

THE OWLETTE DISPATCH

Fresno High School Class of 1958

REUNION EDITION

Newsletter No. 11

Fall 2008

In Memoriam

Since the last issue, we discovered the following classmates are no longer with us. Wayne Cloyd, '89; Judy Peckenpali Wimmer, '02; Vern Pickrell, '01; LoLanna Tranmer Toner, '05; and Victor Wallace, '08.

THE 50TH REUNION

By Buddy Arakelian

I have been to all seven reunions of the Fresno High Class of 1958. We've had some terrific reunions, but the 50th has been the best by far. The reunion committee has been on a mission the last five years to make the 50th the best reunion ever. We have told classmates in our newsletters that we were going all out on this reunion.

We tried to make a statement by sending out a classy invitation. We offered a golf tournament for the first time. We asked Grand Occasions to prepare a meal for us before we made our final dinner selection. We added omelet stations to our brunch this reunion. We asked classmate John Lawson if he would open one of his warehouses to display his classic cars. He did, and it was like going to a first class auto show. We arranged a guided tour of Fresno High. We wanted to have the best display posters we've ever had. We wanted name tags with print big enough to read the first name.

We hired a decorator to work with us to make the banquet room at the dinner something that classmates would be talking about for years to come. Let me tell you something – everybody on the reunion committee knew what the decorations were going to be, but when each of us walked into that room on the evening of September 20 we all felt the same feeling of personal satisfaction that we had done our very best.

We had the biggest reunion turnout ever. We had 195 registered for the brunch compared with 122 at our 45th. We had 286 registered at the dinner compared with 176 at the 45th. There were a few no-shows at each. We had 33 registered for the golf tournament and 31 played.

Classmates came from Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico, Arkansas, Texas, Michigan, Minnesota, Virginia, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.



Many classmates were coming to their first reunion ever. We are at a time in our lives where it is a thrill not just seeing old friends, but meeting classmates we never knew in high school. We are all part of a unique fellowship: the Fresno High Class of 1958. On September 20 we collectively found our hearts returning "Fresno High to thee."

The reunion committee will be meeting again soon. We will be discussing ideas for what we will do next. We hope that those who enjoyed this reunion will encourage classmates who missed this reunion to consider coming to the next. Whatever we decide on, you can be assured that we are committed to quality

CLASS REUNIONS

By Cathy "Vernie" Morison Rehart

Years ago, I remember happening upon a photograph of the 10th reunion of the Fresno High School Class of 1896 in the archives of the Fresno Historical Society. I was employed there at that time and

both the archivist and the curator were searching for photos for Fresno High's 100th anniversary book. I happened to be in the archives that day and so was privy to their fun project.

Archivist Maria Ortiz and Curator Sharon Hiigel let me watch the proceedings and I remember that 10th reunion photo jumping out at me because, in it, my extremely shy grandmother was sitting at a table with her classmates looking very animated and vivacious—not her usual demeanor. I wish I had gotten a copy of the photo—it wasn't used in the book—because it illustrated the essence of what a reunion is all about. Those gathered around the two tables in a Fresno restaurant (there were 25 in her class) were enjoying a kind of fellowship that cannot be found anywhere else. The friendships formed in one's early years grow into life-long friendships that become infinitely precious. These are the friends with whom one has a history...these are the friends who truly know and understand you...these are the friends who love you despite your faults...these are the friends to treasure forever.

In my grandma's case, these were the friends she was so comfortable with her shyness disappeared. In their presence, her warm and very funny sense of humor could be shared. Otherwise, it was only her family who saw that gift.

That's what I brought home from our 50th reunion...the hugs and kisses from lifelong friends who mean more to me than anyone in this world outside my family...the visiting, the laughing, the sharing, the memories...the chance to have one day when I could forget that I was 68 and be 18 again...where else can that happen?

The beautifully decorated dining room, the good food, the music from our era—all these were important components of the weekend and, for these, the committee is due great thanks for their hard work. They truly made our 50th reunion a very special one.



But, the memory that stands uppermost in my mind—the one I will carry with me forever—is sitting with my Heaton buddies for a photo and realizing our friendships have stood the test of time for 63 years. Tears fill my eyes as I think about this now.

These moments are what reunions are all about. I had a wonderful time at our 50th; I trust you did, too!

50 AND COUNTING

By Rich Ballow

I looked down at his nametag, but couldn't quite read it, so I just smiled and said, "It's good to see you again—in fact it's good to see anyone again after fifty years." He had a slightly strange look on his face for a split second, then he nodded and replied, "Yeah, good to see you" as he moved on over to the line for pictures. My wife, Gail, tugged on my sleeve and under her breath said, "Let me give you a clue—your classmates wear name tags with their high school pictures on them. That guy has no picture and was not in your class! You've never seen him before in your whole life!"

Well the 50th year reunion committee outdid themselves, right down to the smallest detail as they turned this class of '58 gathering into a reality. They even enlarged the lettering on the nametags for easier identification. The trouble is, for me to read those names, they would require letters that would rival in size the NO DIVING signs that hang on the fences of hotel swimming pools. However everyone was so helpful with most saying "Oh Hi, I'm So & So—do you

remember me?" which would have been a save for me except that my hearing has gone south about as far as my eye sight. So, for the most part, I was acting like a forensic artist, trying to mentally advance the age of classmate suspects about 50 years. That was tough and I made more mistakes. But I must say there were some who had hardly changed at all such as **Gus, Tom, Jim and Judy**—they were like landmarks in a sea of makeovers. Quite lovely makeovers that is!

The tables were smartly decorated; the candle sticks were impressive. The band, in their black tuxes, played great old tunes; a little do wop and the likes of "Unchained Melody" that conjured up romantic memories of the past. I couldn't help but think of the kids today and their 'music.' Will they ever have the warm and fuzzy feeling of nostalgia when they get together someday to a little rap and acid rock?

I stopped by the memorial board to reflect for a time about those classmates who are no longer with us. Just reading their names and looking at their senior pictures brought back to me how vibrant they were in life and how close many of them were to me—starting in elementary school and continuing for the following 12 years. These friends, now gone, are testimony that our lives "are a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes." James 4:14. That thought inspires me to appreciate each day as a gift. And as someone once said, "We should dance as though no one was watching and sing as though no one was listening."

Well this gathering was a class act and I toast **JoAnn, Lyn, Buddy** and all of you who set the stage for such a fine brunch and lovely evening of food, music and old friends. It was good to see each one of you this weekend in September.

JAMES' JABBER GOLDEN AT GRAND OCCASIONS

By James Palmer

Who could ask for a more enjoyable event than we experienced? Let's each give thanks to members of our reunion committee. Their countless hours provided a golden event for us.

To have three hours with each individual would be nice but simply impossible. You must spend a little time with each and move on. I was shaking hands and looking for a nametag hoping it would "ring a bell" now and then. There are many reasons some don't attend reunions. **Bob Knott** has a legitimate excuse; he lives in Carrumbin, Australia, approximately 15,000 miles from Fresno. In an email to me he requested that I say "hello" to all when I saw them.

Thursday evening a few of us met at the Piccadilly Inn bar. It was ice tea instead of Long Island Tea for me. **Bill McElroy**, his wife Maggie, **JoAnn Woodward, Pat Cobb Veatch, Sidney Berry**, my wife Judith and I had a good time.

The golf tournament took place on Friday. **Jim Maloney** and **Donna Pedroncelli Firpo** handled this and deserve the credit. The husband and wife team of **Jim Monteverde** and Sarah took honors for the woman's drive closest to the third tee and the man's drive closest to the seventeenth tee. The winning team, with a score of 69, was **Ed Davies, Donna Pedroncelli Firpo, Susie Martin** and Jack Veatch, husband of **Pat Cobb Veatch**. A barbeque was held afterwards.

Brunch was held on Saturday morning. That is my favorite event only because there were fewer people, more time to converse with each one and a casual feeling. I haven't seen **John Rickert** since the 20th reunion, guess I will have to wait for the next event before I run into again. As the group dwindled down about noon, Jim "Mahoney" and I had a nice conversation. Memories of Heaton, playing street ball, his grandmother's peanut butter "sammiches", Earl's cars, the houses we lived in and more were reminiscent. Oh yes, I appreciate the compliments about "Jabber Box." It took JoAnn's persistence and editing to keep it afloat.

Dinner was held Saturday evening. Someone knew a good catering service; the meal was excellent. The band was fabulous in my book, they were not a loud blaring group, and played good songs with lots of talent. **Dale Zanovich** told me he hired the same group once at his club. It was good to see "**Gus**" **Gary Gostanian** win the raffle for the large autographed photo of **Jim Maloney** and **Dick Ellsworth**. He was the manager of the 1958 baseball team and deserved it. He also provided some 1955 Washington Clarion yearbooks. Thanks Gus, for taking the time to do that. Let's all keep in touch with some friends; a reunion is like glue or a bonding agent. Never will I forget this event. It was a Grand Occasion.

Johnny Russell's opening words at the Grand Ole Opry were always, "Can everybody see me"? He was a western music celebrity for decades and deserves recognition. God Bless you Johnny.

REUNION COMMENTS

There were so many comments from our classmates that should be heard by all. It was a wonderful celebration for a milestone that is as important as those first days of graduation. These are for sharing:

I had a great time talking to our classmates at the reunion. Looking forward to our next one. Maybe we will find more lost classmates by then. **Ron Craven** 1st reunion attended.

The committee is the "glue" that has held us together. This is the most enjoyable event I have attended so far. **James Palmer** It was a grand occasion...kudos to you and the entire committee for an outstanding job. I look forward again to the next one and will make plans to also attend the brunch, which we did not do this time. Big mistake. **Jo Sherman Margherita**

I wanted to congratulate the wonderful job that everyone did for our reunion. It really turned out spectacular. Lyn, JoAnn, Janice, and Grace were like little whirlwinds. There was nothing that needed improvement. From the planning of the golf tournament to the conclusion of the beautiful evening we all enjoyed, it was GREAT!!! **Gari Schneider Cave**

Thanks to you and all the committee for all your hard work as well as the time spent making the night FABULOUS! Everything was so well planned. The evening, as well as the other events, ran so smoothly and I commend you all for a very professional job that was very well done. God Bless you all! **Edna Anderson** gave us some information that might help locate **Dorothy Reynolds**. Thanks again! **Donna Farris Gaither**.

We had a great time at the reunion. My congratulations to the reunion committee. Everything done was first class. I know all you were very tired after working so hard to please your classmates. It takes special people, who are willing, to put in the necessary work to make such an event a success. We really enjoyed playing golf with Jim and Lyn. They kept calling me Billy as that was what I was called during my elementary and junior high days. They are both wonderful people. **Bill McElroy**

Congratulations on the great job you and the committee did to make our 50th so special. Everything was done perfectly...from the schedule to the food and decorations...posters, name tags, FHS tour, details etc. Most important, of course, was seeing so many that had missed previous reunions...the friendships, memories and



the common bond that tied us as a class. One Class Act!!!!
Please extend our congratulations to Lyn, Grace, Donna, Jim and all those who played such a major role in the outcome of our reunion. **Arlene Mazgedian Cartozian**

It was a great brunch and a wonderful turnout ... and as always you and your staff of co-workers did a magnificent job. My brother and I had a great time and thank all of you very much. God bless you always. **Dan Baker**

Thanks for all your work. This was the best reunion yet. I can't wait for the next one. Somehow I seemed to be able to chat with more people this time rather than just sticking with the "old familiars."
Bob Calderwood

Thanks for all your hard and dedicated work to make the 50th reunion such a wonderful experience and success. Please convey my appreciation to Lyn, Buddy and the reunion team. Buddy did a great job leading and expressing the character and uniqueness of our class. It was amazing how well everyone looked. I'm looking forward to getting the book of pictures. Thanks for some great memories and reconnection experiences. Saturday was a great day and one that will be long thought about. **Ed Newton**

The reunion was great. Every one seemed to have a good time. I was glad that I was able to be part of it. I had a fun time trying to find all the lost class mates. It brought back a lot of good memories. I hope that we can still find the rest of them. Let me know if you got any feed back on the ones still lost. Keep in touch, and thanks, again.
Loretta Carter Worobey

Thanks sooooo much for coordinating our 50th reunion. You and your staff of volunteers did an outstanding job. The whole thing was well organized, well presented, the food was very good and attractive on our plates, and the music was tremendous. My wife and I worked with the youth in our church for over 25 years and organized a lot of activities. In order for the reunion to turn out as it did, we know you guys spent countless hours and a lot of energy to accomplish these results. **Art Dunn**

I'm sure you are very tired after all you did to make that reunion as special as it turned out to be. All of us gals had an absolutely wonderful time. What a treat, especially when it was transformed from morning to night. The decorations were awesome and it was very well planned out. Please give my best to all who made that day so special. I, for one, shall never forget. **Marilyn Hare Middaugh**

What a wonderful weekend. Thanks so much for all the work....and yes, it was lots of work by you and your grand committee. You did think of everything, down to the last detail. Again, thanks to you and the committee that planned it all. I would not have missed the 50th reunion. Now looking forward to the next one! **Pat Cobb Veatch**

I just wanted to thank you for the great job that you and your committee did on the Fresno High Reunion. Both my husband and I enjoyed ourselves. Thanks again. **Susan Schoenburg Loustalet**

It was a wonderful experience. The entire committee did a fantastic job of putting it all together. I have been to only a few of the reunions but this one was by far the best. I just cannot say enough good things about Buddy and Lyn and everyone else who put so much time and energy into planning this event. **Linda Gamlin Beer**

NO LONGER LOST....

Since our last newsletter and because we were so close to our 50th reunion, **Loretta Carter Worobey** and **Mickey Badiali Vermon** were given the task of cleaning up our lost list. Well, they did an

outstanding job by finding over 70 in a four month period. Here is the list.

Dean Adams, Judith Adams, Jackie Alston, Barbara Bellows, George "Bill" Bence, Sidne Berry Leith, Gerald Birdsell, Sharon Bolster Klocksleben, Joan Boyd James, Marie Brink Marshall, Sandra "Sandy" Burger Herron, Barbara Campbell Koolery, Margaret Cary Foster, Wayne Chapman, Catherine Coop Fisher, George "Bill" Couchman, Marie Craig Morrison, Judith Deck Turner, Gail Doll Iannucci, Sandra Fey Smith, Ronica Fiske Smith, Robert Fluter, John Forseth, Gretchen Gonser Morse, Donald Good, Rosemary Grenfell, Gerard Guenot, James Gwillian, Elden Heinrichs, DuWayne Hintz, Ronald Horg, Vincent James, Margaret Johnston, Dick Jury, Paul Knee, Judy LaFeber Noakes, David Lemon, Lawrence Leos, Rhonda Lobo Roman, Richard Loya, Deanna Luca Walters, Jim Masini, Charlyn Mitchell Brown, William Murphy, James Negus, Larry Nehring, Steve Nicola, Alan Oakes, Eugene Ohman, Joan Parreant, Evelyn Persch Holliman, Richard Phelan, Sue Pizzio Foster, Chuck Polley, Frank Quatraro, Elizabeth Reilly Ansnes, Lloyd Repp, Zachary "Zac" Reynolds, Leah Rieber Freiwald, Charles Rubey, Joseph Russell, Richard Saaf, Judith Schiebelhut, Fred Showalter, Leland Stephenson, Judith Sturges Snyder, Dale Traylor, Daryl Tufts, Clemens Van Buerden, Peter Van Gelder, Linda Wagner Jones, Virginia Waldron Couch, Irene Wetbeck Dowell, Melinda Whyte Natale, Wanda Wilhelm Cox, Wynona Wilhelm Weaver.

NEW TO OUR LOST LIST.....

Mary Hanson

WE'VE HEARD FROM:

A lot of communication from classmates came in before our reunion, but still showed the connection so many have to our class, whether they were planning on attending or not able to make the celebrations.

My book is finally here. It is entitled "A New Song for Marcia", and it is the story of my life including the testimony of my healing. It is available at www.beinhealth.com under the bookstore and books by other authors. It is also listed on www.amazon.com. You can see a picture of the cover on both websites. I am looking forward to the reunion. **Marcia Fisher**

I read the newsletters cover to cover with happy memories. All best wishes to you and fellow classmates. **Patsy Merris Brayman**

Thank you all for taking the time and effort to track me down. I hadn't thought of FHS in many years. Left town at 17 to travel the world and essentially never returned. Surfed the Alumni Web Site and enjoyed trying to put names, faces, and memories together. Unlikely that I will make the 50th reunion, but will enjoy reading the newsletters. Best regards -- and a Square Dance Hug! **David Lemon**

Thanks for all that the committee has done. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September. **Helen Nordeman Ford**

Thanks for the newsletter. I enjoy it very much. I'm looking forward to the reunion. **Barbara Wilkinson Thomas**

I still see a lot of pals from FHS -- **Carol Emerzian Portman, Arlene Mazgedian Cartozian, and Joyce Sheppard Markarian** -- even though we all live in different cities. Looking forward to the reunion. **Charlotte Maranian Fanucchi**

Thanks for all the newsletter committee does to keep us so well informed. All of the articles in the newsletter were so encouraging with respect to the reunion. I plan to contact some who have not attended in the past and "light a fire" under them. See you in September. **Pat Rossi delaMontanya**

Thanks so much for the great newsletters. As each year passes by, I realize what a blessing it was to have attended such an awesome high school and be part of such an exceptional era in life. The 50s high school memories, the music and the friendships we had are immeasurable. I do so look forward to our 50th reunion and seeing old friends. Again, many thanks and see you in September. **Sharron Roth White**

I enjoyed receiving The Owlette Dispatch. My thanks to the reunion committee who have worked so hard to keep alive the spirit of '58. **Don Reynolds**

I look forward to receiving our newsletter and especially when it contains notes from classmates. I smiled for days after seeing the picture of the Lunch Bunch ladies, the memories just came flooding back. I am so sorry not to be able to make the reunion this year, but we traveled to China for the Olympics and the idea of two trips in three weeks is beyond conceivable. I do hope you all have a wonderful time and remember me fondly. **Peggy Sue Clark Arnold**

Barbara and I are looking forward to the next several months of beautiful weather here in northern Idaho-a special pleasure to us since we moved out of the wood where we always had the company of mosquitoes every time we went to our backyard. Here, next to the golf course, no mosquitoes; it's great. See you in about 4 months. **Jerry Boggs**

Roger Threlkeld, Janice Kellogg Beyer, Bonnie Ross Bright-Mahan and Peggy Duggan Culp at the omelet table

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 in the subject line so the email will not be deleted.

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 our reunions. Send your tax-deductible check payable to FHS Class of '58, c/o Buddy

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Any amount will be greatly appreciated.**



 \$5 \$10 \$25 \$50 Other

CONTRIBUTORS

The following classmates have recently made contributions:

Dick Baskin, Julie Caglia Rocha, Connie Flores Reisbick, George Fries, Michael Harding, David Lemon, Charlotte Maranian Fanucchi, Dian McCloskey Hale, Bill McElroy, Patsy Merris Brayman, Don Mossette, Ed Newton, Helen Nordeman Ford, Linda Parker Bowman, Pepper Parr Jackson, Shirley Poarch Walker, Don Reynolds, Johnnie Richard, Norma Rose Day, Sharon Roth White, Gari Schneider Cave, Tom Russell, Jim Shekoyan, Barbara Wilkinson Thomas.

MEMORY BOOK ORDER

There is still time to order a memory book if you did not do so when you sent in your bio and/or reservation for the reunion. But, if you intend to order a memory book, it must be done quickly as it will soon go to press. A check can be made out to Fresno High Class of '58 for \$25 and mailed to Buddy Arakelian, 529 W. Scott Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704.

ORDERING A REUNION DVD

The reunion photographer has a DVD available of all single photos and candid shots taken during brunch and dinner events. If you are interested in ordering, it is \$35 and a check can be made to Memory Photos by Frank Telaro and mailed to 366 E. Avante, Fresno, CA 93720. If you attended the events, you can also order separate photos in addition to the DVD. Mr. Telaro's phone number is 559-434-8099.

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