

Friday Follies 08/09/02

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Hey!

Our garden got off to a slow start this year. Drought, blight, you name it.



And to top it off, we planted six yellow pear tomato plants thinking they were normal-sized yellow tomatoes. Nope! They produce little pear-shaped tomatoes the size of grapes. The only saving grace is that they produced a LOT!



So, this past weekend I canned tons of Yellow Pear Tomato Pasta Sauce. I also put up Creole Squash, and Basil Summer Squash, and Green Tomato Marmalade. JP canned Chili Pepper Sauce,



and Roma Pasta Sauce.

We ended the weekend Sunday night with Spicy Stuffed Acorn Squash for dinner. Below are some of the recipes if you are interested.

Our friends were here from Pittsburg two weekends ago. We took a couple of photos for the Follies, so here they are. Saturday was the “big” day. We took them on a boat ride over to picnic and spend the afternoon on a secluded beach at First Landing State Park, and then that evening we went to the Holmes/Butterbean fight.



Ray, Bonnie, Jessica & Britany.

OK, I started writing this next part and somehow it turned into something unexpected & totally different than planned. Please allow me to indulge.

We had our summer alumni event this past month and I got to see many of my former students. (Getting old, I am.) Hard to believe they’re all adults, but also very rewarding to see them happy and doing so well. Also, since it is summer, many alums just “pop” in to say, “Hello.” So I thought I would show you a few of their friendly faces.



Troy and Jermaine



Tiffany and Aubrey



Sally and Trent with their family!



Shannan, Matt, and Ashleigh

I have to confess, I missed being in the classroom the minute I stepped in to administration. You see, your students become your friends, and over the years...your family. I have always maintained that teaching is the most rewarding profession in the world!



These beautiful ladies were my first students in Mississippi. Belinda went on to win many Forensics titles that year.

Debate



Teaching Forensics in Mississippi...
Then I moved to California...from the poorest schools in the country to the richest.
Directing "Plaza Suit." (obviously during the disco era.)

Jack Jones explains the assignment to David Harris



Jack Jones gives instructions to stage crew on stage settings



When I moved back to Mississippi, they thought I was a Linda Look-A-Like! Ha!

Ronstadt double heads speech department

by Willie Baskin

At first glance, one may look twice and think, "My gosh, it's Linda Ronstadt!"

The new speech teacher this year does have a close resemblance to the country-rock singer. Although July Jones is new to the north campus this year, she is not new to the trade of teaching. Mrs. Jones taught at Meridian High four years ago as a student teacher and has since taught for three years in California.

Under her guidance the speech team will be touring the state during the upcoming Mrs. Jones put it, "some tough assignments" at the four or five contests to be held.

"We had a young team last year," she explained, "but this year we have experience and are going to be good and tough."

In the speech class itself, Mrs. Jones said that the first semester will be taken up getting over stage fright and making former knowledge in the second semester students will be studying dramatic literature and writing, research, and convincing.

Perhaps "speech teacher" is not a very good title for Mrs. Jones. Besides speech, she has also taught English, literature, drama, creative interpretation, and has directed some plays. This year she will be working with research, the debate team, forensics, and the Thespian club, which she hopes will produce at least one play.

Born in Columbus, Mississippi, Jones attended Lee High and later Mississippi University for Women, California State, Northridge, and Mississippi State, majoring in drama and speech. She is married, has no children, but does have two dogs and one cat.

When asked if she likes Meridian, Mrs. Jones replied quickly, "Definitely. It is much nicer, but I wish the people I could go to California."



LINDA LOOK-A-LIKE July Jones looks forward to a promising future for the speech and debate teams. (Photo by Frye)

I took a break for a couple of years and had my son, Jeremy. Then I got my degree in Montessori Education and opened one of the first Montessori schools in Mississippi when Jessica was only three weeks old!

New Pre-School Follows Montessori Learning Method

By JANE COOPER
Special to The Star

Montessori came to Meridian last week when Dr. Lillian's Home opened its doors to 15 to 45-year-olds.

The school is located in a 1900s-style brick house at 1022 East Ave.

A few principles of Montessori education include that the most important years of growth are the first six years of life, when sensitive learning is probably thought to be the common level, the years when learning is easy and fun.

Based on the theory that development of the nervous system (development of mental intelligence) and that a child experiences a "sensitive period" between the ages of 1 and 6, sensitive and logical materials are used in the classroom, including building blocks to learn how to read and independence in personal care, geographical cylinders, cubes and prisms to develop visual sense of dimension and number (beams and wire-cubes) that is to teach math.

Another growing field that continues to work is necessary for the mental focus, particularly when children make such things as pictures, beads, string, glass and bamboo, working paper, hugging, flowers, weaving, baking and helping out families.

Gifts, stuffed animals and story books are left to have in place in the education of a child (where again, the parent either really must be involved, then a child has emotional health), according to the Montessori method, he or she encouraged to open his or her imagination in a creative manner. And Montessori children learn to write before they learn to read.

There are over 100 Montessori schools, local and private, spread in the United States. Local Director July Jones, who previously taught speech and drama at Meridian High School, has taught previously in a Montessori school in Virginia Beach, Va. July is also a teacher of the new school, the teacher and leader of a Montessori school in Newark, Ohio.

"It is not new. It is an ancient practice. We're not experimenting with the children," Mrs. Jones said recently. "The goal is to teach them to love learning."

Mrs. Lillian said:

The Montessori educational philosophy was developed by Maria Montessori, the first woman to graduate in law from the University of Rome Medical School. As a young doctor she recognized the need for teaching mentally disabled children to read and write. If they cannot communicate, perhaps each child with sensory impaired children, she reasoned, they also could be taught to write normal children to take advantage of their capabilities. Dr. Montessori died in 1952.

The Montessori concept was introduced in this county in 1962. One of the early schools was established by Alexander Graham Bell in his own home.

Temporary tables, chairs and equipment are being used in the Meridian school for a few weeks and officially opened September and materials arrive from England. The school is owned by Dr. Jane Ward, of Columbus, who also operates a Montessori school in her home town, Starville, in West Point and Abbeville, Ala.



15-MONTH-OLD SON, JEREMY, AND MOTHER, JULIA COOPER, AT SCHOOL WITH JULIA COOPER.





This was the first day of school. Great way to work and be with your babies, too. See Jessica on the floor behind Jeremy?

Then I moved to Virginia for a whole new experience. My children were older now, so I went back to teaching secondary education.



Here are some of my drama students as “extras” in Richard Chamberlin’s “Dream West” mini series. They were stunned at how long it took for costume and make-up calls and the hours and hours of shooting for several seconds worth of finished footage.



Teaching improvisation. Then computers came along...a new novelty.



Trips to a local radios stations and



visits with local celebrities.



Always a cast of thousands even for Middle School plays.



Goofin' at play practice.



and very serious.

But the truly neat thing is, they stay your friends forever.



Trent went on to VMI and law school and now lives in the area. His wife was the star of the first play I directed in Virginia. David went to Alabama (Roll Tide) and is back in the area working with Radio. Alec went to the Univ. of Southern California and majored in film. You just never know where it is all going to go, do you...

Take care,

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

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

PS. 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 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 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 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. You tend 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). I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!

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### **Spicy Stuffed Acorn Squash**

4 large Acorn Squash  
4 cups chopped onions  
3 tablespoons salad oil  
2 pounds ground beef  
1 med. green pepper, diced  
2 teaspoons seasoning salt  
1/4 teasp. pepper  
1/8 teasp. cayenne pepper  
1 1/2 teasp. oregano  
2 cloves garlic minced  
1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce  
1/4 cup chopped pimiento stuffed olives  
3 eggs, beaten

Wash squash and cut in half. Scoop out seeds. Place in large saucepan of boiling salted water and boil for 10-15 minutes. Remove/drain/set aside. Saute onion in oil until tender. Add beef and brown well. Stir in green peppers, and remaining seasonings. Cook, stirring 3 minutes. Cool slightly and stir in eggs. Sprinkle inside of each squash with seasoning salt. Spoon filling into each squash. Place in a large shallow baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for about 30 minutes. Let stand ten minutes before serving.

### **Green Tomato Marmalade**

1 cup water  
2 oranges, thinly sliced  
1 lemon, thinly sliced  
6 large green tomatoes, chopped (about 4 pounds)  
4 cups sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Cook first 3 ingredients in a dutch oven over medium heat 17 to 20 minutes or until fruit is tender. Add tomatoes and remaining ingredients, stirring until sugar dissolves. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; reduce heat, and simmer, stirring occasionally, 3 hours and 30 minutes or until mixture thickens. Pour hot mixture into hot jars, filling to 1/4 inch from top. Remove the air bubbles; wipe jar rims. Cover at once with metal lids, and screw on bands. Process in boiling-water bath 10 minutes. Yields 3 pints.