

THE HAMLET NEWS-MESSENGER

Hamlet and Pinehurst, North Carolina, Richmond Virginia

22-23 February 2013



*Together
Again,
Naturally*

For 66 years, the *Silver Star* has stopped in the Meachams' hometown of Hamlet on its daily north and south trips between New York and Miami. The station eaves that protected me from a cold February rain to shoot this picture have sheltered railroad passengers for 113 years.

Together again, naturally

By the time Lee, Julie and I got together for the first time since their July 2008 visit to California, every meal on this trip began to be preceded by "What we say here is off the record."

Having sworn to take family secrets to the grave, you'll have to provide your own interpretations of us from these snippets of conversations at a sports bar and around tables and fireplaces in Pinehurst, N.C., and Richmond, Va., which omit identifying information:

"They're wearing black uniforms today to psych out the Tar Heels."

"And it's working."

"I thought that was the fifth grade."

"Daddy never knew."

"Yes he did!"

"Look at all the gay children in the stands wearing powder blue."

"Buttering this casserole is a two-man job."

"You went fast enough to get to third gear driving in the yard?"

"Where is she now?"

"I thought he died."

"Do you remember when you went home from the hospital; they gave you your tonsils in a jar?"

"Your momma taught you better than that."



The last time Lee, Julie and I were together was in 2008, when they visited California and we ate one night in a restaurant by the Truckee River near Lake Tahoe.

"I didn't think they would go together, but this tastes pretty good."

"... 3,000 miles away."

"He was gay?"

"The way I go is easier. I take 85, then cut over on 70 just a little ways and go 58 to 147 to 1. You get some stoplights, but it saves 10 minutes."

"Did you see what gas was yesterday?"

"There's no reason to have a basement in ... County. We had to use a sump pump every time it rained. There were snakes down there."

"Did not."

"Did too."



We pull for the Southern Middle School Dragons (green) in Moore County, where Julie teaches P.E. They won.



Swapping lies in Lee's den in Richmond.



A big piece of my family (L-R): brother Lee, me, Lee's daughter Mary B and his oldest son John, my brother-in-law Mac Jones and his wife (my sister) Julie, their daughter Virginia, Lee's parents-in-law Mary Ann and Freddie Siewers, and their daughter (Lee's wife) Ann. Missing was Thomas Meacham, Lee's youngest, who is a student at Virginia Tech.