

April 1, 1996

Dear Phillips Exes,

Hey, do we have some big news to lay on you! PBS is making a TV film documentary on the town of Phillips, Texas this July, and they're wanting a large group of former residents of Phillips to be here on site then for a few minor character roles in some reenactments of a couple of significant events that were a part of Phillips' rich history, for some crowd scenes shooting, and for several interviews....Hold it! Hold it!-----FALSE ALARM!-----JUST KIDDING!!! But now that we got your attention and your appetite whetted for already planning to be here this July "just waiting to be discovered", the PHS Alumni Association does wish to announce that plans are underway to celebrate our 1996 Homecoming on the weekend of July 12-13. Mark that date down now.

Last year our theme was the "Year of the Band" in which all former band members, band directors, and drum majors were honored. We had our largest turnout since the big 50th Anniversary Homecoming in 1986, with about 400 in all attending what turned out to be one of our best homecomings. Of the 37 former drum majors ever to don that weird-looking, black, tall, fuzzy headdress, 23 showed up for a special recognition ceremony, and a group photograph was made and placed into the Heritage Center for all posteriors posterity to view.

This year we will be honoring and pampering all the former girls basketball players, coaches, and managers with a special emphasis on recognizing the 1976 girls team and Coach Bill Clemmons that won state (this year marks the 20th anniversary of that outstanding accomplishment). Perhaps first a brief comment or two about the history of girls basketball are in order and would be of some interest. According to our records (which are subject to error), PHS had a girls basketball program in 1937 -1941 in the infancy of the school. However, the program was discontinued for what was to be a 30-year hiatus. Vivian Stull, Class of '41, was killed in a freak accident while playing in a game during the last season, but whether this had any direct bearing or not on the suspension of the program is unconfirmed to this writer. But in 1972 girls basketball was revived, a new Activity Center gym was built in 1974, and Phillips once again fielded those Hawkette teams that did Blackhawk tradition proud from then til 1987 when the school was closed. In all, the best that we can determine is that there were approximately 130 girls (10 now deceased) who played varsity ball during 21 seasons (1937 - 1941 and 1972 - 1987), and these are the special exes we want to recognize at this year's Homecoming. Don't worry, volleyball girls, your time's a comin' sometime later in the 90's.

Here is the schedule of events for Friday, July 12th and Saturday, July 13th, all to be held at the modern, air-conditioned West Texas High School cafeteria, except where otherwise noted (underlined) below: Road signs to the cafeteria will be posted in Stinnett to help first-time attendees find the school cafeteria.

Fri 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Early Bird Mixer at Local 351 Union Hall at 111 E. Coolidge, Borger (refreshments served)  
Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am - Registration and Visiting  
Sat 10:30 am - 12:00 pm - Meeting and Program  
Sat 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch Catered by Sutphens (catfish, chicken strips, etc.)  
Sat 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm - Group Pictures of Girls Basketball Teams (who desire to have a group picture made)  
Sat 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Browsing Through Heritage Center (this is a must and a real treat if you've never seen it)  
Sat 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm - BBQ Dinner Catered by Sutphens (and continued visiting)

There will be several prizes awarded during the program on Saturday morning, July 13. First there will be small souvenir basketballs handed out to all exes who attend, and special ribbons given to all former lady basketball players, as a memento of this year's celebration. Second, there will be a drawing to award an official regulation-size basketball that will contain the signatures of all the former girl basketball players attending Homecoming, and that will be awarded to some lucky one of the same group of ladies. (If you're one of the formers players, be sure to autograph the basketball right after you register that morning). Last, there will be a very nice plaque (containing the Amarillo Daily News writeup of the 1976 Class 2A Girls State championship game, decoupage on metal) to be awarded to one of the ladies who played on that 1976 championship team.

Besides to the ladies who played on the 1972 through 1987 teams, we want to make a special appeal to all you exes who were part of these same classes to turn out for this year's Homecoming, not only to support and help honor these lady athletes, but for a very fulfilling and enjoyable time of reunion with your former classmates and friends. So dang it, get off your keisters and come to Homecoming - you've been out of school long enough to come, and there couldn't be a better time to start. Typically, year in and year out, these classes are where we have our weakest draw, so you guys and gals show up in numbers and put these "older" classes to shame. We believe if we can get the horse to come to water, then he'll not only drink it, but come again on his own. Incidentally, it was not this writer's intention to try to imply any close connection between "horse" and "keister", ...merely a coincidental juxtaposition of two figures of speech.

Since "all our exes don't live in Texas", we know there are many of you who haven't visited the Heritage Center yet. Make a real effort to come sometime during the year when you're up this way, if you can't at Homecoming - you can't imagine how nice it is!

In conjunction with Homecoming, the Class of '46 is having their 50-Year Reunion. Early responses received thus far indicate that class is going to have a really great turnout for the "Big Goldie". Lodema Armstrong Benton wants to invite and encourage any of you exes that belong to the Classes of '45 and '47 to also come to their reunion. The '46 Class is having a function at the Borger Country Club on Friday evening, July 12; so if you're interested in more details, you need to contact Lodema or her husband, Kenneth Benton. Their phone number is (806)273-2070.

Also the Class of '51 is having their 45-Year Reunion here on Homecoming weekend, headed up by Jack Lane.

As before, the dues are \$7.00, (\$10.00 covers both you and your spouse if he/she is also a Phillips ex). The catered lunch and dinner costs you will pay at homecoming just prior to each meal, if you do wish to participate. Your dues are what allow us, your Alumni Association, to continue to exist and to be of service to you, and we want you to know they are deeply appreciated. They, along with any contributions and other money we receive from you, go to help pay for the expenses incurred for homecoming, letter mailouts and necessary phone calls, upkeep and updates to the Heritage Center, computer supplies, and services rendered such as below. Your dues also buy you a chance to win a \$140 Blackhawk blanket at homecoming!

If you want an address listing for your class, please send \$1.00 with your request to the PHS Alumni Association. If you want address labels in addition, send \$5.00 for the two. As is typically the case, we won't have a current address and phone number for every member of your class. However, call us and we may be able to furnish you with an address of a brother or sister that was in another class, for those classmates who "are missing".

At the bottom is a form we want you to fill out (even if you do not plan to come this July or can't send any dues), detach, and mail back to us along with the money for your dues and any address listings/labels you request. It's very important that we hear back from each one of you, so that we have a current address and other information on you. Every year we lose track of more and more exes who either move, remarry, are kidnapped, or join the witness relocation/protection program (who knows???) despite our once-a-year mailouts and our reliance on letter forwarding/address correction services by the Post Office. If we didn't have a Homecoming every year, we'd eventually lose track of half the exes in a matter of a few years. So please complete the form and send ASAP to the following address:

--> Phillips Alumni Association, P.O. Box 1710, Borger TX 79008 <--

On June 14-15, 1996 there will be another PHS Reunion in Dallas where exes from the '50 - '61 Classes are sponsoring, and getting together for, an All-Fifties Reunion...however, all Phillips exes from all classes are invited and encouraged to come. The previous Dallas PHS Reunion in 1993 was such a great success that those attending voted overwhelmingly to do it again on a bigger scale. It will be handled by a special committee of PHS 50's/'60's exes working through Taylors Reunion Organizers. To receive registration information from Taylors, call their hotline number (800)677-7800, or drop a card (not the form below though - that goes to us in Borger!) with your name (ladies, include also your maiden name), class year, address, and phone number to: Phillips HS Dallas Reunion, P.O. Box 597, Dallas TX 75221. Or, if you wish to send a fax, their fax number is (214)637-9032.

Please do not confuse the July Homecoming and the Dallas Reunion - they are separate events at different times with different planning committees...however, the same people are invited. For Pete's sake, don't send us money for the Dallas PHS Reunion, or vice-versa! Also, consider attending both events in Borger and Dallas - just because you go to one doesn't keep you from going to the other, unless great distances and expense and an unsympathetic, unenthusiastic, abusive, 200-lb spouse are involved.

Your Alumni Committee

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Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Money Enclosed: Dues \_\_\_\_\_ + Other \_\_\_\_\_ = Total \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Class (If PHS Ex) \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Plan to attend the July homecoming? NO \_\_\_ MAYBE \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ If YES, how many of you? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you plan to eat with us at:  
 Noon? \_\_\_ Evening? \_\_\_

Name of someone who will always know your address \_\_\_\_\_ Relation To You \_\_\_\_\_

Their Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to move within the next year? \_\_\_\_\_ Where (if known) \_\_\_\_\_