

1988

## Little Creek Newsletter June 1988

Little Creek Academy

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### Recommended Citation

Little Creek Academy, "Little Creek Newsletter June 1988" (1988). *Newsletters*. 4.  
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Little Creek Academy  
Knoxville, TN 37922  
June, 1988

Dear Creekers,

Some of you are wondering why no newsletter for so long. Barbara (Iles) Bothe asked me to help with a part in a Christian Women's Seminar near Atlanta on April 24. All my spare energy was channeled into this project and we did enjoy that week-end and saw Donna (Myers '77) McNeilus and Ken Shaw '76 among others. Then on April 25 came the plane crash. By the time this emergency eased we decided to wait until after graduation to send a letter.

Perhaps you have all heard about the accident after 21 years of teaching flying. Mr. Boyson (instructor) and Chris Blake, a sophomore, were having a lesson about 3:00 in the afternoon. They had made two "touch and go's" but on the 3rd one lost power and had to land from 300 feet. They tried to make the little air strip near us but caught the wing on one small tree and rode down on a second one at the edge of the trip. I'll let Kenny tell about it.

ANOTHER LOOK AT THE AIRCRAFT INCIDENT  
By Kenneth E. Straw

We were sitting in Mr. Roger's office discussing next year's budget when a nurse stuck her head in the door and said that a lady came running in and reported that there had been an airplane crash at Gil Rogers airstrip which is located about 1 1/2 miles west of Little Creek. I ran to the fire station, reported that I was responding to a walk-in report of an aircraft accident, and headed out. As I was driving down the road, I knew it was probably one of our airplanes, even though I hoped it would be a false alarm or someone else involved.

As I arrived on the scene, I could see Mr. Boyson standing near the aircraft, waving me on in. At the edge of the runway, partly in the trees, I could see a white object that really didn't look like an airplane. It looked more like a flying wing that had quit flying. Mr. Boyson didn't appear to have any life threatening injuries, and as I asked where Chris was, he pointed to the aircraft, and I could see Chris's motionless body still in the aircraft. He was virtually upside down, with his body weight on his shoulders and his head folded against his chest.

It was obvious that he didn't have an adequate airway in that position, so I supported his head and neck and eased him out of the wreckage. He was breathing and had a pulse, but his blood pressure was quite low. By then, Ann Goodge had arrived, and so while she tended Chris, I radioed for the Life Star medical helicopter that is based at the University of Tennessee Hospital. Ambulance crews arrived and within a very short time, Chris was on his way to the trauma unit at UT and Mr. Boyson was transported by ground ambulance to Park West hospital. We were called out to another fire later that evening, and one of the ambulance attendants said that Chris had gone into respiratory arrest en route to the hospital. So, we were all very thankful that medical help arrived quickly, as Chris would not have made it without prompt care.

Any incident involving an aircraft is investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration. Cessna Aircraft Corporation and Teledyne Continental Motors also sent representatives to do their own investigation. I spent the next day observing the NTSB representative as he filtered through the remains of the aircraft looking for facts. He didn't find anything in the aircraft wreckage that appeared to have failed. Cables, controls, and fuel system all appeared normal. We removed the engine from the aircraft and loaded it in my truck, to be hauled to the main airport for further inspection. The next morning the engine was disassembled and checked. The compression was checked on each cylinder, and they were all within allowable limits. The ignition system was checked, and it worked normally, and the timing was within limits. The carburetor had fuel in it and appeared to function correctly. Next, the valve covers and cylinders were removed from the engine. When the valve cover was removed from the #3 cylinder, the entire valve rocker assembly fell out of the cylinder. A close look revealed that the cylinder casting had failed. The three attach points for the valve rocker assembly had simply separated from the cylinder.

Without the valve rocker assembly, the valves would remain closed in that cylinder. Without fuel coming in and exhaust going out, this cylinder simply put a load on the engine and further drained the power being generated by the other three cylinders. At the slow speed the aircraft was moving on climb out, it simply quit. There was no evidence that the propeller was turning when the aircraft landed (on its nose).

The official investigation will continue for many months, but at least we all felt better knowing that we hadn't done anything through carelessness that caused the accident. Having completed my aircraft mechanic ratings this past year, I had performed and signed off the most recent 100 hour inspection to the aircraft. So, this investigation came pretty close to home. You really feel on trial as all these people stand around looking for something wrong. The tension in the air eased

considerably as a probable cause for the engine failure was found, and it was not something that indicated a deficiency in maintenance procedures or that could have been readily foreseen by anyone operating the aircraft.

As I went through this experience, I could not help but think of the final inspection that awaits all of us at the end of our life on this earth. I trust that there won't be any deficiencies in our lives that should have been corrected before they caused a fatality to us or someone else.

Now I'll list the miracles:

1. Mr. Boyson survived and could get out of plane.
2. A car passing by stopped and a lady came to San to get help.
3. Kenny, Roger and Ann (worked emergencies for so long) were in San office when lady came.
4. Kenny was there in fire truck in about 5 minutes.
5. Was able to call for Lifestar Helicopter for Chris.
6. No fire--gas tanks in tact.
7. Were able to get Chris out of plane, airway established. Helicopter came immediately.
8. U.T. Trauma Center is finest in the South.
9. Dr. Jim Pickett '61 was in the emergency room at that time.

This was such a comfort to know Chris had the very best care possible. Mr. Boyson had tried to take the hardest blow and was inconsolable when Chris was so seriously hurt. Later realized Mr. Boyson had cracked ribs. Chris had a severe blow to the head and they later discovered he had a broken shoulder which was minor compared with the head jury.

Many were the prayers for Chris. Parents of other students spread the word. This comforted us. The insurance adjuster called all staff and students together on Thursday noon to say there was no fault in the flying program.

Even the T.V. announcers called it a miracle. We were No. 4 of five crashes of small planes in this area in the last few weeks and there were no other survivors.

We kept a 24 hour vigil with Chris. His parents and younger brother and sisters were here and many helped with the care of the children as well as helping stay with Chris. Finally he made progress enough to be taken off the critical list, but no one could predict the brain damage.

Last report as of Sunday, June 5, sounds good. (His parents took him home to New Hampshire on May 19th.) The doctors are pleased with his progress and his prognosis is good. We have much for which to praise the Lord.

#### CAMPUS NEWS (beginning in February)

Each Monday evening in February the seniors and a few juniors took turns sacking food to be distributed to the poor by FISH. We were sorry when the 5 Mondays were over.

The band tour this year took us to West Virginia to two of the students' homes. They went skiing on Friday and a sunburned, slightly injured group produced church services the next day. The evening program was at Johnson City and the Malcolm Schmehls '65, McMullens '65 and Drapers (Linda Laffin '61) helped to feed us a delightful supper.

Students from 5 other self-supporting academies and some from Hartland College spent March 31 to April 2 here on our campus for our own little Bible Conference. The theme was "Those who make Christ first, last and best are the happiest people in the world." Karen (Hiner '81) and Brian Holland from Oklahoma Academy, Bob Zollinger '48, Norman Peek '53, Kenneth Straw '57 and Trey Shurly, and Ted Summitt '59 all had parts on the program in addition to several current students. Michael Galiotti and Frank Ricks were off campus speakers. The conference ended with communion and agape supper Sabbath evening. Everyone received a real blessing.

After Sabbath Jeff Newell gave his senior violin recital.

March 18-19 was 30th annual Music Festival at Mt. Pisgah Academy where Evan Chesney '77 is the choral director. We especially enjoyed seeing our alumni, Tom McNeilus, Jeannie (Rauch '63) Mazat, James Peel '53, Alfred Burdick '62 plus all their spouses--plus our own granddaughter Debbie '77 and her husband Stanton Tait plus our 3 great grandchildren. And I was able to baby

sit while the rest went to the afternoon program. Great Grandma was quite popular when there was no other competition. Ha! So I am now better acquainted with Christina who was born on my birthday in November 1986.

## ALUMNI NEWS

The Singing Men from Andrews University gave us a beautiful program March 24. William DeWitt '87 was their accompanist and also played a piano solo. It's fun to see our students develop and use their talents. Virginia (Schuler) Smith's son Darcy was with them too. Was fun seeing him.)

The quote about Orion in last newsletter was from Professor Learkin of Mt. Lowe Observatory.

Joe and Clarice Rudd '70 returned in January from the jungles of Venezuela, where they had spent a month building a church and a pastor's home. They had been saving for several years to pay for this venture. Most of the expenses were paid for by magazine articles he has written for various magazines. They hired natives to help and trained them. The Standifer Gap Church near Collegedale paid for transportation of wood and other materials, as well as donating a keyboard and other things.

Many of you may have seen Warren Ruf's '70 article in Southern Columns (No. 3, 1987). We were happy he could come and share his trip with the Madaba Plains (east of the Jordan Valley) excavation sponsored by Andrews University. This was truly an archaeological adventure. Warren pastors two churches near us.

## GRADUATIONS

Cynthia (Straw '81) Mitchell B. S. in Nursing, Southern College, December, 1987

Janelle (Maxson '83) Spaulding, Southern College, May 1, 1988.

Carol (Trivett '72) Garner, B.S. in Nursing

Barbara (Chase, '79) McKinney, M.D. Degree, Loma Linda University, May 29, 1988.

Keith Shaw '82, Bachelor of Architecture, Andrews University, June 5, 1988.

## WEDDINGS

Carlene Griffin '53 to Martin A. Ludwig, December 17, 1987, 2263 Duck Lake Canal Road, Dade City, FL 33525.

David Habenicht '84 to Nerida Tuss, March 20, 1988, Helderberg College Church, South Africa. (Don't have current address, but parents address is 12620 Garr Road, Buchanan, MI 49107.)

James Gulley '83 to Lori Heinsman, March 27, 1988, The Meadows #61, 1150 South Meadow Lane, Colton, CA 92324.

Robert Folkenberg '82 to Audrey Gibson, June 12, 1988, 8778 University Blvd., Berrien Springs, MI 49103.

## NEW MEMBERS

Whitney Elizabeth to Brian and Barbara (Iles) Bothe, February 2, 1988, 4499 Kinvarra Circle, Mableton, GA 30059.

Kate Elizabeth Marie to Kenny and Ann (Kennedy '77) Shaw '76, April 15, 1988, 390 McDuffie Drive, Athens, GA 30605.

Ashley Marie, to Dale and Cheryl Tunnell '81, April 20, 1988, 3896 Riverside Drive, #3826, Macon, GA 31210.

Ashley DeAnn, to Byron and Sherry (Horne '73) Carlton '73, May 18, 1988, P. O. Box 548, Collegedale, TN 37315.

## MORE CAMPUS NEWS

All the rooms in the boys' dorm have been renovated. Dean Micheff has made many improvements.

Be sure to visit the cannery when you come. It is now enclosed and has a smooth tile floor!! Cheers to Fred Smith and Jim Johnson and all their helpers.

We have had a long list of visitors since we last sent out a letter. As usual it is with fear and trembling that we do this as it is so very hard to keep an accurate record of who has been here unless they sign the guest book in the church. Anyway--here goes!! Pastor and Mrs. James Peel '53, Eleanor (Von Boeckman '54) Willloh, Wilma (Keller '58) Rasmussen, Kenny Lockhart '86, Mike Slover '85, Joey Capps '87, Cindy Bofink '87, Jimmy France '86, Kimberley France '84, Annette Newell '87, Karen McKinney '87, Steve Connor '87, Ed Schneider '87, Esther Kurtz '85, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMullen '65, Bruce Myers '85, Matt Davis '87, Susan Rempher '87, Skip Holley '84, Dr. and Mrs. Burton Goodge '59, Dr. and Mrs. John (Mary Sue Martin '51) Shaw, Linda (Malmede '66) Wilhelm, Jeff Hill '85, Doug Dewey '85, Johns Laswell '87, Cherie Stuyvesant '83, Brian and Karen (Hiner '81) Holland, Darla Boyd '87, Mr. and Mrs. John (Virginia Pillsbury '66) Hagan, Steve Frey '86, Mr. and Mrs. Bob (Mary Peek '55) Kurzynske, David Silverstein '64, Glen Van Arsdell '80, Frances (Keller '60) Laswell, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Goodge '61, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Silverstein '71, Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm Schmehl '65, Gary and Jan (Williams '72) Carlson '73, Mr. and Mrs. David (Kathy Leffew '77) Twombly, Wayne Dysinger '78, Albert Heidiner '79, Laury Weitzel '79, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin (Terry Kurzynske '79) Shaw '79, Charlene Peek '82, Daniel Peek '84, Brent Amos '83, Kim Stairs '87, Mr. and Mrs. David Habenicht '84, Ben Scott '85, David Laffin, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Keller, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Tonsberg, Arden Tuttle.

A NEW GROUP JOINS THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION! Graduation day was May 29th this year. It was a lovely day and all the girls looked so very nice in their mint green dresses. There were many relatives and friends here to share the happy day. The graduates are as follows: Merrie Li Camp, Bonita Dale, Bert Dimick, Pamela Draper, Paul Eirich, Todd Folkenberg, Amy Ford, Kimberly Goodge, Kyle Kovach, Lee Laswell, Paul McKee, Lynnette McMullen, Monte Mitzelfelt, Jeff Newell, Krista Olson, Eric Rochester, Mark Silverstein, Heather Wise, Jeff Wolf. WELCOME TO EACH OF YOU!!

Michelle (Kurzynske '80) Chase writes that she and Donald '82 went to Loma Linda for Barbara (Chase '79) McKinney's graduation from medical school. On Saturday night a group -- Donald and Michelle, Barry Scott '80, Glen Van Arsdell '80, Jon and Lisa (Allen '81) Larrabee '80, John and Pam Dysinger '82, Mark and Barbara (Chase) McKinney '80, Karen McKinney '87 -- had a delicious meal and a delightful time looking at pictures and catching up on everyone's adventures. We hope all can meet together again at a future alumni weekend.

Hast thou no scar?  
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?  
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land,  
I hear them hail thy bright ascendant star:  
Hast thou no scar?

Hast thou no wound?  
Yet, I was wounded by the archers, spent.  
Leaned me against the tree to die, and rent  
By ravening beats that compassed me, I  
swooned:  
Hast thou no wound?

No wound? No scar?  
Yes, as the master shall thy servant be,  
And pierced are the feet that follow Me;  
But thine are whole. Can he have followed  
far  
Who has no wound? No scar?  
Amy Wilson Carmichael

*We have just returned from having a part in  
Bob's wedding in Louisville, Ky. (near it). Rogene leave us  
and it all seemed like a LCA reunion - This was the  
last wedding of the male quartette - They have traveled  
cross country to be present at each other's weddings.  
It was a fun day and we were able to say farewell  
to John & Pam Dysinger who leave for Africa next month  
Happy vacation time to all of you -  
Much love,  
Alvin and Deland Stearn*