

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Here it is the 27th of February. The gardeners have their potatoes, green onions, sweet peas, snap beans planted. The Camellias are in full bloom. Azaleas and Dogwoods are full of buds just waiting for a few more warm days. There are still a few Robins scratching in the leaves, but they will be gone soon. We will probably have one more light freeze and then go straight to spring and the most beautiful time of the year in Milton. Wish you all could be here to see it!

I have been corresponding with our cousin Greg Lewis and he asked that I put the following letter in the Newsletter. Here it is just as he wrote it.

Jan 26, 2003

I think it would be fair to say that our family has been truly blessed through the years. We owe a lot of thanks to God for our numbers are strong, and our unity and love for each other as a family is second to none. Let us not take life for granted, let us not be selfish or become despondent. As we move deeper into this millennium let us not be scattered or drawn apart. Let us keep traditional family values, and morals. Teach our children to love and respect and to earn a living. Not look for it on a silver platter.

I say this because I took life for granted. I became selfish and despondent. I became greedy and with that I lost respect for myself and others. I pushed aside family values and moral standards. I felt as if all my troubles were someone else's fault. I figured the world owed me. I began to make decisions, and very

bad choices. The life I lived as a single young man was reckless and careless. I'm probably the first Lewis to do a state prison sentence. As far as I know of my immediate family, I am. I hope and pray that I am the First and last. I'll have six years done April 18th. I'm looking to get out around November next year. I can hardly wait. Have I learned anything? My first 3 or 4 years here, I would have to honestly say NO. I just hated more and became more rebellious. But in the last 2 years something happened. God opened my eyes. He has changed my heart and changed my whole outlook on life.

Life is precious and special. I hope you all can forgive me for this spot I have put on our name. I have had to learn the hard way and I hope and pray daily that no one, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews or cousins will ever have to go through what I have the last 6 years.

Teach the younger ones to keep the respect for others and to be content with what life has to offer today. Don't be drawn off into the greed and lust of the world through peer pressure and what seems to be "THE EVERYBODY IS DOING IT ATTITUDE". Keep family close, love one another, respect one another, and pray for one another.

I hope to see you at the reunion in 2005.

God Bless you,

Gregory Z. Lewis

I know all of you join me in wishing Greg the best and his continued growth in his new

found religious experience. We all will be waiting for him to join us in 2005 at our reunion. Greg told me he looks forward to mail, so here is his address.

Gregory Z. Lewis #214124
Okaloosa Correction Institute
3189 Little Silver Rd Work Camp J1111
Crestview Fl 32539

You will recall that in our last newsletter we learned that Virginia "Virgie" Lewis Kaye was living in Pensacola and cared for by Mrs. Maria White. On January 24, 2003 I received a call from Mrs. White who said Virgie had died. The following Obit appeared in the Pensacola News Journal on January 28.

**Virginia Lewis Kaye
1909-2003**

Virginia Lewis Kay, age 94, of Pensacola, died Friday January 24, 2003. Mrs. Kaye was a native of Bagdad, Florida and had taught school and served as a Principal for most of her life in Pensacola. She was a member of B'Nai Israel Synagogue.

Mrs. Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Erwin Kaye.

Services for Mrs. Kay will be held at B'Nai Israel Cemetery on Tuesday, January 28, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. with Rabbi Israel Vana.

Waters & Hibbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

It is a shame that we have to lose a loved one in order to bring us a bit closer. This was true in Virgie's death. I notified Bill Kimmons, Virgie's nephew in Tallahassee and as a result he has sent me a scrapbook of information on the Kimmons and St. Mary family that I have since added to my Lewis Family genealogy. Bill's information filled in many blanks in my program and I have shared my information with Bill.

If you will just write down the names, birth days, marriages, children, deaths, and any

other information you would like included in our family history and send it to me, I will enter them in my program and share what I have with you.

I received a call from Lillian Richburg few minutes ago informing me that her Mother, Mabel Weelkey, Granddaughter of Henry Jackson Lewis passed away earlier today, February 28. The family will be coming from South Florida and California to the funeral. You will recall we mention in the September newsletter that Mabel had recently celebrated her 98th birthday. Mable was a wonderful woman and will be missed by her many friends here in Milton. The following Obit appeared in the Pensacola News Journal of March 1.

**Mabel Lewis Weekley
1904-2003**

Mrs. Mabel Lewis Weekley, 98 of Milton died Friday, February 28, 2003. Mrs. Weekley was a native and lifelong resident of Santa Rosa County. In her early years, Mrs. Weekley was a teacher at the Robinson Point Elementary School. She was owner/Operator of Mabel's Café for over 20 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Milton. Mrs. Weekley was preceded in death by her parents Gus and Mary Bonifay Lewis; a brother Sherman E. Lewis; a sister Thelma Cox; and her husband, Thomas B. Weekley.

Mrs. Weekley is survived by her two daughters, Lillian Lee Weekley Richburg, of Milton and Mary (Ralph) Louise Weekley Hebb, of Whittier, California; five granddaughters, four great-granddaughters, and one great-grandson.

Burial was March 3rd in the Milton Cemetery. Lewis Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Someone recently sent me an e-mail that said it was the "dash" in one's life that counted. The "dash" is LIFE between the date of birth and death (1945-2001). We have no control

over the dates, BUT we do have control over the "DASH". I honestly believe Virgie and Mabel made the most of their DASH. **THINK ABOUT IT!!!**

REUNION PLANS

The 2003 Lewis Family Reunion will be held on Friday July 25 and Saturday July 26, 2003. Again this year we will have a 8:30 Dutch treat breakfast at Reggie's restaurant in Milton, followed by a visit to Robinson Point Cemetery for a brief time of remembrance. The remainder of the day will be free until we then reassemble at Grandma Restaurant for a Dutch treat buffet dinner. On Saturday we will meet again, beginning at about 10:30, at the Navarre Pavilion, Highway 98 in Navarre where we will have our covered dish picnic lunch at Noon.

CEMETERY REPORT

We have not had any Robinson Point Cemetery expenses since December except for our annual water bill of \$8.00. You will recall that Mike Pendleton is no longer doing our monthly maintenance, therefore we have made arrangements with Carl Howell to do the necessary maintenance on an "as required" basis. We pay Carl \$60 per visit and expect to use him about every 3 months or about \$240 per year instead of the \$300 paid to Mike. We probably will have to pay extra for weeding the flowerbeds and pruning shrubs later in the spring. This change in maintenance will probably mean that the RPC may not look as neat and trim as in the past, but it will still be maintained. We will keep an eye on the trees to see if there will be a need to have any trimmed or removed.

We now realize just how much Lucille Fraas contributed in both time and money to the maintenance of the Cemetery on her semi-annual visits to Milton. She has a real love for

RPC and we must make sure we continue the good work she began.

FINANCES

We are still doing well financially. We have \$630.18 in the Checking Account; \$9410 in CDs paying \$62 quarterly or \$248 per year into the checking account; and \$205 in the Savings account.

Our annual expenses are expected to be approximately \$390 as follows: \$240 for RCP maintenance and \$150 publishing 3 issues of the Newsletter.

As can be seen, the interest earned just covers the annual costs of maintaining RPC, leaving the cost of the Newsletter to come from current assets.

While we are financially sound and are not beating the drums for contributions, they are always welcome. It would be nice if we had another \$1000 CD, and with a little effort we can raise the funds.

Someone told me at the funeral on the 3rd they were sorry they missed last year's reunion, but that they "just simply forgot". **What a shame! MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY!!**

JULY 25 AND 26, 2003

We wish you good health and look forward to seeing you here in Milton in July.

God Bless!


Rodney and Ann