

# THE OWLETTE DISPATCH

Fresno High School Class of 1958

Newsletter No. 7

Fall, 2006

## In Memoriam

*This issue is dedicated to those classmates who are no longer with us. Suzanne Guerard Smith, 10-05.  
Gary L. Hageman, 03-14-06. Bob Waldron, 05-30-06.  
Deborah Dion Gonsalves, 06-17-06.*



**Bill & Maggie McElroy**  
With Taylor, Alex and Kaitlyn

Bill is challenging grandparents who have outdone him

## CONFESSION AND CONFUSION

By Bill McElroy

Several months ago, JoAnn Woodward helped me get in touch with **Bill Raddatz**, who at that time was a lost classmate. After getting in touch with Bill and explaining to him that he missed the last class reunion (he claimed he didn't know about it) I decided to dub a DVD for him from the video tape taken at our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion.

While the DVD was being recorded, I watched the tape again to remember the great time my wife and I had at the reunion. While watching the tape, something jumped out at me. The interviewer, doing the taping, asked many of our classmates the same question "What kind of student were you in high school?" The universal answer, from the various classmates that were asked the question, was "I was a good student." I immediately thought to myself, I'm glad the interviewer didn't ask me that particular question. How would I have answered it? I know that many of our fellow classmates, who personally knew me, could have answered the question correctly. So, after all these years, I've decided to come clean and confess. Yes, it's true; I was a lousy student in high school. In fact, it's amazing I wasn't a high school dropout.

Over the years, my wife Maggie, and I continually counseled our twin boys against being the type of student I was in high school. Fortunately, my wife always kept my lousy high school academic past a secret from our children so they couldn't hold it against me when they were growing up. I had a great time in high school but academics were not on my agenda. I was sorry to hear that one of our FHS teachers, Mr. Amend, had passed away. He would have really enjoyed reading this confession as he was well aware of my poor high school academic record.

I did attend college after high school and eventually became a better student and graduated from Fresno State with a BS in business.

As we all get older, I believe most of us remember our high school days more clearly than the other years of our lives. There was a recent study done on why high school memories are more vivid than later life memories. I recently read the study but don't remember where I read it or the reasons for it's conclusions regarding our memories. I guess my wife is correct about my memory. She tells me that I can remember what happened fifty years ago but can't remember what I did yesterday. She has told me this so many times that I now believe her. I hope none of my fellow classmates have this problem.

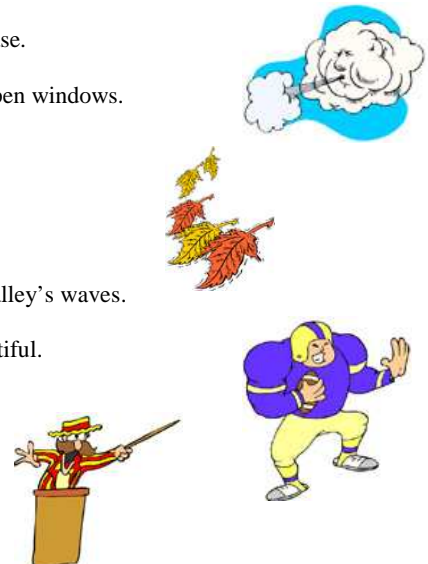
I do remember much of what happened in grammar school and in high school. Those are fond memories, but at my age, some of these memories are becoming confusing. Let me further explain. My old friend Jim Palmer now wants to be called **James Palmer**. Another friend **Ron Weyant** is now known as Guy Shannon. The cute red headed girl that lived around the corner from me in grammar and high school, **Vernie Morison**, is now a famous author known as Catherine Rehart. To top it all off, **Bruce Brownlow** now wants me to call him Sir. After high school, Bruce and I served as Lieutenants together in the Army National Guard. I eventually resigned my commission as my career with Mobil Oil was causing my family and me to do a lot of moving around the country. At our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion, Bruce and I caught up on what we had been doing over the years. Bruce retired as a Colonel from the Army National Guard and told me that I should now call him "SIR" as he outranks me. If you happen to see Bruce, please remember to call him "Sir Bruce".

With all these name changes with classmates, and my advancing age, it's quite possible that I may not remember anyone's correct name at the next reunion. If this happens, please forgive me, and just remember we're all growing old together. Memories, even those of our high school days, do fade with time and age.

Let's all look forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion. Bill can be reached at [AZBillmc@aol.com](mailto:AZBillmc@aol.com).

## Autumn in Fresno

Sizzling heat fades;  
Gentle breezes increase.  
Crisp mornings;  
Cool evenings and open windows.  
Glorious days.  
Utility bills decrease.  
Vivid yellows;  
Bright oranges;  
Vibrant hues of red;  
Raking leaves.  
Wind becomes the valley's waves.  
Rye grass to mow;  
But the green is beautiful.  
Bulldog football;  
Big Fresno Fair.



## SUCH AMBITION!

By JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward

**Garilee Schneider Cave** carries with her the privilege of being



one of the first girls to take auto shop at Fresno High, along with **Judy Kensinger Akins**. But, her life has taken many paths over the last 48 years. It was 1984 when Gari and her husband Jerry took in her mother-in-law who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

During this time, she was the County Director-Ombudsman for Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Facilities. While working, she realized that San Luis Obispo County did not have secured facilities for seniors who became wanderers or combative and required assistance. The county was losing patients to other counties, along with funding. Worse of all, relocated seniors would lose their support systems, the familiarity they had all their lives, and a constant environment to keep them in the "now."

In 1990, at the age of 50, she went to college and enrolled in a nursing program, but was told she was too old to qualify. So, she set about to solve issues she identified as highly important to senior citizens with the enthusiasm and determination of a woman with an objective.

In 1998, Gari had an opportunity to open the much needed secure assisted living necessary in the county. She and a partner bought an old dentist office and over the next two and a half years converted it



to a six bedroom, two bath facility called the Garden House. Six months later they added an additional three bedrooms and converted one of the bathrooms to a huge walk-in sitting shower facility to help

with the bathing of those who lived there. After another six months passed, an additional six bedrooms were added. In addition to getting this much needed facility up and running, she started an in-home support system to help those who required some help to remain independent in their own homes. That business was sold in 2003.

The Garden House is a very warm and loving home. This writer had an opportunity to tour the facility recently and found so much love and care within the walls. The home was extremely secure but not to the point where the residents were "locked-up". The environment allowed the residents ample space to move about, restful patio areas and offered therapeutic exercise.

All of Gari's enthusiasm and uncompromising focus on the elderly won her the Morro Bay Citizen of the Year award in 1995. Gari said once that she would like to be President and I asked her why. Her response showed a dedicated person. She would fight for senior's rights by maintaining the Older Americans Act and the Spousal Impoverishment Act. Since seniors tend not to vote or contribute, their plights are often ignored by the politicians.

Garden House is a non-profit corporation and is funded through tax deductible donations. Gari is always in need of fresh flowers,

activity and craft supplies, music or audio books to enrich the lives of her residents. You can contact Gari at [garicave@charter.net](mailto:garicave@charter.net) or 805-801-4103 cell or 805-772-8269 office phone number. If I ever need this type of care, Garden House would be my first choice. Thanks, Gari, for being so dedicated.

## MEN'S SENIOR BASEBALL LEAGUE

By Tom Marsella

The Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL) was held in October, 2005. I was lucky enough to play for the eighth straight year. We use wooden bats and play on the major league spring training diamonds. This is not a fantasy camp. The league plays real hardball, fast pitch and the works.

I was very blessed to receive the team ball in the playoff game sending us to the Senior World Series. I played left field and designated hitter (DH). My batting average was .556, third in the Series and very fortunate to lead our team, since I was a last minute draft. I last played in their World Series in 1998 and 1997, and then too, was very blessed.

I have been asked to be the manager-player with the age 45+ Cardinals in Fresno this year, my 5th year of playing over the last eight years.

All of this, just a bit of trivia for us frustrated jocks who should have listened to scouts when a young teenager. Some of the players in this league, which is world wide, have had professional ball experience.

Actually, I talked with **Jim Maloney** at the airport the day I was heading for the Series to play and he was off to a baseball card signing mission back east. He was such a terrific pitcher, as was **Dick Ellsworth**. We all played little league at the same time.

## JAMES' JABBER

By James Palmer

I read in the FHS alumni "Warrior Echo" that Anita Goeden McCready recently passed away. May God bless her. I saw that name a few times but never realized she was our fourth grade teacher at Thomas L. Heaton Elementary school.



Anita Goeden McCready's fourth grade class of 1950

If I had been aware I would have visited her before her death. When the fourth grade was finished, she went to New York for the summer and sent me a post card, which disappeared recently. This photograph is of her class in 1950.



(Continued....)

After reading the article in the last "Owlette Dispatch," it reminded me of this story about Dick Baskin. In 1953, I met **Justin Corbo** at Washington Jr. Hi. School. His greeting was a punch to my nose. Then a strange fellow broke up the scrap, his name was **Dick Baskin** who later became a close friend. Much to my surprise Justin became my brother-in-law in 1974....small world isn't it. During 1955-56, at Fresno High I drooled seeing Dick's Cushman motor scooter. **Bill Leavitt** told me that Bob Cutler had one for sale for \$45. I scraped up my savings and bought it. What a thrill that was.

Visiting Baskin's Upholstery and Automotive shop on Broadway was interesting. That was highway 99 back then. The shop still has a full size basement full of old automotive parts. Sam Baskin, known as "Oggie" was a character. He could whistle almost any tune excluding Jail House Rock by Big E. He is part of the history of Fresno. Sam had an old office chair at the shop. Dick decided to remove it so I asked if I could rebuild it for home use at our computer. I tore it down, refinished it, installed new wheels, pins for strength and re-upholstered it in my small home shop. It's comfortable as I sit in it right now jotting down these memories. There is a fire wall at Dick's with the title of "from a Victoria" with many photos of Dick's Ford Victoria....I noticed some art work on it by **Mike Stahm**.

I bought two vehicles from Dick. One a '50 Chevrolet Pickup with a 283 in it and the second a '51-'52 Caddy for \$35.00. Last year Dick ran across the receipt for it in his files.

A parking meter that had been removed from in front of Baskin's Upholstery is in our back yard today. Thanks for the memories, Dick.

### SNAPSHOT 1958

*By Rich Ballow*

It was a special moment in time and we didn't even recognize it. It just happened and in a few years it was gone, faded away. The 1950's were a bit magical, a romantic interlude between wars. The



music perhaps remembers it best with love verse after love verse interrupted only by a "shaboom" or "fa la la." Those times were colored pink and apple blossom white and everything had chrome trim. Girls wore soft, pastel

sweaters and circle skirts, guys' crew cuts. And everyone was in love, in 'love with love!' Daisy chains, junior proms, DiCiccio's pizza and Mars Drive-in with car hops on roller skates—it wasn't real, but it happened. Then one spring it was the Four Freshmen and graduation day. After that it all began to slip away. There was indeed a tear and year books to sign, promises to keep and summer parties at the lake, but it all began to fade.

We thought it was just growing up or moving on to college, but it was more than that. It was that carefree, romantic, innocent moment to remember. The '50's were coming to a close.



*Time, which changes people, does not alter the image we have of them. Marcel Proust*

### FHS ALUMNI DINNER

*By Buddy Arakelian*

I attended my third consecutive FHS Alumni Dinner on May 13. Each year in early May they block off Echo Avenue in front of Fresno High and set up tables for dinner. The food is always good, the program is good, but the best part is that you see alumni from other classes that you haven't seen for years.

This year I attended the dinner with Dr. Peter Dau and Bruce Merzon, both graduates from the class of 1956. We were seated at a table with Jim and Dick Hughes, '56, Fritz Schwartz, '56, Dudley Haverty, '54, Sharon Henryson Haverty, '55 and Juanita Sakajian Haugen '55. I had not seen Jim, Dick, Fritz or Juanita in 50 years.



*Jack Mulkey at the dinner*

There were many other alumni.....over 300 in all. I saw Pinky Winther, '51. I used to take my car to Pinky's Auto Repair on Blackstone near Bullard. Remember Darlene Wimer, '57? She was the mascot at sporting events and was there, too. From our class I saw **Sharill Sidwell Whitford, Carmen Bunch Bradley, Jan Charshaf Kelley, Peggy Duggan Culp and JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward.** I plan on returning next year. I know it will be bigger and better than ever.

### WE'VE HEARD FROM

Enclosed please find my donation for the wonderful work you're doing. I so enjoy the newsletters. They bring back all sorts of memories. Continue your fabulous work.....**Arlene Newman Schneider.** Thank you for putting me on your mailing list. Keep it up, please!.....**Suzy McLaughlin Upham.** Great job keeping us informed! See you at the 50th..... **Phil Maytorena.** Enjoying the newsletter. Hope it keeps going.....**Susan Schoenburg Loustalet.** Keep up the good work on the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you again at the Big 50 Celebration.....**Tom Baird.** Thanks for the newsletter. It's great to keep in touch.....**Judi Erdman Thompson.** Keep up the good work. We enjoy the newsletter very much. P.S. Don't forget, I sold a hamburger to all of you from the Blackstone/Shields McDonald's between 1955 and 1961. Looking forward to seeing you all soon..... **Don Mossette** and Jackie Polvado Mossette ('63).

### Annual Harvest Festival and Car Show

The second annual FHS Alumni Association Car Show and Harvest Festival will be held on October 21, 2006. This year it will be on the grounds of Barry Barisic's home at 4219 N. Van Ness, on the NW corner of Ashlan. The car show begins at 11:00 a.m. with lunch being served at 1:00 p.m. A silent dessert auction is planned so keep those belts loosened. Limited advance tickets are being sold at \$20 which includes the car show and lunch. Due to space availability, only 40 cars will be accepted for the car show, so get your entries in early. For tickets, contact JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward, 559-298-9296 and for car show information contact Dick Baskin, 559-237-5539. Lunch tickets must be bought before October 14 and car entries must be received before October 10.

## IT WASN'T CALIFORNIA, ANYMORE

By Cathy Vernie Morison Rehart

In 1949, my folks and I took the Southern Pacific train from L.A. to Atlantic City...it was nicknamed the "Kiwanis Special" because we picked up delegates in every state and were headed to the international Kiwanis convention in that city. We crossed the Mississippi River late at night.



Our porter, John, came to our stateroom and woke me up. He took me by the hand to the back of the train and told me we were going to see a wonderful sight. We stood on the observation deck outside the last car and, as the train, pulled across the river, John pointed out the lightening bugs in the bullrushes that lined the banks of the Mississippi. I had never seen anything like it before. They were everywhere and were like little light bulbs buzzing and darting amid the long, green leaves. Their reflections could be seen in the river...we stood there watching until we couldn't see them anymore. We went back inside the train--he took me back to my parents who had watched the sight from their window. However, we had a better view. I'll never forget that magical night and wonderful John who made our trip special every day of that journey.



How many of you remember our Senior plaque designed by **Cline Jack**? Who knows what lingers underneath.....



*Time, in its aging course teaches all things.*  
**Aeschylus**

**NO LONGER LOST** are **Ronald Craven, Vicki Kwachak Beagle** and **Justin Corbo**.

We are only two years away from our golden 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Find here a partial list of our lost classmates. If you know of any information that will help us locate them, please contact someone on the reunion board. Even if all you know is last where-about, it would be helpful.

Dean Adams  
Judy Adams Jorgensen  
Jackie Alston  
Bill Anderson  
Sharon Anderson  
John Angelos  
Marie Atkinson  
Rosetta Atkinson  
Robert Aubery  
Jim Bailey  
Ida Barger  
Wayne Bartlett  
Dick Bay  
Don Beldon  
Barbara Bellows Kohl  
William Bence  
Gerald Birdsell  
Gary Bolin  
Sharon Bolster Klocksieben  
Wanda Bounds  
James Boyd  
Marie Brink Marshall  
Florence Brown  
Sandy Burger Heorron  
Barbara Campbell Koolery  
Mary Kaye Cambell  
Marti Carey Foster  
Allen Cates

Wayne Chapman  
Charlene Clark  
Carol Claspill King  
Elton Cligenpeel  
Nancy Cline  
Wayne Cloyd  
Catherine Copp Fisher  
Bill Couchman  
Marie Craig Morrison  
Mack Crawford  
Richard Crowston  
John Cunneen  
Judith Deck  
Donna Dewhirst Amenian  
Charles Dicks  
Gail Doll Lannucci  
Art Dunn  
Diane Ehrlich Moore  
Joyce Ellefsen  
Norma English  
Sandra Fey Rathwick  
Ronica Fiske Reitz  
Bob Fluter  
John Forseth  
Dennis Freeman  
Ray Freeman  
Gary French  
Lenetta Fries  
Linda Gane  
Tom Garr  
Marlene Gilleland  
Ken Gipe  
Gretchen Gonser Morse  
Donald Good  
Ray Graham  
Shirley Greco Brown

Rosemari Grenfell Zumwalt  
Gerald Guenot  
James Gwilliam, Jr.  
Mary Hanson  
Mary Hartmann Keaveney  
Elden Heinrichs  
Jeanine Hendrickson Thompson  
DuWayne Hintz  
Paul Holsinger  
Ronald Horg  
Vincent James  
Ken Johnson  
Ted Johnson  
Margaret Johnson Goldberg  
Reynold Johnston  
Gary Jumps  
Dick Jury  
Joe Keenan  
Jean Kell Appleton  
Leon Kerr  
Paul Knee  
Janice Knight  
Norman Kohl  
Judy LaFeber Noakes  
David Lemon  
Larry Leos  
Patsy Lewis  
Rondo Lobo Roman  
Cliff Loveland  
Richard Loya  
Deann Luca Walters  
Ella Lum Kittrell  
Judy Manktelow  
Joyce Mattera Burnett  
Chloreta McGolden Martin  
Donna McGuy Eschback

Glenn Millorn  
Paula Mitchell  
Richard Mitchell  
Kathy Moore  
Dick Moore  
Elsie Moseley

Don Murphy  
Jim Negus  
Larry Nehring  
Edward Newton  
Steve Nicola  
Alan Oakes

Eugene Ohman  
Gloria Olea  
Joan Parreant  
Oscar Pavelich  
Judy Peckinpah Wimmer  
Evelyn Holliman Persch

Notification

Please notify someone on the reunion board of any changes to your personal information. Updates on changes for street address, email address, phone number or name will keep the FHS Class of '58 database in tip-top shape.

**Editor's note:** When contacting any classmate by email, use FHS, Class of '58 or something similar so the email will not be deleted.

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**CONTINUING THIS NEWSLETTER:** Without your support, this newsletter cannot continue to be published. Each issue costs nearly 90 cents and consumes money that can be used towards future reunions or helping others who cannot afford to attend. Send your tax-deductible check to FHS Class of '58 c/o Buddy Arakelian at 529 W. Scott Ave. Fresno, CA 93704. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other



*John Lawson's pickup from 2005 FHAA Harvest Festival*

**The following classmates have recently made contributions to our newsletter: Edna Anderson Vaughn, Tom Baird, Bruce Cambern and Marci DeBenedetto, Judi Erdman Thompson, Alvin Fielder, John R. Good, Joy Jenson Johnson, Phil Maytorena, Bill McElroy, Suzy McLaughlin Upham, Don & Jackie Palvado Mossette, Arlene Newman Schneider, Johnnie Richard, Larry Schiller and Susan Schoenburg Loustalet.**

*The 7<sup>th</sup> annual dinner for all graduating classes and friends of FHS was held on Saturday, May 13, 2006 in the street in front of the school. No host cocktails began at 5:00 pm and dinner followed at 7:00 pm. "Music, Music, Music" was the theme this year and Choraleers and other music groups from the school were honored. Past Choraleers joined the FHS choir group and invited those in attendance to join them in singing our Alma Mater.*



Fresno High Class of '58  
C/O Buddy Arakelian  
529 W. Scott Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93704

Forward Address Requested

*NOTES TAKEN FROM A 1907 OWL: Straw hats will not be worn much this winter except for those who hate to part with their old ones. Felt hats will be all the go this winter. Derbys should be worn on the football field, especially by the audience. White starched collars are going to be all the rage. The latest news from Paris states that the newest fad is the wearing of neckties. These articles are long pieces of cloth which are tied in a knot around the neck. The style in shirts has now changed. They will now button down the front. Pants will be very baggy, with seams down the side and pockets will be put in. Young men should not wear jewelry. They should leave it at home....or at Uncle Ike's.*

Reunion Board Members: **Buddy Arakelian**, Co-chairperson. Reach him at [mrcentralv@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrcentralv@sbcglobal.net), 529 W. Scott Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704, 559-229-0850. **Lyn Darby Maloney**, Co-chairperson. Reach her at [lynmaloney46@aol.com](mailto:lynmaloney46@aol.com), 7027 N. Teilman, #102, Fresno, CA 93711, 559-439-7525. **Pat Scheidt Austin**, [pat-austin@comcast.net](mailto:pat-austin@comcast.net), 2500 E. Menlo Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710, 559-299-8446. **Vernie Morison Rehart**, [crehart@aol.com](mailto:crehart@aol.com), 5110 N. Fruit, #123, Fresno, CA 93711, 559-226-6620. **Jim Shields**, [jim-shields@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jim-shields@sbcglobal.net), 499 E. Kelso, Fresno, CA 93720, 559-434-3899. **JoAnn D'Ambrosio Woodward**, [ja\\_woodward@hotmail.com](mailto:ja_woodward@hotmail.com), 351 Baron Avenue, Clovis, CA 93612, 559-298-9296.

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