

FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955 NEWSLETTER

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No. 3 October 2007

In memory of the following classmates:

Charles Barnett 6/94
William Jeffers 3/11/01
Doug Klotz 10/23/02
Linda Adams Evarts 3/26/04
Carolyn Lowell Level 6/28/07

REUNION NOTES

Here we go again. Never did I dream when I agreed to take over as coordinator for the Class of 1955 that we would be putting together a newsletter. The first two were easy but I am confessing right now that we need input from classmates. We have had wonderful feedback from classmates and how much you enjoy reading the newsletter, so help us out and share some of your memories and current events with us. I know there are classmates who have kept in touch over the years. This is what we are looking for. Please send us a picture and a short article. *Anything with a picture please send to ajoyal@comcast.net. I would never survive without him.*

NEWSLETTER FUND: Our last newsletter cost \$275.32. We received \$145.00 which covered the cost of copying and some of the postage. Our postage costs will increase \$8.00 for the next mailing. Our balance for this fund is \$869.68.

DINNER FUND: We received \$60.00. Our balance for this fund is \$560. I still need names for classmates who need financial assistance for the next reunion.

Thank you for your contributions and we do need you to continue to help us financially. If you did not receive your tax receipt please contact me. Remember when you make out checks, designate where you want your donation to go:

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

!!!! FOUND CLASSMATES !!!!

We are flushed with success. We found two classmates who have been on our radar for longer than a year. They are **La Donna Harrington Dawson and Bill Stokes**. Sometimes the first search is a direct hit and we can move on, but other times it takes many tries before it all falls into place. I found Bill Stokes after having a conversation with Pat Turner at the FHS Alumni dinner. He added some information for me which resulted in finding Bill. Sometimes a chance conversation is all it takes. Our lost list is down to 43 classmates.

LOST CLASSMATES

Jeanie Dailey Hayhurst wants her school friends to know we have her on the mailing list. We are delighted to share with you that ten newsletters were returned and we were able to find correct addresses for all of them. We do have a request. There are two classmates who moved overseas; **Jeri McElligott Pederson** (Denmark) and **Valerie Gurley** (Australia). There was an address for Jeri listed in the 40th reunion booklet but it is hard to read. If any out there have contact with either of them or have an email address please contact Sharon Haverty.

FHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

What a wonderful time we had at the 2007 alumni dinner. I saw ten classmates from 1955. It was the largest crowd they have had so far. The FHS Senate was honored. Our table had the privilege of talking to three current senators. They now allow female students in the organization and that has kept it alive. It is also the oldest continuous high school organization in the country. We filled them in on our time at FHS. We described LeConte and Palmer halls with the beautiful porticos, we shared with them that we walked to school and very few students had their own vehicles. **Ann Leonardo Thaxter** pointed out her husband's house, we pointed out **Ella Lou Sharp Weiler's** house, and my husband Dudley (54) gave the location of his house on McKinley. We shared the different routes we all walked to get to school. It was a great time.

The FHS Alumni Ass'n is looking for members. The cost is \$25, \$50 or \$100. Checks made out to FHS Alumni Ass'n. can be mailed to P.O. Box 27516, Fresno, CA, 93729. Please check out their website which will have our newsletters, reunion information as we post it. They are going to post a form for the Walk of Fame, which are brass coverings for the bricks leading up to Royce Hall. They can be purchased for \$40. Two people can place a name on one brick. I have a picture of mine so you can see how they look. It is very impressive. The website is www.fresnohighalumni.com.



SENIOR WILLS

Remember these? We thought we were so cool. We decided to share a few wills in each newsletter. Our scientific approach to selecting which ones to use was closing our eyes and moving our finger up, down, and over and landing on someone's name. Here goes!

John Dews – leaves to John Tibbs the sweet, tasty punch in Mr. Reid's voltage cells.

Patty Dillon – wills one pair of shoestrings to William; a portable and private date bureau to Crofts; "Neighbor" to Darley; a new pianist to M.Y.F.; and all good things to every undergraduate.

Pat Markarian – will my shower partner, along with a bottle of the strongest perfume to B.K., B. Waldo, Toni Kiemele, and Joyce Nielson; "Rubber Lips" to B.K.; Stan to B.W.

Bob Poole – hereby will all my hair to Coach Toy, and my brains to Betsey, the old grey dog around school. I also will my ping pong ability to George Sarantos, and my senior picture to Ellen.

(Obviously some of us spoke in code back then and a lot of guys left their hair to Coach Toy.)

A MEMORY

Submitted by Barnard Bever.....

We all have stories to tell of our years at Fresno High. Even after fifty plus years, some slip easily back into our consciousness. Placing second in an event at the city swimming meet against Roosevelt High, a particular performance with the Choraleers, or any number of other things we felt important to our lives at the time, are part of mine.

I wonder, though, how often we think about some of the classes which we may have thought irrelevant to our futures at the time, which actually became important to us later, and the teachers who wittingly or not, gave us an introduction to knowledge that would become central to our careers or lives in just a new more years.

I can think of several. Michael Thayer and Louise Hazelton are prominent on my list of favorites but thinking back, if I had to pick one who had the greatest influence on my future, it would probably have to be Vernon Walker. He would have been hard pressed to single me out as a student in his Biology class whose future occupation and interests would encompass much of what he was teaching. After all, I was the one who, when it came time to make an insect collection with 22 different insects, turned in a collection of 22 bees and insisted that each was a different bee. He gave me a B on the collection. I think I had been spending too much time smelling the carbon tet in the kill jar. Who knew that nine years later, I would be a silviculturist with the Forest Service and that insect identification and control would be one of the major parts of my job.

HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY

On Friday, July 27, 2007 sixteen brave classmates owning up to turning 70 years old gathered at FIVE

restaurant at Champlain and Perrin in Fresno. I only mention the streets because half of you would never know where this is, and in high school we wouldn't have been able to find a way there. The growth in northeast Fresno County has been incredible. But back to the lunch. I am not going to identify those in the picture below, but everyone in the room went back to grammar school with someone. What a wonderful experience to be able to sit and talk for three hours with friends who have the same memories that you do. We do the birthday lunch every July. I know that there are more of you out there that can share news like this. I want to make it clear that this is not a newsletter about what happens in Fresno. We just happen to be very active and someone always has a camera. Please pass on your activities with a picture if you have one and we will be delighted to print it. Oh, I forgot, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL.



HERE'S WHAT THEY ARE DOING

We are highlighting the following classmates who passed on to us some of their activities. I know there are more of you out there. Let's hear from you!

Paula Powers:

Along with her husband, Willard W. Davis, has a business called Creative Spirit that conducts Creative Workshops each month on weekends. They are called "Painting From Your Imagination" and do not require any previous painting experience, although practicing artists also attend. The cost is \$150 and supplies are included. Contact her at 510-336-3676. Workshops are limited to nine participants and take place in a sunny, bay-view studio. She has also offered her two guests bedrooms to any classmate who would like to attend.

Winona Johnson Toffoli:

We highlighted her in the previous newsletter but wanted to remind you that her vineyard is located in Finley CA, which is near Clear Lake. Her website is www.remembrancevineyard.com.

Terry Gross:

Retired as a corporate chef for Gastronomy Inc., which operated nine varied restaurants in the Salt Lake City area for 12 years. . Before that he and a partner operated an Armenian and then a German dinner house for 18 years. He retired and returned to the Fresno area after at least 30 years. He is now the chef at the Sierra Nut House at Blackstone and Nees on MWF. Our Friday coffee bunch visits him there off and on.



Deaunna Holcomb Moore:

Owns a women’s clothing store in Pacific Grove CA. called Prim and Proper. It is located on Lighthouse Blvd. between Grand and Fountain. It is a wonderful walk-around area with small shops and restaurants. I visited her when we moved my oldest granddaughter to Pacific Grove. If you visit the area stop in and say hello. She works weekends.

Kathy Karr Myles:

“I have a small B&B, ‘Inn on the Lake’, on Lake Boon in Stow MA. I am about 25 miles west of Boston, near Concord MA. The Inn officially opens the end of May and closes the end of Oct. However, I do open for Thanksgiving and Christmas if people in town are having a lot of relatives that they can’t house. I can accommodate six people. It’s a lot of fun and I meet really interesting people.” If you plan a visit to the NE give her a call at 978-562-6109.



Are there any more classmates still punching the clock or have an unusual vocation? Notify Sharon or Arnold.

TRIVIA TIME

(Answers on page 4)

1. Can you name all 7 pep girls from our senior year? One was a junior.
2. Who was Commissioner of Debate?
3. Who was Queen of the Senate Christmas Formal?

WASHINGTON JUNIOR HIGH TRAVELERS

Rosanne Jensen sent this picture of friends who have kept in touch all these years. She reports, “In September of 1952 we were the new kids on the block. Since Washington Junior High had a ninth grade, we didn’t come to Fresno High until our sophomore year. It was a pretty scary place, but we had each other. Gradually we met some of those ‘Hamilton People’ and found they weren’t so bad. We made new friends, but we didn’t let go of the old ones – and haven’t yet!

“In 1992 Arlene (Johns) Smith invited some of us to a slumber party at her home. It was so much fun that the next year we went to Morro Bay for a few days. The trips continue to this day. They may not be every year, and sometimes not everyone can come, but we try. We’ve been to Morro Bay several times, Shady Cove, OR, several times, Whidby Island, WA, Hawaii, Mendocino, and Paris!

“In 2002 we organized a fifty-year Washington Junior High reunion here in Fresno and invited all we could locate from our class. Since some had gone on to Roosevelt, it was especially great to see them again. This picture was taken on one of our Morro Bay trips.”



Top row, left to right: Lucia (Koller) Wilson, Mary Anne (Smith) Thaele, Eloise (Mason) Huston, Marlene (Phillips) Rutledge, Helen Johansen, Joan (Goodall) Cox, Gail Phillips. Bottom row, left to right: JoAnn (Alavezos) Anderson, Arlene (Johns) Smith, Rosanne (Jensen) Jensen.

BAY AREA MINI-REUNION

The second annual Bay Area Mini-Reunion was bigger and better than ever. Gail Giffen hosted the potluck barbeque this year on May 5 at her home/art gallery in Lafayette. If you plan to be in the Bay Area next May, contact Gail, fatslllice1@comcast.net, or Arnold and we'll declare you an "Honorary Bay Area Resident" so you can attend.



(Kneeling) Jackie Tranberg Schmid, Gail Giffen, Patty Kent Smayda, Karen Olson Stern, Shannon Wong, and Earl Reeve. (Second Row) Paula Powers Davis, Ann Hartwich Brandon, Liz Whepley Bawden, Deanna Amos Tarr, Samantha Jennings (Ora Mae Peiffer, '56), Don Kavanagh, Neil Davidson, Barnard Bever, Arnold Joyal, and Ron Donihue. (Third Row) Marsha Mortland Gonzales, John Jennings, Karen Jurgensen Nielsen, and Jim Keeffe.

CONTACTS:

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