

HHS ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR - 2008

This year's Alumnus of the Year attended Haleyville Elementary back in 1946, became Secretary/Treasurer of the Student Council, a Junior Class and Senior Class Officer, Member of the Beta Club, served on the Havalala Staff, was in the Senior play and played varsity football.

As a child he and his bicycle went on a paper route and he can still probably tell you everyone on the route and where they wanted their paper delivered. Later he popped popcorn at the Dixie Theater on Saturday nights and can name most of the kids that were trouble makers. Many of you are here today, I'm sure!!! That same popcorn machine is in the kitchen of his office today and is still in working order. He worked at the Havalala Drive-in, where some of you parked on the back row – could you see the movie from there??? He also worked at the City Swimming Pool and “played the hits” on various radio stations including WJBB, WLAY, WCRT and WHRT. You remember those favorite songs that remind you of where you were and who you were with and what you were doing. You could even dance to the songs back then. If you were a student here at Haleyville High in the 60's, then in some way, he touched your life.

After graduating from Haleyville High School, he served his country in the United States Air Force where he trained in electronics. He graduated from Florence State College and then Cumberland School of Law. He literally worked his way through school and was debt free when he graduated. He has served as the attorney for various local cities and boards and has been city judge in four different cities.

Our Alumnus of the Year is an active member of the First United Methodist Church, where he has worshiped and served in various volunteer capacities such as Sunday School Teacher, Youth Leader, Choir Member, Building Chairman and Chairman of the Board.

While the love of his hometown is great, so too is his love to travel. Whenever possible he loads up his RV with his wife and audio books and hits the open road. Together they have traveled to most all of the continental United States and Canada. They have a special love for the great American west where they have made great friends through the years and were even instrumental in starting to build the United Methodist Church of the Tetons in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

A long time supporter of the Haleyville Lions and the University of Alabama Crimson Tide, our Alumnus of the Year still enjoys watching the sports he once played. In 1957 he enjoyed one of his greatest nights as a member of the HHS Lions football squad. Playing the Walker County Vikings in the 3rd quarter trailing 21-0, it was second down on the Lions own 32. Junior Knight dropped back to pass, our Alumnus of the Year went deep down the middle and without breaking stride caught the bomb and trotted into the end zone. He also enjoys basketball. He has been a season ticket holder for BAMA basketball for over 30 years!!

This year's Alumnus of the year is committed to serving - a community organization, a school, Haleyville's Historical Society, Winston County Sports Hall of Fame, his Church and the North Alabama Emmaus Community. As former president of the Haleyville Alumni Association, he helped establish the Alumni Scholarship Fund which is still rewarding deserving students with scholarships today. He enjoys giving back to a town that has given so much to him.

Our 2008 Alumnus of the Year loves his country, his state, his county and his hometown. To quote him – "If Haleyville ever goes out of business, I will turn out the lights as I leave town, because I will be the last one to go". I present to you our 2008 Alumnus of the Year – Jerry Jackson.