

# FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955 NEWSLETTER

*SHaverty1955@comcast.net*

*No. 10 Spring 2011*

*In memory of the following classmates*

**William Seltzer 1/3/03**  
**Patty Harr Erickson 11/24/10**  
**Travis Lee Baker 12/14/10**  
**Sue Simmons 3/1/11**

## **REUNION UPDATES**

Your reunion committee is up and running again. We are already talking about the 60th and have several ideas in mind and some improvements also.

In a future newsletter we will give you the results of the survey. I had too much news this time to work it in. **Most of us will be 78 at the next reunion and I started thinking about that so here is my take on it. They are only 2 numbers and done like this, 7 + 8 = 15, it will put a spring in our step. That may become our theme.**

## **MORE PHOTOS**

We had photos from **Judy Scott Heitzenrader** that arrived too late for our reunion CD. We are including two that were different from all the rest. Here is Judy with our 1955 class plaque.



Here is my favorite picture of all. Our own FHS paparazzi. This is a classic. Thanks Judy for doing the unusual.



## **BAY AREA MINI-REUNION**

We have had such good times at the first five Bay Area Mini-Reunions we don't want to change a thing. It will again be held at **Gail Giffin's** home in Lafayette. Bring the meat that you want to barbeque and a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. We'll start about 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 7. Flyers will go out soon to previous attendees with more details. **If you are interested, send your address or email address to Arnold Joyal and you will get a flyer.** (We are very loose about our definition of "Bay Area Resident".)

## **THE REST OF THE CAR STORY**

**Remember the car story in our spring 2010 newsletter? I have the rest of the story by Jack Smith St. Cyr.**

"I laughed aloud when I read **Ron Hulse's** story about the two brand new 1954 Fords. It was me who was driving the first Ford back to the dealership. Ron was right. I pulled over to the side of the road, and we went to work on the poorly adjusted glove box door which kept popping open. We did what we could and prepared to continue our journey back to the dealership.

I started to pull out into the traffic lane and slowed back down when I saw traffic coming from behind us. Whoever was driving the second Ford saw the same traffic and decided we could beat it. Thus, one slower moving Ford and one accelerating Ford, bang! Needless to say the Ford dealer was quite agitated. The best part of the story, I think, took place when the dealer called the FHS office and was told that he had no business giving two brand new cars to two high school kids! " Thanks Jack for 'fessing up.

### **JACK FOUND US**

Before the reunion I received a message from classmates.com that I had an email from a classmate. **(John) Jack Graham** was looking for information on the Class of 1955. I had been mailing newsletters to an address in Indio CA for 4 years but Jack never lived in Indio. I hope those people saw what a fantastic group the Class of 1955 is.

Jack has lived in Texas for the past 30 years. For the past 40 years he has been painting billboards from California to Mississippi. The only painting he does now is restoring old wall signs in the five states closest to his home.

Jack also sent a picture of himself and a friend taken during Frontier Day in 1955. **He is the one with the gun.** The pistol in the holster was a working, wooden model of an 1873 Colt that he made for the occasion. **The school made him check it in at the school office.** (*Don't you love it.*)



### **FRESNO HIGH ALUMNI DINNER**

**May 7, 2011**

**In front of Fresno High  
5 P.M. No Host Social Hour**

**7 P.M. Dinner**

**\$40 per person**

**Contact Marie Slater,**

**mcsfresno@gmail.com**

Unfortunately, this falls on the same day as the Bay Area Mini Reunion. I am trying to get a good representation from the Class of 1955 to attend. It is a fund raiser. **Go to [www.fresnohighalumni.com](http://www.fresnohighalumni.com) website. You can print off form and mail in. Make sure you note Class of 1955. I will make sure all '55er's will be sitting together.**

### **WE NEED ARTICLES!!!!**

I had a wealth of information for this newsletter. I am now out of news about classmates or activities. There must be good stories from the past about Choraleers, Wagon Wheelers, Senate or a favorite teacher, etc. When you write those articles, please include what you are doing now. If I don't get any new articles, you will have stories and pictures of my grandchildren and greats.

### **10<sup>th</sup> REUNION PHOTOS**

We have a project we want to start working on for the 60<sup>th</sup>. **We are missing photos (probably black and whites) for the 10<sup>th</sup>.** If you have any, please make copies and mail to Sharon Haverty.

### **55<sup>th</sup> REUNION PHOTOS**

You can still get a CD with pictures from the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Send a check for \$3 to Sharon Haverty.

## ALOHA

*(We have three classmates who live on Maui. One of those, **David DeMark**, started a coffee group.)*

"The first get together of the Maui Contingent occurred [yesterday] at **Sandy Whyte Moore's** place in Maui Meadows. **Jane Tradewell Huff** couldn't make it as she was going to Kauai to meet up with her sister, but will be with us next time. It was good to get to know one another. We talked some at the reunion, but this was really one on one. My partner Joe and Sandy's husband Dick (FHS '53) were also there. We had some very good coffee and croissants. Thanks Sandy and Dick."

*(Way to go David)! **They are all safe after the tsunami.***



### **FHS REUNION REVISTED** **By Judith Strong Albert**

William Saroyan, a fine writer, once observed that the first ten years are "really years," that impressions and feelings from that endless period when you're growing up – are lasting. I'd say that it is the first 17 years plus because that takes you almost through high school.

Many of us returned to the Valley in mid-October for our 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Most of us came by car or plane and arrived at Four Points by Sheraton on Blackstone.

Being there was to be a Valley girl (or boy) again. Looking at photos of us taken for the yearbook that innocent year returned

us to who we were as a group of not yet adults-but-no-longer children.

We were very lucky. We just didn't know it. The air we breathed was undiluted, pure oxygen and everything we did was wrapped up in a certain unacknowledged, unrecognized bubble of freedom: competitive sports/athletics/swim team; music/orchestra/"Choraleers,"; debating team/theatre/drama. We could do it all. We didn't think twice about it.

There were cliques. Not belonging – or feeling oneself an outcast but a hazy mood of friendship seemed to surround even the most isolated of us. We came to *our* school, moved through big noisy halls, walked into classrooms tentatively looking around for an ally, avoided eye-contact with some, listened to our formative teachers who we figured were ancients, doodled notes on scratch paper, and at the last bell sauntered or raced out of school. We left on foot or bikes, rarely driven or picked up by car (envying those who actually drove), and did some half-baked homework. Did we worry much about the future? Were we eager to get into college or mostly just to fall in love? What did those books we read tell us about what lay ahead?

The October reunion was filled with vibrations from all the days and weeks we'd shared more than half a century earlier. The look of us now supersedes the class photos. Our lives appear to match the people we believed we might become. There is a collective "face" of our class which we cannot forget. We were there together, holding on to the past but o.k. with now.

*(Judith has written a book titled "**Minerva's Circle – Margaret Fuller's Women.**" It is on sale now for \$21. She is working on a semi-fictional memoir call "**Annie, Mommy, Me.**" She and husband **Frants Albert** spend summers in Denmark. **Frants is Danish and an architect. They bought and remodeled a house in Denmark so there would be room for their family to come and spend summers with them.**)*

**Fresno High School Class of 1955  
C/o Sharon Henryson Haverty  
3773 W. Robinson Ave.  
Fresno CA 93722**

**Forwarding Address Requested**

Our plans are to wait until the 60<sup>th</sup> before we officially meet again. But as you can see by the activities we have mentioned, there are events to attend in between. If you live in or near the bay area it's the **Bay Area Mini Reunion**, the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in May, in Fresno it's the **Fresno High Alumni Dinner** in May. **Stan Silva** has a list of Sacramento area classmates and is thinking about a get together; you can go to Maui and have coffee. Santa Cruz classmates get together; there are at least 4 classmates in the Tucson AZ area and many in Southern California. Coffees in Fresno. Many opportunities to connect.

**If you are already doing any of this, let me know and send a picture.**

**NEW BANK**

We have changed our bank account to Bank of the West and your checks must be payable to: **FHS Alumni Ass'n, Class of 1955**. Please mail checks to **FHS Class of 1955, c/o Sharon Haverty**. Mailing address is on the contact list. Our account is separate from the Alumni account and we have use of their Federal ID number.

**CONTACTS:**

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