

# Class of '57 Newsletter

January 2011

Volume 29

## Columbia City High School Class of '57

### Gathered for 53rd Reunion

A Hawaiian theme dominated the Saturday night festivities for Columbia City High School's Class of '57 as they observed their 53rd reunion on September 25.

The luau party featured tropical foods catered by Daniel Menu & Party Consulting, including pork loin with rum mango chutney, island chicken, scalloped pineapple, tropical fruit salad and a coconut cake for dessert. Entertainment consisted of Rosalie Farber Kleespie performing lip sync to "She's Got You," and Tom Felger and Judy Reimer Thompson wearing grass skirts and dancing to "Tiny Bubbles."

The three-day celebration began Friday evening with a pizza party, and 46 class members and spouses attended. Sunday morning a brunch was served to 35 class members and their spouses. All the get-togethers were held at the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge. The committee consisted of Carol Schuman Krider, president; Barbara Snapp Klopfenstein, vice-president; Rosalie Farber Kleespie, secretary; and Janis Smith Kelly, treasurer. Jerald Putman was elected chairman for the 2012 reunion.

Sixty-six class members and spouses attended Saturday night. Saturday afternoon events included Corn Hole competition. Winners were Ronnie Lovely and Larry Hearld, men's division, and Jeanette Anderson and Laurene Hearld, women's division.

Representing the Class of '57 in the Saturday CCHS Alumni Association golf outing were Neil Cooper, Rex and Randall Carpenter and Russell Erne. The foursome came in third with 17 teams competing.

### Classmates:

Most of this newsletter was put together by our classmate and very dear friend, Joe Yoder. His son Michael was kind enough to dig the files out of Joe's computer and forward to me for completion and distribution.

The quarterly newsletter was a gift from Joe to us, his classmates. I'm certain he would like to see it continued for many more years, so we desperately need 'a' or 'some' volunteers to accept the task. I would be available to assist, but cannot accept the responsibility of managing and publishing it.

One of Joe's purposes in the newsletter was to keep track of each of our snail mail addresses for class reunions.

Please step up and volunteer!!

Yours, Ray Bechtel

**CCHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
\$50,000.00 FOUNDERS FUND  
ENDOWMENT PROGRAM  
To All 1957 Classmates**

At the recent 53<sup>rd</sup> reunion for the class of 1957, I explained the CCHS Alumni Association \$50,000.00 Founders Fund Endowment program.

The goal is for the CCHS classes from 1940 thru 2010 to raise at least \$50,000 for the Founder's Fund for CCHSAA scholarships. Each class is hoping to raise at least \$1000.00, by \$100.00 to \$5.00 per classmate. The money for the CCHSAA scholarships will be invested by the Whitley County Community Foundation (WCCF) and only the interest or earnings is awarded for the endowment scholarships.

Financial Statements of the CCHSAA are always open for viewing at WCCF.  
<http://www.whitleycountycommunityfoundation.org/>

Our class is close to achieving our goal of \$1000. If you would like to contribute, please make your check payable to CCHSAA and write Founder's Fund in the memo area. Remember, your contribution says more than a donation, it says "SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FUTURE CCHS STUDENTS".

You will receive a "Thank You" from CCHSAA and WCCF for your tax records. Mail your check to me and thanks for your contribution.

*Carol Krider ('57)*  
4590 W. Plattner Road  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
260-327-3579

**Farewell to Family Members**

Tom Kerr's sister, **Shirley Kerr Kruger**, 78, died Oct. 24 in Santa Rosa, CA. Survivors are her 8 children and one brother.

**Farewell to Classmates**

**Martha J. Miller**, 72, of Garrett, died at 4:10 p.m. Monday, Nov. 1, 2010 at Cameron Hospital, Angola. She was born July 13, 1938 in Whitley County to Harold and Helen (Traster) Cooperrider and they preceded her in death. She married Edward E. Miller Sept. 6, 1958 in Columbia City and he died Oct. 12, 2002. Martha was a collator at Renaissance Publishing in Auburn, retiring in 2001.

**Joe W Yoder**, 71 retired Whitley County Consolidated School teacher, died Wednesday evening, Jan. 19, 2011 in Cape Coral, Fla. after battling cancer for nine months. He taught many years at the Marshall Middle School.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Dee of Cape Coral; a son, Michael (Lynn Hoffman) Yoder of Green Bay, Wis.; a daughter, Shannon (Richard) Berry of Salt Lake City Utah, and three grandchildren, Jacob, Abigail and Elliott Berry.

A local celebration of life is being planned in June at the Smith and Sons Funeral Home, Columbia City.

For those who wish, memorials may be made to the Columbia City High School Alumni Association in care of the Whitley County Community Foundation.

## Changes in Phones, Email and or Addresses

**Rosalie Farber Kleespie** new phone # is:  
**260-229-3071**

**Rose Ann Ness Harris** has a new email:  
[rah39601@yahoo.com](mailto:rah39601@yahoo.com)

**Ronnie Yant**  
8218 Castle Pines Pl  
Ft. Wayne, IN 46835-4729

**Patty Cearbaugh Sievers**  
1103 S. Raber Rd.  
Columbia City, IN 46725-8771

**Kay Helfrich**  
791 W. Lincoln Way  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
% Sandra Johnson

**Jim Kissinger's new email is:**  
[jim260@embarqmail.com](mailto:jim260@embarqmail.com)

**Dave Nusbaum' new email is:**  
[neter@frontier.com](mailto:neter@frontier.com)

**Bill Yaney's new email is:**  
[turtletown1@frontier.com](mailto:turtletown1@frontier.com)

**Don Adams' new email is:**  
[deadams2@frontier.com](mailto:deadams2@frontier.com)

**Sharon Bates Wolf's new email is:**  
[sharonwolf1@earthlink.net](mailto:sharonwolf1@earthlink.net)

### More Address Changes:

**Marsha Sevits Brady**  
[john\\_marsha@frontier.com](mailto:john_marsha@frontier.com)  
Note an underscore between john & marsha

**Russell Erne's correction:**  
[russleta61@yahoo.com](mailto:russleta61@yahoo.com)

**Bill Ramp**  
[billramp@frontier.com](mailto:billramp@frontier.com)

**Nancy Poffenberger Rosenberg**  
10207 Commonwealth Street Suite 410  
Lone Tree CO 80124

Nancy's new phone 303-601-9869  
Bob's new phone 720-560-0992  
Both cell phones, no land line

# THREE DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

By Myra Lorber Epstein

It was like a tailgating party before the main event as we gathered for a pizza party on a Friday night in Columbia City. Afterwards, back at the motel, I was flooded with memories of our very special Class of '57 back in the day.

## THE WAY WE WERE

Growing up in the '50s was a very special time. Like most teenagers, we struggled to adjust to adolescence with the usual growing pains and angst, trying to figure out who we were. By the time we were seniors, we had learned who we were becoming. It was both tumultuous and wonderful.

In study hall, quarters flew up against the front wall, pennies rolled from the back towards the wall, and they seemed to take forever. Then came very loud sneezes combining three dirty words reduced into one word from various locations in the room, all at the same time. Maggie Stultz and Pappy Rice were not amused. We sat like angels, not taking responsibility for anything. (I must comment that these antics pale in comparison with what is going on in school today.)

Who could forget Irene Shull running around the classroom, holding a globe shouting gleefully, "Look, Class, Look!" She was teaching gravity and the universe.

Mr. Pritchard, the new teacher from one of the Ivy League schools in the east, was a great teacher (in spite of his expelling Jo Ellen Adams McConnell, Joy Lynn Murbach Heinbaugh, Margaret Moyer Lovely and yours truly from his class for one week.) A few years ago I got a letter from him explaining why he never wanted to attend reunions; he wanted to remember everyone just the way they were.

We lived and learned many things from those years as we made our way through four years until graduation in '57, and for three days in September, we celebrated the 53 years after it.

## THE WAY WE ARE

Kudos to Carol Schuman Krider and her able committee (Janis Smith Kelly, Rosalie Farber Kleespie and Barb Snapp Klopenstein) who really pulled off a flawless Luau weekend. From day one, when she mailed the first flier, she was so organized, calm and poised as she fulfilled her duties as class reunion chairwoman.

Saturday night as we walked into the Luau, we all talked to Joe Yoder, via Skype on a computer, because he could not attend this year. His son, Sean, took care of the pictures and audio of our class. The walls were splashed with bright colors, posters, pictures and several multi-colored balloons that made it very festive.

My only expectation was that there would be music from the 50s playing all evening. What a great idea not to because we could talk, talk, talk and hear each other. There was so much energy and enthusiasm that we talked non-stop all evening, trying to catch up. Everyone had a lot to say.

I felt this common bond beyond having been in the Class of '57. We shared a common respect for one another and conversations were easy and fun. I got to talk with people I barely know from our special class, and I really enjoyed that! Everyone wanted to be there.

Throughout the evening, Carol checked to see how everything was going, and she made herself available to all of us. She was an excellent hostess.

Rosalie performed a song using lip-sync, and Tom Felger and Judy Reimer Thompson danced the hula to "Tiny Bubbles." They provided some funny entertainment that brought a lot of laughs.

I saw no cliques or grandstanding. There were some “remember whens,” but it was more about the present in the here and now, who we had become, what we are doing, and our dreams of the future, how we want to spend our golden years. We’ve shared many experiences, hobbies and many life events, and now we share the memories of perhaps our best reunion yet. We are forever connected by '57, + 53 years = 2010 reunion. No wonder everyone wanted a repeat in two years.

On a more somber note, Bob Hall asked for 57 seconds in memory of Judy King Yockey’s son, and now we think of Marty Cooperrider Miller who passed away November 1.

Thanks again to Carol and the committee for all your hard work. It was a great weekend! I will never forget those three days in September.

Sunday it was hard to say “Goodbye,” but I thought of it more as a recess until two years.

Until 2012, stay strong, be healthy and happy.

MYRA



The following people were present at the at the fifty-third reunion held in Columbia City the weekend of September 24 to 26, 2010:

Row one left to right Janis Smith Kelly, Jo Ellen Adams McConnell, Jeanette Wince Brown, Pauline Juillerat Bruch, Tom Felger, Barbara Carver Frey, Barbara Snapp Klopenstein. Second row Rosalie Farber Kleespie, Jay Smith, Russell Erne, Larry Hearld, Don Adams, Roger Anderson, Rex Carpenter, Terry Smith, Orville Grable, Marlin Worden, Martha Cooperrider Miller. Third or back row Pat Gibson Conrad, Carol Schuman Krider, Sharon Bates Wolf, Myra Lorber Epstein, Mardell Feit Hall, Bob Hall, Jerald Putman, Gene Heckman, Ronnie Lovely, Randall Carpenter, Jim Kissinger, Bill Weigold, Jim Kyler, John Pence, Neil Cooper, Raymond Bechtel, Jeanette Snyder Rohrer, Carolyn Hilligoss Fisher, Maribelle Sheets Carter, Shirley Hosler Schlotterback, Margaret Moyer Lovely, Judy Reimer Thompson, Patty Winebrenner Goldsby and Mary Cooperrider Huffman. Attending but not present for the picture were: Mary Ann Hauser Klein, Dave Wigent, Max Goldwood, Joy Murbach Heinbaugh, Kay Helfrich, Sandra Cooperrider Ritter, Darwin Zumbun and Jon Pontzius. A total of 50 class members attended.