



A.E. Swope
1870-1955

SWOPE NEWS



Kate Swope
1870-1939

2004 Reunion Saturday July 17
McCutchanville Church



Mayme
1890-1953



Ralph
1892-1948



Elnora
1894-1997



Laura
1900-1991



Kathryn
1903-1981



Alice
1905-1985



Isabel
1908-

Year 2003

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Editor Paul Swope

Email paul@swopes.org

OBITUARY

Thelma May Raley Riggs, 92, of Evansville, died on Monday, November 17, 2003, at the Heritage Care Center. Thelma was born on July 4, 1911.



Thelma was a member of Blue Grass United Methodist Church for the last 20 years. She was a past member of the Home Economics Chorus and worked as a Switchboard Operator at the old McCutchanville Exchange. She was also active in the Rainbow Girls, was a 4-H Leader and active in the McCutchanville Church for many years. Burial is in Oak Hill Cemetery.

because the windows reached from floor to ceiling. Because of the good light, Mother, who loved flowers, always had a variety of potted plants on stands in front of the windows. Room #1 contained the piano where sometimes we'd gather and sing, Mayme or Elnora playing. There was also among other things a coal stove for heat during cold days.

Room #2 where we'd placed the Christmas tree also had a fireplace that on the big day always had a cheery fire blazing. There was a black mantle where we'd hang our stockings on Christmas Eve.

Several days before Christmas, we younger kids would dress up our dolls so that they could be put under the Christmas tree, hoping perhaps to get a new one, or at least some new clothes for the old.

Mom and Dad, and I suppose the older sisters, would decorate the tree with strings of popcorn, icicles, ornaments saved from years past, and real candles which we'd find lit on Christmas morning.

The morning of the big day, we children would stand impatiently for the sliding door to open. Then what joy! The tree sparkling in all its glory, gifts piled under and around, and stockings stuffed with oranges, tangerines and a variety of nuts. I think this was the only time of the year

CHRISTMAS AT THE OLD SWOPE HOME

A couple of days before Christmas we younger kids would go with Dad up to the road along the border of which was a row of lovely evergreen trees (spruce I think). He'd chop down the one we selected and we'd proudly carry it back. It was always a lovely one, nearly reaching the ceiling in the bay window where we placed it.

We had two living rooms, separated by a double sliding door. They were well lighted

the right leg. Than hopefully, he will be good "as new" Haha!

Happy Holidays to all.

Love

Kitty and Harlan

FROM SARAH SOSBE

After graduation, things moved pretty quickly for me. I was accepted to a program called Teach for America, and currently teach literacy to 7th and 8th graders in the South Bronx - New York City. I went through 5 intensive weeks of training this summer to get prepared and started teaching summer school. This school year started off with a bang and I am having a wonderful time getting to know my students and growing as a teacher. Besides teaching I am also taking classes to fulfill a masters degree at Fordham University - so my weekdays are pretty jammed packed. I definitely have a much greater appreciation for teachers.

Moving to New York City has been wonderful - I've seen so many sights, some celebrities and experienced many wonderful things of this great place. I met Dave Matthews - a wonderful musician - on the street, attended a Howard Dean rally, partook of a concert in Central Park, and experienced jazz in the Village. The best part was a cruise ship tour around the island of Manhattan and an up-close look at the Statue of Liberty. I live in the North Bronx - Manhattan was far too expensive for me - which I love. The Bronx has a lot of family, old world character to it. It's definitely more laid back than Manhattan. My next big move is to check out a Broadway show!

Sarah Sosbe

FROM YELLOWSTONE

As many of you know Judy & I spent the summer in Yellowstone Park for the second year. A representative of Delaware North (the new vendor) contacted us in May asking if we wanted to return for the last half of the season. We said yes and were scheduled to work from Friday July 11th through Friday Sep. 26th.

We had to plan our absence by making most of our usual payment done via electronic means. Any unusual bills or communication could be taken care of Allen, our son, who stayed in Winter

Haven. We left Sunday prior to our reporting date. The trip out via Atlanta was 'interesting.' At the Florida border there was a SUV that flipped over closing a number of lanes. Then near Chattanooga in the rain there were a couple of accidents that caused some backups. We stayed north of the city for our first stay. I got antsy because I didn't think we would make the rest of the trip in the time we needed. FALSE. The next day we went from Chattanooga to St. Joe, MO in one day. Then we went through Nebraska this time and made great time on that part. We got to Jackson Hole on Wednesday and stayed there that night. We went back through the town looking at several places that had interested us from last year.

On Thursday we went to West Yellowstone via the 'back' way through the corner of Wyoming and Idaho. It was a beautiful drive through agricultural valleys west of that portion of the Rockies. That evening we spent exploring West Yellowstone (simply West to us now) again.

On Friday morning we checked in at 8 am and found that Judy was to work at Tower Falls store again as cashier and I was to be in food services. I figured I'd probably be dipping ice cream at the store, as this was where much of the labor is needed. We got to the store around noon. We found out that I was to be a cook since they only had two and needed three. Saturday was our first real day of work and it was different trying to get used to what I was supposed to do. There was no real training on how to use what so for me this was a real 'baptism under fire' deal. Judy had to get used to a new computerized cash register system also. One nice thing was the room we had in the dorm seemed a bit larger than the one we had the prior year and the bathroom was roomier.

Monday night was my first evening by myself and it was hectic trying to get all the grilled cheese sandwiches done at the right time for each of the two sittings.

It ended that the number two cook, 70+ and rather heavy, left because of congestive heart failure at that altitude (Tower is at 6,500'). And the other cook left because she had possible pneumonia. That left me. Fortunately there was another person that came in on our weekend off to work at the store and she volunteered 'to help' through the hard times in the employee dining room (EDR). The person that was supervisor of

the EDRs came for the next week and a half to train both of us. CT and myself were the only two cooks until the end of August.

The EDR served 5 meals a day, breakfast and two each of lunch and supper. We averaged 450 meals a week. The EDR supervisor had a meal plan rotation over 30 days. So we had meal plans to follow. We'd have to order all of the products to fix our meals though. It was fun to spend \$800+ each week for food. I learned new tricks, such as how to cook on a grill and use a gas convection oven. You good cooks may ask what temperature we used on the oven for different foods. We used ONE setting 350 and would vary the time in the oven for food. My workday was varied from 9-12 hours a day. If I worked the morning shift I'd be in the kitchen at 5:30 am through 3. If I were on the late shift I'd work from 10 am to 7:30 pm. Most of the time I was on my feet doing things. Interesting but hard.

Judy enjoyed most of her work. Once she became used to the computerized system she liked it. She enjoyed seeing and meeting all of the customers.

We explored some hiking trails this year. Three were in our area of the park: Lost Lake, Hell Roaring and Specimen Ridge. Another one to Natural Bridge was in the southern park of the park. Of the three northeastern trails Hell Roaring was the most difficult . . . at least on the way back. There must have been about 800 to 1,000 foot drop down to a canyon that looked over the Yellowstone River. There was a suspension bridge that could accommodate foot and horse traffic. It was a beautiful site to sit and relax and look over the river. The 'huff and puff' back up to where we parked was sort of exhausting. The park had very little rain this past summer and the trail was quite dusty making my white gym shoes gray.

The other three were fairly easy hiking and each one had their own unique sights to see. I probably enjoyed the Natural Bridge hike the most because we did the complete trail going up and near the top of the Bridge. The trail wasn't that long and exhausting in elevation changes but was fun to see the Natural Bridge from the top.

We also enjoyed getting back to Old Faithful area. We went into the original Inn to look it over. I had seen a program featuring it on the Travel Channel. There is a clock (not working now) that

is 2+ stories high. The lobby had an all-wood area that is open 3-4 stories. We had to eat lunch in the dining room. It was good although nothing fancy.

We also were able to get to some of the surrounding cities in the area: West Yellowstone, Bozeman, Billings and Red Lodge, MT. Cody and Jackson, WY and Jackson, WY. We went over the Beartooth Mountains. The pass takes a winding road that peaks at 10,000 foot plus. There is usually snow at the top.

During our last week or two we had some snow and cold weather. On the whole though the summer was hot and dry. On the drive home we sure enjoyed the fall colors of the trees. It is something we don't really see in Florida. You probably are now asking if we will do it again. As long as it is this new company no we will not go back. The dorm could hold up to 50 there was 30. So our store was working with about 20% less. All of the stores in Yellowstone were that way. We understand that Delaware North lost quite a bit of money during the first portion of the year. Also next year the northeast pass in the park will be closed and Tower Falls will be difficult to get to.

We have now settled into our fall routine. We are now busy with church (bell choir, choir and Sunday School Class), Eastern Star, Rainbow Girls and Judy subs in the schools. Allen is busy with his work at a Penny's distribution center near Lakeland. He goes off to work at 4:30 each morning.

From Judy & Neil McCutchan

GLACKMAN

Gene has been participating in the Experimental Aircrafts Associations Young Eagles Program. This program started ten years ago to fly one million young people between the ages of eight through seventeen by the hundredth anniversary of flight on December 17, 2003. The EAA proposed that all members give ten children per year a lesson on what makes an airplane fly and how it is controlled. They are then given a twenty minute flight and get to feel the controls. On completion of their flight they are given a certificate with their name on it and signed by General Yeager. They are also listed on the Young Eagle list on the EAA website. To date

there have been one million forty five hundred children take part in this program nation wide. Gene has flown seventy, including ten this year.

Ted and his daughter Julia came out for a weekend in Aug. Julia is back in college at Temple this fall.

Granddaughter Eva, (Grant's) who graduated from Indiana University last spring is back living in Evansville and working at Vectren, the local power Co.

Grandson Logan (Meg's) is living on his own here in Evansville and working full time at American Windows. Grandson Jake (Ted's) is cooking in a restaurant in Ardmore and taking classes at St. Josephs.

Grant made a recent trip along the pacific coast from Portland Oregon to San Francisco. Later that month he spent ten days in Paris France with some friends. He was enjoying a month's sabbatical that his job requires.

I had a great 60th birthday party in September. (That made it the 12th annual 60th birthday). We had a beautiful day and had 30 here this year. I'm looking forward to celebrating my 13th annual 60th birthday next year.

Nancy

GERMANO FAMILY

As of the first of June, Don retired after almost forty-one years of practicing law in Atlanta and has begun a new career as a Mediator/Arbitrator for all kinds of local court cases. He is enjoying it immensely! He continues to perform his costumed portrayals of John Wesley, for Methodist churches in the North Georgia Conference, as well as, Abraham Lincoln for civic groups and schools.

Sara Mac has also retired after twenty-six years of teaching full-time, but continues to teach reading and math part-time and finds it fulfilling. She is Don's "girl Friday" - acting as secretary/bookkeeper for the new business. Sara Mac is renewing her language studies by taking Spanish classes. She also enjoys researching family genealogy.

Traveling is our favorite hobby. In the spring we journeyed to Southern Italy-Naples, Sorrento and the Amalfi Coast. Che bella! Don was able to use the Italian he has been studying. This summer we made a glorious trip out west to

Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, and Salt Lake City.

Brian, Trish and Jennifer live in Cartersville, GA where Brian is pastor of Faith United Methodist Church. He received his Doctorate of Ministry and also teaches in the Emory University Divinity School summer program. Trish is currently working toward certification in education to teach math in the middle schools. She continues to work as a computer programmer for the State of Georgia, as well as being the active wife of a minister. We are proud of all they are doing. Jennifer, now ten years old, is a busy fourth grader! She loves to read, plays soccer, the piano and sings beautifully!

Amy, Jerry, Lily, and Fuller live in Augusta, GA. Amy teaches preschool at Reid Presbyterian Church. She is currently taking InTech to renew her Georgia teaching certification. She also teaches a Bible study class. Jerry's interior design business has taken him to Poland three times this year. He continues to work hard and does magnificent design work in Augusta. He is a talented young man. Lily at age seven, is reading and writing "up a storm" in the first grade. She is a terrific little artist and loves ballet! Five-year-old Fuller is "all boy". He is full of energy, loves draw and has a vivid imagination! He is very social and has a good time with everyone.

Meme, Don's mother, is an active ninety-five year old. She enjoys reading, playing cards and keeping up with all the news. She has written some of her memories for the Swope family newsletter. (See this issue) She enjoys communicating with all her family and friends.

Sara Mac Germano

HELLO FAMILY!

I look forward to the news letters and LOVE to read Aunt Isabel's memories. I'm glad my father is willing to take on this task as well as keeping the reunion organized. I also want to thank him and Aunt Nancy for taking on the task of replacing the stones at the cemetery. It is wonderful to know that family will still be taking care of us after we are gone.

We are looking forward to Christmas this year. Since Richard's kids are grown and on their own, we haven't had a "traditional" family Christmas. Last year we went to Virginia where

Tim is based in the Army and had Christmas with him there. This year, Tim is coming home for Christmas and we are looking forward to having him, his brother and their kids (our grandkids) for a big Christmas.

I am spending Thanksgiving in Evansville this year. Driving up on Wednesday and then back to Texas on Sunday is tiring, but worth it. Since I am working outside the home again, I am not able to make as many trips as I used to.

Richard and I plan to be here for the family reunion in July and I believe my sister Vicki will make an appearance this year as well. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Have a Safe and Merry Christmas!
Paula Sue Swope, Texas

GYANNE (GERMANO) SMITH

Since retirement 3 years ago, Charlie and I have enjoyed several major trips. The first to Holland in 2000; In 2001 we took a European tour which began in London and ended in Paris. This August we had a lovely time visiting Ireland. We go to the Atlanta area to see Mother (Anna Isabelle) and brother Don (who is married to Charlie's sister, Sara Mac) as often as possible. We are thankful Mother is still in good enough health at age 96 to enjoy getting out to a restaurant or going for a good ride.

Our daughters and families are doing well, Cindy and Gregg live in the Ft. Lauderdale area. Joshua is nearly 17 now, works at a pharmacy and has ambitions of becoming a pharmacist. We had Ben, age now 11, here in Jacksonville for 2 ½ weeks this summer.

Kelly and Rick live near Orlando. Granddaughter Sarah is nearly 14 and loves dancing and drama. She recently had her first paying job which was appearing in a Barney video with Universal Studio as a "Principal dancer." She was also in a Christian video which will be sold in Christian Bookstores. I stay busy painting (I am presently showing in the Jacksonville Watercolor Society Show in St. Augustine), also doing aquorobics 3 times a week; volunteer church work, etc. (I am pres. Of our Sunday School class.) We wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

Gyanne Smith

PAUL

Not much going on here. Still working with the Coast Guard Auxiliary unit here. I get our local unit News Letter out each month and keep up the unit web site. I got a trophy for the best Flotilla News Letter in the 8E District for last year.

Of coarse you all know that I get out the Swope News Letter three times a year. Try and work up the Swope reunion each year, with Nancy and Evelyn's help. We did get the Swope grave stones replaced at Oakhill Cemetery last month.

Been working with the Church more. Seems there is always a work party or something going on. I also keep up the McCutchanville Church web site.

We had a Reitz 1946 class reunion this year. Another fellow and I try and keep it going. We have a committee that works on it that meets every month. Most of the time it's just *meet to eat*. There also is a Reitz 1946 web site I keep up.

Did you hear about the McCutchanville School reunion!! It was a reunion for any student that went to McCutchanville. There were about 170 people there. The committee received a lot of thanks. We think we are going to do it again in the spring of 2005. The McCutchanville School web site has the information.

Well that's about it from Clippinger road near McCutchanville.

Paul Swope

LAST CALL

T'was the night before last call
Paul Swope was e-mailing around
Trying to get slow relatives
Up and off the ground

He's tries over and over
We don't help him enough though
To get the news on the relatives
So to your computers, hurry go!

Key up that keyboard
And type out the news
Of what "ya all" been up too
Till you're done, you can't snooze.

Spread the word about the kiddo's

What everyone is doing now.
Tell about the bad perm, the clunker car,
the lottery you won, the sick cow.

What about that vacation you went on this year
The fun that you had or how you were lost
So people I'm waiting to hear how your are
And it's just a email and that's such a low cost.

And while I am blabbering and spinning this yarn
I feel the need to confess my family's big wish
That you all have a "Merry Christmas"
And that Santa gives you a big kiss.

Love ya Paul, Merry Merry. Jo

FROM THE EDITOR

Attendance 2003 reunion

This is a list of those that signed in for the 2003 reunion. I don't believe everyone signed in.

Karen Dunbar	Megan Yoder
Will Yoder	Evelyn Evans
Dan Rogers	Mava Rogers
Ray France	Audrey France
Randle Cooksey	Nancy Glackman
Gene Glackman	Jeanine Riggs
Richard Riggs	Ken Cooksey
Floyd Riggs	Lois Riggs
Lois France	Matthew Taylor
Amanda Taylor	Joyce Taylor
Sue Swope	Jennifer Duvall
Andrew Duvall	Logan Lawson
Patty Maren	Anthony Maren
Evelyn France	Janice Evans
Lawrence France	Paul Swope
Paula Sue Swope	Richard Ratley
Grace Swope	Jane McCutchan
John Swope	

2004 Swope reunion

As the headline on the front page says the Swope reunion for 2004 will be Saturday July 17

at the McCutchanville Church. We have the large room reserved from 11am to 3pm. Any date we would pick will be a bad date for someone. Thought we might try a Saturday this year.

We will start assembling at 11am and hope to be able to set and eat at 12 noon.

Carry in dinner; bring a dish to share and your table ware. There will be ice tea and lemonade, if you wish something else to drink bring yours with you.

We are still asking for ideas for place and time. The Church seems to be a central location and the lowest cost place to have it.

McCutchanville School reunion

As most of you know we had a McCutchanville School reunion the 11th of October. We had over 165 former students in attendance. The committee is planning another reunion for the spring of 2005. (18 months from now). Those of you that attended McCutchanville School watch for that date. We have a web site; just do a search for "McCutchanville School".

Oakhill cemetery stones

The new Swope Family stones are now in place. There are pictures on the "swopes.org" web site. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A special thanks to the Henry Family.

Address

I have included a list for the US Mail address. These are the address I send the Swope News Letter to. There is also a list of Swope relation email address I send out by email to those I have email address. If your email address is not on that list you will not get the email list. IF you want all the Swope email address send me your email address. Send to paul@swopes.org.