

Class of '57 Newsletter

February 2009

Volume 25

CCHSAA FLORIDA BRUNCH 2009

The 8th Columbia City High School Alumni Association Florida Brunch is planned for Sunday, March 1, 2009. This Brunch will be held from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Jacaranda West Country Club located at 1901 Jacaranda Blvd., Venice, Florida 34293. Club Office phone number is 941-493-5010. The Club is located off Exit 193 on I-75 going West on Jacaranda Blvd. for approximately 3 miles or 5 stop lights. The Jacaranda Country Club entrance will be on your right.

From US 41 go East on Jacaranda Blvd. for about 2 miles. Club will be on your left. Reservations are required for a head count. Send a check in the amount of \$24.95 per person before February 26, 2009 payable to:

RUTH ANN BOWIE DAVIS

104 MARTINIQUE ROAD

NORTH PORT, FL 34287

jdavis41138@msn.com

All checks received will be acknowledged with a reservation number. Your hosts will be CCHSAA Founder and Past President, Ted Gruver (57) and his wife, Sue, who have hosted the Brunch for the last seven years.

A table will be set up for yearbooks, pictures and memorabilia. Please share this information with other CCHS Alumni. Guests and friends are invited. Come and enjoy! This CCHS Florida Brunch is planned just for you in the sunny warm weather of SW Florida. The buffet style Brunch will start at 11:30 a.m. sharp.

Dress code is dressy casual

IT IS GREAT TO BE 70!

By Jo Ellen Adams McConnell

For most of the class of '57, the year 2009 means we are celebrating our 70th birthday. Ted Gruver was first on Jan. 2nd, and I followed on Jan. 13th. Know how I feel about it? I feel it is great to be 70!

After two cancer diagnosis in Feb. '08, I set two goals for myself. One was to be able to attend my grandson's basketball games this year, and the other was to make it to my 70th birthday. I made it to both.

My nine month check up said all normal despite two Stage III cancers previously discovered and removed surgically. I refused chemo. I feel fine.

Any ideas from the rest of you for what my next goals should be?

Feits Continue to be "On The Move"

A most Happy New Year to all. This has been an eventful year for the Feits. For Christmas and New Year's we took our RV and spent time on the beach in California. We spent time at Huntington Beach, then up to Ventura, followed by several days with friends near Pasadena. We did go to the Rose Bowl Parade. If you saw the parade, you know what a wonderful day that was - both weather wise and with the floral floats.

But the highlight was a two week cruise that touched three continents: Europe, Asia and Africa.

Comments From Thom Feit's Letter About Their Cruise

It all started with a wish. Visit Athens, see the pyramids, and take a tour of Ephesus, then continue along Spain, Casablanca, Brazil and finally to the Caribbean.

Of first importance was being sure that Barb could walk with ease. With just under three weeks until the departure from Rome, we booked that shorter portion of the sailing. What we did not know was, that since travel to Turkey was involved, our passports needed to be valid for a six month period after the visit. Our passports did not meet this requirement, so by throwing money at both a private service and the US government, we were able to get our renewal passports within five days.

Of Naples, Italy Thom reports: "The town is digging a tunnel through the center part of the city in which a subway will be built. One can imagine the narrow streets, and center squares made even more difficult in which to maneuver as a result of the construction. Based upon speed of progress, and witness the vast numbers of men just standing around, it well may be decades before completion. While I did not yet have my camera, one certainly could create a fine oil painting of the "work in progress."

The next stop was Athens from which Thom reports: "Acropolis or "high city" certainly lives to the name. We first thought, "Oh the bus can just drive up to the back of the hill thus making a short hike to all of those buildings." Well, for those of you have been there, you know the truth – one must walk up steep walkways in order to get just to the ticket window – then more steps and slippery marble walkways. Barb took the easy way and stopped at a café to watch from afar."

Then on to the ancient city of Ephesus. Of this city Thom says: "...seeing the uncovered ruins of homes, baths brothels, businesses.

the large theatre and of course the library one can just picture the bustle of two hundred fifty thousand people. We know there were that many living in the town based upon the size of the theatre which seats 25,000. Theatres were built to accommodate one tenth of the population of a town. As you stand in open area in front of the library, one can only marvel; first the small portion of this city that has been unearthed and second at the "urban" planning that built the town on a hill, allowing water and waste to flow downward toward the bay. This also became the death of Ephesus, for the silt began to fill in the bay of water – which now is four miles away. For me, this and the pyramids were the highlights of our tour.

Then it was off to Istanbul, the third largest city of the world. Bridging two continents, and centuries of history, this city has a wealth of sites worthy of a longer visit, but we had just 8 hours, and for Barb, this was not a good day for walking. A quick, hop on hop off, bus took us on a tour of the city.

From here we sailed for Egypt. We had arranged for an overnight trip with 120 others to Cairo and the pyramids. We would stay the night and catch up with the ship in Alexandria. Before touching upon the pyramids, first the city of Cairo. There are several things that strike you about the city: the sand, the unfinished buildings and the traffic....

The experience of seeing the pyramids met all expectations. No photo can relay the majesty of standing at the foot and looking up in wonder of the workmanship that created these tombs for kings...Yes, I did ride a camel (an experience that would remind one of riding a mechanical bull at your local western saloon, these "ships of the desert" offer an awkward, always shifting ride along the path.

The return voyage to Civitavecchia, Italy – the seaport for Rome – was uneventful until 1:15 am. Resting (aka – sleeping) in our room when suddenly BAM – the ship lurched first starboard then port side, then it stopped. No power, no

movement, nothing. After a while, an officer announced over the intercom that the ship had hit a wave, but all was well. To this passenger "all is well" does not translate as a ship with 2,500 passengers drifts about 45 nautical miles from shore. The ship's power was finally restored, and some engine was restarted as we began to "limp" to port. Instead of a 6 AM arrival, we got to port about 1 PM. It is to our good fortune that we had from the first decided to stay another night in Rome then flying out the following day. What actually happened and what damage to the ship was never fully explained and is a current topic of several message boards. But we were safe, as were all of the passengers. Disembarking from the ship reminded me of that vision of that last helicopter lifting off the roof during the fall of Saigon. In a word - bedlam.

But the dawn of a new day, tickets for a flight home to Phoenix Sky Harbor, all became right with the world.

This report does not do justice to Thom's reporting abilities. If you would like to read his complete report contact Joe Yoder or Thom Feit.

Changed Email Addresses

Tom Felger:

btfelger@comcast.net

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Bobjan5@juno.com

Farewell to Family and Friends

Barbara Snepp Klopfenstein's mother, Gertrude Snepp passed away.

Gertrude L. Snepp, 92, a resident of Columbia City, died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2008, at Miller's Merry Manor where she had been a resident since January 2008. She was born on October 10, 1915 and passed away in September. She was employed by the former Blue Bell factory of Columbia City for 36 years and was an Avon Representative for 23 years. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church. The surviving relatives include a son, Ansley Snepp, Arlington, Texas and a daughter, **Barbara Klopfenstein**, Columbia City; nine grandchildren including Kary Klopfenstein of Columbia City and David Klopfenstein of Keller, Texas; 15 great grandchildren

Larry Pequignot's mother, Velma Pequignot Murbach, 97, of Columbia City, died on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2008 at Renaissance Village where she had been a resident since February 2006. She was born Aug. 14, 1911 in Jefferson Township, Whitley County. She graduated from Jefferson Center High School.

On Dec. 3, 1932 she was united in marriage to Theodore Edward Pequignot. They made their home in Dunfee, Indiana a few years before moving to Columbia City. Mr. Pequignot died February 15, 1979. In 1988 she was united in marriage to Harmon Paul Murbach. They always made their home in Columbia City. Mr. Murbach died May 19, 2005. Surviving relatives include three sons, Lynn (Lourine) Pequignot of Fort Wayne, Larry Pequignot of Schaumburg, Illinois and Lowell (Tina) Pequignot of Glendale, Ariz.; two step-daughters, **Joy (David) Heinbaugh** and Linda (Jack) Sevier, both of Columbia City;

On the Mend

Donald Deutsch lost his battle with lung cancer on November 12, 2008.

Following graduation, he served in the United States Army from 1961 to 1963. On May 20, 1983 he married Nancy Ann Reynolds in Columbia City. A lifetime Columbia City resident, he retired from the Whitley County Highway Department with 14 1/2 years of service. He was a member of the Oak Grove Church of God and the American Legion, both of Columbia City. Survivors include his wife of 25 years, Nancy A. Deutsch of Columbia City, a brother, Gary (Emily) Deutsch of Columbia City, sisters, Nancy L. (Ed) Line and Janice M. (Chuck) Lowe both of Columbia City. Don also had three children and ten grandchildren. Don's wife (Nancy and family) would like to thank Don's classmates for their prayers, support and visits during his illness and passing.

"A special thanks to **Jeanette Snyder Rohrer** with her beautiful voice and **Roger Bridge** for his memories of his childhood years of growing up with Don.

Thank you for all the flowers and food, it was all greatly appreciated."

Nancy Deutsch and family

Janis Smith Kelly's brother Ronald E. Smith, 67, and his wife, Nancy Lou Smith, 69, passed away from injuries sustained in an automobile accident at Leesburg and O'Day roads, Allen County on Nov. 4, 2008. Ronald was two years younger than members of the class of '57

Ted Gruver's sister, Dorothy H. Gruver Hiscutt, 71, passed away on Nov. 12, 2008 after a long illness. She was a graduate of Columbia City High School and an Alumni Association for the class of 1955.

Jackie Kilty writes about her heart attack and stroke that she experienced on November 2008: "I was rushed to ER, was out of it and they put a tube down my throat and worked me over. It was a real mess but not ready to pack it in. I was in ICU for 2 days, then regular room. I also had a touch of pneumonia." She is home now and is doing better than was expected.

Jackie's address is: 2211 Sabal Palm Dr Edgewater, FL 32141. Her email address is jkilty@cfl.rr.com

Linda Brown (Gene Brown's wife) reports: "I am doing well. I got through Christmas and New Year's. I miss my husband greatly but he is not coming back. I must get used to his not coming back. I am keeping busy and since he passed I have had several things go wrong, the furnace keeps going out and we haven't found the problem yet; I was hit in the back bumper of the car and had to get it fixed. Several things had to be fixed in the house. We are coming along with it. He was a really great man, great husband and great father and great grand father too."

Joe Yoder continues to have areas of skin cancer removed from his arms, legs and most recent his right cheek area. This most recent area was "Basal Cell" no malignancies, yet. Joe intends to stay ahead of the game as long as possible.

Martha Cooperrider Miller, has a very serious diagnosis. She has a cancer tumor that is inches wide (not cm or mm) that involves the bladder, stomach, and colon. Doctors told her it is inoperable. She is starting chemotherapy soon, maybe next week, to shrink the tumor. Marty does not have e-mail. She lives in Garrett. 1315 Cowan St., Garrett, IN 46735. Ph. 260-357-1660.

Classmates Whereabouts and Doings

Barbara Thomas writes:

I'm back in Indiana with my mom. She isn't a bit well. I think it is only a matter of time, but I've been wrong before. She may out last all of us. My address in Columbia City is 730 Browning St., Columbia City, IN 46725 I'll be here until she either passes or gets better--and that could be a couple months or a couple years-only the good LORD knows the answer to that question.

Jackie Kilty reports:

I am thinking, I guess just the fact that most of us are still kicking is newsworthy. Ha!

Robert Hall says:

Today, New Years Day, is my first day of official retirement from 47 yrs, 11 months, and 2 weeks with Curtis 1000. Looking back, I guess that sales was what I was supposed to do. As I recall, Judy Grant was #1 and I was #2 in the Senior Magazine Sales program. Does anyone recall what the money was to be used for? As I recall it was a fund raiser. During college days I sold World Book encyclopedia, which I did not really like. Then after Mardie and I married, I sold cookware to young, hopeful brides to be, then business printing sales. It was a good life in many ways. I was free to be on my own, build friendships with my clients, fix problems that would happen while learning some humility. Do hope that it helped me to become a better person. Mardie may have an opinion on that. We now enter the unknown period for the first time, SS insurance, no weekly check and Mardie hoping I will not be following her around with comments on all she does or does not do. More time will be spent at the farm in NW Whitley County, but no super plan is in mind. We hope for good health, a few dollars to spend and God's Peace and Grace as we do for the same to all who are reading this note.

Senior Moments

The following is from one of Joe Yoder's favorite authors, Lee Child. In his book, *Killing Floor*, he sums up the forgetfulness that many of us experience from time to time. On page 101 of that book Child's character, an old black man, says in reply to a question about what he had for breakfast.

"I don't know what I had for breakfast. Don't even know if I ate my breakfast at all. But listen up. I may be an old guy, but the truth is old guys remember stuff real well. Not recent things, you understand, but old things. You got to imagine your memory is like an old bucket, you know? Once it's filled up with old stuff there ain't no way to get new stuff in. No way at all, you understand? So I don't remember any new stuff because my old bucket is all filled up with old stuff that happened way back. You understand what I'm saying here?"

Joe hopes your buckets are filled with pleasant memories for now and the years to come. The big challenge to Joe and Dee Yoder is to remember where they had lunch yesterday and who paid the tab.

Treasurer's Report

July 31, 2008 Statement

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	9/30/08	\$1453.97
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Receipts

<u>Checking Balance</u>		\$1453.97
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Disbursements

Flowers	110.25	\$1343.72
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Newsletter	62.72	\$1281.02
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<u>Total Checking Balance</u>		\$1281.02
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Checking Account Balance

as of 1/31/2009		\$1281.02
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Treasurer

Janis Kelly

Good News

New Arrival!

Shout "Halleluiah", Come on get happy.

Bill Yaney's gonna' be a new Grand-Pappy!

That is correct. Bill and Joyce Yaney's son, Patrick and his wife, Flora are expecting a baby girl, probably as you read this article. Bill says that Flora intends to work right up until the time of delivery. Bill continues to cope with Parkinson's Disease which slows him down a little, but he and Joyce are looking forward to the excitement that a baby brings.

New Addresses

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.

Contributions

Monetary contributions are of course welcome. Any amount you wish is acceptable and should be sent to Janis Smith Kelly the class treasurer. Her address is 804 East Jefferson Street, Columbia City, IN, 46725. You may also contribute money to the Flower Fund in the same fashion.

Send articles of your activities and health issues to Joe Yoder, 3636 Country Club Blvd, Cape Coral, FL, 33904

Favorite Authors

Joe has shared a passage of one of his favorite authors in this news letter. He never liked to read and now wonders how he managed to get through college. Joe never enjoyed reading until the publication of the "Harry Potter" series. Since then he spends much of his spare time reading some mystery. Among his favorite authors are: James Patterson, Robert Crais, James Grippando, Linda Fairstein, Janet Evanovich, and Lee Child.

Please let Joe know who your favorite authors are to be included in an upcoming article in the next newsletter.

On the Lighter Side

A distraught senior citizen phoned her doctor's office.

"Is it true," she wanted to know, "that the medication you prescribed has to be taken for the rest of my life?"

"Yes, I'm afraid so", the doctor told her. There was a moment of silence before the senior lady replied,

"I'm wondering, then, just how serious is my condition because this prescription is marked, 'NO REFILLS!'"

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?"

Don't be nervous, son; Do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife ..."