

Class of '57 Newsletter

March 2008

Volume 23

Florida Brunch of 2008 Held in Venice, Florida

On March 3rd the 7th annual brunch for alumni of Columbia City High School, was held at the Jacaranda West Country Club in Venice, Florida. Class members from the class of 1957 included Jackie Kilty (recently recovered from a stroke), Joanie Schang Blain, Ruth Ann Bowie Davis, Rosalie Farber Kleespie Ted Gruver, and Joe Yoder. The total in attendance was 38, quite a bit less than attendances in the past. It was felt that the reason for this was that there was no brunch held in 2007. Therefore, in the future the brunch will be held each year on the first Sunday of March as was done in the past.

Ted Gruver welcomed all present. The invocation was given by Vernon Trier class of '43 and a moment of silence was held for deceased teachers, students, family, and friends.

This years program consisted of Alumni Association president, Dick Phend, class of '51 talking about the Alumni Association's goals. The following are comments taken from the Alumni Associations report that is found on the CCHSAA website.

Last year at the fall meeting of the CCHSAA, Phend assumed the presidency and began creating several new facets of the organization, including the development of scholarship funds, creation of an endowment, a membership drive and golf outing. *"The beautiful trophy showing an Eagle was on display and will be awarded in the years to come to winners of the golf tournament held each year."*

The latest activity, one that has been the fruition of Phend's dream, is the development of a membership program and scholarship program for the Columbia City High School Alumni Association. The association, in working through the Whitley County Community Foundation, has developed a comprehensive brochure about the scholarship funds and offering details about membership. Additionally, a new logo has been developed for the organization. "There are two primary functions we have as an organization," Phend said. "We serve as a liaison between the community and the school and we want to be able to offer scholarships."

Phend felt that by creating a membership program and through the building of an endowment, the organization would be able to better meet both of those objectives – one day having the ability to provide scholarships, grants and awards as well as to be supportive of the school system. "When you buy a membership, you're saying I want to be a member. I'm proud of CCHS and I want to help build that (scholarship) fund," Phend said. "There is a distinction between being an alumni of CCHS (or CCJHS) and wanting to be part of an alumni association." Phend said. "It's something you wish to do from willingness to help build a scholarship

Lifetime memberships, annual memberships and associate memberships for non-graduates who wish to support the organization are available. When you buy a membership, you're saying I want to be a member. I'm proud of CCHS and I wish to support the organization are available."

"There is a distinction between being an alumni of CCHS (or CCJHS) and wanting to be part of an alumni association," Phend said. "It's something you wish to do from willingness to help build a scholarship or from pride," he said.

From the \$12 membership, Phend anticipates \$9 going toward a scholarship, awards and grants fund and \$3 will be used for operational costs such as mailing the newsletter.

"This is one way to build our scholarship fund," he said. "The analogy I like to use is that when we get enough little contributions in the bucket, when it runs over, we'll have enough to begin awarding scholarships," Phend said. He also hopes one day to be able to assist high school clubs, activities and organizations with grants to help them meet their goals as well.

There is yet another way those willing to support the CCHSAA and who want to help provide scholarships in the future can get involved – by giving to the newly-created Founder's Fund, a separate endowment fund created for the CCHSAA.

Phend is also optimistic that as the endowment fund, through the Whitley County Community Foundation grows, the size and number of scholarships it may be able to one day award will be enhanced as well. The endowment is seeking individual, tax-deductible gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Phend said of the Founder's Fund, "We can continue to solicit donations for this fund until we have a sufficient amount. But if we have 15 or 20 who donate to this fund, it may be sufficient to give a scholarship in two or three years," At that point, it will be up to the board of the CCHSAA to determine how many scholarships will be awarded and the dollar amount of those awards.

You can be a member of the CCHSAA by sending either \$12 for a years membership or \$250 for a lifetime membership. There are also two ways to contribute to scholarship funds. One is a "Founder's Fund" and the other is a "Memorial Scholarship Fund". Donations of \$1000 are needed to be associated with these two funds.

To receive a brochure and more information about three ways to support the Alumni Association and the scholarship funds write to Whitley County Community Foundation, 400N. Whitley St., Columbia City, IN, 46725

Through these funds you can show your appreciation of your years of attending Columbia City High School.

This article was copied in part from an article in the CCHSAA website.

From Platter Through Tapes to CD

Ron Lovely has been a collector of 50's and 60's hit songs for the major part of his life. Over the years he has collected many of those once favored tunes that we all enjoyed as teenagers as well as we did in our early adult lives in the sixties. Over the past fifty years Ron has shared his collection with many of his classmates. At the 50th reunion a portion of his collection was shared with those in attendance through the efforts of Rosalie and Graham Kleespies. Ron wishes to thank the Kleespies for their efforts in helping to bring those memorable songs from the 45 rpm records, through an era of tapes, to the present day CDs, that were given to the class of '57 at their 50th reunion. Rosalie and Graham made three CDs available. One entitled "Happy Hour" another named "Dinner" and the third called "Fellowship and Dance". Those attending the Saturday evening dinner could choose which CD they wanted. Most people took all three. The Kleespies had to make more discs available.

Ron and Margaret want to say thanks to Rosalie and Graham for their efforts. We all want to thank the Kleespies for making these memorable tunes available.

Tired of Winter

Shirley Hosler says, "I AM SO TIRED OF THIS WEATHER, I WANT TO GET OUTSIDE AND DO YARD WORK." It has been a hard, nasty winter and when you see Shirley, give her your, "Me too!"

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR . Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke .

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S * Ask the individual to SMILE.
T * Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)
R * Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 999/911 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other , that is also an indication of a stroke.

A cardiologist says if everyone who gets this e-mail sends it to 10 people; you can bet that at least one life will be saved.

This article was taken from the internet

Picture Worth More Than A Thousand Words Especially When They Are Better Late Than Never

Michael Radke and Shirley Middleton were married on July 12 1958. One week after the wedding Mike was laid off from his job. Back in the late 1950's and early 60's jobs were hard to find.

"We moved away from Whitley Co. and started our family. We contacted Mr. Jones and he did not seem to think that he still had our wedding pictures anymore. For over 49 yrs we thought that the pictures were gone forever; This summer Shirley went to the museum to look through the pictures saved by Mr. Jones. Dissapointed she came home empty handed. Then in October, a letter came filled with a wonderful surprise. Yes wedding pictures couldbe theirs."

Mike and Shirley would like to thank all who helped in this; also to Bill Jones for all the memories that he saved for so many people.

Mike and Shirley are parents to 5 children, all grown now, 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, two boys and a girl. The Radkes have a hobby of doing the 1800's camping dressing for the time period. Mike also builds camp furniture and mountain Dulcimers and Banjomers. He builds them from many different beautiful woods. Shirley checks them out, tuning and teaching others how to play. Dulcimer means sweet music and the Banjomer is played the same way as a Dulcimer but sounds like a banjo.

On the Road to Recovery

Rex Carpenter's wife, Fayette Sevits Carpenter seems to be fully recovered from open heart surgery that she had in May 2007. Fayette downplayed her operation while attending the 50th reunion that was held in September in Columbia City. The Carpenters had made the move to Florida and Fayette had gotten some sort of flu or cold. She went to the doctor in Florida and it was discovered that she also had a heart murmur. She thought nothing of it thinking that she had heard of other people who had the same problem. Upon her return to Indiana she decided to go to her doctor there for the annual check-up that she and Rex have each year. She luckily mentioned the murmur to the doctor who suggested that she have tests to fine the seriousness of her problem. After the tests the nurse informed Fayette that they would be advising her of the prognosis. Fayette thought she should be hearing in a couple of days, or so. In a few minuets the nurse informed that the doctor wanted to see her in his office. She went into the office of her doctor where she was informed that he wanted her to see a heart doctor, "Right now!" She made the necessary phone call to locate Rex, who had just finished a golf game and was ready to return home anyway. The Carpenters went to the Ft Wayne hospital where Fayette underwent an open heart surgery that afternoon.

We talked with Fayette and Rex in Florida and were so pleased that she is as great and lively as ever.

The Radkes will have been married for 50 years in July. Try to remember to send them a card. Their address is 5830 West Lincoln Way, Columbia City, IN 46725.

On the Mend

Larry Hearld writes the following concerning his bout with cancer.

Regarding my prostate condition, I had 42 treatments starting in October and ending in December. I had a doctors appointment with a radiologist in January. He said things looked good, still the in healing process from the treatments. I am feeling much better every day. I have another doctors appointment with an urologist in April. I will have to wait to see him for further progress.

Joe Yoder has experienced several skin cancer outbreaks. The cancers are called squamous cells and look a lot like a bug bite. Many times those who have these cells ignore them, but they can grow into a more dangerous melanoma.

He has had several biopsies and is staying ahead of the game by having Mohs surgeries. This surgery is done by a specially trained surgeon who removes the squamous cell and checks to see if all has been gotten out right in the office, no need to send it to an outside lab. If the whole cell has not been taken out, the procedure is gone through once more, until all has been removed.

In the future you are encouraged to share your aches and pains, your ups and downs through this newsletter. It may not be pleasant but by sharing those matters we might be able to help one another feel better and be a better person.

Jo Ellen Adams McConnell has been diagnosed with two cancers, colorectal carcinoma in the colon and leiomyosarcoma in the kidney. The doctor said that having two primary cancer sites is very unusual. Surgery was Mar. 13. One kidney was removed as well as 12 inches of colon. Jo Ellen returned home Mar. 19 and is doing very well. Her daughter, Marcia, is an RN and has come from her home near San Francisco to be with her. The carcinoma will require chemo treatments and the sarcoma will need radiation treatment.

Jo Ellen did not and still does not have any physical symptoms of cancer. She agreed to having a colonoscopy because each year at her O.B. appt., the doctor would say, "Everyone over 50 should have the procedure." She made her own colonoscopy appointment and classmate Patty Winebrenner Goldsby took her. Colon cancer was diagnosed that day. A CT scan two days later revealed a large mass in the abdomen.

Cards, phone calls, e-mails, and flowers have been greatly appreciated by Jo Ellen. Her address is 910 W. Ryan Rd., Columbia City,

Ted Gruver had a prostate surgery about 3 days before the Florida Brunch. He was doing well when we saw him at the reunion, but he said he thought he was still feeling the effects of the anesthetic. The amazing thing about his operation is that it was done by a robot that was operated by a doctor who was ten feet from where Ted was lying on a table.

Gene Brown "... has another large tumor. (in his brain) and is not doing as well as was hoped. Gene had a couple of interruptions in his chemotherapy from October to January. Then he experienced a virus that was rather bad with a lot of congestion and coughing. Gene is to undergo a couple of more rounds of chemotherapy." Gene and his wife Linda are still hopeful, waiting to see what will happen.

Changed Email Addresses

The following people have changed their email addresses.

Jerald Putman
jcputman@embarqmail.com

New Addresses

The following people have made a move in the past few months.

Duane Sandmeyer
5507 25th Street W.
Bradenton, FL
34207-3504

Phone # _____

Joyce Sheckler Burton
2695 W. Lincolnway
Columbia City, IN
46725

Remember to let Joe Yoder know of any changes in your address or phone #. Even health issues are welcome and will be handled discreetly.

The mission of the newsletter is to keep members of the class of 1957 informed and updated as to all members of the class.

Farewell to Family and Friends

Mike Radke's mother passed away. She was born in Laud and was living in Michigan when she passed away. Mrs. Radke's maiden name was Dewitt. She had worked at the Thirty Club and Clugston Hotel in Columbia City.

John Pence's mother, Madge Ilene Pence, died on December 29, 2007, at age 91. She was born in Thorncreek Twp. And grew up in Whitley County. She had been employed at Blue Bell, Wolf & Dessauer at the cosmetic counter, and Zumbrun's Beauty Parlor as a hairdresser.

Neil Cooper's wife, Sally Jo, passed away on January 10, 2008. She was sixty-eight. Sally had been employed as a waitress at Café Johnnell in Ft. Wayne and at Haisley's in Columbia City for 14 years. Sally Jo is survived by four of her children by a previous marriage and three of Neil's children by a previous marriage. There are also 26 grand children, three great-grand children and three brothers all of Ft. Wayne.

Neil sent a note in which he says:
"Dear Class of '57"

Thank-you so much for sending a beautiful floral arrangement in memory of our beloved Sally Jo. We deeply appreciate your 'family' thoughtfulness."

Neil and family

Carolyn Hilligoss Fisher writes to say, "Just a short note to inform you that my sis, Sandra/Sandy/Sue(Hilligoss) Bryan passed away on March 18."

Feit Should Fight Urge to Travel

The following are excerpts from a recent email from Thom Feit.

The Tire Goes Where?

February 19th, we arrive at Chula Vista RV park, in Chula Vista, CA (just south of San Diego). At first we noticed low air pressure in our rear right dual tires – not a good sign. A call for road side service brought out the finest young man to assess the damage. The good news, it was not the tires, but rather the faulty stem extensions that allow for easier filling of the tire, especially the inside duals. Removal of the extensions and inflating all tires to the proper level was done quickly and with ease. We are ready to go. A check of our coach and it passes inspection. Of the items that Baja and Back Tours suggest you have with you is a spare tire. Almost any of the small towns that we pass through, can change a tire, but may not have our size of tire. Now remember that we have a 40' diesel pusher motorhome – that takes a semi-truck tire. Prior to our leaving Mesa, we tried to find a place to store this spare tire. Nothing is easy. Since we were about to travel to Mexico and you have all seen pictures of some of the bus transportation in the country, why not just strap the tire to the top or to the front of the coach and fit right in with the locals. So we found a place, in our bedroom along my side (of course) of the bed. We are able to move it into the hallway during the night time.

The “Baja Kiss”

Day 2 – off we head to the beaches of San Quintin. Now we discover the true Baja road. A really narrow two lane road, that has been built up over the years, so the roadway is many inches above the gravel sides. A dropoff of 6 to 9 inches is not uncommon.

There is but one road, so all traffic travels this route. Those you meet are large semi trucks, with double trailers, busses, other RV units, and anything else that might have one to 20 wheels and a motor.

We had been warned of our probability of getting a “Baja Kiss” – i.e. meeting some other object with our coach. On this first day, I got my “kiss”. Driving along wet pavement, and with on-coming RVs, no doubt driven by a gringo wanting to be back home, that RV moved to the center line – I moved to my right, and “bingo” the right duals were off the pavement and quickly approaching a cement marker along the roadside. To my luck, the front tires stayed on the pavement, and we just continued to slow down. We were able to return to the road. Just scraped some brush along the way and put some marking on the side. A much larger “kiss” comes later.

The Whale Watch

We arrived at an RV park that was supposed to be done – but was not. Parking on sand, crazy electrical, very low power, we just dry camped the two days. What was so special was our experience with the whale watch. Traveling by van for 45 minutes over gravel washboard roads we arrived at the sheltered bay. To our thinking, this has been the highlight of the trip. During the 2 hours we were in the water, we saw many whales, and then twice we had the joy of a mother and her calf coming up to the boat as we reached out to pet this magnificent mammal.

The Doorless Prison

Nearby is the town of Mulege - a great classic small Mexican town. There sat an unused prison - the prison without doors. Between the

Years of 1907 and 1960 it was a federal prison, where inmates were free to work in the village or farms during the day, and return to the prison at dusk. Any prisoner who did not return was tracked down and shot! In the 60 years of use, only one prisoner tested the law.

The Turn Towards Home

Day 16 – 17 – 18. Cabo San Lucas. A town that has stunning condo buildings, a marina with enormous yachts, and of all things – a Costco mixed with narrow streets, lots of cars and since this is the start of Spring Break for some colleges many handsome young men and scantily clad girls with lots of liquor. We took a boat ride into the harbor down to "Land's End" where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean. Lots of interesting rock formations, along with sea lions, birds, fish and pounding surf. After a day, we were ready to move on – but we stayed and rested for the remainder of the three days. Barb and I did go to a glass factory, where locals take recycled glass bottles and turn them into all types of glasses, vases, etc... Watching the heat form the glass was interesting.

At the time of this printing the Feits had just started their return trip to Mesa, Arizona where they now reside. There is a sad addition to this story in that during the trip the Feit's dog, Rolf became sick with some incurable disease and had to be put to sleep upon their return to Mesa.

For the complete adventures and pictures of "RVing With Thom and Barb Feit" you can go to thomfeit@cox.net

Meet in Bronson, Missouri ?

There has been some talk about having a gathering of class of "57 classmates in Bronson, MO. The suggested time would be this coming summer, possibly in June. However rates are better in the fall, but then you don't get to see the big name stars, but again you pay half price for the shows that are still very good. Send your thoughts on this matter to class coordinator Ray Bechtel

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Joe

