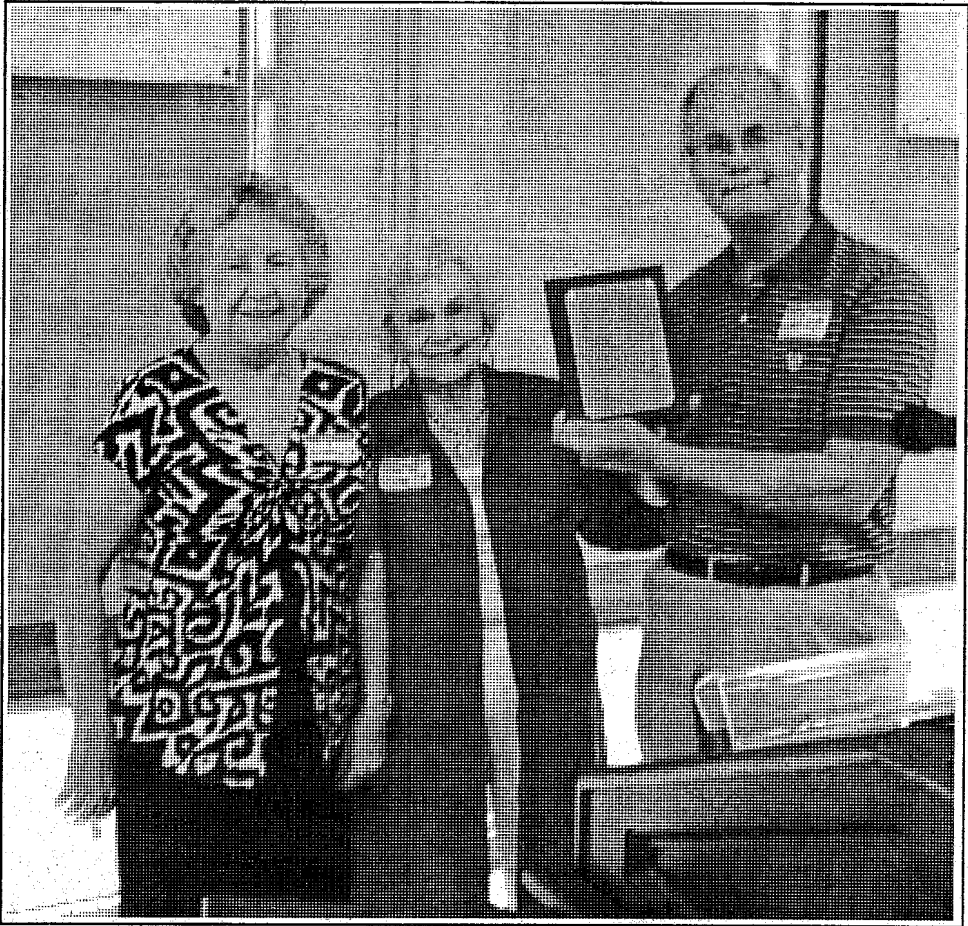


Folks Who Shine



"ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR" — The Old Glenville High School Alumni Association bestowed the "Alumnus of the Year" award on John Gainer, a resident of Hurricane and past GHS president. In announcing the award, Mary Lee McPherson (left) and Margaret Miller Goodwin (center) praised his many hours of volunteer service to the organization, notably in establishing the school's website. *(Staff photos by Dave Corcoran)*

John Gainer named GHS 2010 'Alumnus of Year'

*By David H. Corcoran, Sr.,
Publisher-Editor*

Although the night belonged to John Gainer, who was named the "Alumnus of the Year," Dick Barrett, of Glenville, stole the show at the 2010 Old Glenville High School Alumni Association's Annual Recognition Banquet in the Mollohan Center last Saturday evening. After the meal and ceremony had been

completed, Mr. Barrett, a 1950 graduate and Glenville resident, boldly stood up and asked permission to speak to the nostalgic and happy group of about 300 alumni and friends. Somewhat nervously, he asserted, "I've been practicing this speech for the last three weeks, and I want you all to know that the only physical part of the Old Glenville High School still left

Continued on page 4A

John Gainer named 2010 'Alumnus of Year' cont'd ...

Continued from page 1A

is right below us. It's the steps that now come up from Church Street to the Mollohan Center."

Continuing, he pleaded, "Please, Dr. (Peter) Barr (President) and Glenville State, don't tear those steps down. It's part of our history. Just go over to the window before you leave, and look down, for you can see them. They're still there."

Margaret Miller Goodwin, then, rose to relate, "My father, when he was working for the W.P.A. (a New Deal public works project), helped to build those concrete steps." Hence, they date back to the late 1930s. Ironically, the construction work on the new residence hall, a building that is being named in honor of Margaret Goodwin and her husband, Bill, is now encroaching upon the historic GHS steps.

Mr. Barrett wants to see them restored and preserved, and a plaque in honor of the Old Glenville High School installed next to them for the benefit of future generations. His mentioning of the steps brought back many nostalgic memories to the alumni, who had used them daily.

"Alumnus of Year"

John Gainer, a GHS graduate in the last class of 1968, after which the school was consolidated into the present Gilmer County High School, was named "Alumnus of the Year for 2010."

Now a resident of Hurricane, he was born and raised in Glenville, the son of the late Frank and Della Gainer.

Upon being introduced by Committee members, Margaret Goodwin and Mary Lee McPherson, at the end of the evening's annual GHS Recognition Banquet, he related that the

award was a complete surprise to him. "I appreciate this award very much," he stressed.

In an exclusive interview with this newspaper later, he thanked the Alumni Association for bestowing the great honor on him. "Since leaving Glenville, I've traveled all around the world, and have observed my peers, but I couldn't find anyone who received a better basic education than I did here at GHS," he pointed out. He quickly explained, "We were lucky to have such good school teachers, for many of them were the spouses of Glenville State College's faculty."

After high school, he started college at Glenville State, but then entered the law enforcement profession, which had been his life's goal. Later in life, he finished his college degree at West Virginia State College.

Mr. Gainer made his mark in life in law enforcement, serving seven years in the West Virginia State Police and, then, 24 years as a U.S. Marshall. In 1985, he was assigned to the U.S. Marshall's Office in Charleston, where he worked until his retirement in 2007. During his career as a U.S. Marshall, he helped to find and apprehend several criminals who were on the F.B.I.'s "Most Wanted" list.

Right now, he's enjoying his retirement, but picked up the new volunteer job of being the GHS Alumni Association's Secretary-Treasurer, in addition to being the group's webmaster. He's looking forward to working closely with new President David Hall and V-P Rodney Jamison.

The Alumni Association also met the night before — Fri., June 25 — at the Senior Center to socialize, and the Golden Anniversary Class of 1960 had their jubilee dinner at GCHS on Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.