

RECONNECTING

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BUD & BETTY JUNE BRADSHAW

By: Laura L. Valenti

It is rare for a couple to celebrate 68 years of marriage but even rarer, when the two grew up together, their families living across the street from one another. Bud and Betty June (Green) Bradshaw, however, are one such couple, literally from a century past.

The two grew up in Lebanon, their families living on Harwood Street near the corner of Harwood and Pearl. "At the time, the Bradshaw home was the oldest house in Lebanon," Bud Bradshaw shared recently. "It was built before the Civil War in what we now know as Old Town. It was a large ornate house and was taken apart and moved piece by piece to the Harwood location. It had 12-foot ceilings and a coal furnace in a dirt-walled unfinished basement. Of course, it has long since been torn down."

"Betty June and I walked to school together with our friend, Nancy Galbraith, who lived nearby. Back then, school hours went from nine in the morning until noon when school dismissed for an hour. We would walk home for lunch and then be back at one, when classes started again and went until four o'clock each day. The country kids came into school on the bus, but they brought their lunch with them and ate at the school," Bud recalled.

Bud Bradshaw's father, Jean Paul Bradshaw was a lawyer in Lebanon with the firm of Bradshaw and Fields. His mother was Catherine Ann Brandt Bradshaw and his grandmother, Maude Bradshaw, was well-known for giving piano lessons for many years. She also played the organ and directed the choir at Lebanon's First Congregational Church. In 1944, Bud's father, Jean Paul Bradshaw ran for governor of Missouri against Phil Donnelly, the Democrat who became governor-elect later that year. Bud was 12 years old at the time and remembered his own part in his father's campaign.

"One of the ways political campaigns worked at that time," Bud explained, "was that we would go into a small town. The driver of the vehicle would drive through the town with loudspeakers hooked onto the back windows of the vehicle. The driver would be announcing that Paul Jean Bradshaw, candidate for governor would be speaking at the local park or wherever 30 minutes from now and everyone was invited to come and hear him speak. It was my job, at age 12 to control the volume on those speakers and to also do so, while my father was speaking!"

While Bud's father did not become governor, it is worth noting that this was the only such governor's campaign in Missouri history in which both candidates were from Lebanon.

Bud's brother, Paul Ludwig Bradshaw also went on to become a lawyer, but Bud chose a different path in life, becoming an ordained minister with the Congregational Christian Churches.

Bud's given name was William Brandt Bradshaw but when he was born, his two-year old brother, Paul couldn't pronounce the word 'brother'. He called the new baby, Buddy and the nick name stuck. When William Brandt arrived at the University of Missouri, he changed Buddy to Bud, and he has been known as Bud Bradshaw ever since.

Betty June was born in the village of Decaturville, near the Laclede-Camden County line, north of Lebanon, population 17 at the time. Her parents, Alvin and Margie Green, ran a general store there where Betty June remembered that gas sold for 12 cents a gallon or less. When she was nine, her parents sold the store and moved to Camdenton.

When Betty June was 10 years old, the family moved to the Harwood location in Lebanon. At that time, her parents opened the Alvin Green Motor Company in the 300 block of West Commercial Street in downtown Lebanon, located on both sides of the street, including the current parking lot of Noble Hudson Feed.

Betty June graduated from Stephens College in Columbia, earning an Associate of Arts degree and then attended the University of Missouri Journalism School where she graduated with her Bachelor of Journalism degree.

Bud Bradshaw continued. "During my years in the pastoral ministry, I was especially successful in serving churches that were struggling to have enough members. Such churches were generally located in downtown metropolitan areas, and at one time had a large membership. Most churches, then and now, struggling to have an adequate membership to support their programs were, and are, suffering from a lack of adequate fund-raising. I liked the challenge of going to such churches and the Lord called me to serve them. Over the years, I worked for churches in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota, and eventually ended up with the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles.

"When we arrived at the Los Angeles church, its membership was totally Caucasian," Bud continued to reminisce, "and by the time we left, the church was hosting Sunday School classes in nine different languages. And in addition to our two regular services held in the main Sanctuary in English, there was a Hungarian service conducted by a Hungarian minister in the smaller upstairs chapel and a Korean service led by a Korean minister in the



Submitted Photos

Above, on Aug. 17, Bud and Betty Bradshaw celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Right, When Betty June was 10 years old, her parents opened the Alvin Green Motor Company in the 300 block of West Commercial Street in downtown Lebanon.



large chapel downstairs.

"By the time, we left six years later, the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles had become the largest Congregational Church in the world. It is now part of the United Church of Christ (UCC)."

Bud Bradshaw received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Missouri, his Master of Divinity from Yale University, and his Ph.D. in Old Testament Studies from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Betty Jean shared that ushers in Scottish churches still wore kilts at that time.

"Much of Betty June's work, over the years, was in support of my ministry in the church, wherever we would go. While we were in St. Paul, Minnesota, she raised money and started a day care at the church. In California she attended classes at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena and earned a Master of Arts degree in Human Development. She continued her work in the field of early childhood care and while we were in Los Angeles, the mayor of the city asked her to do an evaluation of the day care centers throughout the city."

After 24 years in full time ministry, Bud went into the private sector where he assisted not-for-profit organizations through fund-raising development, long-range planning, and problem solving. He worked for the Paducah Community College, University of Kentucky while simultaneously serving as the interim minister for the Paducah United Church of Christ.

In 1988, he was inaugurated as the sixth president of Lees College, a small Appalachian college in Jackson Kentucky where he served for four

years before moving to the St. Louis area to become the president of Patricia Stevens College, a small career college in the downtown area. "We are very fortunate at age 90 in that our minds remain sharp. Mine is a highly academic background," he continued. "I'm a historian of demonology. I'm not an activist in that I don't do exorcisms, but I've studied the subject, particularly its history, extensively," he said. "Betty June is an avid reader. Family members, down to one of the great grandchildren, know that when they want to know something about almost any subject, including daily news and sports, they can contact Betty June, for assistance."

After a few years in Chesterfield, a suburb of St. Louis, their grown children didn't think they should be living alone. That's when the couple moved to Highlands Ranch, an unincorporated area about 25 minutes outside of Denver. Bud and Betty June have three daughters and a son, as well as 10 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

"We've been in Colorado almost three years now. With our last move, this makes the 10th state we've lived in plus Scotland," he concluded. "Despite all that moving around, we have plans to be buried in Mt. Rose Cemetery, right beside my parents. In this day of cremation, some people don't understand that we want to be transported back there, casket and all. Lebanon seems like our real home, which we want to be our earthly final resting place."

After lives so well lived, coming home to Lebanon in a very real sense, doesn't seem the least bit extraordinary after all.

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