

The Owlette Dispatch

Newsletter No. 1

The Fresno High School Class of 1958 Newsletter

Fall, 2003



ECHO AVENUE – PAST & PRESENT

By Vernie Morison Rehart

Many memories of high school days take on an almost tangible presence when one visits the 1900 block of North Echo Avenue. Thoughts of lunch hour visits to Kilner's, posing for senior pictures at Frigulti's Studio, ordering a class ring at Steffen's Jewelry, or enjoying a burger at the Goal Post suddenly seem like events that happened yesterday. Forty-five years disappear in an instant as one ponders the happy days of high school.

In the intervening years, many changes have taken place. One by one, the old businesses have left the neighborhood. Some of the storefronts have seen many different tenants and have then stood empty—a grim reminder of the northerly growth of our city. Other of the buildings have been more fortunate. Small businesses have opened within their walls and have found a permanent home.

The 1920s building at the corner of Echo and Weldon—the one with the distinctive cobalt blue tile of the Art Deco era—is undergoing a renaissance. Once covered with graffiti and suffering the indignity of broken tiles and obvious neglect, the building has undergone extensive renovation. Thanks to owners John Borrelli and his family, the building has been brought back to life.

Two new businesses have opened—a coffeehouse and a pizzeria—in the restored building. The coffeehouse, Javawaba, serves a variety of coffees, teas, sandwiches, and salads. It is open all day, seven days a week. Owners Dane Williamson and Anthony Santangelo and their staff warmly welcome each guest. Their vision of creating a friendly neighborhood-gathering place is quickly becoming a reality. Victor's Pizzeria and Bistro next door (with a Weldon Street entrance) is also finding its niche in the Fresno High neighborhood. Owner Reiner Weber learned how to make pizza from a relative of his wife who owns a

pizzeria in San Francisco. The delicious aromas emanating from his kitchen and the friendly ambience of his dining room are drawing many patrons.

It seems that a new era is underway in the old neighborhood. With the new era will be new memories for another generation of Fresno High School grads.

WHY A NEWSLETTER?

By JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward

Forty-five years have gone by since our graduation from Fresno High School. As the reunion committee began to prepare for our October events, the search began for classmates who have not attended previous reunions. Sadly, there are almost 200 alumni whom we cannot find. At the October reunion, we will be asking for your help in locating them.

The reunion committee discussed the idea of sending out a twice-yearly newsletter. This would be an excellent vehicle for keeping everyone informed of address changes, e-mail changes, and interesting news about FHS alumni. Most importantly, a newsletter would provide a way to make us all feel more connected to each other.

The cost of printing and mailing out a newsletter is between \$200 and \$250. Your tax-deductible contributions are needed to help us get this project underway. So, dig deep into your pockets—any funds not used for printing and mailing will go into the reunion account—our Golden 50s will be the next celebration.

If you have any ideas of a title for our newsletter, please let the editor or anyone on the committee know your thoughts. This will be YOUR newsletter.

Please send your tax-deductible financial help to:

Fresno High Class of '58
c/o Buddy Arakelian
529 W. Scott
Fresno, CA 93704

TIDBITS AND REMEMBRANCES

Judy Mooney Bivens found herself in a hammock on a nice summer afternoon sipping a glass of tea with Roger. Unfortunately, the hammock broke spilling them both into a dry creek bed. Fortunately, the incident brought Judy and Roger closer together and they recently got married.

After 30 years in the cruise business, **Larry Schiller** has retired and now sleeps in his own bed every night of the week instead of on the road.

(Continue on last page....)

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Jim Palmer and **Mike Stahm** recently caught up with each other after 44 years. And believe it or not, Jim still has his agate marble that he bought at Eastmen's Hobby Shop next to the Wilson Theater.

While passing through Visalia this year, **Bob Baker** looked up **Mr. Buyuklian**, our bandleader. As he was standing in the doorway, Mr. Buyuklian walked by, looked at him and said, "You're Robert Baker." Bob was impressed, as he had not seen him since the last day of school!

HELP IS NEEDED

If anyone is interested in helping set up and maintaining a web site for the class of '58, it would be much appreciated. The intent is to set up a link so alumni can get to alumni addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. You can express your interest to JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward at ja_woodward@hotmail.com or call her at 559-298-9296.

JoAnn Woodward
FHS Class of '58
351 Baron Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612

Return Service Requested

Tom Jing and his wife Lil have traveled the world since he retired a couple of years ago. Some of the countries they visited were eastern and northeastern US, Canada, Vietnam and China.

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EMAIL ADDRESSES

Part of this newsletter lists email addresses we have to date. Please read over the list carefully and inform us of any corrections or additions to be added to our next newsletter. Remember: when emailing any classmates, make sure and use FHS or Fresno High Class of '58 or something of that nature so it's not deleted on the other end. Keep security of others in mind.