

INFLUENCE THE FUTURE

By Mary Wright

When Uncle Pete came to visit, I always knew it was time to have fun. I was allowed to tag along with my Dad and Uncle and allowed to "do the same things" they were doing. I can remember traipsing along behind them as we walked along the edges of huge wheat or alfalfa fields in the Willamette Valley while pheasant hunting. Uncle Pete was generous with his time when it came to my brother and myself. I knew as a child that I wanted to be like him, but I did not know why. I only knew that he was one of those special adults, one of those "grownups" that were really "one of us." As I got older and hit the dreaded teen years, my Aunt Liz, Aunt Anne and Liz's friend, Marie, filled an empty void in my life. They not only were my aunts but my friends. They shared their life experiences, their mistakes, and themselves with a gangly, awkward and often times confused teenager. They made me feel important, loved, wanted, and helped me find goals for my life. Anne had her Masters in History from the University of Notre Dame and she helped cultivate a yearning and a love of the subject. Liz went to Gonzaga and played volleyball for that University. She encouraged me to have that same dream and when I attended college, I not only played, but started for Willamette University for four years. She helped push me every step of the way. Liz and Marie influenced my love of horses. I would drool with envy every time they took their horses out to go riding. Finally, Marie brought over her old pony, Gypsy, for me to ride. I was in heaven and hooked ever since. Marie offered me friendship and taught me a skill that I would eventually rediscover and improve later in my adult years. These wonderful ladies taught me that it was important to have goals and dreams, even if they were different than the ones my parents had for me. They taught me that there was entire world out there ready to be explored and that you needed a good education in order to survive in it. They also taught me that you didn't have to get married and raise children right away in life. It was "ok" to be an individual and have a degree and to discover the many wonders the world has to offer. In case you are curious, two of the three are married and are raising wonderful families.

As an adult, I see that they had qualities that I also wanted to have as an adult. My uncle showed me that it is important to be an individual. "March to the beat of your own drum", was his motto. It wasn't important to

mimic other's opinions and live your life according to how your family or others want you to, but that you live your life according to how you want and to express your own opinions. My aunts showed me that intelligence is a gift from God that should not be wasted. Marie showed me that friendship comes in all shapes, sizes and ages. There are so many things these people taught me as I was growing up. However, the most important one is the role of a mentor. These people were my mentors as a child, a teen and a young adult. The greatest lesson I learned from them is to give of yourself to those who need it. Mentors shape our lives, our children's lives and our community. There are several members of our community that are mentors to our youth or ourselves only we may not realize it. Joyce Hailicka, Gloria Karches, Ken Owens, Cammie Moody, Molly Lawrence, Carol Anderson, Dick and Wendy Earl, Steve Harvey, Blair Anderson, Suzie St. George, Cindy Harrington and Neil Carvalho are just a few of the many that are mentors in this community. A mentor is an individual who is a counselor, an advisor, a friend, a companion and a teacher to another individual. Are you one? Do you want to be a mentor? Offer your friendship to a youth; you never know what kind of difference you can make in their lives. Just think about it!



Happy Birthday Dad (8-7)
Love, Justine

Happy Birthday Beemer
??????????

Happy Birthday Papa
HUGS & KISSES
Kenzee & BJ

Happy 9th Birthday Krystal Paxton
I Love You Very Much... Mom

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Birthday wishes go out to Irene Karches
in Oceanside, Ca.
Have a Happy One?
Love Russ and Gloria

KAITLYN KOCH - Now you're 2.
Grandma Gayle and Papa wish a
Very Happy Birthday to You!

Happy Birthday to a VERY SPECIAL LADY.
Ella Pingle you're the Queen in my book!
Love Ya, Gloria

Happy Birthday Betty McKenna. (8-27)
From your friends around town

Birthday wishes to Johnnie Belle Conley (8/16)
Your friends in Lioness
and Home Extension

Birthday wishes to Ella Pingle (8-3)
From your friends in Lioness
and Home Extension

Happy Birthday Joey K.
Love, Hugs & Kisses
from the Driskell Gals !!!

Happy 14th Birthday Lizz. (Aug. 10)
We Love You!
Mom, Dad, and James

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAPPY !!!
LUV, Sweetie, Jess & Buzzo

Happy Birthday Uncle Deffy,
Love & Hugs...
Caitlynn, Jessica, Carrie & Jim

Happy Birthday to R.C.
From a FAN.

Happy Birthday Alan Buchta !!!
still so young at heart. C.D.