



Utley Family Update

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Happy New Year 2008!

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Christmas and is well into a Happy New Year! Many folks make their New Year's resolutions at this time of year—plans to get organized, to lose weight, to get the household clutter under control, to volunteer at local shelters and soup kitchens.

While you're making your list of resolutions, consider making a few more that are "family friendly."

- Plan to organize and label your family photos. Almost everyone has that box of unlabeled family photos that no one remembers the names and/or the date and place. If you take time to label them as soon as you get the prints, the job is less monumental. Please use an archival (acid-free) pen that is designed for use on photographs. And write lightly—you don't want dents on the front of the family photos.

- While you're at it, put photos and family mementos into archival pages and scrapbooks. And keep these family treasures out of the attic and basement. Experts

in the field of archival storage note that valuable photos and papers should be kept in "our" environment—that is to say, areas that are heated and cooled and are not damp.

- Remember to store newspaper clippings separately from other family mementos. The acid in the newsprint will react with other items and leave a dark brown stain.



- Write down as much of your family tree as you can remember. This will be a big help when you decide to look further into your family history. And your descendants will thank you for providing this valuable information.

- Take time each day or each week to write down memories of your childhood and youth. The world is changing rapidly, and your children and grandchildren will be fascinated to learn that your Grandmother had to use a telephone that had a

CORD and no choice of ring tones! You don't need to purchase a special journal or notebook to record your memories. An inexpensive spiral-bound notebook will be fine. Just be sure to store it in a "friendly" environment when you fill up the pages.

- If family members included family newsletters with their Christmas cards, save them in a binder to re-read in the future. It's amazing how families grow and change over the years. If you've not saved past newsletters, now would be a good time to start the collection.

If you need more archival supplies, an excellent source is Light Impressions, at 800-828-6216 or lightimpressionsdirect.com. Another good source of archival photo pages, boxes, etc. is Archival Methods at 866-877-7050 or archivalmethods.com.

Archival pages, acid free photo marking pens, and other supplies will also be available at your local scrap booking supply store.

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Utley Family Update

A publication dedicated to continued communication between the descendants of **John Allen and Lilla Maude Jacobs Utley**.

Published bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November.

Deadline for submission of material is the 20th of the month preceding publication.



Cousin Spotlight on Doris McLemore Jones' Family

Doris Evelyn McLemore was the second daughter born to **Lillian Abraham** and **Annie Utley McLemore**. **Doris** was born on January 11, 1924 in Carroll County, TN. She married **Fonvell DeFarice Jones** on August 31, 1946. **DeFarice** and **Doris** had two children—a son, **Richard Wayne Jones**, born September 5, 1952, and a daughter, **Teresa Ann Jones**, born July 30, 1953. **Rick Jones** died on April 13, 1993.

Our Cousin Spotlight is on these two children of **Doris** and **DeFarice Jones**.

Richard Wayne Jones by Teresa Jones Denson

Rick was born in Memphis, Tennessee on September 5, 1952. His full name was **Ricky Wayne Jones**. He and I were the only children born on my father's side of the family. Being the first child in decades, I'm sure there was quite a celebration.

Of course, there was a lot of concerned uncles and aunts on mother's side of the family as well as grandmother **Annie** and **Aunt Lucy** and **Aunt Louise**.

Rick would probably say his first memories were of how unfairly he was treated because of his little sister. He might point out the time we were putting our socks on and there was a wasp in one of mine. It stung me. I screamed. Mother called from the kitchen, "**Rick**, what are you doing to that baby?"

Christmas was a wonderful time for **Rick**. He loved the house full of family. He also loved all the good food mother would make, and the large Christmas tree dad would bring home.

His best memory of elementary school might have been the talent show that accompanied our winter festival. He won it three years in a row playing the piano. **Rick** had natural talent. Mother also played the piano, and dad played the guitar. Not to be left out, I started taking lessons, but was never as good as **Rick** or mother. I still have the tape of the music he played.

I think **Rick's** favorite vacations were those we spent with **Aunt May**. They got along very well. We went to Kansas City to visit when



Rick Jones, Christmas 1953

she and **Uncle Zelma [Hemphill]** lived there. I think **Rick** liked her so much because she always treated us like little adults.

Rick's first paying job was at Fairfax Mobile Homes, doing summer inventory. He didn't like it. Another job he didn't like was working at Arby's when he was in college.

He did have jobs that he enjoyed immensely. He especially enjoyed acting in plays at dinner theaters, especially Edward Albee plays. He enjoyed playing absurd characters.

I think he really enjoyed his work for Southern Bell Telephone. Starting as a clerk, he worked his way up to a very important position. I believe his title was Systems Analyst. "Ma Bell" as Rick called them flew Rick around the country analyzing and correcting computer programs. Not bad for a boy who couldn't spell cat in high school.

Rick was very popular in high

school. He was class president of his senior class. He was also president of the Thespians, participating in public speaking, debate, and school plays.

He enjoyed acting so much he convinced our parents to send him to Knox College in Galesburg, IL. He had a double major at Knox—International Relations and Theatre.

His contacts at Knox led him to Atlanta where he performed in dinner theater productions.

His interest in international relations led him to travel extensively in Europe. He was especially impressed with England and Russia. **Rick** liked the Gothic look of their buildings. He sent home rolls and rolls of photos of buildings, as well as wonderful gifts.

He also visited Australia, and New Zealand with less enthusiasm. He said Australia was too dusty.

His favorite subject in school was theater. I believe his least favorite was P. E.

Rick loved having big dinner parties at his house in Atlanta. He lived in the Piedmont District, which was very nice. Mother surprised him with a set of antique flow blue china one Christmas. She surprised him again a few years later with a complete set of Rogers silver-plated flatware, circa 1844. I snapped a picture of that one. He was impressed.

Everything fit perfectly on his dining room table that seated twelve. **Rick** was known for his

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Rick Jones, cont.

(Continued from page 2)

elaborate dinner parties and his flair for cooking.

He was also known for his collection of vintage antique cars. One year he drove home in a baby blue convertible with suicide doors. It was a beautiful car, but it was the dead of winter, and a person could freeze in a convertible, even with the top up.

Rick continued to play the piano. He bought a full-sized grand piano and put it in his sunken living room. I forgot to mention that while still in high school, **Rick** would become an accredited music teacher. Sometimes when he played, **Ambrose** would sing along. I can't write about **Rick** without mentioning **Ambrose**. He was a white schnauzer **Rick** brought home from college one year. They were inseparable. **Ambrose** lived to be at least 16, which is pretty good for a small dog.

If **Rick's** home caught fire, he would have saved family photographs, and maybe the family cookbooks mother gave him to take to Atlanta.

Rick's advice on how to be happy would be not to worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself.

Rick and I were both sprinkled as babies. He was rebaptized into the Baptist Church as an adult.

Southern Bell sent two executives to represent the company at **Rick's** funeral in Medina [TN]. Afterwards the company held their own memorial services in Atlanta. We were both invited to come, but decided not to. They sent mother a program for the services. It had a lighthouse on the cover, and a copy of **Rick's** buttermilk pie on the inside cover.

Rick was 40 when he died.



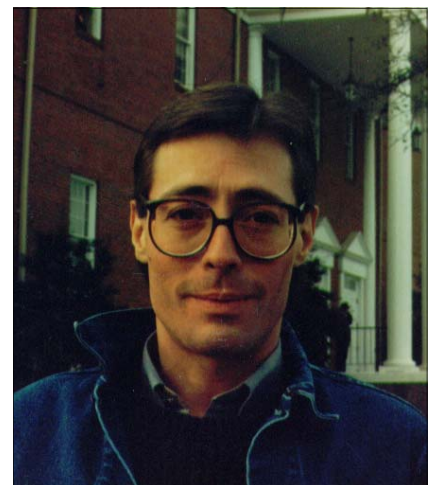
Ambrose



Rick Jones, c 1958



Rick Jones in stage makeup for a high school play



Rick Jones, undated photo

Teresa Ann Jones Denson

In response to a questionnaire, Teresa Denson wrote:

"My name is **Teresa Ann Jones Denson**. I was born in the wee hours of July 30th, in 1953 in Memphis, Tenn. to **Fonvell De-Farice Jones** and **Doris Evelyn McLemore Jones**. I was told I was born prematurely, and had to be put into an incubator for several days. This caused a lot of anxiety among the relatives who had come to the hospital.

My best memories from my childhood were going to Medina [TN] on weekends and staying with my great aunts and great uncles on my dad's side of the family. I remember playing dress-up and walking down the middle of Church Street, then going to **Uncle Ben's** and helping gather eggs or **Uncle Ben** hitching **Mabel** up to the sled and taking us down to the strawberry patch. I remember how pretty **Aunt Edrie's** African violets were, and how **Aunt Bettie** would talk about how it used to be.

We lived in Memphis until I went into the fifth grade. My earliest memory of school was walking across the street to Maury Elementary School holding Mother's hand. I don't know exactly how it happened, but when **Rick** was ready for kindergarten, Mother became the teacher. That meant I had to go to kindergarten when I was five, and again when I was six. I didn't mind. I liked school, especially nap time when we got to lay on mats on the floor and just be quiet.

I remember Dad bringing home huge Christmas trees and putting them in front of the fireplace. I don't remember helping with the decorations, but I do remember the bubble lights. They are still my favorite ornamentation on the tree. I also remember wonderful Christmas Dinners surrounded by family.

I don't remember much about grandmother **Annie [Utley McLemore]**. I was too young when



Teresa Jones, High School Photo

she died. But I do remember her walking around in her kitchen wearing big clunky shoes. What I do remember about Christmas was my dad's uncles and aunts coming from Medina for Christmas Dinner.

Sometimes my great-grandfather and his 4th wife would come with them. My grandparents on dad's side would come, and my dad's sister and her husband would come from Chicago. We ate until we were stuffed. Then we would sit around and visit until we were hungry again, and we would eat until we were stuffed again.

One Christmas in particular I remember **Aunt Lucy [McLemore House]** and **Aunt Louise [McLemore Buck]** coming with their families. We ate til we were stuffed, then we opened presents, and ate again. My mother was an excellent cook.

We didn't really take vacations very often. We went to Medina on weekends, and stayed with dad's relatives. We visited with **Aunt Bettie** mostly. We also visited **Uncle Ben**, **Uncle Abe [Utley]**, and **Uncle**

John [Utley], and **Aunt Mae [Utley Hemphill]** after she moved to Jackson [TN]. Sometimes we caught cousin **Sue** at home, as well. Sometimes **Rick** and I got to spend a week in Medina. Those were wonderful times, but there was one problem. **Rick** was such a tattletale when mom and dad would come back the next week-end the car would barely come to a stop before **Rick** was out there telling everything I had done. Things like wearing my pajamas until noon, and getting dirty crawling in the garden looking for tomatoes or cucumbers.

We did go to Texas every few years to visit **Aunt Lucy [House]** and **Aunt Louise [Buck]** and their families. I will never forget the white rabbit I got from **Aunt Lucy**. It grew up to be a very big and very old rabbit. I used to make it birthday cakes out of dirt, gravel, pecan shells, and clover. I also remember the horn toads **Aunt Louise's** sons gave me. One got away and a neighbor from across the alley in Memphis brought it back in a tin can. I never did know how she knew it was mine.

Dad worked for the government making liquid oxygen. When the Army Depot in Memphis closed he was given his choice of several sites he could be transferred to. Since my **Aunt Opal** lived in Chicago, he chose Granite City Army Depot. We moved to Illinois in the dead of winter. It was bleak, gray, and dismal. Thanks to the oil refineries even the snow turned from white to black overnight. Thanks to dad's work friends who had also transferred, we adjusted gradually. High school was uneventful. Both **Rick** and I were into acting, and in junior high band.

My first paying job was counting inventory for the company mother worked for, Fairfax Mobile Home Supply Co. During the summer we

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Teresa Denson, continued

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both did part time work for the company. I didn't mind getting dirty, but I didn't like sweating.

After high school, I went to Lewis and Clark Junior College and then to Southern Illinois University where I received a Bachelors and Masters in psychology and special education. I had wanted to be a forest ranger, but mother wouldn't hear of it.

I met my husband, **David Denson**, on my first and only trip to a roller skating rink, when I was a junior in high school. We were married on Dec. 21, 1971, in St. Paul's Methodist Church in Rosewood Heights, IL.

What I remember most about that night was the way the candelabra kept swaying as I passed by. My wedding gown was beautiful, but it kept hitting the candelabra and I just knew it was going to knock one over and catch the church on fire.

We eventually bought a wonderful old house built in 1833 in Godfrey, IL. **David** wanted a large family, but my doctor advised me against having children. We divorced in 1985.

Since then I have had several



Teresa Jones grade school photo

jobs. The one I liked the best was the manager of the Left Bank Bazaar, which was a flea market. Mother and I were both antique dealers for several years, and I still have a good eye for antiques. I even held my own version of The Antiques Road Show a few years ago. It was very interesting.

I really enjoy my current job. I work for Help Hands Med. Service Car, Inc. I work in the office and have several responsibilities. My job is to verify eligibility with the state for all clients, hopefully before their trips are taken. I can't even estimate how many trips we take daily, somewhere between 50-100. Each trip generates paperwork I file daily. I also do a great deal of typing. When our billers make mistakes I have to contact the state with the details as to what kind of mistake was made.

I still don't take vacations very often, but I did make two things clear before I took this job. I don't work on Sabbath, and I spend at least two weeks in Texas during Christmas. I have been spending at least two weeks with **Aunt Lucy** ever since mother passed away in 1998. We make candy, go fishing, or antiquing, and in general have a wonderful time that I wouldn't miss for anything. It is my only opportu-



Teresa and Rick Jones at the piano

nity to visit with **Larry [House]** and his family, and **Gary's [House]** family.

When I am home I keep busy doing lots of things. I am a member of The Greater Alton Seventh Day Church, where I currently serve as Sabbath School Superintendent, kindergarten teacher, social committee member, special music coordinator, head deaconess, ethnic potluck coordinator, and health secretary.

I am a Horticultural Helper for the Madison County Master Gardener Program, the secretary of the Belleville Holzschnitzers Wood Carving Club, and a member of the Citizens Reviving Historic Belleville Club. One thing I consider to be an accomplishment is that over the years I have donated over 5 feet of my hair to the Locks of Love Program.

If my house were to catch on fire (again) and I couldn't save **Rick's** baby grand piano, I would save the hand crafted metal hanging I bought in Atlanta at a wonderful estate sale. **Mother** and **Rick** and I went to a house sale full of antique bargains. I saw this piece of original metal artwork consisting of four birds that meet in a triangle. I couldn't reach it, and yet I didn't want to leave it thinking someone else would spot it and grab it. I finally went frantically looking for **Rick** who was knee-deep in antique glassware. He did hesitate, but seeing how important it was to me he left his pile of treasures unguarded to come rescue a piece he probably wouldn't have had in his house. It hangs over my kitchen sink today, and reminds me of that day in Atlanta.

How to live a happy life: Before making any decision ask yourself this simple question: What Would Jesus Do? It isn't often the popular thing to do, but it is always the right thing to do. It makes living with ourselves much easier."

Photos of Teresa and Rick Jones



Teresa, Doris and Rick Jones
Cotton Carnival Parade



Doris, Rick, Teresa, DeFarice
on Teresa's Birthday



Teresa, Rick and Aunt Opal

Utley Family News

~Prentyce~

On October 9, 2007 **Heather Michelle Carver** married **Andrew Douglas Wagner**, in Bolivar, TN. **Heather** is the daughter of **Michael** and **Linda Carver**, and the granddaughter of **Jack** and **Earldine Utley Carver**. They are now living in Middleton TN. **Heather** wrote, "We worked at Burger King; he was my manager and we met it was instant love from the both of us." Their new address is P.O. Box 243, Middleton TN 38052.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to you both! Welcome to the **Utley Family, Doug.**

Heather>Mike>Earldine>Prentyce

Kayce and **Jonathan Singleton** have relocated to Franklin, TN. **Jonathan's** career as a musician and songwriter has taken off. The Crosstown Songs Nashville's website says: "**Jonathan Singleton** is a true artist/writer who at one time or another has played and learned almost every instrument known to man. In 2000 **Jonathan** stepped up to the plate as front man and lead guitarist for the country/rock-n-roll group The Grove who hail from Jackson, Tennessee. Squeezing as much emotion from the burnt frets

of his guitar as his gritty smoke and soul-covered vocal chords, **Jonathan** gained much experience as not only a writer, but also an artist through live performance, touring and recording during his time with the band. Now bringing with him close to 40 songs to kick off his deal with Crosstown Songs Nashville, **Jonathan** continues to learn and explore his creativity and passion for music."

One of his compositions, "Watching Airplanes" recorded by Gary Allan was the lead-off single for Allan's newest album and received huge airplay this summer and fall. We look for great things from Jonathan!

Kasey>Debbie>Earldine>Prentyce

~Annie~

Linda Buck has sent photographs of her daughter, **Lori**, and granddaughter, **Avery**. **Lori** says, "I broke my first board at kickboxing on Saturday [Nov.3, 2007]. Thought you might want to see it! Did it with a hammer fist....on the first try!"

In the photo in the next column, **Avery** watches while **Lori** breaks the board with a "hammer fist."



Lori>Mike>Louise>Annie

~Abe~

Millie Hestand reports, "**Jake Utley** was a sophomore starter as a defensive lineman for Bear Creek High School; the team made it to the semifinals in the category of Colorado's largest high schools. **Jake** was getting about eight solo tackles (his dad counted more like 15) per game. He got Honorable Mention, All Stars. Bear Creek played against one team whose quarterback coach was the quarterback's father, **John Elway**. Only the head coach is a credentialed school official; others volunteer. This was **Jake's** second

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Utley Family News, cont.

(Continued from page 6)

year to letter; his coach told **Jake** he expects to play him both ways next year. **Jake** is also a good student.

Larry and **Cindy [Utley]** enjoyed having their daughters and new sons-in-law for Thanksgiving holidays. The guests enjoyed skiing, seeing videos of **Jake's** games and the semi-final game.

Ed [Hestand] has had very successful cataract removal/lens implants and is no longer restricted to glasses for driving. Wonderful!

We behaved ourselves so well that we are invited back to our friends' ranch for Christmas dinner."

Jake>Larry>Robert Vernon>Abe

~Maudie~

Jackson [TN] Mayor Jerry Gist proclaimed November to be National American Indian Heritage Month in Jackson, TN. Jackson Madison DAR chapter member **Sue Bates**, who is also a member of the Cherokee Wolf Clan, accepted the proclamation on behalf of DAR and the Wolf Clan. Also present at the presentation in the Mayor's office were chapter regent **Jackie Utley** and chapter member **Wilma Utley**.

Sue is shown in the photo at right receiving the proclamation from Mayor Gist.



Sue is the wife of **Bobby Bates**.

Bobby>Martha Frances>Maudie

~Martha~

Karen Foureau writes, "**Scott** and **Jill** had a baby boy on May 7, 2007. His name is **Dillon James Foureau**. He joined big brother **Matthew**, age 3. That makes 7 grandsons for us. Everyone will be here Christmas Eve."

Welcome to the **Utley** family, little **Dillon James!**

Dillon>Scott>Karen>Martha



March/April 2008 'Utley Family Update'

The deadline for submitting your family news for the March/April 2008 issue of "**Utley Family Update**" will be February 20th. Please send in your family news—new babies, engagements, marriages, deaths, new jobs, new addresses, civic/church/social/sports honors and activities, fun vacations, and anything else you'd like to share with our extended family.

Our Cousin Spotlight will feature the children of **Lucy McLemore**

House—Gary House and **Larry House**. If you have any stories or memories of these two, please share them. Photos will be most welcome.

If you've gotten a computer with internet service for Christmas, and would like to receive your newsletter quicker by email, please let us know. Not only does it save time, but the savings on paper, printer cartridges, and postage are substantial.

Newsletter Heroes

The "**Utley Family Update**" is an ongoing project with ongoing expenses. Although some newsletters are sent via email, the majority still must be printed and mailed through the postal service. With frequent postage increases, help is needed.

All contributions, large or small, are gratefully accepted.

Any money not used for the newsletter will be applied toward family reunion expenses.

Thank You to these Newsletter Heroes!

Chuck and Karen Foureau

Sarah Massey

Wilma Utley

Lynn Williams



*Today's
Family News
will become
Tomorrow's
Family History*

***Celebrations: Utley Family Birthdays and Anniversaries
in January and February 2008***



- 2 Patti Buck
- 3 Mike Buck
- 5 Denae Henderson
- 11 Kim Buck
- 14 Craig Thomas
- 15 Tracy Utley
- 16 Kevin Smith
- 17 Cameron Spratt
- 18 Larry Utley
 - Jennifer House
 - Arleen and Walter Torres
- 24 Kayce Sipes Singleton
- 25 Pamela Taylor
 - Rob Simpson
 - Parker Williams
 - Steve Truax
 - Alexander Dabbs
- 26 Jessie Means
 - Linda Carver
 - Cobb Andrews
- 28 Shannon Utley
- 30 Amelia Claire Truax
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- 1 Eloise Stanley
- 5 Jacky and Robert Hatcher
- 6 Pat and William Bolin
 - Sydney Massey
- 7 Donna House
 - Shane Utley, Jr.
- 8 Heath Utley
- 10 Randy Utley
- 14 Bonnie and Rick Yates
 - Joyce and Lloyd Utley
 - Terri and Mike Massey
 - Jean House
 - Julia Usinger
 - Ansley Utley
 - Jennifer Fuerman—30
- 15 Sunny and Grady Utley
- 17 Ryan Utley
 - Suzanne and Mark Utley
- 18 Mason Arthur
 - Jordan Dabbs
- 22 Robert Barrett
- 24 William Bolin
 - Jacky Hatcher
- 25 Gloria and Bob Utley—30
- 29 Robert Fortner, Jr.

2008 Utley Family Reunion

Mark your calendars now for the 2008 Utley Family Reunion to be held in Jackson, TN, at noon on Saturday, July 26. Our reunion theme will be "And The Beat Goes On." Grab your best poodle skirt or blue jeans, slick your hair back in a DA or a pony tail, and plan to have a rockin' reunion.

There will be more details in the March/April 2008 newsletter.