



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

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INSIDE

## ***OUR JOURNEY***

*Our 58th Reunion*

## ***OUR LEGACY***

## **The Big Boomers**

*This is us*

### **The Class of 6T5 "Come Together Picnic"**

The Miami Northwestern Class of 6t5 held its "Come Together Picnic," October 12, 2022 at Arcola Lakes Park in Liberty City. The picnic, facilitated by the 58th Reunion Committee, drew praise from the attendees for its activities and presentations.

There were raffles for two homemade cakes won by June Garvin, who shared her prize with classmates and George Stewart, the photographer, who vowed to take his prize home for Sunday dinner. There were also raffles of gifts for the attendees sponsored by the Ladies of the Class of 6t5. Sandra Minus provided beautiful corsages and boutonnieres for special guest.

The music, card games, dances and word games provided a wonderful, relaxing and fun-filled time with friends for all. Food services provided by Hattie and her husband were supplemented by gifts of pastries and cakes by the Ladies of the Class of 6t5. The associated photographs gives great testimony to a great time with "forever friends" and classmates.











# The Big Boomers

*This is us*



Who even new the words Telecom & Technology when we were in High School. For the last 50 years, it became a career that is not yet over for Mack Samuel. He has worked for Miami AT&T, Southern Bell, Lucent, Globalxnet Technologies.

After retiring from Lucent Technologies, he started his own company in 1996 selling and providing audio-visual products to schools and government entities. The company also sells wireless broadband services. His training came from "everywhere, and all the time", becoming an Entrepreneur.

Mack was inspired by his grandmother who taught him the value of making things. At school, Mr. Duhart woke him up to science.

The highlights of his journey are:

- Raising three (3) smart daughters
- Led the nation in sales at American Bell, AT&T and Lucent
- Mentored over 100 students with internships
- Married 55 years
- Community & education advocacy

He has always loved reading, acquiring information, and never accepting the status quo.



Albert Stirrup, 'Charlie Boy' became a plumber—a trailblazing accomplishment at the time. He became aware of the rate of pay and decided to 'jump on it'. In his 34 year career, he worked for Sam Bloom, Roto- Rooter, Rusty Plumbing, Miami Federal Prison, and was part owner of Thomas Benjamin Plumbing.

His story of breaking into previously segregated industries is all too familiar. He was in the 3rd plumbing class at Hialeah High school that included blacks, and there were 13. Our classmate, Thomas Benjamin was in the 2nd class which only had 5 or 6 Black students, up from the first class which only had 2. Getting through with the least difficulties took Charlie Boy's steady temperament along with skill and finesse. The local unions did not want Black members, but Federal funding was threatened.

Running track at Northwestern gave him good speed as a running back on their football team, which became a pathway to acceptance, and substantive help with the plumbing licensure test. Albert was able to help others with this as well.

To give back to the community, he volunteered to teach plumbing to kids who had no career direction in public schools until his sight lessened. He would show them tools, how to put on/take off faucets, gave examples of money to be made by each of the repairs he taught. Often the kids were excited after repairing something at home.

# The Big Boomers

*This is us*

**Roland Alfred James** served as a Heavy Equipment Operator in The US Air Force. Upon discharge he was denied a job working in segregated Miami. Roland began welding as a hobby while in the US Air Force, and developed it into a career once he was discharged and unable to find work as a Heavy Equipment Operator.

Roland received his initial training as a welder from MDCPS Adult Education Department, receiving certifications at 3 different levels 3g, 4g and 6g—each more advanced than the the preceding one. Roland served as foreman and principal welder on the following major projects in Miami Dade County—Diplomat Hotel, American Airlines Arena, the Aqualina Hotel, University of Miami Basketball Arena, and Miami International Airport.

Even though Roland had a very lucrative position working as a Journeyman Welder for the local union, he had grown up with a father that had always been an independent businessman and believed that people should strive to be owners and entrepreneurs. So in 1984 Roland followed in his father's foot steps by starting his own welding company, Precision Welders. He maintained his company until his retirement in 2006.

In addition to owning his own business, Roland was sought out by some of the largest construction firms in South Florida including "Overnight Success" a Black owned major construction firm. Special highlights of his career are:

- Named one of the Best Welders in South Florida in the mid 1990's.
- Served as foreman of the welding group that constructed the iconic white sail tops at the Port of Miami
- Recruited by several top construction companies to work on their projects because he was known in the industry as among the best in the business.

Roland states *"I've consistently tried to expose our young people of the benefits and rewards of mastering a trade and owning a business that can provide you with a wonderful life. I think I've made an impression on some of them."*



Melvin Hoskins went to the Air Force, hoping to become a jet engine mechanic. Those classes were unfortunately filled, and he became a heating specialist. He really liked drafting in Northwestern—always drawing, especially horses, earning him the nickname 'Hoss'. I decided to leave the service to get closer to the mechanical career I preferred. My family had moved to Minnesota and I joined them for a while. After learning that I could work in drawing and architecture that I loved, I found a school for drafting was in Tampa, which also allowed me to return to the Florida climate.

Learning that there was a career that could use my talent and build a career was exciting. I earned an AS Degree in Mechanical & Architectural Drafting at the Tampa Technical Institute. My first job was with Tampa Steel, staying there for 2 years. A layoff carried me to Florida Power in Apopka where I was the first Black person in

the office. Anything that needs electricity needs an engineering design, and that is what I did. I stayed there for 28 years, retiring with the proverbial gold watch.

I enjoyed the work and designing a subdivision was a highlight of my career. I found it challenging and satisfying.

# News and Stuff

*These jobs may be perfect for your kids, grands or friends*

## **Fantasy theatre factory at the SANDRELL RIVERS THEATER**

### **Job Opportunities**



**Full-Time**

#### **Grants Coordinator**

\$45000 - \$50000/yr.

- 2+ years experience in related fields.
- Manages 10-12 established grants.
- The goal is to manage up to 25 grants.
- Paid Vacations, Holidays, and Sick Days are available.
- Employer-supported medical, dental, and vision insurance plans are available.
- Works in close coordination with the Executive Artistic Director.



**Full-Time**

#### **Marketing Coordinator**

\$18 - \$20/hr.

- Bachelor's degree in marketing or a related field (preferred, but not required).
- Proficient in Canva, Hootsuite, Wix, Google Ads, Facebook Ads, Constant Contact, Google Programs & Microsoft Suite Programs.
- Paid Vacations, Holidays, and Sick Days are available.
- Employer-supported medical, dental, and vision insurance plans are available.
- Works in close coordination with the Associate Artistic Director.



**One-off opportunities**

#### **Event Positions**

\$15+ Based on position & experience

- Productions and Technical Crew.
- Concessions Associate.
- Box Office Associate.
- Sound Designer.
- Lighter Designer.
- Set Designer.
- Props Designer.
- Costume Designer.

## Directory Update

We are using the class website to update classmate information. NO contact info is visible to the public. **Go Here:**

<https://miaminorthwestern6t5.myevent.com>

Click on "Classmates 6t5"

**TO:**  
create a profile—Click "Add Your Profile"  
update a profile—Click "Edit Your Profile"

There is a "forgot your user name or password link"

If you can't get in, send an email asking for help to "reunion6t5@gmail.com". Include your phone number.

# TODAY

Send your nomination  
for Class Officers  
**KEEP OUR CLASS  
FUNCTIONING**

Send your Reunion  
Preregistration  
**A MUST TO FINISH THE  
PLANS**



Oct 1st—Corliss Hillman Sellers

Oct 3rd—Lawrence LaFleur

Oct 7th—Ira Baker

Oct 11th—Elizabeth Welch Bethel

Oct 13th—Carolyn Brown

Oct 20th—Clarence Jones

Oct 21st—Peter Henderson

Oct 27th—Dwight Rolle

Oct 28th—Donald Swindle

Nov 8th—Judy Sawyer Garrison  
Eugene Pugh

Nov 16th—Vickie Turner Gallimore

Nov 17th—Willis Jackson

Nov 25th—Charles Buffington

*Happy Thanksgiving*  
*Bulls*