

Class Prophecy

It was the year 1964. I was sitting alone in my apartment in New York City, watching television. It was almost time for my favorite program-- "Larry Hearthrob Sings." Of course, to the millions of other people watching, this was just another program, just one more famous celebrity that would entertain them. But to me it was something else besides mere entertainment. You see, Larry Hearthrob was just another name for LARRY CHERRY, who was one of my high-school classmates and who had made good as a singer.

This program was what really started me to thinking. Oh, it seemed a long time ago. I sat there a minute thinking about Larry and all the rest of my classmates, whom I hadn't seen in such a long time, and all of a sudden I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I picked up the telephone and dialed the former MARY MCGILL'S number and waited for her to answer. I was really getting excited now.

"Hello, Mary --- how would you like to tour the United States with me?" Of course, she sounded surprised but when I told her I was really serious she also sounded disappointed. She told me that she really would love to go but with her eight little Brewers, she was just too busy.

Then, I called Mme. BETTY MARTIN, who was the owner of a fashionable dress shoppe in Brooklyn and she readily agreed that this would be an ideal trip and we could see all of our old friends.

The very next afternoon, Betty and I boarded the fastest jet they made for passenger flights. Much to our surprise, we found two of our classmates on it. MELTON LEVY was the pilot and MAVIS GRESHAM, the very efficient hostess.

Our first stop was Washington, D. C. The very first thing we wanted to do was to see the President of the United States, JACK STEWART, and the Vice-President, ALEX RABB. We were not at all surprised to see how distinguished looking they were nor at the high position they held, because they were both such ambitious boys and just craved knowledge and especially political knowledge.

From the capital, we decided to walk through the city and see if we could find any more people we knew. We passed Mr. and Mrs. JACKIE MINCEY and talked to them for awhile. Of course, Mrs. Mincey was the former BEASLEY DAVIS and Jackie was now the owner of Mincey's Grocery and Market. They gave us the addresses of some more of our classmates and some tickets to a big Variety Show that was being held that night, in which several people we knew were to have parts. When we told them that we were on our way to see MAXINE YOUNG and GLENDA MORRIS, they advised us not to, because they ran the busiest beauty shoppe in town and were too busy to do anything since this was their busiest time of the year.

We passed by the modern Ross-Haygood Department Store, owned by BILLY ROSS and MARVIN HAYGOOD, and decided to see the fashion show they were having. Two of the models were JOYCE PATE and BETTY BASS. My, they looked good!!!

Even though we had tickets to the Variety Show that night, it was almost time to catch our jet, so we gave them away. Upon discovering that we had lost our way to the airport, we asked a policeman, who turned out to be CHARLES NANNEY, how to get there. His clear directions took us right to the airport, where our jet was already warming up.

Our next stop was "The Biggest Little City In The World," --Winnsboro, where population had increased to 35,000. Three of our classmates, DORIS POSTON, JANE LEWIS, and BETTY SIMS, had married local boys and had settled down with their families. We stopped by Mount Zion and found many of our classmates working at the school. BONNIE JO CRAFT was superintendent of the grammar school and MILDRED LEMON was secretary in the office, and also a shorthand speed demon, getting 210 words per minute. Also we found that ELSIE MAE NEELY was basketball coach and JERRY WEED was coaching football.

NANCY FANT, the news editor of the now daily, News and Herald, invited us to eat dinner with her in a new swanky restaurant that had been built since we left. While eating, she told us that JULIUS CAMERON was an undertaker and MARIANNE HERNDON was a farmer's wife. By this time, one of Marianne's little boys came by selling newspapers. I bought one and was really surprised at the headlines-- "RHETT SANDERS Swims English Channel In 15 Hours -- World's Record."

Much to our regret, it was time to leave Winnsboro again but we just had about three more days to see the rest of our former classmates. But this time, instead of catching a jet, we decided to take a train so we could see the familiar scenery. While riding, we passed a big billboard with a picture of BOBBY KELLY, local politician on one side and the glamorous PATRICIA CLARK, who was modeling for Lux Soap, on the other.

Our next stop was Atlanta, Georgia, where we decided to visit Georgia Tech and see RAYMOND GARDNER, who was taking Bobby Dodd's place as football coach. CHARLES BRANTLEY, who was playing professional football, was spending the week with Raymond, so we got to talk with both of them. BARBARA BEASLEY and CHARLES WHITMAN were both professors at the college, Barbara teaching English and Charles Chemistry.

We decided to take in a movie after having our gab session. The stars of the picture we saw were none other than MARY LOU BECKHAM, academy award winner, and DAVID DIXON, comedian and teller of hilarious jokes. On our way out, we met the owner of the theater, CHARLES RALEY, but he couldn't talk long because it was almost time for his Burlesque Show to open.

We left Atlanta and made a beeline clear across to Hollywood, California, where we discovered that the same Variety Show we had missed in Washington was now playing here. We went to the theater and checked our hats with SHIRLEY BROOKS and were ushered down the aisle to our seats by GEORGE BRICE. First on the program was a duet, sung by FELECIA TURNER and MARY FRANCES BLACK. Next ELEANOR FOXWORTH, brilliant concert pianist, gave a command performance. After the intermission, GENEVIEVE WILSON, contralto, sang several selections and HUGH DUNN and his orchestra did a delightful arrangement of our Alma Mater and dedicated it to Betty and I. The very last thing on the program was a special song and dance act by NANCY HAYES and VIRGINIA TOWNSEND, the Jane Russell and Marilyn Monroe of 1964.

After the show we all had a party and compared ourselves ten years ago to now. We were all happy and successful.

Betty and I boarded the jet and flew back to our homes in New York, tired but happy. We didn't say much on our trip back--but as for me-- I sure thought an awful lot!!!

Marlene Hutson
Class Prophet

