

Stidham Obit. .

(cont'd from page 4)

The Red Tops and cultivating friendships with the band at a time when such friendships were not allowed. He proudly displayed typed letters and memorabilia from them in his room and listened to their music throughout his life.

After graduating, he began a 65-year career in sales, most of which was in the western industry. He was "on the road" for most of that time and was named Salesman of the Year more times than we can count. His son, Dan, followed in his footsteps and will attest that people continue to ask about him and still sing his praises to this day. He was a born salesman and never met a stranger.

His first job out of Mississippi State was in Dallas, Texas, where he met and married his wife, Paula. After marrying, the couple moved back to his hometown of Coffeeville, Mississippi. After the birth of their first daughter, Lee Stacy, the couple moved to Monroe, Louisiana, in 1968. Son, Daniel Martin, and daughter, Sally Katherine, would be born in Monroe.

He took great pride in all his children and grandchildren, and they loved him just as much. He had a very special relationship with each of them, and they will miss him and all his stories terribly. He was lovingly referred to as Daddy or Papa, and these were titles he was prouder of

than anything else. He taught them all how to tell a story, and we can all agree that he never let truthfulness get in the way of a good story. This is a trait we will all miss the most!

The family would like to thank Megan McClanahan for her incredible kindness and love during his life. He cherished their friendship and lovingly called her his "girlfriend". They also want to thank Debbie White for her love and amazing patience in caring for him over the last several years. He looked forward to her visits each week.

Bruce was preceded in death by Lee Paula Stidham (wife), Emmett Earl Stidham (father), and Mary Hope Stidham (mother), Mary Katherine Enloe (sister), Winton Enloe (brother-in-law), Mary Morgan Penland (niece who was more like a sister), and Walter Enloe (nephew who was more like a brother). He is survived by his children, Stacy Anderson (Ronald) of Houston, TX, Dan Stidham (Christy) of Monroe, LA, Sally Allen (Curt) of Monroe, LA; grandchildren Emma and Sarah Grace Carr, Jack and Mary Hope Allen, and Emmett Stidham; his niece, Molly Hicks (Mike) (who was more like a sister) and his nephew, Johnny Enloe (Sandy) (who was more like a brother). He had an incredibly special lifelong friendship with his cousin (who was also like a brother), Jon Lepicier (Kathy).

Oakland . .

(cont'd from page 4)

Monkey Marie Aldy, to be exact.

When his hair returned, it was the color of a lion and he held his head as erect as if he were royalty. He could look at me sometimes with such gratitude and love in his eyes that his soul spoke. This was before I was appreciative of neutering and Monkey had run of the small town where we lived.

Later, we moved to Jackson, renting a house with a large back yard, completely fenced with a cyclone fence. However, there was no gate in the fence, so you had to go through the house to the backyard.

Monkey decided that his theme song was "Don't Fence Me In" and just like a little monkey, he would put those paws into the openings on the chain link and climb over. Most days when I came in from work, he was not there. I would drive the 1978 Ford LTD (bought used from Dynamite Kirk) up and down the streets until I saw Monkey in the rear-view mirror. He would detect the car's engine and follow me home.

After about a month of this, I knew that Monkey was never going to be a city boy, so I called my Daddy (not my first dog to share with him) and he agreed that Monkey could come live at the Oakland farm.

He still loved to wander so over the creek bed and through the woods he went

and found James Williamson. James had a small country store and had been one of my Daddy's political opponents, but

Monkey didn't care because James fed him Alpo OUT OF A CAN...no dried food for Monkey Marie now!

James drove a Lincoln Town Car and Monkey rode on the front seat. Cliff Finch had appointed James to a state board that I worked with, so we often shared Monkey stories. I was happy that Monkey had landed in such luxury. Daddy and James began talking to each other as a result and mended some feelings from the past.

Unknown to James, the woman he married got involved with Larry Hentz and they plotted James' death. According to the story, one day she took most of her clothing and jewelry to Batesville for cleaning. The next morning, she decided to go jogging in Batesville at 5 a.m. Shortly after she left to pursue this new hobby, her husband, Monkey's friend James, was shot dead and the house burned down around him.

I have always been grateful that they let Monkey out of the house before setting it on fire. I don't know why they spared him, but Monkey returned to my parents' farm where he lived out his life.

Let me know if you have news to include. Contact me via email at oaklandreachamber@gmail.com or text or leave a message at 601-853-3942.



Free Pickleball Classes By Famous Coaches



Carol Ross

The Oakland area has a unique opportunity to learn pickleball! Free sessions are available on Sunday, April 12 from 3-5 p.m. at the Oakland Pickleball Court on Walnut Street, next to the Senior Citizens Center.

Whether you just want to understand how the game is played or want to learn how to play, we have arranged for two of the most famous coaches in women's basketball history to bring pickleball to Oakland! Bring a chair for the sidelines and any equipment you have. We have a few extra paddles available as well.

Oakland native Coach Carol Ross is in both the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and the University of Mississippi Hall of Fame. Coaching at numerous SEC programs, she is still the winningest coach in University of Florida history. She has been



Gail Goestenkers

named SEC Coach of the Year numerous times. Later, she was named WNBA Coach of the Year as head coach for the LA Sparks. Internationally, she served as an assistant coach for USA Basketball, helping Team USA win a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics. Known for her energy, player development, and deep ties to Mississippi basketball, Ross has remained an influential figure in the game across multiple levels.

Coach Gail Goestenkers, a National Hall of Fame player and coach, led Duke basketball to four Final Four appearances earning multiple National Coach of the Year honors. She later served as head coach at University of Texas women's basketball and as an assistant coach in the WNBA for the LA Sparks and Indiana Fever. She served as an assistant coach for USA Basketball and helping Team USA win a gold medal at the 2004 Athens Olympics. Known for her leadership, discipline, and commitment to student-athlete development, she remains an important voice in the sport.

Both coaches have developed a love of pickleball and have played on courts across the country. They know the game and they know how to coach, so come on out and take advantage of this really unique opportunity!



OAKLAND'S YALO-RIBBON FESTIVAL

FEATURES LIVE MUSIC

May 2nd Event at Swarengen Park in Oakland



Cameron Davis

Oakland's 5th annual Yalo-Ribbon Festival is relocating to a larger space at Swarengen Walking Track and Park to accommodate larger crowds and more green space. The Festival is set for Saturday, May 2 and runs from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

In addition to live music provided by Stayin Alive, a 50's+ group singing hits from the 60's and 70's and headliner Danica Hart, DJ Bob Murphree will keep the crowd entertained during the festival. The Oakland Cake

Walk returns at 2:30 p.m. and. Live music starts at 4 p.m. and is sponsored by the Ed and Becky Meek Foundation. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on. No coolers.

A special attraction this year is the appearance of Miss University of Mississippi Cameron Davis at 3:15 p.m. Cameron Davis is a junior at the University of Mississippi, where she is pursuing a degree in Psychology with plans to earn her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and one day serve

children and their families in a hospital setting.

She is proud to be the 77th Miss University, an Ole Miss Rebelette, and has been recognized as a 2025 Ole Miss Junior Homecoming Maid, Ole Miss Women's Council Scholar, Provost Scholar, and Honor Roll student. Cameronn is also the recipient of the E. Lynn Harris All-SEC Spirit Award and was honored to serve as 2022 Miss Mississippi's Outstanding Teen, where she also represented the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service as Teen Spokesperson. Through her service initiative, The Sensory Shift, she is passionate about fostering greater inclusion and understanding for individuals with sensory differences. She will have a special message for the young people in the audience and spend time with them after her appearance.

Throughout the afternoon there will be food trucks, a kids zone, vendors and exhibitors. All forms for registration are on the Chamber website at www.oaklandreachamber.com.

For more information, contact us at OaklandAreaChamber@gmail.com or on Facebook at [Oakland Area Chamber](https://www.facebook.com/OaklandAreaChamber) or at 662-852-1110.

