

PHS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

THINK WE'D NEVER WRITE? WELL HERE WE ARE, IN YOUR FACE!

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our annual alumni newsletter in which we will try to update you with the goings-on around here since last fall. Well, it seems like only a few weeks since our July homecoming, but already here it is almost time to carve up ole Turkey Tom....only a matter of days. While we're on the subject of *well-done* birds, let us begin by passing on some news and kudos on a few special Blackhawks.

This past January, **Mary Anne Ewing('60)** was honored as "Citizen of the Year" for 1996 by the city of Plano, which is located 10 miles north of Dallas and has a population near 200,000. Her picture was featured on the cover of a local Plano magazine. We wonder how many others of our female exes ("*alumnae*"....now there's a \$10 word for you) have been cover girls? Likewise **Max Sherman('53)**, who recently retired as head of the LBJ Library Center in Austin, was named the outstanding "Citizen of the Year" of Austin. Don't believe his mug-shot graced even so much as the back page of any Austin publication. All kidding aside, we congratulate you two, and want you to know we are very proud of you. Again, *well done*.

Last fall **Lon Blackman('47)** resigned as Sheriff of our own Hutchinson County after 16 years in office, and 30 plus total years of service in law enforcement. His son was elected and succeeded him as sheriff.

Ona Lee Hedrick('60), who won the girls tennis singles Class 3A (today's 4A) championship her senior year in high school, is now one of the top doubles players in Texas in the women's "50-and-Over" division. She actively plays in both the Borger and Amarillo leagues. This summer she got to fulfill a lifetime ambition to go and see the prestigious Wimbledon Tournament in London....some of it, however, from under an umbrella.

SO WHAT HAPPENED AT HOMECOMING 1997?

Hold on, we're getting there. Approximately 300 fun-lovin' exes, former teachers/administrators, and guests attended the activities over HC weekend. Of course, the featured class was the Class of '47 who were celebrating their 50th reunion. They had a very good turnout as you can see on the next page and almost had to restrain themselves at times because they were having such a great time! Why you'd think they were 18 years old or something instead of 68. **Eloyce Davis**, who helped organize her class reunion, ended up winning the 50-year reunion Blackhawk blanket (no, it wasn't fixed). And **Dale Platzer** of that class handed over the "50-year reunion clock" to **Jo Ann Hubbard**, which symbolizes that it's traditionally incumbent upon her and the rest of the Class of '48 to start making plans soon for their 50th to be held next year at HC.

Some of the other major awards and honors that were meted out to exes during the Saturday morning program were as follows: Winner of the Blackhawk blanket, awarded to one of the due-paying exes, was **Robert "Bobby" Porter('59)**, who was unable to attend. The Hawk-of-the-Year Award for 1997

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went to **Tammy Arrington('76)**, who serves on the alumni committee as our Heritage Center hostess. Her youthful presence and enthusiasm have helped motivate the rest of us, and we all can be forever grateful for her contribution for managing and keeping the Center up-to-date. This year's HC King and Queen were **Clyde Edwards** and **Virginia Markee**, both of the Class of '39. This honor was highly appropriate as the two newlyweds were just married this May. And **Martha Kirkpatrick('62)** won the special music note clock given to an ex-choir member in attendance. Another special Blackhawk mantel clock was awarded to **John Sellers('51)**, our outgoing president, for his fine tenure of service these past two years.

Special speakers were **Robin Adkins('75)** who is now the superintendent of schools at West Texas High in Stinnett, **Mr. Kimmins**, and **Jack Roberts**, former KHUZ radio personality who attended and broadcast Blackhawk football games back in the 40's/50's. The meeting honored all former choir members and choral directors, recognized those classes celebrating their reunions in conjunction with the HC, and abounded with the latest Mike Tyson jokes. An impromptu stab at singing "My God and I" by the audience highlighted(?) the meeting, which wouldn't exactly have garnered sweepstakes and drawn raves at Enid or even at Podunk Switch (as Mr. George used to say)"no-o-o-o, not exactly", as the Hertz rent-a-car commercial goes. If time had permitted, we had a second number and fitting sequel on tap that we could have given a shot at redeeming ourselves...."My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me".

But back in the school choirs' glory days, there was none better around which we all knew somehow. This was confirmed unto us by former choir director, **Henry Lay**, who told us that he read in a music publication that Phillips High School holds the all-time record for the Panhandle and Golden Spread regions of the state, regardless of school size, for capturing the most consecutive sweepstake awards year in and year out! This includes such notable schools as Amarillo High and Pampa, no less! In all, it was a great turnout, all had a hilariously happy time, and people left with a quiet, smug feeling of self-satisfaction of having not aged over the past year after seeing how the others around their age had not fared as well.

NEWLY ELECTED ALUMNI COMMITTEE OFFICERS..BORING, BORING

President: yours truly, **Tommy Birch('61)**
1st Vice-President: **Jane Plummer Lane('52)**
2nd Vice-President: **Deannie Franklin Carroll('50)**
3rd Vice-President: **Clytee Armstrong('43)**
Secretary/Treasurer: **Louise Glidewell Gunter('40)** and
Colleen Wilson Hooper('54)
Heritage Center Hostess: **Tammy Arrington Dowell('76)**

SO WHO ALL IN BLUE BLAZERS CAME? (MAKE THAT BLUE BLAZES)

Lack of space, plus we don't know *who all* were there, prevent us from listing such. The following exes deserve special words of praise for a very thankless job....that of organizing their respective class reunions. **Sherry Bugg Hopkins('72)**, **Steve Williams('72)**, **Ray Robbins('62)**, **Jim Berry('57)**, **Jane Plummer Lane('52)**, **Eloyce Davis Harper('47)**, and **Stu Gillispie('47)**. Gals and guys, you all did a spendid job!!!

Here are the lists of exes who made their special class reunions.

CLASS OF '47

Bobbie Davis	Burr Henderson	P.R. Hancock	James Harmon
Leonard Sweeney	Dale Platzer	Mary Beene	Margaret Hatfield
Bob Rinehart	Phil Reese	Joyce Sweeney	Elsa Marie Moffitt
Carol Pinkham	Earl Jackson	Colleen Smith	Mert Dusterhaus
Stu Gillispie	Frank Hunsaker		

CLASS of '52

Roberta Beene	Bud Gray	Bud Carter	Nancy Akin
Jane Plummer	Buster Hodges	Rex Morgan	Wanda Henderson

CLASS OF '57

Judy White	Butch Sparks	Martha Bailey	Barbara Adkisson
Doris Eklund	Tony Landers	Janelle Brame	Jacquelin Riley
Ralph Smith	Jim Berry	Martha Monk	Gordon Richardson
Jimmie Burris	Bill Smith	Anita Sparks	

CLASS OF '62

Delton Waits	Harvey Hilbert	Ken Roark	Linda Lookadoo
Ray Robbins	Billy Don Briscoe	Johnnie Garner	Linda Boykin
Kerry Bowling	Jack Gray	Joana Garner	Martha Kirkpatrick
Jerry Brown	Carl Laughery	Vienna Howard	Carol Rhoten
Ken Hunt	Jerry Kucera	Diane May	Louise Hill
Stephen Allen	Carol Stidham	Willene Gibbons	Ronny Rounsaville
Dan Bennefield	Bill Jolly		

CLASS OF '72

Sherry Bugg	Connie Farley	Jerry Riggle	Danny Hendrickson
Steve Williams	Brenda Mahan	Mark Keller	Karla Yarbrough
Amy Kindle	Patti Fox	Larry Defries	Glenn Johnston
Rene' Harmon	Jenna Morgan	Roy Selby	Leland Pennington
Sharon Arnold	Linda Buckland	Chris McCollum	Ronnie Scroggins
Debbie Doughten			

EX-TEACHERS IN THE NEWS

Joel Lynch (former teacher, coach, and principal) is leading a group in an effort to transfer their residential area located just outside Fritch from the tiny corner of Moore County (county seat is Dumas) to Hutchinson County. The area, called Double Diamond Estates which borders Lake Meredith, is cut off by the lake from the rest of Moore County and the services it provides. State law requires a legislative vote, voter approval in both counties, and a land survey that would cost upwards to \$20,000. These hurdles could very well be prohibitive, and have stalled the group's effort for the time being.

Opal Flanders passed away last February at age 85. She taught 3rd grade at Phillips Elementary from 1946 - 1974. She had lived in Panhandle since 1979, and is survived by one son, Bill ('65), and by two daughters, Deanna('62) and Judy('67).

Cody Fondren died this October 8 at the age of 82. He served for 19 years as superintendent of schools from 1957 - 1976. He is survived by his son Joel('65) and his daughter Rosalie('57).

DECEASED EXES THIS PAST YEAR:

Edwin Phyl('36)	Grover Stevens('37)	Connie Cahoon('38)
Marie Smith('39)	Keith Jacka('40)	Paul Bearden('41)
Robert C. White('41)	Nadine Reeves('41)	Stephen Winters('42)
Jo Williamson('42)	Betty Elsheimer('42)	Lavonne Savage('46)
Dorothy Williamson('43)	Marjorie Wells('43)	John Tallaferra('43)
Maurice Perkins('49)	Debby Barbee('54)	Rex Nash('55)
Judy Miller('57)	Roy Fultz('58)	Nelline Flick('61)
Tom May('67)	David Hodges('69)	Mike Yeager('71)
Mike Bell('72)	Ken Kossey('79)	Wayne Sullivan('47)
Pat Bugg('62)	Harold Parks('41)	George Stephenson('38)
	Lorene Powers('41)	Boyce Blackmon('51)

HARD HATS OFF TO PHILLIPS PETROLEUM CO.

About a year-and-a-half ago PPC announced it had lost money on the operation of the NGL Refinery and couldn't afford to stay in business as a manufacturing center too much longer. The company proposed two alternatives: (1) convert the plant into a storage facility, or (2) sell it to a prospective buyer in the petro-chemical business. Either way, it was estimated that it would mean that Borger would dry up and become another Turkey Creek and would start bussing its kids to Fritch High School. However, the profit picture drastically changed, as it was so announced this spring, and all that talk soon dissipated. In fact, PPC has also announced the building of a new Methyl Mercaptan Plant that is to be an enclave unit (like the Ryton Plant) at the Philtex Plant, which is scheduled for completion in late 1998. The expansion will create an estimated 30 new jobs. Their product is supposed to be used as an improved food supplement for the poultry industry....understand that the new PPC employees will be working for chicken feed. And it probably won't be too much longer that McDonalds will come out with its Big McMerc chicken special....once they figure out how to hide that Phillips smell in it.

IT'S SHOW TIME

Remember as kids when we used to meet at the Phillips Park to catch the bus to go see the free show at the Morley Theater in Borger? Well the theater was shut down last February as it was no longer a profitable enterprise. Its equipment was outdated and in need of constant repairs, and had poor sound quality. It was way behind the times in keeping up with the cinema technology of the last two decades. The theater was originally opened in 1947, and was remodeled into a twin theater in 1979. This March it underwent further refurbishing and was reopened under new ownership. Plans are to replace it with a six-screen cinema somewhere else in north Borger in the near future. And so the Morley will have gone the way of the Crown, the Rig, the Rex, the Plains and Bunavista Drive-ins in Borger, and the Phillips 66 Theater and the Finklea Street peep show in Phillips.

FLASHBACKS

10 Years Ago - Phillips High School graduates its last senior class, 19 students strong, and then is unceremoniously closed. Fifty-two years of an illustrious school history come to an end.

20 Years Ago - The Hawkettes basketball team falls just short of repeating as state champs as they lose a close finals game.

30 Years Ago - The Blackhawk band twirlers sport a new look from the traditional long pants uniform, as they are allowed to wear short skirts for the first time. (Unfortunately at halftime of the first ball game, they had to perform the ole "twinkle toes", lighted-batons routine with the stadium lights out...only because someone forgot to remind them to shave their legs).

40 Years Ago - Joe Means('46) succeeds Chesty Walker (who went to Washington Univ.) as the next head football coach.

50 Years Ago - The Blackhawks sport (no pun intended) their first boys track and girls volleyball teams that begin to compete at the district level. 1947 marked the first season of Freda Shuttlesworth's 17-year tenure as volleyball coach.

60 Years Ago - The new Blackhawk football stadium is built. The Hawks win the first game played on the new field, 46-0.

"WHERE HAVE ALL THE SCHOOLS GONE, LONG TIME PASSING"

As was mentioned earlier, it's been 10 years since the Phillips schools were closed. Ever wonder what's still there and how the old school grounds and facilities are being used today? As the old obstetrician said to the new intern before his first baby delivery, "it's not a very pretty sight." Anyway, here goes:

Phillips High School

Superintendent Office - PPC Training Dept office. Outside, in vestibule, old Blackhawk floor mosaic is still there, visibly worn.

Auditorium - Used by PPC and Zachary Construction for plantwide meetings and conferences.

East/West Wings (both floors) - Honeywell Engr. offices.

North/South Science and - PPC Maintenance Dept. offices
Homemaking Wings and storage rooms.

Music Hall - PPC Training Dept. offices and storage. Band Room rotunda is currently stripped and vacant.

Old PHS Gym - Currently vacant, however, it is soon to be converted into an employee training area. Athletic locker/dressing rooms still intact.

Library - Honeywell design offices area, full of cubicles.

Wood and Metal Shops - PPC General Contractor Services offices and supply rooms.

Grade and Junior High Schools

Main Wings (both floors) - Zachary administrative offices.

Cafeteria - Zachary safety training area.

Grade School Gym - Zachary safety offices and storage.

Grade School Playground - Employee parking lot.

Football Stadium - Home bleachers still there, though badly dilapidated. Scoreboard moved to WTHS field in Stinnett where repainted. Press box carted off to who knows where? Visitors bleachers gone. Football field is now vacant and gone to seed, as grass was transplanted to the Plemons field. Practice field is a truck and trailer storage area. Field House is a Brock office & maintenance building. "H.C. Walker" stadium gate entrance sign ended up some ex's garage...hear tell. Standing urine in bathrooms.

Tennis Courts - Warehouses and parts storage line the area.

Swimming Pool - All filled in, fence gone, and now open field.

"New" Activity Building - Employee recreational facility.

BENEFACTION SATISFACTION

We want to thank each of you who sent in a contribution on top of your dues. We will put it to good use, rest assured. This year there are two benefactors that we want to *especially* single out for their generosity. The first is **Rex Morgan Jr('52)** who donated a little over \$1000 to the association, which we plan to use for the Heritage Center. The only other donation of this magnitude over the past few years has come from none other than **Mr. Kimmins**, to whom we are deeply indebted for his financial support, including the purchase of our computer. The second alumnus we wish to recognize is **Ray Robbins('62)** who has made significant contributions each of the past several years. For those of you who aren't acquainted with him, but know the name has a familiar ring, he is the son of former band director Mr. Ray Robbins. Incidentally, anyone, such as these, who donate a one-time \$100 or over, will get their name added to our special donor plaque on display in the Heritage Center.

SUMMER CALAMITIES STRIKE THREE EXES

A couple of our exes had the misfortune of being involved in serious accidents this past summer. **Johnnie Royall('56)** of Greenville TX fell off his house while working on his roof in August. He suffered a broken shoulder, 3 broken ribs, and 3 crushed vertebrae, and as a consequence is paralyzed from the waist down. He's had one surgery, and the doctors' prognosis is for permanent paralysis, but Johnnie swears that he is going to walk again! For those of you that are too far removed in age to remember Johnnie, he played tackle on the football team that won state in 1954. Also, **Tommy Record ('57)** of Tulsa OK was involved in a car/pedestrian accident in which he was critically injured by an uninsured driver. He is reportedly facing a long rehab and recovery time, as he broke both his legs and a shoulder. Tommy has in the past furnished us with old pictures of the Phillips town and schools (that his father took), which are on display at the Heritage Center. Last of all, **Laverne Kube('61)** of Fritch TX underwent emergency brain surgery to remove a tumor that had slowly and undetectedly grown over the years until it reached crisis proportions causing her to suddenly lapse into a coma. The situation was so critical that the post-operative prognosis gave her almost no chance to live. But she has miraculously pulled through and is currently convalescing at home, after extensive rehab treatments. These three would welcome your prayers and any letters of support.

(see mailing addresses at end of letter.)

HERITAGE CENTER UPDATE

The alumni committee has approved plans for upgrading the Heritage Center by adding an upper display shelf to most of the individual senior class sections. We say "most of the classes" because several that border the inside wall *already* have an extra display shelf by virtue of the ledge running atop the inside wall that is common to their class area and the central display room. We hope to have these shelves installed by this next homecoming. Also, we want to set aside an area in the central display room dedicated to girls volleyball where we'll place some new display signs (not made as of yet) honoring those *nine girls teams that won state*, along with the few volleyball trophies and memorabilia that we may still have.

MISCELLANEOUS F.Y.I.

In case you, for whatever reason, were unable to order the VCR cassette video at HC on reflections on the town and schools of Phillips, and still wish to purchase one for \$25, you may contact Ricky Slatton, who made the video, directly by writing to the following address, or calling:

RICKEY'S VIDEO PRODUCTIONS Tel. (806)353-6655
4206 Southpark Dr
Amarillo TX 79109

Now there are 3 different versions of this video available, so please specify which one. They're all basically the same.
(1) One with a 50's flavor made for the Dallas Reunion in 1996
(2) The original one made for the Class of '65 with some of its 30-year reunion functions added at the end
(3) One made for the Class of '62 with footage from its 35-year reunion (contains individual interviews) added to the end