

Former Van Vleck student writes 1st book

By John Hoffman
Special to the Sentinel

Jim Ed Hardaway, a former resident of Matagorda County and a past student at Van Vleck, is the proud author of his first book, *It Was That Dang Red-Headed Preacher's Kid – Episodes from My Whimsical Childhood*.

The book contains 25 entertaining chapters of memoirs from Hardaway's childhood.

The book spans Jim Ed's grade school through early high school years, and includes hilarious tales of growing up a preacher's son in Matagorda County during the 80s.

Jim Ed's father, Pastor Jim Hardaway, pastored a few churches in the area, including First Baptist Church of Van Vleck, Cedar Lane Baptist Church and Harvest Time Church.

The memoirs focus on his time spent living in the area and his adventures while attending Van Vleck.

From the hysterical *Valley Girl Talk and Sunday School Prostitutes*, to the heart-warming *The Preacher*, to the quirky *Beetle Mischief*, to the highly motivating *Born To Rerun*, the book is a mixtape of laughs, inspiration, and nostalgia.

We had a chance to visit with Hardaway about his first book....

What gave you the idea to write a book?

I love to write, tell stories, and make people smile. Having a great memory of some funny and inspirational stories



from my childhood, it was only natural for me—as a creative vent—to put them on paper for others to enjoy. The stories were too entertaining not to tell.

Tell us a little about growing up. Where, when, etc (where you lived, when you went to Van Vleck, when you graduated)

As it begins in the prelude of the book: "My childhood was whimsical... " I grew up in several small towns in the South Texas area, but most of my childhood years were spent in Matagorda County.

Bay City and Van Vleck are two of the most prominent story settings in the book.

The latter was the most memorable. I went to Van Vleck schools from kindergarten through second grade, all my junior-high years sixth through eighth, and my freshman year in high-school.

I graduated in 1989.
How long did it take you to write the book? How did the process go in getting it published?

I began writing the episodes, in random order, starting in March 2009 with

the waggish kindergarten story *The Pledge of Allegiance Dare Master*.

During that time I was having a few meetings with a writing coach who inspired me as a story-teller, giving some fuel to the myriad of thoughts that were already stirring around inside my head for multiple book ideas.

When it came time to put *Dang Preacher's Kid* together in 2015, I already had completed about 18 of the 25 episodes.

I started handing off chapters to my editor a few at a time, while I got busy writing the rest of the book. There were a couple of other trusted friends I got involved regarding the marketing blurb, design, etc.

It was a dream come true, and kind of surreal, holding the first print copy of the book in my hands, smelling the paper, and flipping through the pages.

Tell us a little about some of the stories in the book (old friends, school, church?)

It Was That Dang Red-Headed Preacher's Kid • Episodes from My Whimsical Childhood is a collection of memoirs from my childhood—twenty-five entertaining chapters about growing up as a preacher's kid in the peculiar culture that is South Texas.

What could be funnier than the stories of preacher's kid navigating the volatile waters of life, while learning to walk the "narrow way?"

Especially when it started with his parents dressing him up in a devil costume on Halloween when he was just 3-

years-old! Yes, that's me in said costume on the cover.

The book is packed full of comical adventures with friends and engaging experiences at church and school.

It spans my grade school through early high school years, and is a cleverly written string of essays that takes the reader on an addicting page-flipping adventure through the never-disappointing 70s and 80s.

What age group does this book relate to?

There's something in the book for all ages. The book is a comical tale of mischief and misdemeanors—packed full of curiosity, pop culture, tribute, and surprises.

From the hysterical *Valley Girl Talk and Sunday School Prostitutes*, to the heart-warming *The Preacher*, to the quirky *Beetle Mischief*, to the highly motivating *Born To Rerun*, the book is a mixtape of laughs, inspiration, and nostalgia. It's my hope that readers rediscover their own childhood adventures and are inspired to imagine again.

What are your future plans for promoting the book?

I am doing some "Born To Rerun" (inspired by the final chapter of the book) speaking dates starting this summer and headed to the Bay City area in July to promote the book as well.

I am looking forward to conversations about the book and seeing old friends I haven't seen in a while. Here is a list of upcoming events:

Sunday, July 3, 2016, 10:00 AM /

Livingway Church / Dallas, Texas / Sunday Service

Sunday, July 10, 2016, 10:30 AM / Harvest Time Church / Bay City, Texas / Sunday Service

Friday, July 15, 2016, 12:00 PM / Lions Club Luncheon / Bay City, Texas / Book Promo

Saturday, July 16, 2016, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM / The Frozen Swirl / Bay City, Texas / Book Signing

Saturday, July 16, 2016, 7:00 PM / Gulf Coast Christian Center / West Columbia, Texas / Youth Rally

Sunday, July 17, 2016, 10:30 AM / Turning Point Church / Bay City, Texas / Sunday Service

(*event times are subject to change so please check website: <http://www.jimhardaway.com/speaker.html>)

Are there any other books in your future?

Again, I love to write so I definitely hope *It Was That Dang Red-Headed Preacher's Kid* is the first of many books. I currently have two other manuscripts in the works—an action-adventure novel and a non-fiction inspirational piece. I'd love to maybe do some children's books as well, incorporating some of my art. Right now, I am completely focused on getting *Dang Preacher's Kid* into the hands of as many people as we can... I say "we" because I am counting on readers—friends and family—to get a copy and spread the word (www.DangPreachersKid.com)!



BCJH hosted a Universal Cheer Association (UCA) Cheer Camp at BCJH June 6-8, where the group was named Camp Champions. They also received a Superior Rating for their Extreme Routine. Individual awards included: Jump Princess, Alayna; Golden Star Award, Shatyra; Demo Divas - Shatyra, Haley, Chasity and Alayna. Named to the UCA All American Squad were: Shatyra, Haley, Makayla, Alayna and Isabella. The team sponsors are Jennifer Jones and Christina MacDonald.

Reliable Finance
3313 Avenue F
Bay City, TX 77414
www.nobiefinance.net

WE WANT TO MAKE YOU A LOAN
Loans From \$40 - \$1,340

- NO CHECKING ACCOUNT NEEDED
- QUICK & EASY
- CALL TODAY!

Call Now!
979-245-1428

Under NEW Management!

Full Stringer Realty
Matagorda Office ~ 979-863-1143

10 CR 257/\$359K – 4/2 on the river in Riverbend Villas subdivision. Well maintained! 4565 FM 2031/\$249K – 3/1 located on the Colorado River. Very nicely done interior. Recently painted with fishing pier.

1994 FM 2031/\$449,900 – Absolutely beautiful 3/3 custom home built on the River! Views galore!

203 CR 243 Selkirk Rd/\$99,900 – Cute 3/2 home in Selkirk Subdivision with waterview! Access to boat ramp.

Bay City Office ~ 979-244-4663

2500 Avenue E/\$155K – Lovely 3/2 home well maintained. Bonus guest house or rental unit on 5 lots included.

1301 7th Street/\$199,500 – Retail building on busy 7th street with living space. Beautifully done! Covered area & outside storage.

2112 Sago/\$139,900 – Cute 3/2 brick home in Palm Village Subdivision. Beautifully landscaped w/lrg storage building.

440 This Way/\$299,500 – Beautiful 4/3.5 home on 1.2 acres. Move in ready! Lrg garage and separate detached workshop/garage building.

2315 Avenue L/\$269K- 3/3.5 home updated throughout and completely move in ready. Beautifully landscaped.

Sargent Office ~ 979-323-9030

818 CR 230/\$329K – Very nice maintained 3/2 bth on the ICW. Fully furnished & move in ready!

924 CR 209 Gulfview/\$269,900 – Very 2/1 home on 2 two fenced lots. Party deck, bulkhead & pier.

93 Live Oak Bend/\$241K – Furnished home on 2 Caney Creek lots. Bulkhead, pier & boat lift.

1588 Seagull/\$224,500 – Nice remodeled 2/1.5 home on Caney Creek. Cargo elevator, bulkhead, deck & pier.

website: www.fullstringerrealty.com

Bay City Parks and Recreation

Youth Swimming Lessons

Next Session Begins June 21st Sign Up Today

\$50.00 Session | Ages 2 +

Registration:	When:	Where:
You can register your child at 1217 Avenue J	Session 1: June 7 - June 17 Session 2: June 21 - July 1	Lessons will be offered at both city pools
Requests for registration forms can be made at respinosa@cityofbaycity.org	Session 3: July 5 - July 15 Session 4: July 19 - July 29	There will be morning and afternoon times available
		For any additional information please call (979) 323-1660.

Drenner's Granite Countertops

"New Exotic Colors in Stock Now!" Visit our Showroom and see all the beautiful colors

SEE ONE OF TEXAS LARGEST SHOWROOMS!

Drenner's 979-245-9103
Design Gallery

8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Saturday
5615 7th Street ~ Bay City, Texas
View Our Photo Gallery Online at www.drenners.com

MATAGORDA

Take Dad Fishing Sunday, June 19th
INSHORE OR OFFSHORE
We Have The Bait For You!

Grilling out for Father's Day?
Come check us out, we have all the grilling needs to make the perfect Ribeye Steak and the Best Seafood Dinner for Dad

Buddy's SEAFOOD
IF WE DON'T HAVE IT... IT WASN'T FRESH & Bait

1400 Fisher St
979-863-7500
Matagorda, Texas

If you miss your chance to reel in your "Catch of the Day" Come See Us!! At Buddy's we have **ALL YOUR SEAFOOD NEEDS!**

Like Us on Facebook or Follow Us on Twitter @buddy_seafood

3804 7th St • 979-245-9860 Bay City, Texas