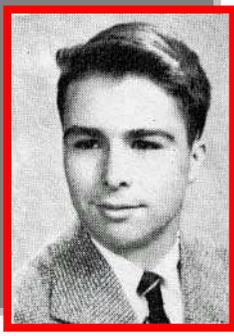


CHS - Bio

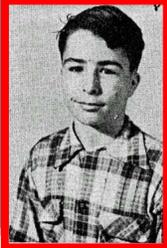


1955



Current

Bill Gemmill Oceanographer



1952

It's been a long time since CHS and Tulsa. Our family moved to Tulsa in 1949 from New York. Dad took positions at various Universities during summers in exchange with people who wanted to spend a summer in New York City. That summer Tulsa University offered Dad a full time teaching position in the school of Business (& statistics), which he accepted and stayed and retired 20 years later. During those initial days in Tulsa, we ended up living west of Downtown through 1950-1956 on West Brady (2 miles from downtown). There I went to Roosevelt Jr. High. I too remember the Coney Island place & Rialto Theater, etc. I mostly hung out with the kids from the local neighborhood; transportation in those days was by bicycle. Tulsa Central was downtown (now ONG) and I would take the City bus to school. One of my friends from that neighborhood was Ronnie Smithee whom I hope to see at the reunion. Dad taught statistics at TU, and became statistician for the Golden Hurricane football team. TU football games at Skelly Stadium were a significant event in our family. Because of that background in statistics, it is one of my areas of expertise at work even today. But, one of my sad days in Tulsa was when they removed the Brady neighborhood to build the by-pass to the west to go to a lake. I guess, that says that you can not go home again.

Fall of 56' found me headed to Ames, Iowa to attend Iowa State University, where I completed my BS degree in 1960 in General Science with a teaching certificate. After graduation, during the summer of 1960, I worked at Jr. Chamber of Commerce in Tulsa (Boulder on the Square) as an inter-office mailman. Tom Hawthorn (classmate) went into the Air National Guard that summer and needed a temporary replacement

For the next year I was a High School Science Teacher, Aplington, Iowa 1960-61. The town was smaller than the Tulsa Central graduating class. I taught physics, chemistry and general science. Back in the 8th grade in Oklahoma, I had developed a fascination with the weather on the Oklahoma plains. There, one can see thunderstorms a long way off (As opposed to hardly being able to see thunderstorms in the Washington DC area due to humidity and pollution). In the fall of 1961 I moved east to Penn State University. I was there from 1961-63, and finished with a MS in Meteorology. My thesis was on the January thaw, I did not find it. Graduate school was great; basically you take courses that you are interested in, and I made a number of life long friends, and found a football team to follow for the duration.

Down for more

In the summer of 1963, I moved to the Washington, DC area, where we still live. I worked for US Naval Oceanographic Office from 1963-1975 in Suitland Maryland as a Civilian Oceanographer – most research there was about the Gulf Stream using data obtained from ships and aircraft. I went back to graduate school part time to attend the University of Maryland from 1968-73 in a PhD program in Meteorology, ABT – (the Navy did pay for 1-year full time study).

In 1977 the Naval Oceanographic Office moved to Bay St Louis, Mississippi – But fortunately we didn't move, as you may recall Bay St Louis was in the direct path of hurricane Katrina (2005), and several of our friends there lost their homes. One still lives in a FEMA trailer in the front yard.

I took a job with at the National Weather Service, 1975 – to help start up an ocean program where I am still working as oceanographer & meteorologist. I currently work at the national center of the weather service (Camp Springs, MD), where numerical weather and ocean prediction models are developed and run. This is from where much of what you see on television concerning weather originates. My work over the years has been to develop and write programs (software) on IBM super computers to process satellite measurements .into geophysical (useful) data (mainly sea surface temperatures & ocean surface winds), and to use that data to improve operational analyses. And to think that maybe I learned some of my first physics and trigonometry at Tulsa Central (although my CHS record was not particularly impressive).



Shortly after I got to Washington, I met my future wife, Francine, who was a student nurse from West Virginia, temporarily studying in DC. We were married 1964, and have been together for 42+ years. Francine worked for a number of years as a public health nurse, but returned to graduate school at the University of Maryland in psychiatric nursing and received her MS degree in 1979. She is now psychotherapist and presently works for Kaiser in Maryland, and has a small private practice in Alexandria, VA.

We lived in Oxon Hill & Fort Washington, Maryland for 35 years -- 1963 – 1998 In 1998 we decided to give up suburbia and move to a townhouse in north Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Someone else now shovels snow and maintains the lawn. And, it is close to the restaurant district

Down for more

We have two children - Bill – 1965, Mary Evelyn – 1968. Bill is married and lives in Richmond. And Mary lives in Alexandria. Both have Master's degrees. Bill in engineering (making computer chips) and Mary in nutrition (although she works as budget analyst for the FAA her education paid off, she is a great cook).

Hobbies

I sing (tenor) in the church choir at St Paul's Episcopal Church (Alexandria) – I should have taken Latin and band more seriously in High School. No one told me that I might be singing music in Latin.

Fifteen years ago, I took piano lessons, but had to give up because of shoulder surgery. My piano teacher use to tell me it was good to have a student who practiced. But, still the 10 year old students advanced much faster than I did.

Weather is still a hobby; Francine thinks that I watch the Weather Channel too much.

Travel

Over the years, we have taken many trips a year to fun places (an ocean cruise to Alaska, several across the Caribbean) Its good to have friends with Time Share resorts, that have enabled trips Sedona, Arizona, Lake Tahoe, the Bahamas', Scotland, and Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Also, we took a winter vacation several years ago with my brother Jim and his wife, Susan to Maui, Hawaii (ever drive the road to Hanna?). Several years ago Francine and I took the train (Zephyr) from Denver (over the front range of the Rockies) to Sacramento, California and on to Seattle, Wash. That was a spectacular trip, although the sleepers are cramped. Over the years we've returned to Tulsa and Dallas where my two brothers live. We usually take an annual beach week to the North Carolina outer banks with family and friends. This year almost all of the living Gemmill's came (21) from TX, OK, and AZ for a reunion at Kitty Hawk, NC. There was even a minor tropical storm (Beryl) that passed by, just to keep the meteorologist interested and glued to the Weather Channel. Lately, we try to take a winter vacation to escape part of the Alexandria winters, and are looking forward to 2007 in a villa in St. John's, USVI.

I have had some international travel for work; in 1979 the most memorable trip being to Moscow for two weeks where I participated in an International Ocean Conference. Other trips have included Geneva, Switzerland and Germany

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again, as our next trip will be a trip back in time to see all of you at our (can you believe it?) 50th high school reunion

Bill Gemmill

See Ya at the 50th Bill!