

# Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

## A Breast Cancer Story

August 18, 2008

**How is it possible** for a person to be diagnosed with cancer and ever find the courage to make an expedition to a foreign country, determined to achieve a feat that will shout HOPE to the world? I think of a quote by Sir Edmund Hillary, the first man recorded to have climbed to the top of Mount Everest, "It is not the mountain that we conquer, but ourselves."

Thursday, August 14, at the new McClellan Medical Park Meeting Center, Steel Magnolias presented *Climb For The Cause, A Breast Cancer Story*. A documentary about five Alabama women who traveled to Africa on a mission to climb MT Kilimanjaro. More than a story about climbing a mountain, it is a human story about how breast cancer impacted the lives of five Alabama women and their families.

At a little after 6:00 p.m., our guests arrived in a limousine. For Steel Magnolias, the most anticipated part of this event was spending an evening with our HERO, Marilyn

McCormick. What a great reunion! When Marilyn walked through the entrance door at McClellan, I was the first to see her. We both became emotional and couldn't hold back tears that came from kindred hearts.

Accompanying Marilyn were two women who were part of the expedition to Tanzania, Africa: Madeline Harris, the director of Climb For The Cause and the driving force that made the 2003 climb a reality. Madeline was also the architect behind setting up the non-profit organization, For The Cause Inc., and was the first chairperson of the board. She now serves as an advisor to the organization. Libby Collier, whose mother, Penny, climbed, is a member of the board of For The Cause Inc.

Following registration and collection of ticket stubs for the door prize drawing, we all made our way inside the dining room. While everyone was making their way to a place in the dining

room, Concert Pianist, Renaldo Whyte provided beautiful music.

Preceding Ina Rooks, prayer of thanks for our food, Dr. James West, David Gray and Bobby Foster, took us through a visual tour of the facilities at McClellan Medical Park Mall.

As always, Classic On Noble does an outstanding job of serving large gatherings. On Thursday evening they did a remarkable job in our crowded dining room. We enjoyed their usual salad with raspberry vinaigrette dressing, rolls, entrée featuring chicken, green beans, and scalloped potato, topped off by cheese cake.

Margaret Taylor started our program by singing "Climb Every Mountain." Marti Warren then recognized Steel Magnolias; officers and members, the Tuesday Bear Huggers, Madeline Harris and Libby Collier.

As I was introducing Marilyn, I looked into the crowd and saw my inner circle who nurtured me



**Sharing love through support**

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through the toughest days of my journey with breast cancer. Bill, Gudrun, Sheila, Sue and family, it was wonderful to look into the crowd and see them.

Before Marilyn began her speech, Dixie Reynolds did a remarkable job of singing, a Reba McEntire song, "I'm Gonna Take That Mountain!"

Several years ago, Gudrun made a CD of this victorious song and said, "Lenora, when I heard this song, I'm Gonna Take That

Mountain, it made me think of you and the Steel Magnolias.” Over the months, I’ve listened to it several times, and I always get a mental picture of Marilyn, at Anniston Family Fitness, her treadmill set to the steepest incline, with a heavy backpack, building her legs for the upcoming climb.

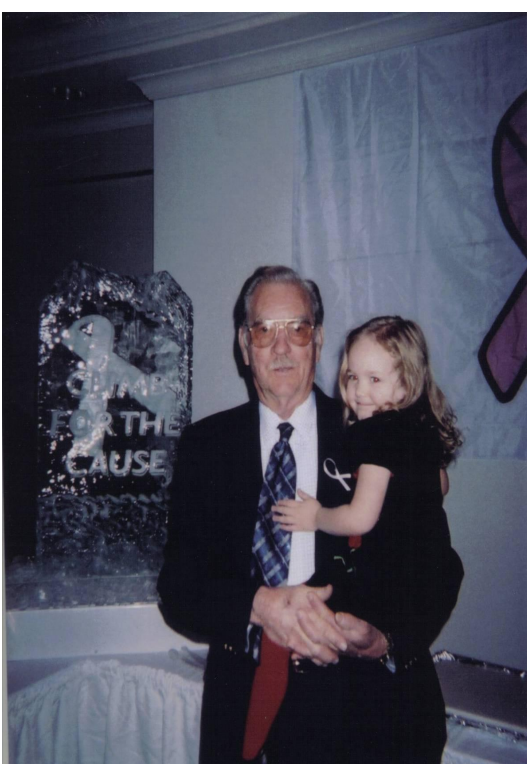
Marilyn gave a very moving speech about how the physical struggle of mountain climbing could be related to the mountain of anguish and struggle associated with the journey we make with breast cancer.

Our evening came to a close with awards being given to Classic On Noble and the McClellan Medical Park family, for their huge contributions to this historic event. Marti Warren gave an honorarium gift to Marilyn, Lenora gave a Gold Coin Award to Madeline and Dr. Dave Roberts gave \$1300 contribution to For the Cause, Inc. Bouquets were given to Mr. Whyte, Rose Tolliver and Kathy Mashburn. In thanks for the beautiful bouquets, a beautiful RAJ pin was given to Geraldine Woodall. Our evening closed with a drawing for outstanding door prizes.

I have looked over the Evaluation Sheets that were placed on each table. (Overall) got an outstanding rating. Negative remarks were: room was too crowded; Bazaar should have started earlier in the afternoon; program was too long, in the future have only a speaker or a movie; To the question about feedback on Host Groups: Steel Magnolias....Strong, capable, loving women who care. For The Cause.....Very worthwhile organization. On Site Volunteers....Very Helpful.

There are glitches to every undertaking. We are well aware of the crowded room, the inconvenience of bathrooms, and the length of the program. We trust that the positives outweighed the negatives. I can assure, everything presented and every person involved, wanted only to offer an evening that would inspire and encourage.

Considering our work, which is giving HOPE and comfort to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, one might ask,



“How did you ladies afford to provide such luxury for these special guests?” If not for the generosity of contributors, especially Classic On Noble, we couldn’t have.

Because of the work done by Honda employees, we were blessed with a large contribution. Combined with contributions from several other businesses, professionals, and individuals, Steel Magnolias had funds designated for the Calhoun County Premiere of *Climb for The Cause, A Breast Cancer Story*. David and Kathy Mashburn asked that Steel Magnolias take money raised and designated for this special event and do something very special for Marilyn and our other Climb For The Cause guests.

We lodged our Women of Kilimanjaro at the Victoria Inn and provided a limousine. We also were able to give Marilyn a generous honorarium and contribute back to For The Cause, Inc., \$1300, the amount of a grant Steel Magnolias received in the Spring of 2004. Our contribution was made so that For The Cause, Inc., can have start-up money to begin the work of taking this victorious movie to groups throughout this nation.

We had hoped for pictures from the premiere, but they will be in the September issue of Steel Magnolias Newsletter. For us, the Cal. Co. premiere, *Climb For the Cause, A Breast Cancer Story*,” closes a chapter! This is a new and exciting chapter for, **For The Cause, Inc.**

This picture of Prentiss holding Olivia at the Jefferson State Community College, 2004 welcome home celebration for The Women of Kilimanjaro, always makes me think of the last verse of the Steel Magnolias’ poem “I’m A Steel Magnolia!” Of course, everyone knows the verse was inspired by Marilyn’s 2003 Kilimanjaro climb.

We cross the oceans, climb mountains, steep,  
Praying for the cure, our daughters to keep  
We are **STEEL MAGNOLIAS!**

### 5th Annual New Beginnings Banquet

As I think back on the spirit of the people gathered in the Mississippi Room, many carrying scars, wounded by rugged paths they had traveled, just to survive their battles with cancer, I have to ask, How is it possible to be diagnosed with cancer and ever find anything worthy of celebration? How do I find the strength to search? I think the second verse of "I'm A Steel Magnolia," answers that question:

God raised me up and dried my tears,  
He filled me with amazing grace  
and calmed my fears  
I'm a Steel Magnolia!

In spite of circumstances, The 5th Annual New Beginnings Banquet will be remembered as a celebration! At 6:00 p.m., on July 2, everyone arrived in a storm. We all rushed into the entrance of Top O The River with, what is known as a Bad Hair Day! In spite of the weather, we had a record crowd.

Following our dinner, the program started with a testimonial from home health nurse, Joyce Barrett. Joyce told about how Steel Magnolias had made a difference in her family. She also told about how she uses the Steel Magnolias Newsletter to lift the spirits of her home bound patients. She said that she makes copies of "Here Goes," and leaves the jokes with her patients. Joyce also told about going to the Steel Magnolias office and getting head coverings for a patient who was in treatment. She said she took the turbans to the chemo lab and placed one on a little lady's head.

It seemed only appropriate that Dixie Reynolds would follow Joyce with her song, "God Walks The Dark Hills." Dixie lost her favorite aunt to breast cancer, and it is in her memory that she has partnered with Steel Magnolias to offer a little luxury to newly diagnosed breast cancer patients by contributing Avon products for Bear Hugger, cosmetic bags. This is the first event where she has shared her beautiful voice. Not only did Dixie sing, she wrote a poem especially for Steel Magnolias, "Here I Am Now."

Steel Magnolias' Chaplain, Ina Rooks offered prayer for newly diagnosed cancer patients, after which Lenora introduced keynote speaker, Chaplain Wilson.

**Fear-Action-Resolve:** At RMC, Chaplain Wilson has been a great advocate for Steel Magnolias, and in the community, he is a great ambassador. Chaplain Jim Wilson was this year's keynote speaker. He did a remarkable job of conveying, to everyone in attendance, the work of Steel Magnolias.

He also told of going to a patient's room, hoping to give a word of encouragement and found a "No Visitors" sign on the door. He said that he put his business card on the sign. Sometime later, the patient called and asked him to visit. Soon after entering her room, he asked, "How are you feeling?" She said, "I'm doing okay." So, he asked again, "How are you really feeling?" To which she replied, "I'm mad, I'm mad at God!, well maybe not mad but upset." To which Chaplain Wilson replied, "It's okay for you to be angry with God, He knows what you are going through and He knows all about your anger, just talk to Him about how you feel."

Chaplain Wilson went on to project to us that there are three steps in a patient's recovery: 1) The patient has to **Get By**; 2) The patient has to **Get Better**; 3) The patient has to **Get Beyond**. Chaplain Wilson said that Steel Magnolias have reached stage three and are equipped, because of our journey through the dark days and dark places that our cancer has compelled us to go, to help other newly diagnosed women. I think we could add step 4) **Celebration!** Even though step 4 is God's plan for his children, not everyone reaches this stage.

Hazel Johnson Rudolph had planned to follow Chaplain Wilson with a "Moment of Levity," but an emergency room trip, the night before, robbed us of Hazel's great humor. Thank God, this delightful Steel Magnolia is now doing well. Chaplain Wilson filled the gap by telling a few jokes from "Here Goes!"

Marti Warren and daughter, Connie Baker, distributed Connie's spoon rests, made from melted wine bottles. Every year, Warren Family Affair, at a special price, provides gifts of honor for women in attendance who are cancer survivors. The spoon rests are beautiful and especially appreciated.

Nancy Burnell distributed Classic on Noble, Sunday Brunch gift certificates to individuals who, in some way contributed to this year's program. Lenora gave Gold Coin awards to four individuals who have made contributions that

have advanced the work of Steel Magnolias: Dixie Reynolds, Toiletries for cosmetic bags to Newly Diagnosed Women. Linda Barton, Outstanding volunteer. Helen Henley: Faithfulness to the ministry of Dining Vouchers and Care Packages. Connie Baker: Volunteer Web-Master.

We drew names for a great selection of door prizes, before Dixie Reynolds read her beautiful and moving poem, "Here I Am Today" and Jean Gidley closed our evening with the Steel Magnolias theme song, "I Hope You Dance!"

### Here I Am Today

The Words pounded in my head like a giant drum;  
This can't happen to me, Only to other people,  
Older people, I'm young.  
It has to be a mistake, I can't have cancer.  
Then my life raced before me;  
My job, My children!  
How am I going to tell my Husband I won't be here  
To watch my Babies grow up?  
How am I going to tell my Mother she is losing a child?

I barely hear the doctor telling me,  
There are Treatments.  
We caught it Early.  
I think you can beat this.  
The chemo was bad!  
I lost my Hair!  
The radiation burned my Skin!  
Would my Life ever be the same?

### HERE I AM TODAY!

Cancer Free because of early treatments  
And my faith in Jesus Christ! I'm HERE!  
Watching my Babies grow up!  
Spending time with my Mother!  
What a valuable lesson I've learned,  
In the words of a Song:  
When you get the chance of sitting it out,  
I HOPE YOU DANCE!!

Dixie Reynolds.....for the 5th Annual New Beginnings Banquet

**Steel Magnolias sincerely thanks Chaplain Wilson for sponsoring the dinner at our New Beginnings Banquet!**  
The New Beginnings Banquet is always scheduled the fourth Tuesday in July. This is our July, Steel Magnolias and Men of Steel Meeting. Because July is the month to celebrate INDEPENDENCE, we thought it only fitting for our CELEBRATION OF LIFE!

<b>July</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	<b>\$5,499.51</b>
July			
01- 100.00	Lenora Johnson-Monthly Expenses	5,499.51	
08- 65.37	Roll of Stamps & Posters for August 14, Climb For The Cause @ McClellan	5,334.14	
09+ 135.00	Individual contributions: Brown 100, Flanders 35	5,469.14	
09- 42.12	Advanced Printing-1000 Business Cards	5,427.02	
14+1,121.79	Honda Road Block	6,548.81	
22- 215.46	Classic On Noble- 5 certificates (Sunday Brunch for Two)	6,333.35	
22- 167.75	Advanced Printing- 1000 Brochures & Services Inserts	6,165.60	

22-172.83	Top O The River-Remaining Balance of New Beginnings Banquet	5,992.77
22-105.00	Connie Baker-For 21 gifts given to cancer survivors @ New Beginnings Banquet	5,887.77

<b>August</b>	<b>Financial Report</b>	<b>Balance Brought Forward</b>	<b>\$5,887.77</b>
01-100.00	Lenora Johnson- Monthly Expenses		5,787.77
05-105.36	Lenora Johnson-Yearly P.O. Box Rent 70.00 Engraving on Jewelry Box 14.00 Office Max 21.36		5,682.41
05- 10.00	Connie Baker-Additional gift for New beginnings Banquet		5,672.41

### **Lenora Speaks to Noon Rotary**

Derek Brown, Vice President of the Noon Rotary that meets every Tuesday at Anniston Country Club, asked that I come and speak to his club about my journey with breast cancer and the work of Steel Magnolias. Prentiss was invited to be Derek's guest and we arrived at about 11:30, so that we could have time to place information packets at each person's place.

After the luncheon and the Rotary members finished with their business meeting, I was introduced by Derek. He told the club where I was raised, when my family moved to Alabama and where Prentiss and I call home. He also told the group about my 1999 cancer diagnosis and the way the cruel disease robs a woman of her sense of womanhood and beauty. He went on to relate how my fight to overcome the wounds left by breast cancer, led to the founding of Steel Magnolias. He gave a short synopsis of the work of Steel Magnolias. Derek is a most gracious young man and I am deeply grateful that he gave me the opportunity to speak on behalf of Steel Magnolias and to raise awareness of the suffering breast cancer forces into a woman's life.

### **Rotary Speech**

**Tuesday, August 5, 2008**

I would like to begin my talk with statistics, taken from "The Breast Cancer Site." Each year over 200,000 new cases of breast cancer are diagnosed. Over 40,000 will die from the disease. For every 100 women diagnosed with breast cancer, 1 male will develop the disease. Yearly, approximately 1,700 men develop breast cancer and yearly 450 men die from the disease.

Breast Cancer is the most common malignancy in women and the second cause of death (Exceeded by lung cancer in 1985.) Breast cancer is diagnosed 3 times more often than all gynecologic malignancies put together. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women 40-55 years of age. According to the Breast Cancer Site, 70% of breast cancer is found by self breast exam. (There is some disagreement among researchers about the importance of self breast exam.) When found early, the 5 year survival rate is 96%. A woman should not panic when she finds a lump, most lumps are not cancer but when a lump is found, a woman should call her doctor for an appointment. The window of opportunity to beat breast cancer is when the cancer is stopped in breast tissue.

Once breast cancer has spread to organs beyond the breasts, the cancer has to be treated as a chronic disease, and with the exception of very few women who can get bone marrow transplant, and who react positively to the transplant, a woman must continue taking chemotherapy treatments as long as her body will tolerate the drugs.

Dr. Fussell told Steel Magnolias that breast cancer is the most complicated, common disease found in women. Genetic testing has unlocked many mysteries associated with effectively treating breast cancer. Thank God, this spring, President Bush signed into law, Bill H.R.493, making it illegal for an insurance company or an employer to discriminate against an individual based on DNA testing results.

In 1960, the incidence of breast cancer was 1 in 20. Now it is almost 1 in 7!

### **My Diagnosis**

In September, 1999, I went for my routine mammogram. I had never felt better or been happier. I was having the time of my life, landscaping our Neely Henry Lake property. My OBGYN called and told me there was a problem with my mammogram and I should see a surgeon. He stressed, "Do not wait until next week!" I met with Dr. Wes Smith, who told me there was branching from previously diagnosed, fibrocystic lumps. A biopsy revealed a

malignant tumor. When I was told my diagnosis, by another surgeon in the group, as I stood alone in my kitchen, I felt as though the floor dissolved from under my feet. I was sure I was hearing my death sentence. Every woman diagnosed with breast cancer has essentially the same reaction. While in that fog, I was expected to make decisions. I thought of the three years since my last mammogram and really did take a chill! Thank God, even though my cancer cell was a most serious diagnosis, and there was not a clear margin, my cancer was caught early, before it spread to lymph nodes and other organs.

The first thought a woman has immediately after diagnosis is, “Am I going to survive this? Will I be around to finish raising my children, will I see them graduate, get married, will I be around to see the faces of my grandchildren?” Then she begins to think of what this is going to mean in the way her body changes. “How will my husband react to these changes? Will he still find me attractive?” Breast cancer is a thief!

Kimberly Harris, mother of 4 children and a nurse at UAB, at the age of 23 was diagnosed with breast cancer and at the age of 29 lost her battle with the disease. In a poem she wrote, early in her fight, she expressed these thoughts well: Here are the first three verses: **“I Wear A Pink Ribbon.”**

A silent killer with no face,  
A thief within the night.  
A constant battle for my life,  
A bitter, evil fight.

To survive, I had to sacrifice  
My breasts and even my hair.  
It showed no pity as it snatched  
These things without a care.

The scars remind me of the day  
It knocked at my soul's door.  
It tried to rob me of my strength,  
It left me on the floor.

Kimberly R. Harris  
1973-2002

Because of mistakes I made, and because I voiced out loud, “God, there really should be more for women going through what I am going through!” I believe God arranged for certain individuals to steer me in the direction I needed to go in order to make Steel Magnolias a reality.

The first seeds were planted, the middle of October, 2000, in Joy Christian Book Store. As I was paying for coffee table books, I was buying instead of Christmas cards, for each of my three sons, I met Bruce Wilkinson, author of, *The Prayer of Jabez*. Angie told Dr. Wilkinson about my cancer and my upcoming surgery at UAB. Dr. Wilkinson gave me a copy of his book and said, “I think this will help you.” After reading the book, I felt sure God meant for me to do something with the terrible experiences of the past year, and the uncertain days to come. The final and decisive move was made by retired Dr. John Edwards’ wife, Liz Edwards, when she slapped Chaplain Wilson’s phone number, in my hand and said, “Call him!”

I did call Chaplain Wilson and Steel Magnolias held our first meeting, the fourth Tuesday, of August, 2001, in Suite 904, of RMC Professional Plaza. In attendance were five survivors, Chaplain Wilson and my husband, Prentiss.

Steel Magnolias’ foundation is the Prayer of Jabez: Chronicles 4:30. “Oh! That, You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory. That Your hand would be with me and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain.” We are careful to never do anything that would add to a patient’s distress. God has indeed enlarged our territory.

Steel Magnolias main focus is the woman who is frozen like a deer in the headlights. Her existence depends on decisions she makes about the diagnosis she is given. Until a cure is found, Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. is dedicated to providing services, support and HOPE to the local woman diagnosed with this terrible disease. She is certainly where the rubber meets the road. The earlier we can learn about a woman’s diagnosis, the more we are able to help her. Many items in the Steel Magnolias and the Tuesday Bear Hugger packages are intended to aid a patient soon after diagnosis.

Time will not allow me to tell the Steel Magnolias story or the joy I've received watching shattered women who were locked in a breast cancer imposed cocoon, emerge after months of surgeries and treatments, like a butterfly, filled with joy and a sense of purpose.

**Current Crusades and Community Outreach:** Letter writing campaign to close the loophole in the Medicaid Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment Act and Awareness Program for 7-12 grade girls to begin in October. There is much information about Steel Magnolias Services on our website: <[www.steelmagnoliasinc.org](http://www.steelmagnoliasinc.org)>

**(NOTE)** The Rotary speech required me to open wounds, I thought had long since healed. After stepping away from the podium, I was surprised by emotions, still powerful and raw.

### **Correspondence**

God always guides us to the right people at the right time. We thank Him for guiding us to you. Thank you for inviting us to your annual celebration. God bless all of you, and the work you do. We love you all.

Connie & Paul....Oxford, AL

Mrs. Lenora,

Thank you for Linda's and my awards. We love them. Here is a check for the pillow. Thank you so much and may God bless you all. Peggy and Linda....Oxford, AL

Dear Lenora and Prentiss,

Thomas and I enjoyed the Steel Magnolias banquet last Tuesday and we are still enjoying it! Thank you for including us and for making us feel very welcome. We are enjoying the plant and the wine bottle tray, and will think of you when we see them. Thanks for a lovely evening!! Fondly, Sylvia and Tom.....Jacksonville, AL

To Steel Magnolias,

Thanks so much for the gifts and well wishes. I greatly appreciate. My recovery is going well.

Teresa .....Fontana, CA

Hi Lenora,

I must tell you that I read every newsletter from the Steel Magnolias and was honored to see your plug for Longleaf Style magazine. It is such a joy and honor to have been involved in the magazine from its beginning and more of an honor that people actually love it. When I discovered a lump in my breast last year, which prompted me to learn that I have fibrocystic breast disease, it was a breast cancer survivor, Tammy —, that educated me to become my own advocate. I am so proud of all of the work Steel Magnolias are doing in our community!

Blessings, Theresa Shadrix, Longleaf Style Managing Editor (printed by permission)

Dear Lenora,

We thoroughly enjoyed the evening last night. I know you must have crashed with exhaustion when you finally did get home. It was very well attended and nicely done (as always—nothing but CLASS) Thanks again for including us. We are looking forward to the movie. See you soon, Faye....Alexandria, AL

Lenora,

Even though I was just visiting the Rotary Club, I wanted to thank you again for your presentation. You did a fantastic job, and I am sure you touched many hearts (including mine)! When you told me that Steel Magnolias was inspired, in part by Dr. Wilkinson's book, Prayer of Jabez, I had to laugh a little to myself. My wife and I are very familiar with that book and prayer, and it has touched our lives in a very profound way. We are in the beginning stages of adopting a child from Ethiopia, because we have been led to, beginning with that prayer. God is Good indeed! wish you and your staff the best of luck as you continue to provide hope and support for survivors and their families. If I can ever be of service to you, please let me know.

Best Regards, Phillip.....Oxford, AL

### **Mark Your Calendars**

**Tuesday, August 26, 2008: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meetings, 5:00 p.m.**

**Magnolias meet in the Galley, Men meet in the Nook Special Guest: Dr. Ashley Stewart**

**Please bring either sandwiches, salad, fruit or light dessert**

**Tuesday, September 23: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meet. Election of officers for 2009**



## **Here Goes**

### **A Bunny Story**

Once upon a time there was a man who was peacefully driving down a windy road. Suddenly, a bunny skipped across the road and the man couldn't stop. He hit the bunny head on. The man quickly jumped out of his car to check the scene. There, lying lifeless in the middle of the road, was the Easter bunny. The man cried out, "Oh no! I have committed a terrible crime! I have run over the Easter Bunny!" The man started sobbing quite hard and then he heard another car approaching. It was a woman in a red convertible. The woman stopped and asked what the problem was. The man explained, "I have done something horribly sad. I have run over the Easter Bunny. Now there will be no one to deliver eggs on Easter, and it's all my fault." The woman ran back to her car. A moment later, she came back carrying a spray bottle. She ran over to the motionless bunny and sprayed it. The bunny immediately sprang up, ran into the woods, stopped, and waved back at the man and woman. Then it ran another 10 feet, stopped and waved again. It did this over and over and over again until the man and woman could no longer see the bunny. Once out of sight, the man exclaimed, "What is that in that bottle?" The woman replied, "It's harespray. It revitalizes and adds permanent wave." (Courtesy of Pokey Warren)

### **The Ventriloquist**

A young ventriloquist is touring the clubs and one night he's doing a show in a small town in Arkansas. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual red neck girl jokes. Suddenly, a country girl in the 4th row stands on her chair shouting: "I've heard enough of your stupid jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does where a person live have to do with her worth as a human being? It's guys like you who keeps women like me from being respected at work and in the community, and from reaching our full potential as a person. Because you and your kind continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only red neck women but women in general....and in the name of humor!" The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the girl yells, "You stay out of this Mister! I'm talking to that little jerk on your knee!!" (Courtesy of Gudrun King)

### **Grandma**

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on the pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!" (Courtesy of Gudrun King)

### **School Report**

A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'I' and add es." (Courtesy of Gudrun King)

### **Grandson's Question**

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandma," he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six." (Courtesy of Gudrun King)

### **Always Trust The Farmer**

A department of Highway's employee stopped at a farm and talked with an old farmer. He told the farmer, "I need to inspect your farm for a possible new road." The old farmer said, "OK, but don't go in that field." The Highway's employee said, "I have the authority of the State of Minnesota to go where I want. See this card? I am allowed to go wherever I wish on farm land." So the old farmer went about his chores. Later, he heard screams and saw the Department of Highway's employee running for the fence and close behind was the farmer's prize bull. The bull was madder than a nest of hornets and the bull was gaining on the employee at every step. The old farmer called out, "Show him your card, smarty-pants!!" (Courtesy of Gudrun King)

### **Sins of Omission**

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied, "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?" (Courtesy of Pokey Warren)