

Don Leachman

Mount Berry School for Boys (63H) Berry College (67C)

Like a lot of other MBSB grads, I didn't venture very far after graduation, just a few miles back down the "stretch" to the college campus where I continued to make many more lifelong Berry friends.

After that, I had short careers with S.S. Kresge (K-Mart) and Lockheed Aircraft in Marietta, before settling into the carpet industry, where I have spent my last 34 yrs (28 of them at my current employer-Beaulieu of America).

My story is not near as impressive as most of the ones I've seen so far, but all in all, life has been very gratifying to me. I have experienced several ups and downs along the way, but I always seem to land on the up side of life. I have lost a parent, a brother, a wife, and one of the closest friends I've known. But I have also gained 2 great children, 2 step-children, 4 beautiful grandchildren, and have had 2 very happy and successful marriages.

My son, Chris, a Berry College grad, is a Deputy U.S. Marshall, currently assigned to Albuquerque, N.M. . My daughter, Danette, another Berry College grad, is a high school math teacher and the mother of 1 yr. old twin girls.

My first wife died from an automobile accident in 1983 and in 1991, the beautiful widow of that close friend that I lost, became my wonderful wife. Beverly and I will celebrate our 13th wedding anniversary this September. Some of you have met her, however, not being a "Berry" girl, she doesn't quite understand the Berry bond, and will opt to spend that extra time with the grand kids.



I am so proud to have been associated with all of you from my Berry days. I think of a lot of you very often, and when my mind allows me to recall those days, my memories are always very pleasant.

I am very excited about getting to see everyone again--especially those that I haven't seen or heard from in so long--like Brewer, Pooney, Butler, Rolan, Laney, McLean, And hopefully many, many others from your class and mine.

Butler---You surprised me!!! But I bet you that if the rest of us had the same gift, we would all have said the very same things. Thank you for sharing those thoughts and memories with us.

Remember everyone, like Roger Harris said, "You just don't know when we will have this opportunity again.", or if we will.

Hope to see all of you then.

Don Leachman, 63H

*You can take the boy out of Berry but you can't take Berry out of the boy.
Berry High School 1963 to 2004 & 41 years later*