

The Audacity of Hope
A Celebration of Achievement

George P. Phenix High School
Legacy Reception

Saturday July 25, 2009

Hampton Roads Convention Center
Hampton, Virginia

Sponsored by The George P. Phenix High School Alumni Association

We The People

The History of George P. Phenix High School

George P. Phenix moved to Hampton, Virginia in 1904 to teach at today's Hampton University. His exemplary service at the Institute earned him immediate notice and promotion. In 1908 he rose to the position of Vice-principal. He further earned the responsibility of overseeing the Institute's summer-school program. In 1928, Phenix succeeded Dr. James Gregg as principal of Hampton Institute. Dr. Phenix saw the need to have equal education for Black students and campaigned tirelessly to raise funds to construct a new K-12 school on campus. The school was under construction when Dr. Phenix died in 1930. Dr. Phenix was the first to use the title president. In 1931 the new school opened on campus and was named the George P. Phenix Training School in his honor. Ian Ross became the first principal of the school. This was the only high school black students could attend at the time.



Mr. G. W. Stephenson became the sixth principal in 1954 and served until 1966. In 1962 the City of Hampton opened a new predominately black high school on LaSalle Avenue to replace the school on Hampton's campus and the school was named George P. Phenix High School to carry on his legacy. In 1968 the Hampton City School Board, due to integration re-named Phenix to Pembroke High School. Pembroke closed in 1980. However the Phenix Plus 50 Alumni refused to allow the legacy to die. Today's Phenix Alumni Association is strong as ever and will help dedicate a new Phenix School, scheduled to open in September 2010.



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Welcome

Welcome to the Third Annual George P. Phenix High School Legacy Reception. The theme this year is “The Audacity of Hope ~ A Celebration of Achievement”. Tonight we pay tribute to those whom shoulders we have stood on to reach these new profound heights.

Tonight we honor those who despite poverty, oppression, depression, segregation, racial and economic disparities, menial jobs, and violation of our civil rights, we were still able to achieve a quality of life that allowed us to be successful and raise a family with dignity.

No it was not easy. For those early graduates life was hard and finding a decent paying job was even harder. Although they had the skills and education, they were often guided towards domestic low paying jobs.



Being Black in America was a way of life. Many of the senior classmates said they grew up in segregation and they made the best of the situation. They had their own communities, grocery stores, movie theaters, their own beach, and their own entertainment. It was not until the early sixties that public access to education, public facilities, and better jobs, became part of those inalienable rights that they had so long been denied.

Thanks to those classmates who did not allow inequality to be a reason for failure. They succeeded in every profession imaginable and laid the ground work for theses United States of America to elect the first African American president. They say joy comes in the morning, we waited, and oh how sweet the sound.

Sit back and enjoy a celebration of achievement for those who dared to dream and had the audacity of hope. Tonight we honor our distinguished alumni and pay tribute to OUR president, BARACK OBAMA.

Forty Years

From early biblical times, 40 years was symbolic of one peoples search for freedom from persecution. Moses led the Israelites, who many called slaves, from Egypt through the wilderness to Sinai, the Mountain of God, and then on to Kadesh-Barnea. The journey would take forty years before they were accepted.

The year 2008 will go down in history as a landmark for racial equality in the United States with the election of Barack Obama because he would not have been elected without the white vote. Although we still do not live in a perfect union, 2008 to many was the realization of Dr. Kings dream that they could now cash that promissory note that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "Unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Before his death he said that within 40 years it was possible for a Negro to be elected president.



In 1968 Robert Kennedy in a speech to the "Voice of America" said "Things are moving so fast in race relations a Negro could be president in 40 years. There's no question about it, in the next 40 years a Negro can achieve the same position that my brother has." Their prophetic statements would be become reality in 2008.

In 1968, the Hampton City School Board was faced with the forced integration of all public schools. Although George P. Phenix was white, the school was stigmatized as being a black school and it was perceived that their would be opposition from white students and parents assigned to attend the school. So the school board decided to change the school name to Pembroke High School. In 2008 the Hampton City School Board decided to construct two new elementary schools. The Phenix Alumni Association petitioned the School Board to name one of the schools after George P. Phenix. Their wish was granted, and after 40 years, the legacy of Phenix lives on.

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,

From every mountainside, let freedom ring!

~ Program ~

4:00 P.M.	View exhibits and socialize
Master of Ceremony	Leonard Powell, Class of 1962
Welcome	Calvin Pearson, Alumni President
Invocation	Rev. Chauncey Mann, Class of 57
Musical Selection	Maestro Henry Wilson, Class of 1961 and the Phenix Legacy Choir

~~ Dinner ~~

**Honoring classmates from
1932-1939 and All Reunion Classes**

The New Phenix PreK-8 School	Raymond Haynes, Principal
A Salute to President Barack Obama	Dr. Mary T. Christian, Class of 1942
Remembering Phenix High School	Vivian Mann Walker, Class of 1959
Presentation of Outstanding Alumni Awards	Dr. Terry Whitaker, Class of 1968
Honoring Deceased classmates, teachers & administrators	Joyce Turner, Class of 1962

Closing Remarks

Singing of the Alma Mater

Benediction	Rev. Idella Thomas, Class of 1968
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Concert by RaJazz

Dance and socialize with one of the hottest bands in the country.

~ MENU ~

Seasonal Tossed Greens with English Cucumbers, Tear Drop Tomatoes, Parmesan Croutons and House Vinaigrette

Pan Seared Breast of Chicken with Exotic Mushrooms and Finished with a Wine Reduction and Whole Butter Seasoned Vegetables
Rolls and Butter

Deep Dish Caramel Apple Pie - Shortbread Crust, Old Fashioned Custard and Granny Smith Apples, Baked with Caramel and Butter

Coffee, Iced Tea



Ra Jazz Band



2009 Distinguished Alumnus

MARK W CLARK, MD MPH - There was one who was known at Phenix High School as a studious person who was excelling in all that he was aspiring to do academically. He was a member of the National Honor Society and French Club. He strongly remembers his role in a play directed by Mrs. J. Anderson, "A Mid Summer's Night Dream", as he portrayed the character of King Egeus. Mark Clark, was a resident of the Aberdeen community, and one of six children of the late Master Sergeant Melvin and Maxine Clark. Their family consisted of him and two brothers Robert, and Jerrord, who is deceased, and three sisters Maxine Clark-Brooks, Dr JoAnn Clark, DDS and Janet Clark-Howard, who is his office manager.

When Dr Clark had completed most of his studies in Cardio Vascular Medicine, he came to the peninsula area and joined the staff at Newport News General Hospital in addition to other hospitals in this area. His reputation and status as a Cardio-Vascular Surgeon and his ability to therapeutically manage cardiac pathology had preceded him. The other physicians and nurses spoke highly of this well renowned cardiologist who would be coming from MCV in Richmond, VA. He brought a wealth of knowledge and advancement to that Newport News Hospital which already had new physicians and nurses who were trying to elevate the level of health care practice and service to the Southeast Community of Newport News. His Cardiology Team in addition to himself were, Dr V Francis, and Dr. D Ridley. They were a team of highly specialized physicians who all seemed to be well prepared and fluent in their practice of cardiovascular medicine. There were implementations of many practices and protocols that supported Cardiovascular medicine; and of course new certifications of Advanced Cardiac Life Support. There were all types of classes and sessions supporting cardiac pathology and electrocardiogram interpretations which supported the therapeutic management of Myocardial care.

His Educational accomplishments included - G. P. Phenix High School - 1967, Columbia University – 1970 – Bachelor of Arts, Harvard University – 1974 – Doctor of Medicine, Harvard University – 1980 – Masters in Public Health, Massachusetts Gen Hospital – 1974 – 1976 Intern and Jr Assistant Resident, Cambridge Hospital – 1976 – 1977 – Senior Assistant Resident, Medical College of Virginia – 1981 – 1983 – Cardiology Fellow. The designation of Fellow of The American College of Cardiology (FACC) represents recognition of high professional achievement in a cardiovascular subspecialty.

Mr. Rudy Langford - Mr. Langford was born in Phoebus (now Hampton) Virginia. He attended Hampton Public Schools and George P. Phenix High School. Following graduation, Rudy served in the United States Marine Corps, and, later attended Peninsula Business College, receiving a Degree in Business Administration, 1958. He, also, matriculated at Strayer University, receiving the AA Degree (with honors) in Accounting, 1979, and is listed in Who's Who Among Students in Colleges and Universities, 1979.

Mr. Langford has a diverse professional career, having worked as an adjudicator and accountant, General Accounting Office; Clerk, Circuit Court and Department of Corrections, Washington, DC Government; and Postmaster and Lecturer, Hampton University. He worked for ten (10) years with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement, working directly under Hosea Williams, 1958-1968. Also, he worked in three presidential campaigns, Robert Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, and William "Bill" Clinton.

Mr. Langford has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, serving as President of: the State Coalition for Justice for Civil Rights, the Hampton Tenants' Association, and the Coalition for Good Government. He is founder of over sixteen (16) Civic Organizations, 1985-2005 and holds membership in the NAACP, SCLC, Urban League and Rainbow Coalition.

Mr. Langford is sometimes deemed as controversial in his activism. However, he may also be perceived as an "unsung hero." This is because of his many acts of kindness, compassion and assistance, especially with the youth and senior citizens in the community. He willingly accepts this responsibility, but these services are largely unknown by the general public. Recently, he initiated and coordinated an internship program for Hampton University students who were interested in governmental and judiciary affairs. They observed in courts in Hampton, Newport News, and Richmond, Virginia, under the guidance and tutelage of lawyers and other professionals.

2009 Distinguished Alumnus

Knox W. Tull, Jr. - Knox W. Tull, Jr. is a proud second generation alumnus of George P. Phenix High School, Class of 1962. His parents, Mr. Knox W. Tull, Sr. and the late Mrs. Hyler Gertrude Pierce Tull, were in the Class of 1938. Knox attended Robert Russa Moton Elementary School and Y. H. Thomas Junior High School. Knox and his siblings, the late Hyler Tull Shareef and Darlene Tull, were nurtured by a loving network of extended family and friends. Knox was also nurtured by the wonderful teachers, coaches and staff at Phenix. Knox has deep roots in Hampton. His maternal great-great grandfather Robert Lockett was born in Hampton in 1816. His paternal great-great grandmother was Mary Reed who freed herself and her daughter Hester from bondage in Gloucester County and came to Fort Monroe during the Civil War, circa 1861. Knox and Brenda Temple Tull were married in 1972 and are the proud parents of four adult children: Mossi, Nzinga, Kimathi and Hatshepsitu.

After graduating from Phenix in 1962, Knox followed his grandfather John Wesley Blander Tull, Class of 1909 and his parents, Class of 1942 to what is now Hampton University where he spent two years. He then transferred to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where he received the BS degree in Civil Engineering in 1967. He received the MS degree in Civil Engineering in 1972 from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He has completed the Owner/President Management Program (OPM31) at the Harvard Business School in Boston, MA. Prior to forming his company, Knox worked as a bridge engineer in California and as a structural engineer in Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA. He has also served on the faculties of Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia.

Knox is the President and CEO of Jackson and Tull (J&T) (www.jnt.com) an engineering and technology company founded in 1974 and based in the Washington, DC area. The company's original focus was on civil engineering. A noteworthy project is providing construction inspection services for the rehabilitation of the Manhattan Bridge in New York City. J&T has evolved into a 250-person, primarily aerospace company with offices in Albuquerque, NM; Houston, TX and Los Angeles, CA. The company provides engineering services and builds satellite instruments for NASA, the Air Force and other customers. A noteworthy project is the Hubble Space Telescope. J&T is a family business. Brenda Temple Tull is an officer and manager. Mossi is the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Nzinga, Kimathi and Hatshepsitu are managers and engineers. Knox is a member of several professional, technical and civic organizations. He and his family are life members of the NAACP. Knox maintains close ties with the Baby Pirate Alumni of Phenix High School.



Thank You For Your Contribution.

The Following classmates contributed money so that less fortunate classmates could attend today's Legacy Reception.

**Knox Tull Jr. ~ Thelma Forte ~ Alice Jones ~ Rosilyn Melvin
Ernest Richardson ~ James Scarborough ~ William Minns III
Celestine Carter ~ R. B. Easter Jr. ~ Letitia Lewis Levin
The Class of 1962**

Previously Honored Distinguished Alumni

Class of 2007

Dr. Mary Christian - Dr. Christian served her community and the Commonwealth of Virginia for over fifty years. Dr. Christian started her professional career as a teacher at Aberdeen Elementary School in Hampton, Virginia. For more than 25 years, Dr. Christian was a professor at Hampton University in the School of Education. She then was elected to the House of Delegates and retired after 18 years of service.

Lionel Hope - At Phenix he was an avid athlete who was quarterback of the 1941 and 1942 State Football Championship teams, Captain of the basketball team, and a pivotal track team member. During his career he worked as an auditor for the District of Columbia; and Management Analyst for University of the District of Columbia. He entered politics and was elected to the Alexandria City Council in 1982, and became the City's first Black Vice Mayor.

Lillian Epps Johnson – A graduate from Phenix High in 1948, she earned a MA in Nursing from St. Philip School of Nursing at the Medical College of Virginia in 1952. Mrs. Johnson retired from Langley Air Force Base Hospital in 1987 after 32 years of faithful service. Mrs. Johnson was the first civilian employee to receive the Congressional Award for Exemplary Service to the Public and the Community and received the Outstanding Civilian Nurse and Federal Women of the Year awards.

Wilbert L. Lovett Sr. – He was Guidance Counselor and taught Physical Education and Biology and coached football at Phenix High School. Served as Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and was the first Black Principal appointed to serve at Hampton High School. Was also principal at Bethel High School. He was instrumental in starting the Upward Bound Program at Hampton Institute for at risk students in high school and he started the National Teachers of Education Seminar at Hampton Institute.

Dana Nottingham – Dana was an outstanding tennis player at Phenix and earned a Masters in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. He currently is the Executive Director of the Miami Florida Downtown Development Authority. From 1996 to 2002 Dana was the founder and president of Nottingham & Associates, a consultant firm specializing in real estate, economic development and community building. From 1989 to 1996 Mr. Nottingham was a real estate executive Vice-president for the Walt Disney Company.

Irving Peddrew, III - A Phenix 1953 graduate, Irving was the first African-American to be allowed to enroll at Virginia Tech. His success opened the door so that others could follow. On March 29, 2003, Irving L. Peddrew III and Charlie L. Yates were guests when Virginia Tech dedicated the Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall in honor of their achievements as and the first African-American to enroll and graduate from Virginia Tech.

Class of 2007

Leonard H. Powell - He is a widely respected national and international motivational and inspirational speaker. For over 25 years he served as an internal and external organizational development consultant. He is president of Powell and Reese, Inc. Management Consultants specializing in *Energizing the Human Potential* in Organizations. He is founder of the Powell Foundation, an organization designed to improve life in communities.

B. J. Roberts - A 1968 graduate of Phenix High, Sheriff Roberts began his law enforcement career as a patrolman on the Newport News Police Force. He then launched a 19-year career with Hampton University's Campus Police, rising to the rank of the Director of Police and Public Safety until 1992, at which time he was elected the first African-American constitutional officer and Sheriff for the City of Hampton.

Ruppert Leon Sargent (Posthously) - A graduate of Phenix High School, he completed two years of college at Hampton Institute before entering the military. In 1967 in Viet Nam, 1st Lt. Ruppert Sargent valiantly gave his life by throwing himself on two grenades to save the lives of his fellow soldiers. In 2002 the City of Hampton dedicated the new administration building the Ruppert Leon Sargent Administration Building in his honor.

Mildred Smith - A graduate of the Dixie Hospital Nursing Program, she began her career at Hampton General Hospital. In 1963 she led a sit-in of the segregated cafeteria and was fired. She fought her battle all the way to the Supreme Court and won. Her victory eventually integrated all services of the hospital. She worked as a Supervisor at Whitaker Hospital before retiring from the VA Medical Center.

Raymond Washington - A 1954 graduate, earned his MS in Education from Indiana University. He began teaching in 1961 and rose to Assistant Superintendent in Hampton in 1976. In 1991 he was appointed the first Black Superintendent of Hampton City Schools and remained until he retired in 1994. His legacy was implementing programs for low achieving and gifted students.

Class of 2008

Jean Wooden Cunningham - Jean began her professional career as a junior high school teacher in Prince George County, Virginia. After a year, Jean relocated to New York and began working for IBM. After law school Jean began her legal career as a labor attorney with a three year stint with the Ford Motor Company and then continued her legal career with Reynolds Metals Company and Alcoa. She rose in the corporate ranks to the position of vice president and retired as vice president of human resources from Integris Metals. In 1986, Jean was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, 71st House District and served with distinction until 1998, always running unopposed. Among her numerous awards and public service includes Co-Chair, Governor Warner's PASS Initiative; Outstanding Legislator Award Virginia Interfaith Center; NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award

Class of 2008

Lillie Mae Johnson Jones - Lillie Mae (1950) was the president of her high school class and graduated from Dixie Hospital School of Practical Nursing in 1958. She retired from Langley AFB Hospital in 1994 where she was often recognized as the Civilian of the Quarter. She served as chairperson for the Licensed Practical Nurse group. She was instrumental in the hospital receiving an outstanding rating from the Air Force Health Services Management Inspection Team. She was selected as the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing Surgeon Civilian of the Year. Ms. Jones served 2 terms as the President of the Phenix Plus 50 Group and served two terms as the President of Phenix Alumni Association. She has been recognized by the Hampton Alumnae Chapter; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and citations from Zion and Queen Street Baptist Church.

Dr. Sarah E. (Price) Moten - Sarah is a 1960 graduate of Phenix High School and received her B. S. Degree from Hampton Institute, a Masters Degree from George Washington University and a Doctorate from Clark Atlanta University. Since 1982 she has had a distinguished career with the Federal Government. In 1982 she was a Country Director for the United States Peace Corps serving in Africa. She then held positions with the United States Department of Health and Human Resources; United States Department of State; the National Council of Negro Women; International Affairs Consultant, National Security Council; and currently works for the United States Agency for International Development – Africa Bureau. Her diverse career included being the Chief US Negotiator, Japan, for the return of refugees to Cambodia and Nicaragua.

Dr. Terry M. Whittaker - Terry (1968) was a student athlete at Phenix in the class room and on the basketball court and football field. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Whittaker received a master's degree from the University of Minnesota. He joined the University of Delaware in 1983 and has risen from director, to assistant dean of the Lerner College of Business and Economics; Assistant Dean for Professional Development; Assistant Dean in the Academic and Professional Development Center, to the current Assistant Provost for Student Diversity and Success in 2003. He chaired the Delaware United Fund Educational Division for five years and the NAACP, and he supports the local Y. H. Thomas Community Center. He is currently pursuing his doctorate degree from the University of Delaware.

Walter T. "Fuzzy" Ward (Posthumously) - Fuzzy (1957) received a B/ S. Degree from Hampton Institute and a Masters from Manhattan College. Walter was best known for his great athletic skills in basketball. He played for the Baby Pirates at Phenix from 1952-1957. It was there he gained much popularity and fame for being the best all time player in the history of the school. At Hampton Institute he broke the all-time scoring record. He was drafted by the Detroit Pistons and the Washington Capitols to play professional basketball, but was required to accept the military draft. He served in the U.S. Army where he played basketball and was a one-man scoring machine. After his tour of duty he played in the nationally acclaimed Rucker Professional Basketball Tournament in New York, and the Eastern Professional Basketball League.

We Celebrate the Naming of a New Phenix School

The name of George P. Phenix has stood for educational excellence since the first George P. Phenix Training School was opened on the campus of Hampton Institute in 1931. From that early beginning, generations of graduates have gone on to become leaders of yesterday and today. It was that Phenix Pirate Pride that taught us we could be anything we set our minds to be. But we never believed it meant being the President of the United States. We became teachers, doctors, nurses, lawyers, scientist, engineers and politicians. And many became housewives, domestic workers, civic leaders, and community organizers. We were taught it was not what you did, but how well you did it. It all began in 1931 with the first class graduating in 1932. It ended in 1968 with the last graduating class. In between those to historic dates, we witnessed the Depression of the thirties, when rationing of food and gas was a way of life. We were at war in the forties as our sons and fathers were shipped overseas to fight for a freedom that we were denied a right to have at home. In the fifties the Supreme Court said the we had the right to equal educational facilities. But they would not come soon. In the sixties we went to war again for a freedom that America was still not ready to grant. The Civil Rights movement was taking hold and the Civil Rights Act was approved, yet in 1968 our dear alma mater was closed due to integration. Through it all we have persevered through oppression, depression, discrimination, segregation, and violation of our civil rights, to become that pillar of the community that our teachers said we all could become. The struggle and sacrifice to achieve has made us worthy of our success. In 2008, forty years after the Phenix High School on LaSalle Avenue was closed, your Phenix Alumni petitioned the Hampton School Board to name a new school after George P. Phenix. Although it would not be another high school, any school would reestablish our connection to the past to welcome in a new generations of Phenix Alumni.

In 2009, our request was granted as George P. Phenix was selected to be honored by naming a new school after him. The school board decided that the proposed kindergarten and elementary school children should have a voice in selecting the school colors and mascot. Although we preferred the maroon and gray, and pirate, the students selected maroon and gray, and a panther as their mascot. We have a school we can call our own and the legacy of George P. Phenix lives on. It's a new day in Hampton as we rejoice and celebrate a new Phenix school scheduled to open in September 2010.



George P. Phenix PreK-8 School

Honoring the First Graduating Class

1932

Kyani International

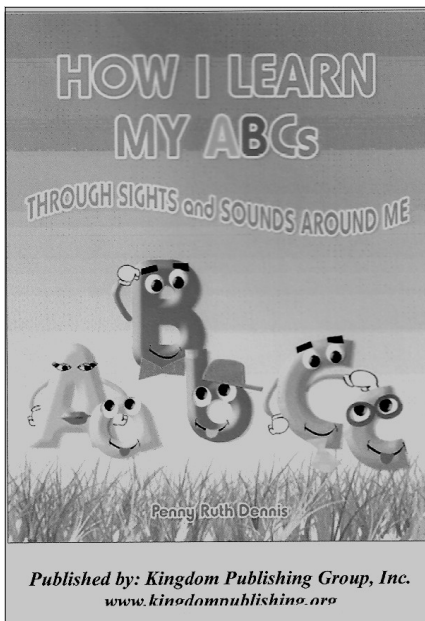
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Written by:
Penny Ruth Dennis
Phenix Class of



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FOR OUR THIRD LEGACY

RECEPTION

From

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Honoring the First Graduating Class

1932

Rosetta Amis	Evelyn Johnson
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Freeman Crawley	Quida Vaughn
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Carrie Diggs	Ida Webster *
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* Honor Graduates



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ON YOUR 2009 LEGACY RECEPTION**



AND

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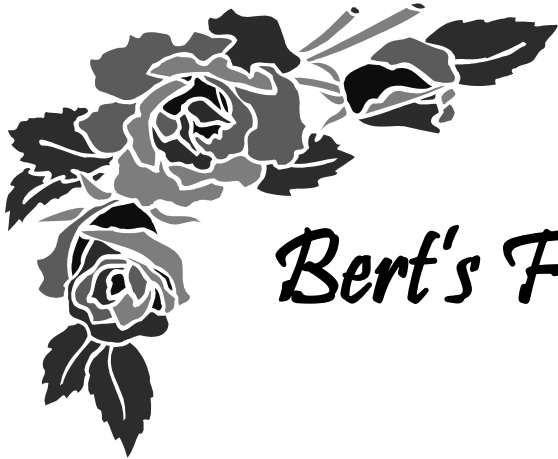
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