remain, in order for American businesses to spread to an almost untouched market. The United States Navy has been in Bahrain for fifty years, we must continue to remain another fifty for we are a vital link between our country and the countries of this region.

So, those thoughts conclude this letter from an American in Bahrain. I hope each of you have a wonderful time at the reunion and I have to say I will miss it, especially Grandma’s noodles. Have fun, don’t eat too much, and include all of us over here in your thoughts as you enjoy a summer day in the greatest country in the world, (I can say that because I know) the United States of America.

So proudly they hail...



RALLY 'ROUND THE FLAG -Two graduates of Ravenswood High School are giving all that they can back to their country. Zac Cunningham (left), a 1996 graduate, is currently serving in the U.S. Navy and is stationed in Bahrain, an island country in the Middle East. Mary Spoerer (right), a recent 1997 graduate, is planning on attending Virginia Tech. Mary is enlisted in Air Force R.O.T.C. and hopes one day to serve as a military doctor. (Star Photo by Brad Stephenson)

Cunningham enjoys service in Middle East

By BRAD STEPHENSON

Star News Contributing Writer

Local residents may remember Zac Cunningham better as "Cousin Zac", the morning D.J. for WMOV radio in Ravenswood, but Cunningham is no longer flipping discs. He's stationed in the Middle East and working as a Cryptologic Technician for the United States Navy. That's quite a leap.

Zachary Alan Cunningham, the son of Alan and Bev Cunningham of Cottageville, graduated from Ravenswood High School in 1996. He enlisted in the Navy and headed for boot camp. He spent two months at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, IL where he learned the basics and underwent vigorous physical training. He was then sent to Pensacola, FL to "A" School at the United States Navy Technical Training Command. He spent seven months in Florida, where he was educated in Cryptologic Technology.

"It teaches computer communication, networking,

and information systems security," said Cunningham.

After graduating from Technical Training Command, Cunningham returned home for a short two week visit before being sent to Bahrain, a small island nation that lies roughly twenty five miles off the coast of Saudi Arabia in the Arabian Gulf. The country is approximately thirty miles long, with the northern tip being urban and the southern tip being virtually barren.

Bahrain was the first Middle Eastern country to discover oil, which is now the driving force of the economy. The country is involved heavily in banking, with thirty seven major world banks based there. Another of Bahrain's major economic assets should be familiar to the residents of Jackson County.

"On a local twist, the second largest economic force in Bahrain is the aluminum industry," Cunningham said.

In terms of money exchange, one Bahraini Dinar is equal to three Americandollars. Cunningham stated that things are much more expensive there, such as housing and electronic equipment. Food bought in supermarkets is expensive, but the food that is purchased at open air markets is very reasonable. Haggling, or arguing over the cost of goods, is a big concept in Middle Eastern countries.

"Gold and pearls are extremely cheap," said Cunningham. "I've heard people say that \$700 worth of gold here is only \$46 over there, and that's 24 karat."

Cunningham said that the population of Bahrain is eighty five percent Muslim. He also stated that the people are very courteous and amiable.

"The people are very friendly," he said. "They remind me a lot of West Virginians. They work hard, they take pride in their work, and family is very important to them."

Cunningham was a little upset at the harsh views that some citizens of the U.S. have about Middle Eastern countries. With so many terrorist attacks lately, minds are clouded with rage and some people think that everyone in the Middle East is against us.

"I think that there is a lot of stereotyping of Muslims in this country," said Cunningham. "We have to keep in mind that not all Muslims are extremists or terrorists and, in fact, most Muslims aren't even Arab."

Cunningham is stationed at the United States Naval Forces Central Command at the moment. Central Command covers from the Sudan in Africa all the way to Afghanistan and they are in charge of the Red Sea, the Arabian Gulf, and portions of the Indian Ocean. Cunningham loves his job and said that he sees a lot of interesting things.

"I have learned so much about various methods of communication," he said.

Cunningham had been in Bahrain for one month, but he had to return to the States due to the death of his grandfather, Raymond Cunningham. He shipped out for Bahrain once again, however, on June 4 for eleven more months and says that if given the opportunity, he will most likely stay in the Middle East for another year after that. He said that he is excited to get back to the Middle East and continue his job.

Cunningham also said that he is happy to have the opportunity to travel overseas this early in life. Some people never have the chance at all. The Navy has opened up a whole new window of experiences for Zac Cunningham.

"The Navy is a very good opportunity whether you want to give back to the country, earn money for college, or travel," he said.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

HARTB1@westatpo.westat.com (Brice Hart, work)
haymand@erols.com (Don & Donna)
hayman@clark.net (Mark & Laura)
jswilson@erols.com (John & Shari)
bfn6jf8@livewire.bell-atl.com (John, work)
hayman@erols.com (Brian & Carole)
bhayman@bellpub.com (Brian, work)
teddybr42@aol.com (Ted & Sallie)
tedh@shoemaker-electric.com (Ted, work)
MShipkowski@aol.com (Mike & Terri)
Cperry8037@aol.com (Chris & Joyce)

BIRTHDAYS

Matthew Steven Hayman	Jan 5, 1997	Mindy Susan Young Seymour	Aug 5, 1953
Trace Lewis Young	Jan 9, 1995	Jesse Nathaniel Young	Aug 11, 1986
John Martin Wilson III	Jan 14, 1962	Beverly Carol Hart Cunningham	Aug 15, 1956
Terry Allen Huber	Jan 14, 1962	Wendy Christine Hayman	Aug 20, 1986
Lucas Paul Edward Huber	Jan 16, 1996	Keri Anne Wilson	Aug 25, 1990
Nicole Kay Wise	Jan 21, 1987	Paul Richard Gleason	Aug 26, 1939
Melanie Jo Perry Huber	Jan 24, 1964	Gloria Jean Young Sebring	Sep 1, 1952
Cory Joseph Seymour	Jan 28, 1977	David Alfred Hayman	Sep 3, 1995
Zachary Alan Cunningham	Jan 29, 1978	Alexandra Megan Perry	Sep 5, 1991
Michael Aaron Davis	Feb 11, 1997	Shari Lynn Hayman Wilson	Sep 6, 1962
Lillie Mae Hayman Hart	Feb 25, 1934	Barbara Jean Jewell	Sep 6, 1963
Focie Leona Stover Hayman	Mar 2, 1917	Kimberly Jo Hayman Barton	Sep 11, 1962
Christopher Edwin Perry	Mar 15, 1962	Alan Ray Cunningham	Sep 12, 1952
Michael Shipkowski	Apr 1, 1962	Ashley Brooke Whitlatch	Sep 21, 1978
Michael Robert Hart	Apr 10, 1990	Teresa Lynn Hayman Shipkowski	Sep 23, 1963
Brian Wesley Hayman	Apr 13, 1965	Tara Jo Huber	Oct 1, 1981
Mallory Roseanne Wise	Apr 17, 1990	Amber Dawn Hayman	Oct 4, 1993
Kyle Michael Hart	Apr 20, 1990	Linda Carol Hayman Gleason	Oct 8, 1943
Russell Mark Hayman	Apr 29, 1991	Mark Allen Casto	Oct 8, 1961
Leslie Roberts Hayman	Apr 3, 1963	Mark Christopher Hayman	Oct 12, 1960
Paul Frank (Pete) Perry	Apr 9, 1968	Shawn Patrick Perry	Oct 14, 1970
Sarah Beth Young	May 6, 1991	Justin Michael Seymour	Oct 14, 1979
Kenneth Young	May 9, 1960	Marcie Jo Manclark Hart	Oct 21, 1963
Allyson Lee Davis	May 12, 1995	Sarah Elizabeth Hayman	Oct 26, 1992
Amy Michelle Perry	May 16, 1995	Aaron Joseph Davis	Oct 29, 1971
Phyllis Leona Hayman Young	May 22, 1935	Timothy Michael Hayman	Oct 30, 1994
Robert Gene Hart	May 26, 1928	Carole Ann Sauerwald Hayman	Oct 31, 1960
Edward Lee Hayman	May 31, 1942	Robert Lee Jewell	Nov 1, 1966
Laura June Nevins Hayman	May 31, 1960	Jonathan Edward Hart	Nov 4, 1981
Kelsey Erin Hart	Jun 9, 1991	Brice Erwin Hart	Nov 8, 1960
Rebecca Brown Young	Jun 10, 1966	Edward Lee Hayman II	Nov 15, 1968
Curtis Lee Jewell	Jun 12, 1985	Shane Michael Hayman	Nov 17, 1987
Darlene Combs	Jun 15, 1959	Donald Gerald Hayman	Nov 20, 1938
Emma Kay Shipkowski	Jun 19, 1992	Lisa Monica Newell Perry	Nov 22, 1965
Olivia Jo Cunningham	Jun 20, 1975	Kyle Robert Jewell	Nov 24, 1990
Desiree Layne Young	Jun 24, 1991	Kathleen Dunn Hayman	Nov 26, 1967
James Mark Sebring	Jun 28, 1956	Lorna Dawn Bell Hart	Nov 29, 1955
Joyce Ann Deckard Perry	Jul 5, 1963	Terry Allen Huber, Jr.	Dec 8, 1983
Derrick Lewis Whitlatch	Jul 7, 1970	Sandra Michelle Hayman	Dec 14, 1984
Donna Jean Lewis Hayman	Jul 10, 1939	Keith Alan Hayman	Dec 20, 1959
Sallie Rose Taylor Hayman	Jul 15, 1941	Steven Ray Young:	Dec 23, 1956
Jeffrey David Barton	Jul 22, 1966	Jordan Whitlatch	Dec 30, 1980
Nathaniel Kent Wilson	Jul 22, 1993	Diane Grimm Jewell	
Beth Ann Hart Casto	Jul 23, 1966	Sarah Pullens Davis	
Logan Peter Perry	Jul 25, 1996		
Bruce Edward Hart	Jul 30, 1954		
Scott Michael Shipkowski	Jul 31, 1994		