

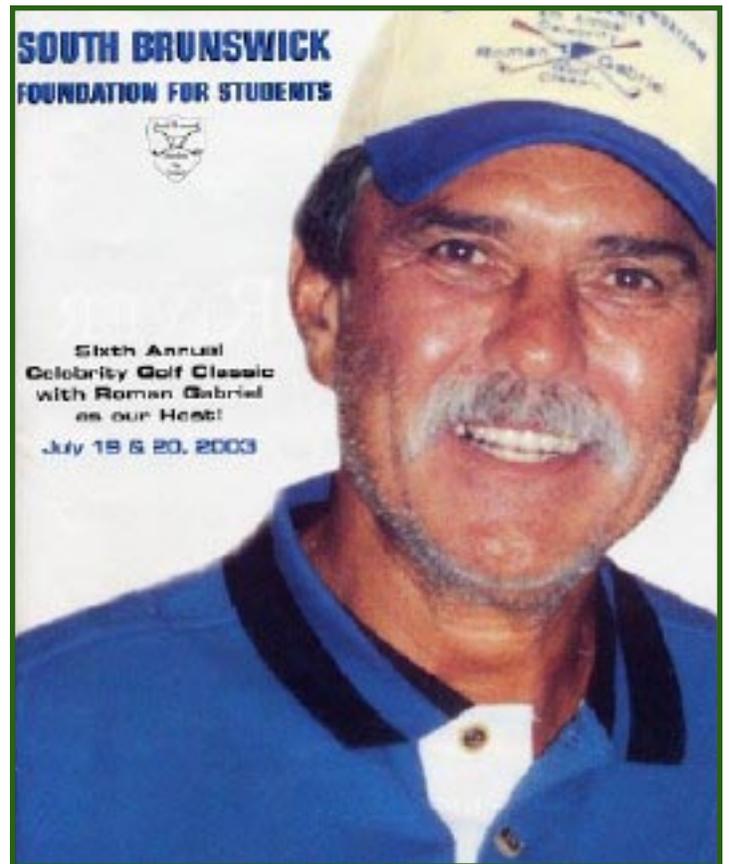
FRIDAY FOLLIES

Hey!

Friday July 25, 2003

Man! What an incredible week since I last wrote. So much to tell you and so little time! In a nut shell -

OK, last Friday night JP spoke and was the autioneer at the TAPS black tie gala. It was very nice, it was an honor to be there, and we saw nice people and had a good time (Virginia, Bill, Joanne, Rudy, Marge) . . .but we were a bit anxious to get on the road since we had a five and a half hour drive ahead of us. We left the event at 11:00, and it was POURING! We have this rule that when one of us is driving and gets tired, and the other is too tired to take over, we do not worry about it, we simply pull over and sleep. Well, we did all right for an hour, and then it hit us. We drove for an hour, and then pulled over and slept for 30 minutes. Drove for an hour, and then pulled over and slept for 30 minutes. This went on all night long, and we finally got to the golf club in southern North Carolina at 6:30 a.m.



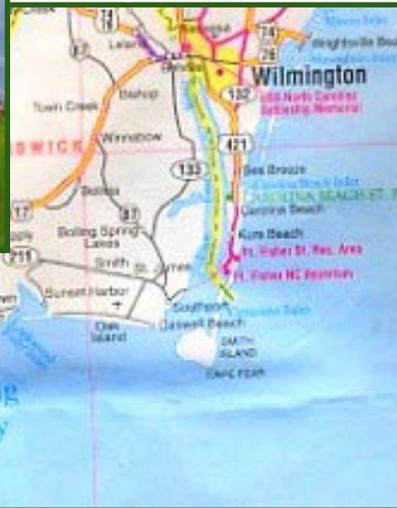
As we pulled into the parking lot, there was Roman Gabriel (legendary NFL QB) complete with bed-head, getting some things out of his car. He laughed so hard at us because we looked so haggard...JP was still in his tux shirt with shorts and tennis shoes because he had forgotten to take out a change for the trip. Roman pointed us to our condo and we slept for two hours. Then it was time for JP to go sign in as one of the celebrities for golf that day. I walked over with him. WHAT FUN! It was a beautiful club and it was so nice to see so many friends we had just met recently at Erving Parker's golf tournament in South Carolina.



J.P., Jim Lane, me, Roman, and "Red."

That day, since I do not play golf...(I need to learn, but haven't had the time)..I grabbed the map and drove fifteen miles down the road to Southport, North Carolina, right across from Cape Fear. I pulled out my little picnic lunch and book and sat on the beautiful beach and

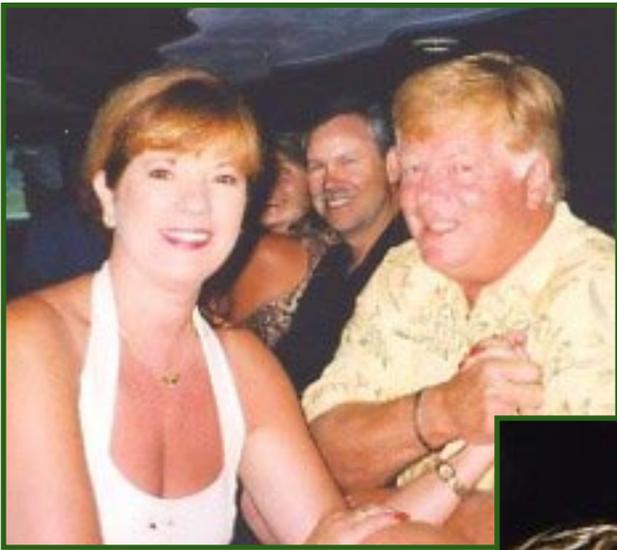
watched the Cape Fear ferry and fishing boats go by all afternoon. Do you know how long it has been since I could totally relax like that by myself? Wonderful! JP had a great time playing golf, as well, so everyone was happy!



That night was the banquet, held in Southport, and Roman had arranged for a limo for all of us. The limo ride

itself was a HOOT! Here are some shots. For example, see the gentleman on the far left with the cowboy hat? I had not met him yet, so I stuck my hand out and introduced myself. What a SWEETHEART! We shook hands and a few minutes later I saw him fumbling for his wallet. Then he handed me his business card. DICK BASS! He still holds the NFL record for the longest punt return! Can you believe it. I was so honored, and we got to be good friends. He told neat stories about Johnny Mathis, Nat King Cole, and especially about Eva Gardner. . .stories I could not tell you here! OK, next to Dick is Jim Layne and, of course, JP. Back Row are Dave, Barry, and Rex.





Here is my buddy “Red” and Steve behind us.

Below are Jeff Severson (2 super bowl rings as the “Singing Safety” with the Redskins and Rams), Toni, Rosanne, Roland, Alex and _____ .

I have to stop here and tell you that this tournament was lovely. There was so much love and good will, you could just feel it in the air. Even the students and their parents that benefit from the foundation were classy and fun. And Roman is such an incredible gentleman. All of the people we met that night, whether they were long-time friends from Wilmington, or NFL football players, NC State sports casters, local celebrities, or NHL hockey players . . .all friends of Roman’s through the years, were top-notch, first class, all the way. I do not ever remember being invited anywhere and being made to feel so much a part of the group.



Above is a photo of Roman introducing JP as the keynote speaker. And here

we have Roman and me posing with two of his buddies from Wilmington. (Hey, “Bones.”) Guess who took this photo? Dan Pastorini!!!

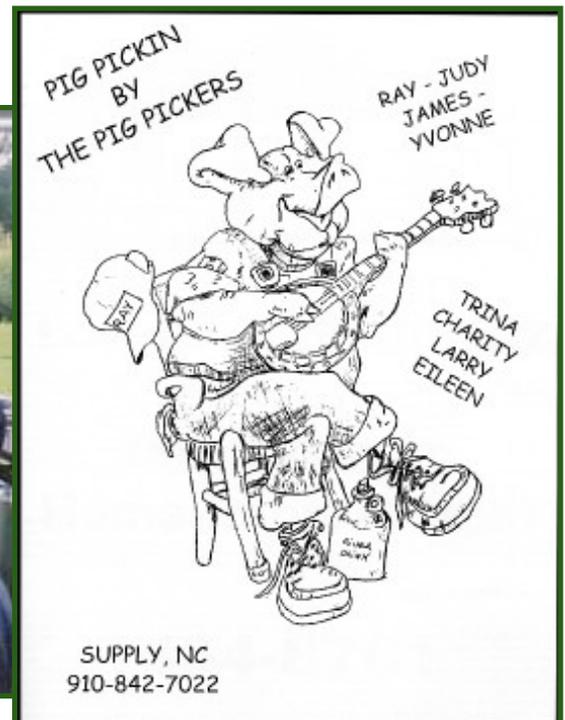


That Sunday, JP took off with the fellas to play golf again, and I literally took my hearing aids out (something I never do while awake) and went to the pool at the condos and SWAM and read my book. I sat there for FOUR HOURS and got blistered beyond belief....but I didn't care. It was surreal. There were kids yelling and running and splashing, and with my hearing aids out, it was as peaceful as could be. It was like watching TV with the sound off. Had a blast all by myself.

I do not know this little fella's name, but he made me laugh all weekend. I saw him at the banquet, and he kept smiling at me and running away. I saw him at the pool, and he had on this t-shirt and no britches. When I said, "Hi," he flashed me a smile . . .and then he FLASHED me. His mother laughed and threw him his trunks. Then at the cook-out, he kept walking back and forth in front of me so I would take his picture. I just loved him!



JP came to the pool about 4:30 to tell me they were getting ready to start the awards, so I went back to the condo and freshened up. When I walked over, there was BBQ, and autographs and many, many smiling faces. Hello to Ray and Judy and all of the guys and ladies we met at the tent. The food was outstanding!





I love these two photo, too. Here is Roman after the whole thing is over...hot, exhausted, and still signing autographs. And here is an equally nice shot of Jeff . . . pooped and ready to retire to the clubhouse.

Many of those who lived nearby left, so then it was just the small group that went back to the clubhouse and sat and laughed and giggled and joked and sang on the screened-in porch until the sun went down.



Here are Paul Housman, Fred Lesh, JP, and Roman back at the clubhouse.

Then Sean “The Beast” Fister, National Long Drive Champion picked the keg up over his head and carried it back to our condo. Did I tell you about “The Beast?” He is amazing. Even all of these professional football and hockey players were in awe of him. What nice young man. He is called “The Beast” because.....



His website is
[WWW.http://
www.longdriving.com/](http://www.longdriving.com/)

Sean "The Beast" Fister - National Long Drive Champion

As Sean Fister grew up his biggest decision was what sport would become his life's pursuit. With five professional baseball players in the family, he had a natural swing and an affinity for hitting balls long and hard. He received a full scholarship to the University of Florida as a decathlete, becoming one of the best collegiate pole vaulters in the country. While training for the Olympics, an injury caused him to refocus his energies on golf and he quickly found his niche in Long Driving. Sean entered his first Long Drive competition in 1989, excelled at the sport, and became the mid-West champion that year. Since then he has won over 20 titles and the 1995 North American Long Drive Championships, hit the longest drive in the history of Long Drive National Championship Finals at 362 yards. In the 1997 North American Long Drive Championships, Sean was runner up and the top American finisher at 406 yards, 11 inches. Fister's long drive feats are legendary and well publicized around the globe through hundreds of magazine articles, newspapers, radio and TV sports-talk shows, world-wide commercial and Internet websites. It's plain to see that in the world of golf, Sean "The Beast" Fister, (the current World Champion), is the legitimate, #1 longest hitter of a golf ball in the world. Sean Fister will be inducted as a LDA (Long Drivers of America) Hall of Fame member in October of this year.



Anyway, we all sat and laughed and talked some more - until we were all so tired, we couldn't laugh or talk ANY more. It was a very special time. Here are (back row) Paul, me, Jim, Cheryl, and George. (front row) Roland, "The Beast", and Jeff.



I thought I would include a few bios for those of you who would like more in-depth information on some of these guy's careers. Very impressive. (And Benny and Pete, we will get your photos next weekend.)



Billy Ray Barnes - Philadelphia Eagles

One of the top all-around football players in Wake Forest history; Barnes was named All-American as a running back in 1956. He became the first Deacon and the first individual in the ACC to rush for more than 1,000 yards that season (1,010), and was named conference Player of the Year. His career yards-per-carry average of 6.0 is still third on the all time Wake Forest list. Barnes and the 1955 Deacon baseball team captured the NCAA championship. He was inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame in 1974. He spent his professional career with the Philadelphia Eagles from 1957-1961. He was the starting running back on the 1960 Philadelphia Eagles Championship Team. He then spent two years with the Washington Redskins and two years with the Minnesota Vikings. Billy Ray played in the Pro Bowl in 1958, 1959 and 1960. He was Coach for the New Orleans Saints from 1969-1971 and for the Atlanta Falcons from 1972-1975. He presently runs Barnes Enterprises.

Dick Bass - L. A. Rams

Dick's home town is Vallejo, California. He graduated from the College of the Pacific with a Major in Speech and Drama (BA). He was a No. 1 Draft Choice as a Junior for the Rams. Dick was the first Ram player to gain 1,000 yards, and was the all time leader in total yardage, pass receiving, punt returns, rushing, kickoff (10,000 yds.). He still holds the record for the longest punt return for a touchdown (90 yds.). All Pro 3 times, MVP for 3 years, NFL comeback player of the year in 1966. He played eleven seasons with the Rams. He was the Rams Color Commentator for 13 years on KMPC. He spent 12 years as the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce Executive Director. Presently he is the Vice President of Business Development for Coast Plaza Doctors Hospital.

Claude "Red" Ouimet - Pro Hockey Player

Red is a native of Noranda, Quebec, Canada. A Pro Hockey player, drafted by the Chicago Black Hawks in 1962, assigned to Hershey in the AHL, played in St. Louis in the ECPHL. Red played for the Charlotte Checkers from 1964-1969. Red still resides in Charlotte with Donna, his wife of 36 years. They have four children and two grandchildren. Red and Donna became U. S. Citizens in 2000! Red is currently the President of Can-Am Textile Machinery, Inc.

Jim Lane - NHL New York Rangers

Jim was born in Regina, Sask. He started skating and playing hockey at 2 years old and played his first game at 4. He played on 4 straight provincial championship teams from 1955-1958. He played 5 years in the Western Canada Junior "A" League from 1959-1963. He signed with the N.Y. Rangers in 1963. He then came to play for the Charlotte Checkers in 1965. Jim played 5 years in the Eastern League with the Checkers from 1965-1970 before retiring. After retirement, Jim became a referee with the Eastern League and the World Hockey League until 1978. Jim now lives in Charlotte, NC and works as a packing consultant for Ferguson Box Manufacturing. Jim has been with Ferguson since 1979. Jim is also president and operations manager for Parking Unlimited. Parking Unlimited is a traffic management company that handles special event parking and traffic solutions for many large events. Parking Unlimited handles all events at Lowe's Motor Speedway, Charlotte Coliseum, Cricket Arena, and handled the traffic for the U.S. Women's Open in Pinhurst. Jim has been active coaching youth hockey and baseball. He continues to play charity golf events and spend time with his family and grandchildren. Jim has been married to his wife, Yvonne, since October 1966. They have two sons, Jeff and Scott, who both live in Charlotte. They also have 4 grandchildren, Brandon, Kris, Drew, and Jamie.

Benny Snipe - Tampa Bay Buccaneers & Pittsburgh Steelers

Summerville High School Alumni Class of 1988. Three sport letterman in football, basketball, and baseball. Benny was inducted into the Summerville Hall of Fame. Alumni South Carolina State University class of 1994 in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He played running back for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Pittsburgh Steelers when they were conference champions in 1994.

Ok, one more thing from this week.

One night last week, before all of the excitement, we had the best meal we had EVER prepared at home, and it was so incredibly simple! A good friend, Ron Furnish, had given us fresh, tuna steaks. J.P. marinated them in lemon juice for about 30 minutes and then rubbed them with basil, oregano, salt, and pepper and threw them on the grille. As a side, I fried green tomatoes. I am telling you, the two flavors together were amazing! It was better than anything we have ever had in a restaurant! And just for fun of it, while I was frying, I threw in some sliced dill pickles. Have you ever had those? Just plain ole hamburger dills dipped in the batter and fried are better than any potato chip you have ever tasted. Anyway, I will include the fried green tomato recipe this week for those of you who have never tried them. I know there are some of you in other parts of the country and world that think they are like grits . . . too Southern . . .but man, you gotta taste them before you judge them.

***Fried Green Tomatoes**
from this month's Southern Living*



FRIED GREEN TOMATOES

MAKES 4 TO 6 SERVINGS

PREP: 20 MIN., COOK: 4 MIN. PER BATCH

If your family has a large appetite, you may want to double this recipe.

- 1 large egg, lightly beaten**
- ½ cup buttermilk**
- ½ cup all-purpose flour, divided**
- ½ cup cornmeal**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- ½ teaspoon pepper**
- 3 medium-size green tomatoes, cut into ½-inch slices**
- Vegetable oil**
- Salt to taste**

COMBINE egg and buttermilk; set aside.

COMBINE ¼ cup all-purpose flour, cornmeal, 1 teaspoon salt, and pepper in a shallow bowl or pan.

DREDGE tomato slices in remaining ¼ cup flour; dip in egg mixture, and dredge in cornmeal mixture.

POUR oil to a depth of ¼ to ½ inch in a large cast-iron skillet; heat to 375°. Drop tomatoes, in batches, into hot oil, and cook 2 minutes on each side or until golden. Drain on paper towels or a rack. Sprinkle hot tomatoes with salt. ♦



To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, New York, Oregon, Maine or Europe, have a wonderful, wonderful weekend, and . . .

God bless.

Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

JUDI GODSEY



P.S. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent e-mails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List.

PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way.

Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!