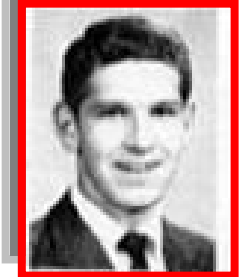




1952

CHS BIO

Carl Washburn - SPY



1955

It all started on the North Side at John Burroughs Elementary. Still remember most of my teachers. Also remember walking right by **Nancy Steffens** and **Diane Martin's** houses on the way to school. Nancy was my first love. Doubt that I had the courage to kiss her; probably just held hands in the Pine Street Theater. During lunch hour one time, Diane tried to buck the line right in front of me. When I objected, she slapped me in the face. Albeit the gentleman I was, I whomped her back. That's no excuse for striking a lady...forgive me, Diane. Ah, the Burroughs crowd – **Freddy's Benford and Boyd, Linda Wolfe, Charlie Moore, Jean Landreth (deceased), Butch Jones, Billy Harrison, Nancy, Diane, Janice Hogan, Sheila Allen (first actual kiss, I think, on the back of the neck), Rosemary Lassater, Don Burnet, Harold Campbell, Linda Oxley, Janie Whitefield, et. al.**

Roosevelt Jr. High went by in a flash. Sang "Bushel and a Peck" in the 8th grade talent show. Square danced on Wednesday nights and also took ballroom dancing lessons as well. Played the sousaphone in the band under Duke Loucks. **Charlie Moore** was second chair cornet behind **Julia Brand** and that still sticks in his craw. Everyone used to throw gum wrappers down the bell or my horn. Decided then on an athletic career because the sousaphone was too darn heavy to haul around in the high school band.

And on to CHS. Got heavy into baseball and basketball. No great shakes at basketball, but played with **Ray Gross** and **Bud Hamilton**. Ray went on to become a star at TU. Baseball was my first love. CHS managed to win the state championship in our junior year, as **Dean Davis** mentions in his bio. My senior year was absolutely wonderful, hangin' out on the 3rd floor, playing baseball with **Dean** and **Don Davis & Chop Hamilton**. In our sophomore year, I met a beautiful young lady in my Latin class and dated her off and on throughout high school and beyond. She ended up being the Oklahoma women's golf champ and went on to play pro golf upon graduation from college. Guess who – **Betsy Cullen**.

Ended up playing in the Oklahoma all-state game as an alternate to **Dean Davis** who either had already signed pro or couldn't make it. Got three or four small pro offers, but wanted to go to college. One of the pro scouts managed to get me a full ride to SMU in Dallas. Made all-conference there as a sophomore, but, alas, couldn't handle the rigors of college courses while living in a jock dorm in Dallas at 18 yrs old. Lost my scholarship, went to play pro ball in Canada. Scouts signed my brother instead of me and I decided to terminate my baseball career in 1958 and enlisted in the United States Air Force after marrying **Mary Lea Patterson**.

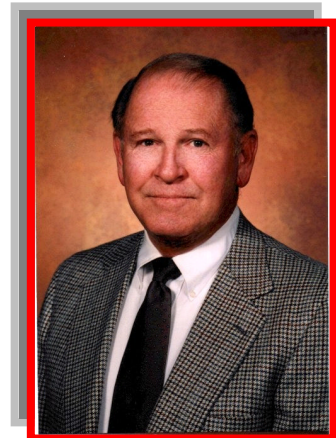
Became a Russian linguist in the USAF's Intelligence Command as an NCO, and then was commissioned as an officer during the Vietnam era after graduating from Syracuse University. Married an Irish lass, Carole Gorman, from Connecticut in 1969, and picked up an MBA at the University of Texas. By that time, I had completed two overseas tours, one in Bin Laden country followed by one in Turkey. Following those two tours, we spent tours in Hawaii, Okinawa, Japan, Alaska, and finally Germany. Had the pleasure of commanding two different squadrons in the Electronic Security Command (same intelligence business). Retired as a lieutenant colonel with over 27 years in the USAF. I'll still have to salute **Gen. Wheeler** and **Col Ray Gross** at the reunion.

In addition to two children from my first marriage, Carole and I had three more plus a total of eight grandchildren. The two boys are Aggies, my daughter is a UT grad. If you know much about Texas schools, you know that they are mortal enemies. One of the sons is a Chief in the Navy; the other is a captain in the USAF. Jennifer is married to a brand new pediatrician doc. They have all produced beautiful children.

Following retirement from the USAF, I worked for about 5 yrs as a government contractor with TRW as a Program Manager in California. Although the wines are great, lifestyles out there were a too liberal for this ole Okie, so we returned to San Antonio where we have a lot of friends, military bases, medical facilities, etc. If you've been trackin' me through this bio, I getting kind of old by now, right? So...I defaulted into real estate when I was 55...from 1993 till now.

The great news is I have just really retired and have moved to a Del Webb retirement community at Sun City, Texas, near Georgetown which is north of Austin. Gonna buy a golf cart, play some golf, go fishin' and smell the roses. Hopin' to get a couple free golf lessons from Betsy at the reunion (Me too – FB).

Bottom line is I have really been blessed so far. Great neighborhood growin' up, great secondary schools and the best high school anyone could want. Very rewarding military career, great spouse, kids and grandkids, and, knock on wood, good health. And this upcoming reunion has got to be one of the highlights in my life. Get to see my old buddies, girlfriends and home town. Don't get no better'n that.



Left: **Betsy Cullen**, Carl's CHS sweetheart
Right: Carl – 1991 with more hair than now

[Go back to Tom Tom page](#)