

THE BLABBER MOUTH  
2006



STEPPIN' IN CHICAGO

## **FIRST**

The **first** submission for the 2006 Blabbermouth, we believe the **first** payment of reunion fees and possibly the **first** out of town reservation made as the **first** grandchild of P.M. Smith was from Perry A. Smith, III. Perry and Connie spent a vacation in Jamaica during the Christmas holiday and a week in Florida during the winter. Perry reports that he bought Connie a 'cute red convertible BMW and that it is "hers" since he seldom gets in it and just pays the bills AND Perry and Connie have been making plans for the wedding of their youngest daughter, Lea, on August 19, 2006. (Guess a **first** loan may be out of the question huh?) Don't know if this is a **first** but... Perry will not only be giving Lea away but also officiating at the wedding. While we know he's officiated a lot of weddings... hope he remembers that **first** he must walk Lea down the aisle. He says, 'he's a nice guy so he doesn't mind'. Construction on **First** Baptist Church of North Brentwood, Maryland is finished and with a full time staff Perry anticipates a **first** decline in long work hours. No additional **firsts** for Perry & Connie...no pregnancy yet and he reports he may give up on the ideas.

## **THEY'RE TRAVELING TOO**

Vivian Jean and Anthony Rainey's youngest daughter graduated from Drake University with an undergraduate degree in Journalism. She is currently working on her Masters in Communication at Ithaca College in New York. Their oldest daughter, Dione married Gabriel Jenkins on August 13, 2005 and is residing happily in Forest Park, Illinois. They're traveling too. Vivian Jean and Anthony enjoyed a cruise to the Bahamas in March 2006 and in May 2006 Vivian and her sister Joan went on a seven-day Alaskan cruise and tour of the Pacific Northwest.

## **NOTHING MUCH GOING ON ?**

Vera Ford's granddaughter Nicole, daughter of James, Jr. completed her high school duties. She's attending Santa Monica Community College and working and being a brand new adult. Nothing much going on huh ? Vera's son Fulton Ezell is retired from the army and now lives in Las Vegas with his sons Chevy and J.J. J.J. plays football and runs track and Chevy is a weight lifter and collector of model cars. Parents... is this what you call not much going on ? Vera also reports that she is proud of a young man who started youth football with them in Los Angeles and now will be honored by being inducted into the pro football Hall of Fame... Warren Moon.

## **THE HOOK-UP**

Sharanda Smith of Nashville, TN has recently joined the staff at Tennessee State University. She is currently working as the Head Football Coach's personal assistant. Any family members who think that they have a son who can play some ball and are interested in attending a Historically Black Institution give Sharanda a call. Sharanda has

also started work on her Masters in Education while her son, Evan, has additions to her agenda following completion of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. He has mastered every sport and this year is adding Hockey lessons to his list. However, mastery costs. During the last practice of the season, Evan had an injury that resulted in him requiring some medical attention ...he got four stitches to his chin. Don't worry, he signed up for the second season.

### **MEDICAL ATTENTION YOU SAY...**

Shrita Marie Smith (Kemper, Jr. & Shrita Smith's only daughter) has started medical school at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Their oldest son, Kemper III is Supervisor of the Radiology Department at Union Orthopedic Group in Union, N.J. and their youngest son, Kareame Bernard is pursuing a Masters of Science Degree in Biotechnology. Shrita (the wife & mother) is still pursuing work with St. Luke's Mission Hospital in Myphansa, Zambia. A laboratory has been established for HIV, TB and malaria. Safe blood collection medical devices were introduced and all doctors, nurses and medical technologist trained in OSHA borne pathogens and safe blood collection work on this project. Shrita will spend another three weeks in Zambia with this project. Kemper, Jr. (Smitty) and his grandson Jabbori (Kemper III's son) are actively involved in sports activities. Jabbori plays basketball and received MVP for the Hillside Academy Boys Basketball Program. He is also playing boys basketball in a New Jersey AAU league this summer. Rumor has it he's been recruited to participate in a Gus Macker Tournament in Riverdale, Illinois on July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> to supplement a family team entering the tournament. We've heard the kid is a pretty good ball handler. Kemper, Jr. and Shrita celebrated their 36<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. They have a new family member... Max... a five month old full breed Beagle. (You might want to share with Perry, Jr. & Connie... this is a current methodology for adding to the family. Before medicine there was a lot of basketball in the life of Shrita Marie, she played basketball throughout college at Quinipiac. Her dad has coached girls basketball since Shrita was old enough to hold a ball and continues to coach girls basketball in a fall and summer league for Union Catholic High School in Union, New Jersey. He continues to relax playing chess and fishing too.

### **SOME START THIS TRAVEL THING EARLY**

Harrison Darden, son of Susan Smith and grandson of William and Myrtice Smith has a full summer this year. He too is globe trotting. He went to the UK and Ireland for two weeks this summer. He is with the People's Ambassador Program. Upon return, he will spend another week in Michigan at Boy Scout Camp with Troop 534 that has produced 55 Eagle Scouts. After camp, he will accompany the family to Branson, Missouri for a vacation. When Harrison is not traveling, he's still on the move with participation in the renowned Chicago Children's Choir, who sing for Presidents and Heads of States. He is also in Tae Kwon Do and Dance Ministry. Susan reports she gets her rest while Harrison does his travels and special concentration is given to keeping his passport up to date.

### **MAYBE WE SHOULD START A FAMILY TRAVEL AGENCY...**

Priscilla and William (Duke) Coatney will celebrate their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in December 2006 and guess what they'll be doing? Yep... they will be taking a seven-day cruise with their whole family aboard the Celebrity Ship Millennium. This cruise thing has really gotten in the blood of those Coatneys... they cruise all the time, we've heard. We also heard Priscilla likes those games of chance...did you hear that too? The family looks forward to a great time as they celebrate. Their oldest daughter, Shannon will accompany them and 'sho nuff' celebrate! Shannon and her husband Foster Amaoko will celebrate Foster's graduation from Loyola University with a Master's in Chemistry and the acquisition of a great job at Alberto Culver as a R& D Chemist. Priscilla and Duke daughters Shannon and Dianna have a daughter each. Shannon's daughter Charlotte Priscilla Ameyaw (3) begins pre-school this fall and loves to cook, read, draw and swim. Diana's daughter Shawna Nicole (5) recently completed her first dance recital and has an inherited flare for performing like her mom. Diana's flare continues. Diana owns a catering business, "Good Eating" and was summoned to audition for a Chicago cable cooking show. *How about us starting a comprehensive family service business that includes travel arrangements, talent agents, athletics agents?*

### **AND OF COURSE EDUCATORS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN BIG**

Brian 'Tony' Mays (memorable family reunion talent show star) and 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest of Walter Mays, Sr. five sons is now the Assistant Principal at Colin Powell Middle School in Matteson, Illinois as well as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army AND high school girls varsity head basketball coach at Rich South High School in Richton Park, Illinois. His wife Shernita is a language arts teacher in Park Forest, Illinois and pursuing a Masters in Education Administration. Their two children, Brianna (Bree 14) just graduated middle school and is a member of an undefeated basketball team and track star and Brian (BJ) is a prospective referral to Sharanda at Tenn. State as he has finished runner up in his football League's Super bowl for the past two years. He has only played football for two years too!!! *Another good one... after all this is the infamous Tony Mays' son!* Lest we get an editor's reprimand... Tony and his son ALSO play baseball and Tony played baseball with the Chicago Giants last year and they won the Roy Hobbs World Series and his son's team (BJ is the catcher & pitcher) is 21-1. *That athletic agents business might be pretty solid in the family huh?*

### **ONE EDUCATOR IS GETTING HITCHED**

Another of the family educators, Natasha Waugh (Charles & Etta's daughter) reports she has some grrrrrrreat news! Following approval by the screening committee, (Etta, Charles, Buni and his wife Michelle, Kelly, III, her daughter Kaylin, Connie AND Perry, Jr) *WHEW!!!* Natasha and Brandon have the go ahead and will be married next year. Natasha will have two wonderful stepchildren and in-laws that she reports are the best.

Furthermore, they will be moving next year from Maryland to Virginia AND building a house near the Pentagon and National Airport. They're excited. Miss Kaylin, *whose grandma we could solicit for some talent agent business*, just completed pre-kindergarten and will begin kindergarten at Nannie Helen Burroughs School in Washington, D.C. Kaylin had such a busy summer last year with casting calls and gymnastics that she took a break this school year and will continue gymnastics classes during the summer.

Charles and Etta will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August 2006. This is simply amazing since Etta claims to be only 32 years old...new math or what! They are planning to take a Southern Caribbean cruise to celebrate. Appropriate for a young couple huh ?

### AND WE ARE STILL CREATING EDUCATORS

Walter Mays Sr.'s wife Cecilia Ice-Mays, is currently enrolled at DePaul University, is a straight "A" student and Walter says "we are carrying a heavy load and rapidly moving towards graduation in 2007". Upon completion Cecilia plans to join the Chicago Public School system to aid young minds, and particularly those in the inner city, with emphasis on critical thinking skills. Walter is very supportive. Why? He reports that Cecilia has to complete her course work soon and become employed so that her loving husband (*who retired twice, once from the Air Force and again from the Bahai National Center*) may begin to really act as a retired man of leisure. And he is practicing his leisure status by deferring already. He reports that, "*Cecilia is an excellent contact person for all things Chicago... if you are not sure what that means just ask her, but don't tell her I sent you*".

### AND NOT JUST EDUCATORS

If you want to get your muscles toned up or you want a good deal on a Lexus contact Walter Mays, Jr. in Nashville for the hook-up. Walter is serving as a Professional Personal Trainer and a luxury automobile dealer (or is it salesman)? If you desire to aid in the support a new college bound student feel free to reach out and touch Trey Mays who just graduated from high school. Walter's granddaughter Tiffany is right behind him and will be graduating from high school with a degree in Shopping Mall and Cell Phone Engineering.

Those may call upon Air Force Master Sergeant and ordained Minister Michael Mays interested in service in the Air Force or if you require some family counseling. He and his lovely wife Bernice (soon to be Dr. Dora Bernice Mays, PhD) are in practice providing counseling to those in need. Carmon the 'elder' is attending college, working and providing great and loving care for Walter's great-grandson...Xavier Harris...yep Walter Mays, Sr. is a great-grandpa. Chryston, 'the younger' is continuing her high school education and being a track star (*especially in the eyes of her grandparents Walter*

and Cecilia). Chryston, just like her cousin Tiffany, is an expert in the use of cell phones and may acquire an advanced degree in that genre.

Richard Mays is now retired from the Air Force and attending Okaloosa College in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. In his spare time he gives an expert impression of a retired person. He also works part time as a DJ. He has quite an extensive CD collection. His mate Wendy is being patient with him for the time being but me thinks his lifestyle may change in the near future. (*Wendy is from England and a no nonsense woman per Walter Sr.'s perception*) Walter's eldest grandson, Ian Mays, is also attending Okaloosa College and working and about to be a parent (*that'll make Walter a second great grand-child*) Their granddaughter Tatiana and grandson Markus are just enjoying the summer in Florida for now.

### NEED MILITARY CAREER INFORMATION

Major Gregg Mays is another person you may turn to for information on a career in the Army or as a student at Central Michigan University where he is a professor of Military Studies. Walter Sr. recommends that one pursue the latter first as a prelude to a career in the military regardless of the branch you choose. Gregg's wife, Son Hui, is keeping a protective surveillance of Walter's granddaughter Candice. Son Hui is employed at the high school that Candice attends. Walter believes that Candice is in a really good place with her mother being there. He reports he is sure this type of arrangement brings with it positive perks for a high school student.

Walter's step-son and Cecilia's son, Eric Ice-Gipson, is ex-Navy and a computer professional employed by the University of Chicago, IT Department. Eric has preceded his family in moving to Chicago from Denver and they will be joining him this month. What Eric does not know about computers, is probably of no consequences to you as an owner/operator. His wife Amy is a certified florist who is setting aside her work to be a full-time stay at home mom for their grandson, Malik (*the karate orange belt*). In preparation for Amy and Malik's move to Chicago in mid-July, Cecilia and Walter are honing their childcare skills. They have been forewarned and informed by 'dad' that they need to be ready.

### AND WE ARE IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Dan Smith, Jr. (son of Daniel M. Smith and Arzola, and grandson of Perry M. Smith) revives his sporadic career (about every 4 years) **AND DAN JR. WAS IN AN OPERA** this past June by appearing as an extra in "Romeo et Juliette". This production in Charleston, SC was part of the annual spring Spoleto Festival. Nicole Cabell of Chicago Lyric Opera beautifully sang Juliet. Fortunately for the audience, Dan, Jr. did not open his mouth.

## THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL FULL RANGE

Dr. Edward & Mrs. Zeraline Smith Verner have eight grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. The Verners have seven children and their oldest grandchild is 35 years old and their youngest grandchild is 2 years old. Their oldest daughter Estelle (Carolyn) is an ordained minister and works as Chaplain for the N.J. Women's Prison, Edwina is a pediatrician (*who hopes that some future family doctors study pediatrics so she can get a break from all free to family consultations*) the twins, Marilyn and Gwendolyn, are educators (Marilyn in special education and Gwendolyn and Patrice (Peacy) recently was promoted as she is Social Worker Extraordinaire for N.J. Transit ... solving problems after disaster and working with stressed transit drivers. Only son, Eddie, works in marketing and sales and the baby of the family Elizabeth Ann (Beth) works for Essex County College and is parent to the Verner's youngest family member. Many family members know that Zeraline and her brother Kemper, Sr. were very close growing up and shared a lot. Though they live a long distance apart, they continue to share. Rev. Kemper Smith, Sr. & Mrs. Verna Jeanne Smith also have eight grandchildren, however, they have sixteen great grandchildren. Their grandson, John (Myrna's only son) has seven children. (*He took that go forth and be fruitful seriously huh*) The Kemper Smiths have three children and their oldest grandchild just like the Edward Verners is 35 years old. Their youngest grandchildren are Brooke & Aria, twin girls born June 19<sup>th</sup> 2006 to Verna Jeanne (another educator) in Memphis. The proud grandmother, Myrna, (*Mamyrn*) returned just in time for the reunion from visiting the adorable girls. Now both Zeraline and Kemper, Sr. have twin girl offspring.

## BE FRUITFUL WITH FAITH

John Slate, Jr. (*Myrna's only son*) has been quite fruitful with seven children. We sometimes take for granted the blessings of children and how much they add to our lives. While the Smith-Anderson family reunions have always been flourishing with 'chaps' (*that's what P.M. Smith called children*) there are occasions when we sometimes take stuff like being fruitful for granted. Angela Rayon Minter & her husband Christopher, Sr. have a different story to tell. Angela and Chris were married in 1997 and thought they would join the bandwagon with John even if they had a lot of catch up to do. They were told by top physicians at Northwestern University & University of Chicago that they would be unable to have children. While this was a tremendous disappointment, Angela & Chris were faithful and believed that God can do anything but fail. Angela and Chris are the very elated and consumed parents of one Christopher, Jr. born June 8, 2003. Christopher, Jr. is affectionately known as 'CJ' and if you've never seen a miracle ... we got one for ya' and what a miracle he is. The young gentleman running things at the Minter household and pretty close to other environments is that miracle. The Minter family are 'faith experts by experience' and encourage all family members to 'keep the faith in all your dreams and endeavors and they will come true'.

## STUFF TO BLAB ABOUT

NOTE: This segment of the Blabber Mouth is for entertainment only and based on rumors, hearsay or vivid imagination. It is strongly recommended that the central source be contacted for validity and no assumptions should be made concerning any of the content. Offenses are not intended and apologies and prayer will be offered on request for those who partake and have such reactions. FOR ENTERTAINMENT AND SPARK IN CONVERSATIONS ONLY. SUBMISSIONS WERE REQUESTED REPEATEDLY FOR BLABBERMOUTH!

- Smitty & Shrita's daughter, Shrita (named after her mother) is in medical school and is concerned with the limited number of African American cadavers available Why is this ?
- Tony Mays ( Walter's 2<sup>nd</sup> child) wants to have competitions with awards for the talent show
- Tonya Haynes is a member of a motorcycle club who contributes to homeless shelters for women
- Paul Rayon, III is a resource for planning tours... you have to talk to him about where and when
- Big Paul Rayon is well-known in the Chicagoland area for his poetry presentation as well as puppet shows for children
- Myrna and Rodney are still newly weds
- Marsha Rayon retired this year and had a party in Robbins to celebrate and her granddaughter had a bash in the suburbs to celebrate her birthday... they're turning to party people ?
- Both of Myrna's daughters now live in Memphis
- DeAndre Slate received the MVP award for defensive football players at the 2006 Otis Wilson full contact football camp ( Bet ya' won't bump into his grandma Myrna when he's around )
- William Smith is the perennial " Sweet William" of our family... he is resilient and consistently caring about family members and will just call to check on family members because he's just sweet that way
- Arthur " Wendell" Smith gets an award for sending the most colorful and photogenic emails in the family... did ya' see the winter scenes from Chicago
- Kareame Smith, Smitty & Shrita's younger son loves motorcycles ...does Kareame know Tonya ?
- John Slate's children ( all honor roll students) auditioned at a casting call last month
- Johnathan Little ( Myrna's grandson) is in the honors band at Ridgeway Middle School who won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a national competition in Atlanta His grandma already told Travis for college scholarship information. Johnathan plays the baritone
- Natasha's daughter is kinda burned out on the casting call thing and took the summer off... you don't think she was giving some slack to her Uncle Dan... evening out the actors playing field a bit maybe ?
- Charles & Etta have moved onto a personal resort in suburban Washington, D.C. ... it's HUGE with no website page for reservation information for those of us with large families to vacation...why ?
- Myrna wants your help in efforts to restore and revitalize the Taborian Hospital in Mound Bayou
- Kemper, III and John vacation together annually and communicate often and still fuss all the time
- Vivian Rainey's daughter Anna is personal friends with Tom Joyner
- Walter's wife Cecilia hung out with Ramonski Love (V102.7 radio personality... is Walter too old to attend
- Walter received a citation for 'failure to reduce speed' and had nerve to contest it...ever ridden with Walter ?
- Anthony & Vivian Jean went to a conference related to Anthony's job as principal in Las Vegas... RIGHT !
- Has anybody been to Richard Hayne's 'playboy crib' on 55<sup>th</sup>... it's the bomb... visitors by invitation only too... better check this out
- Wanna get in the playboy status like Richard... contact Walter Mays, Jr. ( make sure it's JR) and he can trim ya' up to fit into one of those snazzy Lexus' he sells... MAKE SURE YOU SEE JR NOW
- The one NOT to invite to dinner unless it's at an all you can eat buffet and don't get behind him in line at the picnic... who is this ... Gregg Mays ( Walter's # 5 son) Maybe he's why Walter had no more sons ? This guy has a nationwide reputation for eating !
- If you have difficulty locating cousin Carol Washington, please check the local floating entertainment facilities located throughout the Midwest and/or in Las Vegas...should we check Tunica too ?
- The scuttle buck is that Lois Ann White wants to hang out with Kareame & Tonya... ya' know the motorcycle kids
- Donald White threatens to retire in a couple of years so he can start working a real job...he's going into business for himself
- Myrna and Rodney are still newly weds (somebody please tell Rodney)
- What can be said about Kenneth Rayon, Sr. that hasn't already been said ? Write in what you come up with here

OMISSIONS ARE BASED ON IGNORANCE ....TOO MANY SECRETS ?



**What's Going on in the Life of Brenda Bell Key—Granddaughter  
of Matthew & Lettie Anderson and Daughter of  
A. W. and Zee Alfin Anderson Bell Thames**

Well, I'm on the journey of a lifetime. I recently started a home based business in the Health and Wellness Industry. This Industry is booming and it is slated to make new millionaires by the year 2011.

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*Brenda Bell, Arbonne Independent Consultant  
Area Manager  
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# IN LOVING MEMORY



THIS ADDITION OF THE BLABBER MOUTH IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF MILLIE ESTER SMITH  
1920 - 2006

## **ARE YOU STEPPIN' IN THE WINDY CITY FOR THE SMITH-ANDERSON FAMILY REUNION? IF SO, HERE ARE SOME OF THE COMING ATTRACTIONS!**

### **FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2006**

- 12:00 (noon) to Midnight: Registration (Hospitality Suite- 3rd Floor)
- 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Family Gathering POOL SIDE w/refreshments

### **SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2006**

Breakfast on your own-We'll let you know where to GO to get some good food.

- 8:30 a.m. Hospitality Suite Opens
- 9:00 a.m. to 11:25 a.m. Enjoy some of Chicago's great attractions-
- Navy Pier (4 blocks from the hotel)  
[www.navypier.com](http://www.navypier.com)
  - River and Architecture Cruises (30 to 45 minutes)
    - Adults \$24.00\*
    - Seniors 65 & up \$21.00\*
    - Children 12 & under \$12.00\*\*all prices include taxes
  - SHOPPING ON THE MAGNIFICENT MILE
  - Millennium Park [www.millenniumpark.org](http://www.millenniumpark.org)
- 11:30 p.m. Board Buses for the Picnic in front of Hotel
- 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Picnic @ Midlothian Meadows Site #1
- Family photo will be taken immediately upon arriving at the picnic site
- 5:00 p.m. Re-Board Buses to return to hotel
- 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Family Meeting
- 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Dance Steppin' lessons (ages 18 and older) in hotel banquet room-Come learn how to do one of CHI-TOWN's famous dances.
- 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. ESPN ZONE or Navy Pier (ages 13 to 17)
- 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Puppet Show, fun and games (ages 2 to 12) in hospitality suite

9:00 p.m. Own your own- enjoy some of Chicago's night attractions- Blues and Jazz clubs, Rush Street, dance clubs, fire works, etc. etc; We'll let you know where to GO to have a good time.

NOTE: 7:00 p.m. to Midnight, **FREE BABYSITTING** by several of our most responsible and trustworthy family members. Ages 2 to 12 only. GO and enjoy the WINDY CITY night life.

NOTE: Taste of Chicago begins June 30<sup>th</sup> thru July 9<sup>th</sup>; 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. daily- admission is free; food tickets available for purchase

**Sunday, July 9, 2006**

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Hospitality Suite open

10:00 a.m. Board Buses to depart for Church Service  
St. Mark United Methodist Church;  
Immediately following service dinner will be served in the church fellowship hall

3:00 p.m. Re-board buses to return to the Hotel/2006 Reunion ends

NOTE TO DRIVERS: The Dan Ryan Expressway is under MAAAJOR CONSTRUCTION and though it is anticipated that the traffic may not be sooo devastating early in the morning, be prepared to be patient, there are lots of events going on during this weekend.

**WALKING DURING THE REUNION IS REQUIRED; PLEASE BRING YOUR GOOD WALKING SHOES! THERE IS MUCH TO SEE!!!**