

Ronald (Ron) K. Holt

Berry Academy Class of 1964

Well I told you I would send you something about my life since Berry if I could think of anything worth telling. I really still can't but time is running out so here's a try.

Of all the chapters of my life worth remembering, Berry and you guys sure are in there.

Prior to Berry, my life was as horrible as some of you guys are revealing. A drunken father who constantly beat my mother and an older brother who daily took his frustrations out on me. I'll never figure out the luck of my mother having a hairdresser with a son at Berry. I believe she was Bill Bunch's mother who told her about the school -and there I went. Even while there, due to my past, I had a lot of trouble at times figuring out relationships with other guys without aggression. I'm sure you guys who knew me know what I'm talking about.



After we graduated, I tried college in Miami, then the Air Force and then back to college to graduate with a BS degree in business in 1971. My younger brother, my wife and I all graduated at the same time from the University of Tulsa, with different majors in business. Since then I've lost both my brother and my wife, six months apart in 1990. To this day, I still don't know how I made it through that year. My wife's death left me with a pretty tough job, raising a 12 yr. old son by myself. And there aren't enough books that will help you get through that. Though somehow it worked out after all. He turned into a very good person and is now an excellent father and businessman.



My work after graduation from college started with sales for 3M, Business Products Div. which I loved and did pretty well. Then I accepted an offer from Eastman Kodak Co. to help them enter the same market with a product they had developed to compete with my 3M equipment. That decision was a big mistake. My relationship with Kodak lasted a few years as I never was nearly as happy with the co.'s style and philosophy as I had been with 3M. I left and joined a friend as partner in a yacht brokerage in Islamorada

and Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo. I enjoyed selling boats for many years, until I found myself spending more time taking care of some rental properties that I owned in Key Largo and Homestead, Fl. (My parents also owned rental properties in the Upper Keys and when they passed away a few years ago, I inherited theirs to manage as well.) Over the last couple of years, I have taken advantage of the hot housing market and sold most everything, which has left me with a lot of time to sail and play way too much golf. I also intend to travel more.

That pretty well sums it up as yet. I told you it wasn't much , but man will I have some things to tell you for the 50th.

Sorry I can't make it to the reunion. I think I would like to see you guys after all this time, but naw--- just the shots of Laney and Roland really startled me. Damn, am I that old? Guess I am. If the rest of you looked like those two, I'm afraid I would just head back home ready to call it quits.

My proudest accomplishment lately, is running and finishing in this year's "Key's 7 Mile Bridge Run". It's a big deal down here and just the fact that I was accepted and finished (though my time wasn't that great) completed a goal of mine for years.

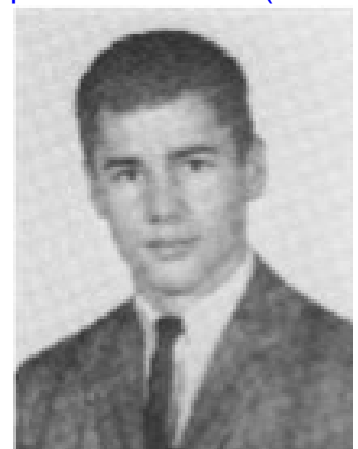
My fondest memory of Berry- the night Mr. Wood rounded some of us up in Pilgrim to come to his apt. to see the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Enclosed: a photo of my new little 'Rice Rocket'. What mid-life crisis?
Ron Holt

Key Largo

p,s. I could write a book about what I owe Mr. and Mrs. Loveday and Mr. and Mrs. Wood. I'll do that next time.

p.s.s. Have you located Cathead? I've run into him a couple of times since



*You can take the boy out of Berry but you can't take Berry out of the boy.
Berry Academy 1964 to 2004 & 40 years later*