

# FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955 NEWSLETTER

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No. 4 Spring 2008

*In memory of the following classmates*

**Sherry Becker Barnes 5/19/96**

**John Mahigian Jr. 10/13/07**

**Sheila Carpenter Eden 10/16/07**

**Robert Smith 11/4/07**

**Dick Pace 11/19/07**

**Donna Farrens Roesner 1/8/08**

**Shirley Bessinger Horn 2/3/08**

## REUNION NOTES

Greetings classmates.

I attended the First Annual Wall of Champions dinner on October 10, 2007 put on by the FHS Alumni Association honoring former athletes. What really got me excited was they were able to use the entire banquet room at Pardini's (330 people) and I got to see first hand how everything looked decorated in purple and gold. It was done simply but very well and the room looked spectacular. I saw some possibilities for our reunion in 2010. I talked to the catering manager and asked her what was required to have the entire room. She said 250 reservations. Not a lot, but we only had 245 at the 50<sup>th</sup>. My goal when I took over this position was 300 people and that includes spouses etc. It is not out of the ballpark, especially since we have found so many people and have 400 classmates on the active list, **but we need your support to make this happen.**

One classmate suggested we try to tie in 1955 and 55<sup>th</sup> reunion. What we need is input from as many of you as possible. Put on your thinking caps and send me ideas. **Remember to make us your vacation in October 2010.**

## !!! FOUND CLASSMATES !!

I am happy to say we have found **Janice Kruse** in Milpitas CA, **Leroy Sherman** in LaGrande OR, and **Donald McCord Jahn** in Sacramento CA. (Donald told me his legal name was always Jahn but when he entered school he used his step-fathers last name. He had to go back to Jahn after high school). **We are down to 39 lost classmates.**

## LOST CLASSMATES

I have had one newsletter come back for **Joyce Bollinger McMaster**. It had deceased written on it but I have been unable to confirm this. If anyone can verify this please contact Sharon Haverty.

## LONDON TRIP



**Carol Bowman Underhill:** Dr. Walker, retired professor emeritus in theatre arts from Fresno State, takes a group of theatre lovers to London's west end every year to attend seven to nine plays. He has an orientation in Fresno before the trip. There were four of us who showed up at the orientation from the class of '55. What a surprise! We were all unaware the other was going. We all had a great time. This was my ninth trip. I also taught at Fresno City College at the same time as Charlie Lynes. He is still teaching a theatre arts class.

**Jim Provost** and wife Kay have taken the Theatre trip twice.

**Stan Spano** and wife Darlene (Weimer '57) have taken the trip three times.

**Madeline DiLiddo Lynes;** It was amazing to have four people from the class of '55 on this last London Theatre trip. This was the first time I have been on the trip with Stan and Jim. Carol has been on at least three with us, possibly four. My husband Charlie and I have gone on this particular trip seven times and we thoroughly enjoy it every time we go.

## FHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

[www.fresnohighalumni.com](http://www.fresnohighalumni.com)

You can go the alumni website and order your dinner tickets on line or do it the old fashion way below.

**FHS Alumni Dinner** – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> on Echo Avenue in front of FHS. Cost is \$35 per person prepaid. Checks made out to FHS Alumni Assn., c/o Marie Slater, 655 E. Michigan, Fresno 93704, [mcs31@cvip.net](mailto:mcs31@cvip.net). The theme is “The Beat Goes On.”

**Wall of Champions Dinner** – Second Annual Dinner, October 8th at Pardini’s. The First Annual Dinner to honor former athletes went beyond the committee’s expectations.

## SENIOR WILLS

Here are some more of those crazy thoughts we had when asked to write a senior will:

**David Ross** – Will to my sister Becky Ruth Ross, all the short exciting hours spent in ecstasy studying history with Miss Defoe. (*I hear you David. Remember the notes we were forced to put in the margins?*)

**Carl Vincent** – Will my long curly hair to Chuck Toy. (*There’s the hair thing again.*)

**Deann Beer** – Will to Elrod all the mornings I won’t be rising at 7:30, “hep” teachers like Sad Zak, and “that” crossbar on the Santa Cruz roller coaster.

**David Philpott** – Will to Denis, my debate evidence; to Al Goldberg, a chauffeur; and to Leon Mahsdorf, a 6 year subscription each of Pravda, the Daily Worker, the Siberian Tribune and the Moscow Express. (*David, did the FBI ever contact you?*)

## ??? WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW ???

**Bob Thornburg:** I received an email from **Larry Smith**. He and his wife Betty visited Bob in Bishop, CA, in 2007. He gave me a website to check out regarding Bob. It is [www.gourdbanjo.com](http://www.gourdbanjo.com). Bob is a retired teacher, but his sideline is making custom banjos out of gourds. Go the website, which is Sierra View Acoustic Music, and click enter. A wonderful picture of Bob appears with five beautiful banjos. He looks like he just graduated from high school. You can click on the navigation button and contact him. He also lives where you can take a deep breath and get clean air. Bob was chosen Wow Warrior for baseball in 1955.

## ACADEMY AWARDS CONNECTION.



In February the Fresno Bee ran an article about a Fresno State graduate, Roy Christopher, designing the sets for the Academy Awards TV broadcast. Did you know there is a connection to one of our class members? Roy Christopher is the professional name of Roy Hergenroeder who, shortly after graduating from Fresno State, married Dorothy Joyal, FHS '53 and the sister of **Arnold Joyal** '55. Roy has now designed the sets for 18 Oscar broadcasts, plus Frazier, Murphy Brown, and other series and specials. In the process he has been nominated for 36 Emmies and has won nine. Dorothy collaborated with Roy as the designer of the Green Room for several of the Oscar shows. This is where presenters and winners gather during the broadcast. Some of their Green Room designs have been featured in articles in Architectural Digest Magazine.

## BAY AREA MINI REUNION

The third annual FHS Class of '55 Bay Area Mini-Reunion will be held on Saturday, May 3, at 2:00. Gail Giffin will host the potluck BBQ at her home in Lafayette. Contact Gail at [fatslice1@comcast.net](mailto:fatslice1@comcast.net) or Arnold Joyal at [ajoyal@comcast.net](mailto:ajoyal@comcast.net) for details or directions.

## TRIVIA

- 1. Our** last Owlet on June 3, 1955 recognized the Wow Warriors for ten athletic events. Who were selected for Boxing and Cross Country?
- 2. Who** were Blossom Day King and Queen?
- 3. Nancy** Madden was selected as Outstanding Senior Teacher of the Year. The Owlet article mentioned a previous profession. Do you know what it was?  
(Answers are on the back page.)

## **NORTH PADRE ISLAND, TX**

*Submitted by John White:*

I retired in August of 1990 after a 31 ½ year career with Kimberly-Clark Corporation. My wife Gaye and I were looking for a new adventure and came to Austin, TX. We bought property in a suburb, Round Rock, and built our dream home. We also bought a condo on North Padre Island (Corpus Christi). In 1998 we decided to move permanently to North Padre Island, which is a barrier island that is 110 miles long but only one mile wide and 100 miles north of South Padre Island. We sold both homes and bought a waterfront home. All of the area between North and South Padre Island is a national park with no roads – either you walk or use 4 WD. This year we had 40 inches of rain.

Since retiring we have had a good 18 years, traveling and enjoying everything. Two years ago I went back to work. I am the chairman of a beautification trust to raise money for our end of the island. Last year I raised \$90,000 in cash and services and completed nine projects (our population is 10,000). I belong to the Padre Island Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club and am a member of the current class of the Citizens University of Corpus Christi. My wife Gaye is very involved with animal rescue and care. She also is a real help backing me up in my efforts on the island. We have had many visitors from California over the years and we have visited classmates when we have traveled to California.

## **WORDS FROM 1955**

“When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage.”  
*(I want everyone to know I have my free senior citizens pass to ride the bus - and I am using it.)*

## **FRIENDSHIPS AND TRAVELS**

*Submitted by Helen Johansen:*

I retired from practicing law and NO I do not miss it. I travel to Kauai and Provence, France and a few other places but home is the Northwest, Poipu Beach and the Var in Provence. I did not start traveling until a doctor told me to take a vacation and I went to Poipu and that was the only place I would go. After a huge push from my friend I reluctantly went to Europe (I was a bad sport initially.) We started in London and then flew to Paris. All of our friends said, “DO NOT TAKE HELEN TO PARIS!...she will hate the French.” We went anyway. I love Paris and I could live there very easily. From Paris we went to Italy but returned to Paris because it grabbed my soul. Since that trip I

have not stopped traveling and log in excess of 80,000 miles a year.

Our home in Var (45 minutes from Nice Airport) is lovely. My French (wish I had paid more attention in Mr. Kinzel’s French class) is SLOWLY improving. Who would have thought back at Washington Jr. High '52 and FHS '55, while dissecting grasshoppers in Ms. Barnes biology class, running around in blue bloomers for Ms. Tyler’s P.E. class, and listening to Mr. Mecartea piss and moan when Marilyn Monroe got married, that a group of girls who forged friendships long ago would be sitting on top of the Eiffel Tower eating lunch together one day. Only five out of ten made that trip, but all have made many other trips together. We have two rules for our group. No husbands and no groaning when we get out of a chair.

I hope to talk the girls into a trip to Africa, preferably Botswana (of the No.1 Ladies Detective Agency fame) and for all ten to visit my home in Var before we turn 90 (they have never been there). We all have had good health, travels and most of all good friendships.

## **CHANGES ???????**

Remember to notify Sharon Haverty if any of your information changes. If you haven’t done so, add me to your email address book.

[shaverty1955@comcast.net](mailto:shaverty1955@comcast.net).

Thank you to those who have notified me of changes.

## **NEWSLETTER**

My thanks to all who have sent articles and information regarding classmates. We look forward to hearing from more of you. How about you east-coast classmates? Let us know what’s going on back there.

## **Newsletter Fund:**

We will always need your help in financing the newsletter. We accept any amount.

All checks are made out to:

**FHS Class of 1955  
c/o Sharon Henryson Haverty  
3773 W. Robinson Ave.  
Fresno CA 93722  
559-275-3152**

I do send receipts for tax deductions.

## WHO ARE THESE YOUNG KIDS?



According to the 1952 Owl, these are members of the C Basketball team: Shannon Wong, Bud Jewett, Jim Woodward, Den Stubblefield, Tom Robinson (mgr.), Jim Haar, Ken Scheidt, Don Rossi, George Andros, and Ted Matthews. The highest scoring game of the season was a 35-11 victory over Visalia.

## TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Boxing: Carl Vincent; Cross Country: Bob Moreno. 2. King and Queen: Den Stubblefield and Deanna Amos. 3. A Marine, for cryin' out loud.

## CONTACTS:

**Reunion Committee:** Coordinator, Sharon Henryson Haverty, 3773 W. Robinson Ave., Fresno CA 93722, [shaverty1955@comcast.net](mailto:shaverty1955@comcast.net); Nancy Ferguson Ferda, 2344 E. Fir Ave., Fresno CA 93720, [nferda@hotmail.com](mailto:nferda@hotmail.com); Ellie Mason Huston, 8282 N. Armstrong, Clovis CA 93619, [elliedonellie@aol.com](mailto:elliedonellie@aol.com); Dave Meyer, 245 W. Brier Circle, Fresno CA 93722, [dave-meyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dave-meyer@sbcglobal.net).

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