

☒ THE BLACKHAWK SPIRIT ☒

8TH EDITION

SEPTEMBER, 2003

51ST HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

What can we say! We had another great turnout for Homecoming this last July, almost as many as we had last year. This is despite the somber fact that our numbers are dwindling (we currently are losing about 38 exes each year - averages 3 per month - to the grim reaper), and this mortality rate will inevitably continue to increase. Again, the featured class was the 50-year reunion bunch, the Class of '53, who led all the other classes in having 36 members present! Several in that class came to their first Homecoming, so you can tell that the organizers of their 50-year reunion really did a swell job in getting their members out. **Shirley Tucker ('53)** was the winner of the special customized Blackhawk blanket drawing, awarded to someone attending their 50-year reunion.

Some of the other awards that were meted out to other exes were: Winner of the Blackhawk blanket, awarded to one paying his/her dues, was **Stacy Alfred ('70)**, one of the active PAC members. The 11th annual "Hawk-of-the-Year" award went to **Don Meek ('55)**, who became the *third* person in the *'55 class* to receive this honor! Don has served off and on the Alumni Committee since the 1960s, including a term as president. In recent years he has been responsible for the highly successful Blackhawk golf tournament that kicks off Homecoming and continues to get better and better each year.

Former teacher, coach, and principal, **Joel Lynch**, spoke to us first, welcoming everyone to HC. Our main speaker was a fellow who some might argue is our most distinguished ex: **Max Sherman ('53)**. He gave an excellent, nostalgic talk, his topic being the "The Advantages & Disadvantages of Growing up in Phillips", although he never got to the "disadvantages". Either there weren't any worth mentioning, or he just ran out of time. We suspect the former.

The special groups honored were the past class valedictorians and salutatorians, student council members, journalism dept. members, and annual staffers. Each person belonging to the above groups stood, introduced themselves, and gave their class and position held. Two special ladies in attendance were recognized, **Evelyn Perryman**, the first school valedictorian of the '36 Class, and **Louise Glidewell** of the '40 Class, the society editor of the first issue of the "Phil-Echo" which was first published in December, 1939. The only pair of valedictorians/salutatorians present from the same class were **Karen Birch** and **Charles Ray** of the '63 Class.

Then after lunch, a bus transported those to Phillips interested in touring the old town home sites and the former schools, while others visited the Heritage Center, some for their very first time.

2003 HOMECOMING GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS ○○○)

Each year despite the near-100 temperatures, the number of golfers increase, the competition gets tougher, the scores decrease, and this year was no exception! The old record of 96 players fell as 104 golfers, comprising 26 teams, competed in the Blackhawk Golf Scramble held Friday afternoon. This year's winning team, shooting a record-setting, low score of 53, were: **Larry Joe Reed ('67)**, **Danny Kindy ('67)**, **Les Hembree ('53)**, and his wife **Maxine**. Each player received \$100 in golf merchandise. Other awards were: "Closest-to-the-pin" female and male: **Margaret Pennington ('68)** and her husband **John Kent**, "Longest drive" female and male: **Pam Moulton ('73)** and **Brant Arms** (kin to Don Meek).

"WHO'S WHO" LIST OF HOMECOMING ATTENDEES

The following exes (highlighted in parens beside their respective class) deserve a pat on the back for jumping right in there and organizing and helping with their respective class reunions that were held with HC. Listed also underneath their names, are the rest of the exes who made their special class reunions and/or HC.

CLASS OF '53 (Don Ham, Shirley Tucker, Shirley Armstrong,, Bernice Franklin, Charles Hamilton, Carol Combs, Pat Burks)

Stella Bergen	Wayne Bostik	Joyce Boyles	Elaine Covington
Betty Joyce Cox	Shirley Davis	Marilyn Garrett	Clarence Creacy
Nevada Hamil	Bobby Harper	Leslie Hembree	Nelda Conklin
Dana Henderson	Dalton Lewis	Dean Neff	Loomas Marshall
Billy McDonald	Vaunita Orr	Wyndel Price	Harold Rawlin
C. R. Riggs	Jack Row	Max Sherman	Bob Jack Shields
Betty Shuping	Sharlene Smith	Janan Stamps	L. Dean Thompson
Arta Sue Wood			

CLASS OF '58 (Janice Benefield, Janet Hatley, Milton Hoff, Toni Truax)

Ronnie Baker	Bobby Barclay	Larry Bush	Janice Kae Dixon
Rose Garner	Richard Hale	Marilyn Haugh	Dorothy Anderson
Sherry Hogan	Richard Hogue	Ann Jones	Richard Kelly
Connie Lamm	Judy Lee	Shirley Mason	Virginia Kossey
John McEntire	Anita Moore	Wanda Morgan	Sue Parnell
Jim Raley	Eddie Webb	Loyle Richmond	Ginger Thompson
Janelle Tucker	Bobby Wilson		

CLASS OF '63 (Barbara Austin, Sue Arthur, Karen Birch, Virginia Pirtle)

Nelda Ringo	Linda Betts	Gail Brookins	Robert Burks
Kelly Caufield	Ed Biggs	Neva Flinn	Tommy Railsback
Deanna Gafford	Junior Beasley	Linda Blackman	Phillip Mahan
Linda Rhoades	P. R. Stiles	Sandra McKenna	Rosemary Rigdon
Gary Winters	Dixie Pierce	Susie Mitchell	Carrie Jo Nicholson
Bob Raley	John Sellinger	Brenda Summers	Charles Ray
Phillip Stone			

CLASS OF '73 (Erin Caufield, Kris Bailey, Sis Baker, Kathy Lane, Kelley VanLoon)

Aaronda White	Stancy Akers	Gary Mahan	Judy Graham
Pam Moulton	Joe Dickey	Nancy Grooters	Tami Vanlandingham
Gary Winters			

Class of '83 (Kyle Lynch, Kim Burks, Tommy Meyers, Sonja Taylor)

Trina Gray	Dana Ott	Lorren Lucero	Mike McKee
Dana Payne	Troy Scroggins	Laura Williams	David Davis

PHILLIPS HOOP LEGEND EARNS H.O.F. HONORS!

Jill Rankin ('76), deemed by many to be the top women's basketball player EVER from the Texas Panhandle, was inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame museum in Waco last November. Jill was one of the last dominant posts in the final years of the six-on-six game in the mid-1970s, and then went on to be an all-American player at Wayland Baptist and Tennessee. In 1980 she was named a co-captain of the U.S. Olympic basketball team that was probably deprived of a gold medal by our boycott of the Moscow games.

Jill was honored for playing at a high school and a town that sadly no longer exists, as we know all too well. She said, "We truly saw that as an unique place. There was such built-in pride and spirit for that community. I just know that while growing up, I thought it was the most special place in the world". She credits her success to **Bill Clemmons**, her coach at PHS, for teaching her and her teammates how to play the game. "His first year at Phillips, I was a a sophomore throwing up two-handed sling shots, and didn't know 'come here' from 'sic 'em'. He taught me how to shoot properly." Jill was a two-time all-state player. During her junior year, she averaged an amazing 42.7 points a game as the Hawkettes were 2A state runner-up. As a senior, despite being tripled-teamed many times, she still averaged 40.4 points, and led her team to the 1976 2A state title. She inspired many a young girl who watched her play. "I still want to be like Jill" long predated the slogan, "I want

to be like Mike.” Thank you, Jill, for the memories. By the way, her ex-teammate, **Tammy Arrington**(’76) and her mother **Earlene Cleveland**, were able to attend the induction ceremony in Waco.

DECEASED EXES THIS PAST YEAR (38 IN ALL)

Don Williams(’46-cancer)	Joe Yost(’44-heart problem, Parkinsons)
Dick Kourt(’50-cirrhosis of liver)	Maurice Jones(’58-diabetes complications)
Jack Trollinger(’55-staff infection)	Neva Austin(’57-pancreatic cancer)
Tommie Lou Rhoten(’45-???)	Pat Sable(’46-heart problem)
Eddie Bennett(’60-heart attack)	Tommy Record(’57-stroke)
Ellen Dean(’52-stroke?)	Harold Sweeney(’45-cancer)
Arthur Cantrell(’50-???)	Tommy Stidham(’68-colon cancer)
Winnie Mae Stubbs(’49-???)	Jerome Beckham(’59-heart attack)
Clea Sims(’54-???)	Wanda Viean(’57-heart bypass complica.)
Irene Brame(’61-stroke)	Wanda Pugh(’41-???)
Nannie Dee Lyon(’46-???)	Mary Jane Fitzsimmons(’40-???)
Paul Scroggins(’65-heart problem)	David Record(’51-???)
Virginia Markee(’39-Alzheimer’s)	Barnetta Gilliam(’47-pneumonia)
Mary Louise Annis(’60-???)	Nealie Jo Henderson(’56-leukemia)
Ann Williamson(’52-???)	Ron Armworthy(’60-liver/kidney failure)
Donna Brown(’73-cancer)	Tommy Harris(’64-???)
James L. Jackson(’57-???)	Malverene Carter(’38-???)
Ruth Erma Garrett(’37-???)	Richard Graham(’68-kidney failure)
Sireta Moore(’42-???)	Kenneth Dean(’51-heart surgery complica)

DECEASED EX TEACHES AND FORMER PHILLIPS RESIDENTS

Joe Cooke, former owner of Cooke’s Drug Store in Phillips that was located next door to Ostrom’s Grocery, passed away last October 30 in McLean, Texas. He had three children that attended PHS: **Beverly** (’65), **Cathy**(’67), and **Kelly**(’69). Those who grew up in Phillips in the 50s remember it was a regular hangout where we enjoyed those vanilla cokes, milkshakes, etc. as well as one of the meeting places on Saturday morning where Friday night’s football game was rehashed by the coaches and the men of the town.

Ironically, another former drug store owner died on May 22, 2003. **Marcus Andrew Jolly**, better known as “**Mr. Jolly**”, opened Jolly’s Drug in Old Phillips in 1947 and ran the place for some 20 years. The irascible Mr. Jolly, known for running a tight ship, especially for his keeping an ever-vigilant eye on the comic book section and threatening to put you to work washing dishes if you lingered in his store too long, was naturally the object of several pranks by Phillips teenage boys over the years. He was also alleged to be the town “bookie”. He will always be remembered as a part of growing up in Phillips, although he resided in Borger back then. He lived his last years in Panhandle until he died at age 101!

Bill Cox, former boys junior high coach and science teacher from 1955-1985, passed away at 12:10 a.m. last Dec. 1. He had been in an assisted living facility since breaking his hip a year ago.

R. B. Cleland, history teacher from 1934-1938, died at age 90.

Nan Stevens, former librarian at PHS from 1942-1944, died sometime in the past year in Albuquerque NM. No details are known.

Maurine Forbus of Kerrville, Texas died March 22, 2003 at home after a courageous 15-month battle with pancreatic cancer. She had just celebrated her 80th birthday the day before. In 1943 she and **Joed Forbus**, also a former teacher and coach at PHS, were married in Lubbock. She began her teaching career at Phillips in 1944 and retired in 1985, and then moved to Kerrville about 10 years ago. She actually taught at PHS for 33 years during this 41-year span. Maurine always felt it was a privilege to teach there, as it was more like a private school than a public one. Many parents working for PPC were college-educated which ensured that their children had an aptitude and a desire to learn, and this made it more a pleasure for her to teach mathematics including algebra I and II, college algebra, trig, and sliderule. She gave her students, who

later pursued technical and scientific studies in college, an excellent math background and a “leg up” on their college peers. In addition to her husband Joed, she is survived by her daughter, **Mary Cole Kerlick** of the ‘70 Class. She will long be remembered.

DID YOU HEAR THAT.....AND....

This first item is actually 70-years-old news concerning **Jack Lane** (’51)! When Jack’s mother died recently, he, like most people, had to start going through all her things. In doing so, he was surprised to discover something new about his past. “Seventy years ago, I just so happened to be the prettiest baby in Borger”, Jack proudly said, but was quick to add, “I’ve changed a bunch.”

Jack had come across a photo that was taken of him at 6-months old, showing him sitting with a trophy cup. Attached to the picture was an old Borger newspaper article dated April 23, 1933. The contest that Jack won was 1933’s American Legion Mardi Gras Grand Prize Baby Show and Million Dollar Baby Parade. It listed him as a resident of Whittenburg (the community didn’t become known as Phillips until 1937 when the two Whittenburg and Pantex Camps merged). “Pretty Boy” Jack lives in Stinnett.

Now this has to be the bargain of the year! **Tari Vanlandingham** (’68), while shopping in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, found a wool Blackhawk blanket for sale at an outlet shop. Actually her husband spotted it first, tapped her on the shoulder, and asked, “Say, isn’t this the place where you graduated from high school?”. Without any hesitation, she quickly paid the salesperson the \$5 asking price for the blanket. These blankets brand new cost anywhere from \$150 to \$200, all depending on the amount of lettering desired.

Tommy Birch(’61) received his ACBL (American Contract Bridge League) Life Masters rating title in duplicate bridge last January. This may not mean alot to most, but is a big deal in bridge circles, such as parties thrown in your behalf, a medallion and a certificate awarded, your name printed in a national bridge publication, your picture placed in the local newspaper, and a metallic ACBL ID card for your billfold that sets off metal detectors at airports!

Dorothy McEntire(’54) shares this observation with us: “Several Sundays ago, as I sat in church here at First United Methodist Church of Conroe, Texas, **Wayne Hickman**(’60) sang a beautiful solo, and **Jimmy Gray**(’56) was an usher. I felt like ole PHS was well represented in that service with three of us there. I wonder what the odds are of that many persons, that close in age from the same home town, being members of a church 600 plus miles away?”

Overheard at the ‘58 Class Reunion - **Toni Truax** and **Milt Hoff** are engaged to be married!! The wedding probably will take place within a year or so. They had dated each other some back in high school. Presently Milt lives in Stinnett, and Toni lives in Greenville. Love to hear about Phillips alumni hitching up after all these years. It was just a little over two years ago when another pair of exes from the ‘64 Class got married to each other, **Deanna Birch** and **Don May**, who are living happily ever after in Canyon.

While reviewing the guest register recently at the Heritage Center, we came across this comment written by a Stinnett ex. “Came to the Stinnett all-school reunion this summer, but spent all my time looking through the Phillips Heritage Center...Ha! Ha!” **Mike Webb**(’64) heard a similar comment from another Stinnett ex. If you watched or followed much of the news coverage on TV just prior to and right after the start of the Iraqi War, you probably saw and heard a Phillips ex without realizing it. **Leslie Skinner**(’67), a blowout specialist, was interviewed by the likes of Tom Brokaw

and a few other national news commentators for his input/analysis on fighting and putting out oil fires based on his experience and expertise, mainly in the 1991 Gulf War in Kuwait. If you will recall, news analysts were predicting that Saddam was going to set off all these hundreds of devastating fires in the oil wells, fields, and refineries of Iraq. However, as it turned out, only a handful of fires were actually set, so Les' assistance was not needed afterall.

This July at Homecoming we had as usual several exes who came to their first Homecoming or reunion, some who hadn't ever been back in over 30, even 40, years. In fact, one ex, **J.B. Millsap('48)**, had not been back in 55 years! Maybe we got him hooked now.

Congratulations go to **Kyle Lynch('83)** who was recently named A.D. and head football coach at Canadian. Kyle has to wear a lot of hats as he continues to serve as principal of the middle school there. He also found time in his busy schedule to head up the organization of his class' 20-Year Reunion this summer.

DEJA VU....SOUNDS LIKE THE NEWS IN MID-70S ABOUT PHILLIPS

The Census Bureau released data on Texas towns in July that listed Borger as the 3rd fastest shrinking city in the state. This decline is attributed primarily to around 640 jobs being lost over the past two years due primarily to the merger of Phillips Pet Co. with Chevron and Conoco, and the consolidation of many areas within the large oil company. City officials however are optimistic that the population decline is beginning to level off. Borger's current population stands at around 13,700. For those of you unaware, Borger High School dropped down to the 3A classification last year according to the Texas Interscholastic League regulations. Pampa and Plainview , experiencing similar economic problems, were ranked 8th and 10th in the list of declining cities. Of course, the fastest growing cities are those suburbs of Austin and Dallas, Leander being first. Leander is the home of **Pat Dewey('65)**, who was at Homecoming.

SLOW DEMISE OF H.C. WALKER BLACKHAWK STADIUM

The last vestiges of Blackhawk Stadium are slowly disappearing. The latest casualty has been the dismantling of the home bleacher stands during last October as the old, weathered, and rotten boards presented a definite safety hazard to anyone who happened to be up there. The original stands were expanded, remodeled, and for all practical purposes, erected in 1949. Shortly after the schools were closed in 1987, the scoreboard was first transported to some other school's football stadium, followed by the removal of the pressbox and visitor bleachers and eventually the transplanting of the sod of the playing field. All that remain standing are the restrooms, field house, light standards,....and the ghosts of Blackhawks past. An attempt is being made to salvage a 12" X 12" section of one of the bleacher board seats for future display in the Heritage Center.

IN THE OFFING...A PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Let's be realistic...in 35 - 40 years, the Phillips Alumni Association will cease to be (do the math...we will nearly have all died off). However, one way that we can perpetuate the Blackhawk name and spirit, and at the same time provide a worthy educational service to the local community, is to set up an endowment scholarship in our school's name for needy and deserving high school students going to Frank Phillips College.

To establish such an endowment scholarship fund requires \$20,000 minimum. As these principal assets are invested, the interest generated is used to for a perpetual scholarship of \$500 yearly. And as the fund assets grow from contributions from Phillips exes, the number of scholarships will eventually grow as well. \$10,000 from

existing alumni funds is already available. Your donations will go toward the second \$10,000. The recipient(s) will be a graduating senior(s) from West Texas High School, which is the consolidated school of Phillips, Plemons, and Stinnett.

Here's how the awarding of the annual scholarship(s) will basically work. A board of Phillips alumni and WTHS school personnel will choose the boy or girl on the basis of need. Academics will be also considered, but not of paramount concern. The student can choose to apply the scholarship to a vocational or an an associate degree. It will be a one-year scholarship awarded on a semester basis to ensure that it is used properly. We are currently investigating the possibility of securing matching funds by Conoco-Phillips when a company employee or retiree donates.

The Heritage Center is in good condition financially due to your generosity, but it will still continue to need financial help as upcare keep expenses and improvement costs are incurred. And to repeat, an endowment scholarship fund in the PHS name will keep Blackhawks soaring forever, and help out some needy students. In the future when you choose to donate money, please designate on your check the desired fund: (1) scholarship, (2) Heritage Center, or (3) general use. For donations of \$100 or more, your name will be placed on the appropriate plaque in the Heritage Center.

Until the details of the endowment scholarship can be worked out and implemented, for the current 2003-2004 school year, we have already awarded two \$250 Frank Phillips Jr. College scholarships to a West Texas High boy and girl, who both graduated this May.

HERITAGE CENTER UPGRADES AND GIFTS

We're *very grateful* for the generous \$\$\$ donations several of you have made to the Heritage Center this past year. The applicable names noted below now appear on our "\$100+" donor plaque in the Heritage Center. Again, we thank *all of you* who contributed \$\$\$, *whatever the amount...it's being* and will be put to good use! Other exes, former teachers, and school board members, also listed below, contributed various items and memorabilia for display.

- \$100 - Richard Kelly('58) in memory of his late father Luther J. Kelly
- \$200 - Steve Williams('72)
- \$100 - Gordon Richardson('57)
- \$100 - Leon Glenn('56)
- \$100 - Joe Hayes
- \$100 - Ray Robbins('62)
- \$100 - Juanita Fowler Cagle('52)
- \$100 - Robert Johnson('54)
- \$100 - Glen Hopkins('65)
- \$100 - Mike Malone('68)
- \$100 - Arthur Bybee('55)
- \$100 - Joe Sutphen('58)
- \$100 - Donald Reed('49)
- \$100 - Joe Sutphen('58) in memory of his brother Scott Sutphen('65)
- \$100 - JoEd Forbus and his wife, the late Maurine Forbus
- \$100 - Bill Gaither('52) and his wife Sharlene Smith Gaither('53)
- \$100 - Joe Bob Newman('49) and his wife Nancy Board Newman('51)
- \$50 ea. - Wilma Weston, Charlotte O'neill('60), J.B. Millsap('48), and Steve Green('78)
- Mike Webb('64) - Girls basketball warmups and football jacket
- Pat Burks('53) - James & Teddy Reddick's football scrapbooks of 1950s
- Doris Eklund('57) - VCR cassette of PHS 50-Year Homecoming in 1986
- Paul Demings('48) - Pictures of the 1946 Phillips High marching band
- Judy White('57) - Her mother Evelyn Baker's 1936 high school diploma
- P.R. Hancock('47) - 1947 Class graduation commencement announcement
- Morris Creel('55) - Three-ring binder Phillips notebook from the 1940's
- Sharlene Smith('53) - Dance cards from girls clubs' annual dances and senior prom, and Homecoming and football teram buttons
- H.F. Ritchie('57) - His two music CDs, "Oldies I" and "50 Years of H.F."
- Don Reed('49) - Picture of downtown Phillips and old high school in 1939
- Shirley Armstrong('53) - Collage display of '53 Class deceased members names

PHILLIPS ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS

We're *equally grateful* for the generous \$\$\$ donations several have made already since Homecoming to the Phillips Exes Endowment Scholarship Fund, described earlier, toward that second \$10,000. The names noted below now appear on a new and separate "\$100+" scholarship donor plaque in the HC.

\$100 - P.R. Hancock('47)	\$100 - Billy McDonald('53)
\$100 - Stacy Alford('70)	\$100 - Mary Ann Svetlik('62)
\$100 - Kenneth Reed('45)	
\$100 - Bill Gaither('52) and Sharlene Smith('53)	
\$150 - Jimmie Dean('57) and his wife Jeanelle Tucker('58)	
\$200 - Donald Reed('49) and his wife, the late Ellen Dean Reed('52)	
\$500 - Participants of the 2003 Golf Tournament	

TOUGH OLD COACHES STICK TOGETHER

This story, although it happened around 3 years ago, is certainly newsworthy and bears passing on. It concerns two former Phillips football coaches, **Joed Forbus** and **James Jocko Harris**. The two men and their wives have had cabins at Red River, New Mexico for many years to which they go and stay at during the summers.

One day a kid came speeding on his two-wheeler through Joed's and Maurine's place there in the mountains, kicking up dirt and throwing rocks. Joed approached and stopped the kid and told him not to speed and drive recklessly there by his cabin again. He explained to the kid that the dust stirred up would settle inside his cabin and make a mess. Well, the spoiled brat went home and told his granddad what happened. Before you know it, the boy's granddad ran up to Joed's cabin, met Joed at the door, and proceeded to attack Joed. The man swung at Joed and hit him in the mouth with his elbow, knocking him down and breaking his dental plates. Now what you need to keep in mind is that Joed was then around 80 years old and not in good health, plus the fact that this man, in his early 50s, was 6'3" and weighed around 230 pounds.

Jocko, who lives next door, saw all this, and immediately ran over to Joed's defense. Jocko came right into the guy, and smashed him to the floor, putting a good ole offensive lineman block on him. You also need to bear in mind that Jocko had just come off heart bypass surgery. The guy got up, hightailed it home, and the story spread throughout the community. The neighbors turned on the man, and story has it that his wife even came near leaving him. The man can thank his lucky stars though (1) that Joed could have, but did not, press charges against him for assault, and (2) that another Phillips-ex neighbor and good friend of Joed, **Delton Waits ('62)**, who just happened to be gone from his cabin at the time, was not there to also help out Joed. For those of you who know Delton, you know that he could have made it *most* unpleasant for the man.

BLACKHAWK TRIVIA TIME

Last years winners: **Mike Webb('64)**, **Phillip Sweeney('45)**, **Joel Lynch**

Who was the last Phillips Blackhawk football player to play for Chesty Walker? **Answer: Jackie Gray('62)**

Only one class had two Fighting Heart Award winners! Which class and who were they? **Answer: 1962 - Jackie Gray(Sr. year)**

and Ronnie Rounsaville(Jr. year)

This year's question: *Other than the letters "Q" and "X", there is only one letter of the alphabet which the last name of either a PHS valedictorian or salutatorian doesn't start with. Which letter is it?* Your odds are 1 in 24 in correctly answering it the first time; that's

better than the 1 in a humpteen million odds you have with the state lottery which you pay dear money to enter. This guess is free! Actually, we will give you **2** guesses; so go ahead and take a shot.

The first 3 people to contact us and give us the correct answer (via E-mail, or call **Tommy Birch('61)** at 806-274-2430) will win a free black Blackhawk ballcap, or Blackhawk brassiere (one size fits all), that we will mail out to them. We try to keep our available stock of Blackhawk paraphernalia *abreast* with popular demand.

TRIBUTE TO A DECEASED EX...BY SURVIVING SPOUSE

Seldom do we include a brief bio on a deceased ex, mainly due to the lack of information on hand (obituaries seem never to include anything personal); however, we received a rare note to pass along from a surviving husband about his wife's death...and her life.

*"I am writing this letter in response to the last Homecoming letter that you sent to my wife. My wife, **Ruth Erma Garrett Dobbs**, passed away on June 17, 2003. She had received many such letters from your association to attend your reunions, but I could never get her to attend for some reason.*

As you know, she graduated from Phillips in 1937, then later in 1941 graduated from West Texas State with a degree in teaching. She married her college sweetheart in September, 1941. When War World II was declared, she had already returned to Phillips. Her first husband was in Australia at the time, and he was killed in an airplane accident one week before their son was born.

She then became a teacher in the Phillips school system for two years, and then went to work for Phillips Pet. Co. I came to work for PPC in November, 1945 when I first met Ruth Erma; I had just been discharged from the service. On the first date that I had with her, I knew that I wanted to marry her. We got married and had one daughter who was 56 this past July. We celebrated 57 years of wonderful life before her death.

She had four passions in life: her children and family, playing golf which she started at the age of 40, painting which she was excellent in all mediums, and duplicate bridge. She loved every day of her life wherever we lived - we moved 13 times in 7 states. She enjoyed every move after we were settled in place. She will be missed by many...of course, I miss her terribly so."

Sterling Dobbs

FUTURE HOMECOMINGS SET

Be sure and mark on your calendar the date **July 10-11** for our HC next summer at which all former tennis and golf team players will be honored and recognized. **We anticipate that the Classes of '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, and '84 will be planning special reunions for that weekend.** It's usually been our practice in recent years, to announce in advance in this newsletter who all we are honoring for HC July, 2005; however, at the August committee meeting, this agenda item fell through the proverbial crack and so hasn't been decided upon yet.

Your Alumni Committee
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