

**DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE?**



This week's photo, which was submitted by Mary Blanks, features the former Roxboro Mills softball squad. The picture was reportedly taken in the early 1960s when the squad was competing in a district tournament and owned a record of 31-7 at the time. The team members, according to Blanks, include, first row, left to right, batboys Ted Blanks and James Yarboro. Second row, left to right, Pete Dunn, Jimmy Bowens, Tom Day, Edward Yarboro and Robert Reaves. Third row, left to right, Billy Clayton, Calvin Clayton, Huel Clayton, Jim Day and Thomas Suitt. Fourth row, left to right, coach Don Phillips, William O'Briant, Garland Blanks, Harold Hatcher, Pete O'Briant and coach Tom Jackson. If you have a photo you would like to submit, you can do so by sending it via e-mail to tchandler@roxboro-courier.com. Photos can also be mailed to The Courier-Times, P.O. Box 311, Roxboro, N.C., 27573 or they can be dropped off at The C-T office at 109 Clayton Ave.

*Happy 30th Anniversary Mom and Dad!*

Love,  
Annie  
and  
Maggie

**Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
**To the Coolest Kid on the Block!!**

**Ryan Reaves**

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# Blessings in bunches – of nieces

I'm writing this column at home, at a bit after 10 on Monday night, after being reminded again just how blessed I am.

It can be confusing for those outside the family to keep up with, but I have nieces who range in age from 48 to eight, and two of my nieces have daughters, giving me grandnieces.

I'm 54, my niece Pam is 48. Pam's sister Rhonda is 45, and has a 10-year-old daughter, Genna. I have another niece, Michelle, who is 28 and has an almost-one-year-old daughter, Olivia. Then there's my baby sister Patsy's girls, McKenzie and Shelby, who are 14 and eight, rounding out my niece and grandniece collection.

Tonight, I've been e-mailing back and forth with Genna for some time. About the book *Hunger Games*, which she just started reading, on the recommendation of McKenzie, who's just read it a second time, after she, her mom and I read it a while back. McKenzie's moved on to the second and third books in Suzanne Collins' brilliant trilogy. Patsy and I loved all three books and have pledged that the two of us, and McKenzie, will go see *Hunger Games* the movie when it comes out in March.

Anyway, Genna and I "talked" via e-mail tonight about the book, and then we talked about Charleston, S.C., a place we both love.

And then Genna asked about my nook, and whether she should save up for a regular nook or a nook color (these are the Barnes and Noble e-readers, by the way). I told Genna I'd definitely go with the color version, if I were her. I got the regular nook for Christmas, with a gift card my generous hubby gave me. But I didn't splurge and use the whole card for the nook col-



**BOAT WRITES**

PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT

or. Instead, I got the regular one, and then bought some books with what was left on the gift card. My bad.

Don't get me wrong, I love my nook, but I think now that I'd rather have the color version.

During our electronic conversation tonight, Genna and I also talked about her upcoming trip to Oak Island, when she and her family will join McKenzie and Shelby and their parents for some beach time.

I remember "toting" Genna's mom around on my hip when I was Genna's age and Rhonda was a baby.

A couple Saturday nights ago, Rhonda called me so we could cry on each other's shoulder about the dogs we lost that week. I had to have my big dog, Puck put down on July 6, and Rhonda's 14-year-old cocker spaniel, Luke, died the next day.

Rhonda and I got off the phone about 10 that night, and as soon as I hung up, the phone rang. Caller ID showed me that it was McKenzie.

So, we then talked about Puck dying; about how her peekapoo Louie was doing; about her upcoming band camp; her friends, the fact that she'll be doing driv-

er's ed soon; the *Hunger Games* books and I don't know what all.

I got off the phone very late that night, and thought how blessed I was to have those two nieces, so far apart in age, but both of whom call me on a regular basis to share whatever it is that's going on in their lives at the moment.

After my e-mail marathon with Genna tonight, I said another prayer of thanks for all these wonderful girls and women that are such a big part of my life.

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