

## **John Shahan      Berry Academy Class of 64' Berry College Class of 69'**

I attended Mount Berry School for Boys from 1960-64 to have male role models in my life. There is no doubt that Berry played the major role in shaping me into the individual that I am today. As a high school student, I gained an emotional attachment and love for Berry.



After completing high school, I attended Berry College and received a B.S. degree in Industrial Education in 1969. Upon graduating, I accepted a job teaching Industrial Arts, coaching baseball, coaching junior varsity basketball, and being a dormitory supervisor at Berry Academy. In addition, I began going to Middle Tennessee State University during my summer breaks and I received my M.A.T degree in 1971. I spent eight additional years teaching and coaching at Berry Academy (seventeen years with Berry as a student and teacher).



Since leaving Berry in 1978, I have owned and operated John Shahan Construction Company in Rome, Georgia. My education has helped me solve problems that arise each and every day in life and work. I am an individual that organizes tasks to be accomplished in the construction related field of work. Berry taught me to be a worker that values work well done no matter what the task at hand might be.

As a general contractor, I have completed many projects in the Rome area: another levee on the Coosa River with a flood control station, East Rome Fire Station, auto dealership, education buildings, metal warehouses, housing project renovations, etc. Currently, I do design/build for individuals needing large custom homes as well as renovations and repairs. I have the knowledge to know how long it takes to assemble various phases of buildings and how to piece the individual parts together in a timely manner.

Raymond Bowen's drafting class was the beginning of my learning to interpret blueprints and build from them. Jerry Shelton's desire to succeed and excel in sports has propelled me for thirty years in the construction industry. Life has been just like any sport – you have to work hard and compete to be a winner in life and work. Mable Thompson's geometry class has been very valuable in determining material quantities and solving other math related problems. Torris Geraldson's Bible class taught me that I have a soul and spirit that must be nourished each and every day. What's in our heart is the most important part of who we are and we should share our talents and financial gains with others less fortunate than ourselves. Milton Chambers taught me how to read a financial statement while attending college which is necessary to be in business. There are others

that left a mark on my life while attending Berry. Truly, I gained an education of the head, heart, and soul, as well as an appreciation of worthwhile work done well.

My fondest memories of Berry would be working at the dairy with lifelong friends Ron Senger and Ted Dean. In addition, the athletic events produced some great individual and team efforts and achievements to always be remembered and cherished.

My civic and community involvement has included past president of both the Rome Home Builder's Association and the Metro Rome Kiwanis Club. I've enjoyed hunting and have taken trips to the western United States to enjoy outdoor adventures and survival of the wilderness.

In addition, every building project large or small is a challenge to complete and satisfy the owner. I still get excited when someone calls about potential work. My most rewarding accomplishment in construction has been being able to make payroll every Friday morning as well as meeting all my financial obligations while placing my faith in God.

In summary, I can say that I have had a purpose in life and not a job that has been rewarding by following the standards set by others from school. Influenced by Berry teachers and coaches, I always had a "can do" attitude of commitment and perseverance. No one has to motivate or challenge me to begin each day. I continue to use my God-given abilities with confidence, enthusiasm, and passion to serve the Master Architect of the World. Hopefully, I can continue to make a difference by what I hand-down and leave for others to enjoy in their lives.