

## Golf Tournament Results

Well, our player numbers were back up again to 72 from last year's 60 as 18 teams competed. Typical warm July weather prevailed, but was a pretty Friday morning with upper-80s temperatures. The tournament was completed just in time as within an hour it began to rain hard. This year, a score of 54 was low. Members of the winning foursome were **Terry Zink('71)**, **Mike Zink('69)**, **Mike Roberts(non-ex)**, and **Dale Francis(non-ex)**, who each won \$100 prize money. **Audie Hatton('79)** won \$50 for sinking the longest putt. The tourney was able to donate \$700 to the Alumni scholarship fund from the proceeds left over.

### And the Rain Came...No Game...What a Shame

After one round of tournament play got underway, a heavy rain storm caused our third annual horseshoe tournament to have to be cancelled. It was decided that the 18 participants, whose spirits and clothes were somewhat dampened, will not be required to play the player entry fee at next year's tournament at which the prize money pot will be substantially sweetened.

## Word of the Day (or is it) Yesterday?

Hey, I came across this interesting word on the internet the other day, and thought we'd share it with you. No, for those of you who had the vocab zealot, Miss Boyd, for English, there will not be a pop quiz at the next Homecoming. Yes, I thought most of you could relate to and add this word to your vocabulary, one very apropos (whoops! I snuck in another fancy word) in regard to Phillips in fond retrospect.

**Hiraeth (HEAR-eth):** A Welsh word very much akin to our English word "nostalgia". It's a long yearning for a home that you can not return to, perhaps that no longer exists. However, it's not mere homesickness; it's a deeper expression of the bond one feels with one's homeland or even hometown. To some, it also includes the added meaning of a longing for a missing time or era. It is associated often with the sad memory of missing something while being grateful of that existence.

Below is a modified poem, also taken from the internet, that captures all of "hiraeth's" nuances of meaning:

"Hiraeth" ( italics denote my revisions )

Hiraeth beckons with wordless call,  
Hear, my soul, with heart enthralled.  
Hiraethwhisoers while earth I roam,  
Here I await the call "Come home."

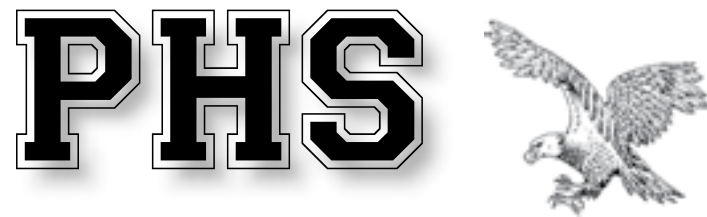
*Once her summons could not me find,  
So faint, so far flung from my mind.  
Lost in the here and now was I,  
Blind to her light, deaf to her cry.*

*But like seagull call and seaborne wind,  
That speak with words beyond my ken,  
A stirring cry with words unsaid,  
Awakens a hungering heart unfed.*

I heed you call, I *yearn* to come,  
On *yonder* path to hearth and home.  
*That* path leads on to *distant* shore  
*In time and space from days of yore.*

Within my ears the sea sighs,  
The sunset glo, it fills my eyes.  
I stand at eadge of sea and earth,  
My bare feet washed in gentle surf.

Hiraeths's *drawing*, I cannot *shun*,  
Here on shore in setting sun.  
Hiraeth calls past sunsets *glare*,  
*Return to a place no longer there.*



## Future Homecoming Set

Be sure and mark down on your 2019 calendar the dates **July 12-13** (*second full* weekend) for our HC next summer at which our rallying theme and honor group(s) have yet to be decided on, but will be forthcoming in next March's homecoming letter. It is hoped and anticipated that the Classes of '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, and '84 will be planning special reunions for that weekend, with the Class of 1969 the featured 50-year reunion class. Hope to see all of you again next summer!

PAC(Phillips Alumni Committee)

# BLACKHAWK SPIRIT

Edition 23

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September 2018

## "Oh, the Orange and the Black..." and the Music Goes On



### INSIDE SPIRIT

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Future Homecoming Set

We realize that this may sound like prior newsletter Homecoming(HC) coverage. Perhaps, fading recollections of HCs past, coupled with all the favorable feedback we've received, leads us to think that this was one of the better HCs we've had recently...especially fun-wise. Time inexorably marches on and wants to take its toll, yet it was quite evident that the Blackhawk spirit is as strong as ever, and that time and distance haven't diminished childhood memories and old and recent friendships with other exes. How many other schools and towns that vanished 31 years ago do you know of, whose alumni still annually meet to celebrate? Our pride and winning tradition, woven into our very fabric, is aptly captured by "*Undefeated since 1987*", a good slogan perhaps for a future HC tee-shirt??? (as has been recently suggested by a couple of exes.) Give us your opinion about this possibility, or any design ideas using this slogan, by Emailing us at phillipsblackhawks@yahoo.com.

Many former students and teachers/administrators were recognized who were in attendance, including those classes ending in a "3" or "8" having class reunions. The five former teachers/staff members (who were not exes) present were **Aleyene Watkins**, **Joel Lynch**, **Lanelle White**, and **Harold McCreary** and **Charles Topinka** both of whom were first-time attendees.

In order to preserve space for the longer articles and a few HC pictures, the speakers, special attendees, awardees, and prize winners at the Saturday morning program are simply listed below.

Keynote Speaker - Former head football coach **Charles Topinka**, who coached football/track and taught typing from 1964-1972, spoke on some of his recollections during his tenure at Phillips. Naturally he shared with us some humorous anecdotes that that were football related. Also he related a couple of amusing stories about other faculty members (including J.I.K.) which were news to us exes and, of course, and got several laughs from the audience. In all, Charles gave a very entertaining talk; his sense of humor was quite evident. Other Speakers - **Kent Torbert**, WTHS principal who gave the welcoming speech and **Aaronda White('73)** who gave the invocation and emceed. Oldest Ex Attendee - **Caroline Stevens('36)**; First-Time Attendees, **James Litchford Jr('80)**, **Virginia Kossey('58)**,

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## 2017 Endowment Scholarship & Heritage Center Cash Donors ( \$50 and Over)

|                         |                             |                                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Donna Haddock('55)      | Joey Sutphen('58)           | Tiata Kennedy('60) in memory of    |
| Colleen Wilson('54)     | Ronald Shaw('55) of         | Eddie Kennedy('67)                 |
| Lavona Paxton('60)      | Bob Roland('60)             | Colleen Wilson('54) in memory of   |
| Virginia Pirtle('63)    | Deanna Hatley('56)          | of Juanita('52), Evelyn('54)       |
| Kristi Brown('72)       | Lou Ann Winegar(' T)        | and Bobby Wilson('58)              |
| Art Bybee('55)          | Sara McCall('66)            | Jerry Vaden('60) in memory         |
| Neta Mitchell('75)      | Robin Adkins('75)           | of Richard Vaden('55)              |
| Martha Sue Parnell('58) | Sally Caufield('66)         | Jill Wendel('69)                   |
| Cherl Trumbly('81)      | Frank Strech('48)           | Mary Anne Svetlik('62)             |
| Derryl DeShields('64)   | Dick Robie('70)             | Nancy Board('51)                   |
| Milton Hoff('58)        | Mary Hull('59)              | Mike Caddell('60)                  |
| Vickie Reed('70)        | Stancy Aker('73)            | Bill Coss('68)                     |
| Walter Prock('79)       | Joyce Sweeney('56)          | Clinton Reck('67)                  |
| Tony McKee('68)         | Richard Tindall('73)        | Mark McClellan('78)                |
| Charlotte O'Neill('60)  | Floyd Jackson('71)          | Jimmie Dean('57)                   |
| Linda Jones('65)        | Joe Hayes('65)              | Ralph Smith('57)                   |
| Sharon Flinn('64)       | Bill Gaither('52)           | Gary Anderson('56)                 |
| Ronnie Wood('69)        | Roy White('60)              | Patty Pendleton('70)               |
| Faye Deen Krejci('59)   | Leon Glenn('56)             | Mary Anne Ewing('60)               |
| Cheryl Adams('63)       | Vicki Platts('66)           | Kae('58), Carolyn('57), Mike('65), |
| Carrie Nicholson('63)   | Gary Glasgow('59)           | and Jim Dixon('53-Dec)             |
| Dana Wright('68)        | Steve Williams('72)         | Mary campbell('56)                 |
| Dianna King('63)        | Melinda Kuhrt('71)          | Tommy Birch('61)                   |
| Loretta Tomlin('61)     | Class of 1975               | Gary and Donna Murrow('61/'61)     |
| Mary Kube('65)          | Glenn Hopkins('65)          | DougandBarbaraTomlinson('65/'67)   |
| Craig Hunter('68)       | Carol Roland('58)           | John Cook('58)                     |
| Vance Orr('59)          | Terry Adkins('63)           | Ralph Okle('63)                    |
| David Watkins('77)      | Darrell Herrin('74)         | Bruce Flick('64)                   |
| Jo Carol Hickox('61)    | Mike & Sherry Zink('69/'69) | Raymond and Lee Guest('71/'72)     |
| Anita Sparks('57)       | Jimmie Burris('57)          | Maurine Vaden('50)                 |
| 2018 Golf Tournament    | Class of 1967               |                                    |

and **Colleen Krug('77)**; \$100 cash - **Joel Davis('49)**; \$75 - **Sue Arthur('63)**; \$50 - **Nikki Tisdale('69)**. Blackhawk Blanket - **Harvy Morris('64)**; 50-Year Class Reunion Blanket - **Gail Armstrong('68)**. Blackhawk-of-the-Year Award - **Sis Baker('73)**. The 50-year reunion clock was passed from **Ralph Pumphrey('68)** to **Nikki Tisdale('69)** and **Darla Caviness('69)**...yes, time is now ticking away in countdown for next July's 50-year class reunion.

The Alumni Assn. Committee voted to retain the same officers who are listed as follows: **Aaronda White('73)** - president, **Tommy Birch('61)** - vice-president, **Brenda Baggs('75)** - secretary, **Tammy Arrington('76)** - treasurer and Heritage Center hostess, and **Mona Hendrickson('75)** - publicity chairperson.

Friday evening there was a turnout at the mixer at Fairlanes Baptist of close to 100 exes alone. Lots went on July 13-14 weekend outside the planned HC activities. The Class of 1968 had a great 50-year reunion with a turnout of 29 exes. They kicked things off by viewing the film of the Phillips-Plano state semi-finals football game. Then they had their program at the Elks Club on Saturday evening. Also that evening, the 1973 Class had a reunion dinner at **Daryl Krug's** home while the 1958 Class did the same at Onions. Also the 1978 Class met at XXL Steakhouse, while the 1963 Class got together at the Borger Ambassador Motel. **Virginia Pirtle** wants to thank everyone in her 1963 Class who attended their reunion, and all who helped them in so many ways. "We had an evening of laughing and sharing of memories. There were some mighty interesting stories!"

## Heritage Center Upgrades/Donations for 2017

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Freda Shuttlesworth's niece   | - 20 high school annuals dating from 1949 to 1986, team volleyball pictures                                |
| Penny Walker('54)             | - Plaque and trophy honoring Chesty Walker by Assn of Texas HS coaches                                     |
| Larry Joe Reed('67)           | - CD with 1966 football season game films  |
| Terry Zink('81)               | - Football uniforms and letter jacket. Spirit ribbons.   |
| Bill Briscoe('62)             | - Two of his books he wrote: "Pepperman's Promise" & "Perplexity"  |
| Virginia Pirtle('63)          | - The book she wrote: "Stained Glass and Railroad Tracks" - about growing up in Phillips, Texas            |
| Marjo Hettick('62)            | - The book "Oil Man" : story of Frank Phillips & the start of PPC  |
| Delton('62) & Brad Waits('65) | - Old Phillips Blackhawks cigarette lighter  |
| Kristi Brown('72)             | - Football jersey and sweatshirt, 1954 newsletter, Enid music festival mug                                 |
| Carol Roland('58)             | - Her UIL "Ready Writers Competition" medal  |
| Nikki Aker('69)               | - Twirling costume and write-up about the history behind it  |
| Richard Arnold('48)           | - 1945, 1946, 1947, & 1948 annuals. Football group pictures.   |
| Charlotte Litchfield('68)     | - Volleyball sweater, volleyball trophy, Blackhawk scarf   |
| Kara Lee Selman('68)          | - Tennis letter "P", graduation tassel, althetic banquet program, two commencement programs, spirit ribbon |
| Vernell Platts('61)           | - Commemorative Phillips First Methodist Church plate  |

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Phillips Pantex Hospital, one of the last births before the end of the year before it closed and a new hospital was opened. It was at Phillips' population peak of 4,250. That began her 19 years of calling Phillips home, and about 45 that her mother Verda did. "Everybody thinks that where they grew up was the center of the universe," Virginia admits, but it was such a happy time. Part of it was the time of our raising - the 1950s. We didn't have any worries. We had no idea who made what kind of money or had what kind of job; we were all equal"...a classless society.

As far as her book title is derived, Virginia has always admired the beauty of stained glass, once a featured staple for churches, including both churches in Phillips. She has some stained glass from the Methodist Church in Phillips that was blown out by the huge explosion of 1980. Virginia was almost born on a railroad track. Before moving from Borger, her brother drove her pregnant mother a short distance to the Pantex Hospital in Phillips, where trains and railroad tracks were common everyday sights and sounds you just lived with, and where her father waited for their arrival. But on the way they had to stop at some railroad tracks and impatiently wait for a long train to cross first. "I've always loved trains and loved whistles", Virginia fondly recalls.

There have only been a few towns in the Panhandle to completely disappear. The two high-profiled ones were Glazier, which was wiped off the map in 1947 by a tornado - and Phillips. PPC, offering residents money to leave, even had been wanting to expand the plants into the community starting in the 1970s. The explosion at the Refinery in 1980 that damaged businesses, houses, schools, and churches, forced 317 families to evacuate by the year's end. It was the beginning of the end. It took another seven years of PPC land buyouts, litigation, and court rulings before what was left of the town of Phillips came rolling down the highway. There's nothing left now but the school buildings - nothing but land where a bit of Mayberry in the Panhandle once stood. The only reminders are the jaw-dropping Phillips High School Heritage Center in Stinnett and published works like that of Virginia's, not to mention a very active PHS Alumni Association. "We assumed everyone lived like we did," she said nostalgically, "but that turned out maybe not to be the case."

## Deceased Exes Over Past Year

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Mike Dees('59-?)                       | Richard Vaden('55-cancer of esophagus) | Marvin Moore('44-?)                                  |
| Eddie Kennedy('67-post stroke)         | Larry Verden('60-respiratory failure)  | Connie Hampton('67-diabetes/heart complications)     |
| Kristen Burns('84-heart attack)        | Bill Blalock('43-?)                    | Gwen Arthur('57-heart issues)                        |
| Tissy Blanton('72-?)                   | Bill Evans('49-Parkinsons)             | Billy Crockett('63-?)                                |
| Mike Keller('68-?)                     | Carolyn Painter('57-?)                 | Mary Jane Chandler('58-?)                            |
| Tom Covington('55-liver cancer)        | Donald Beene('54-Alzheimers)           | Ellen Quisenberry('56-Staph infection complications) |
| Trudy Griffith('69-pulmonary fibrosis) | Booth Hansen('40-?)                    | Sherburne Epps('36-old age at 101)                   |
| Stephen Upchurch('66-?)                | Vernon Taliaferro('44-?)               | Patsy Gipson('56-?)                                  |
| Eddie Gipson('59-Alzheimers)           | Fred Bartram('68-?)                    | Joe Livingston('60-brain problem)                    |
| Juanita Williams('54-?)                | Duane Jones('55-?)                     | Cora Lee Keller('61-multiple issues)                 |
| Calvin Storm('77-flu,pneumonia)        | Terry Miller('54-?)                    | Jimmy Massingill('63-liver cancer)                   |
| Harold Haren('58-?)                    | Richard Hale('58-?)                    | Don Zollars('49-?)                                   |
| Billy Low('61-heart issues)            | Max Hinds('60-?)                       | Clifford Okle('57-Alzheimers, stroke)                |
| Douglas Johnson('59-stroke)            | Kent Akins('63-?)                      | Jimmy Reagan('62-cancer)                             |
| Billy Grace('62-?)                     | Howard Smith('65-cancer)               | Margaret Hatfield('47-?)                             |
| Myrna Taylor('57)                      | Dennis Beebe('70-Alzheimers)           | Jerry Cannon('54-cancer)                             |
| Donald Tietz('50-?)                    | Jim Riley('50-?)                       | Marlene Perkins('54-pancreatic cancer)               |
| Barney Turner('50-?)                   | Shirley Drake('58-?)                   | Robert McClure('63-?)                                |
| Gary Davis('65-?)                      | Gary Winters('63-?)                    | Janet Cook('63-?)                                    |
| Burl Phelps('53-bad heart valve)       | Wilma Raulston('56-?)                  | Kay Phelps('64-COPD)                                 |
| Margaret Eklund('50-heart/cancer)      | Wanda Bybee('53-heart attack)          | Bill Stevens('46-?)                                  |
| Clarrena Dyer('55-?)                   | Lester Hudson('67-cancer)              | Beverly Hynes('58-?)                                 |
| Marvin Demings('59-multi issues)       | Phillip Allen('54-?)                   | Fern Sechrist('60-congestive heart failure)          |
| Bill Gill('53-?)                       | Melvin Webb('56-heart failure)         | A.W. "Red" Dawson('47-?)                             |
| Bill Seymour('52-?)                    | Jack Lane('51)                         | Gary Winters('73-heart attack)                       |
| Lois Lopeman('55-multi issues)         | Kenneth White('61-multi issues)        | Arta Sue Wood('53-?)                                 |
| Vickie Moon('72-heart problems)        | Johnnie Garner('62-?)                  |  |

### Deceased Ex-Teachers/Staff

|                               |                                 |                               |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Elba Vassar (English teacher) | Don Blankenship(superintendent) | Gene Turner(cafeteria worker) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|

## Fall Newsletter/Alumni Dues Reminder

**REMEMBER!** In order to receive this fall's newsletter and so on each year, you will have needed to have sent in your dues in response to the Homecoming letter mailed out to you the March before. Typically only between 20% to 25% of the exes on our mailing distribution list send in their dues each year. And our mailing list is decreasing by the rate of around 60 deceased each year, not counting the 20 to 25 exes we lose track of annually due to moves with no forwarding addresses available. This leads us to ask those of you, whom we generally only hear from once every five years when you attend your class reunion, to support our Alumni Association *each year* in this financial regard. Again we had another 5 percent drop-off in prepaid responses to our Homecoming letter that we have received in the mail over the past ten years. With a present mailing list of some 2100 exes, for 2019, let's see if we can reverse this downward trend. For future Homecomings we prefer that you pre-register and prepay by mail rather than wait to pay at the door because it requires more people to have to man the registration tables, and it makes for more work for the alumni committee members on HC weekend. Also by receiving your Info Form by mail, we can stay abreast on your current contact information.

## Who's Who List of Class Reunion Attendees

### Class of '58 (60-Year Reunion - 20 attendees!)

|                 |                  |               |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Bob Barclay     | Janice Benefield | Randall Burks |
| Larry Bush      | Donald Creacy    | Ron Cromer    |
| Rose Garner     | Dorothy Garrett  | Janet Hatley  |
| Milton Hoff     | Richard Hogue    | Ann Jones     |
| Virginia Kossey | Connie Lamm      | Judy Lee      |
| Anita Moore     | Sue Parnell John | Paul Reese    |
| Toni Truax      | Jeanelle Tucker  |               |

### Class of '63 (55-Year Reunion - 22 attendees!)

|                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Kay Armstrong  | Sue Arthur      | Junior Beasley  |
| Linda Betts    | Karen Birch     | Linda Blackman  |
| Kelly Caufield | Eddy Dickey     | Polly Doughty   |
| Norman Flue    | Deanne Gafford  | Gayle Ingram    |
| Welima Jones   | Dianna King     | Jerry Newcomb   |
| Ralph Okle     | Virginia Pirtle | Tommy Railsback |
| Charles Ray    | Scott Rickard   | John Sellinger  |
| P.R. Stiles    |                 |                 |

### Class of '68 (50-Year Reunion - 29 attendees!)

|                     |                  |                    |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Mike Acker          | Linda Akers      | Gail Armstrong     |
| Byron Clark         | Billy Barber     | Bill Coss          |
| Brenda Dillard      | Marlane Gafford  | Robert Gassaway    |
| Jerry Hampton       | Jerry Harrah     | Penney Hensley     |
| Bill Holmes         | Craig Hunter     | Garry Hunter       |
| Charlotte Litchford | Virgie Louthan   | Kanita McMillan    |
| Tony McKee          | Linda Means      | Stan Moore         |
| Margaret Pennington | Ralph Pumphrey   | Susan Richardson   |
| Kara Lee Selman     | Stephanie Termin | Tari Vanlandingham |
| Dana Wright         | Carleen Yoder    |                    |

### Class of '73 (45-Year Reunion - 14 attendees!)

|               |               |                    |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Stancy Akers  | Kris Bailey   | Sis Baker          |
| Karen Brown   | Erin Caufield | Leon Cowan         |
| Joe Dickey    | Judy Graham   | Daryl Krug         |
| Mike Lewellyn | Gary Mahan    | Tami Vanlandingham |
| David Walton  | Aaronda White |                    |

### Class of '78 (40-Year Reunion - 12 attendees!)

|                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Deanna Adams   | Bret Fisher    | Tracy Grimes   |
| Tim Hedrick    | David Henry    | Andy Jett      |
| Teresa Purcell | Judy Stark     | Donna Thompson |
| Lori White     | Jeff Yarbrough | Mark Young     |

## Red Steagall To Receive Golden Spur Award

Red Steagall('56), a cowboy entertainer and poet, has been chosen to receive the 2018 National Golden Spur Award, which will be presented at a formal Golden Spur dinner October 13 in Lubbock. The award is the most prestigious honor given by the ranching and livestock industry for accomplishments by an individual. He has spent a lifetime telling the story of ranching through his cowboy music and poetry, and his syndicated radio and television shows. Red has helped ensure that the stories of the real West don't just fade away into obscurity. His work keeps the rancher and cowboy in front of a mainstream audience. Most importantly, he reflects the values, integrity, and character that have always been a part of ranch life.

The award, established in 1978, is group recognition given by six state and national organizations in the ranching and livestock industry. Red has held celebrity status since the 1970s as a Western entertainer who emphasizes ranch life and Western heritage. The Red Steagall Cowboy gathering and Western Swing Festival has been held each October in Fort Worth for the past 27 years. His radio show is carried by 155 stations, and he has a TV series called "Somewhere West of Wall Street." The Texas Legislature voted him the official Cowboy Poet of Texas in 1991, and in 2006, he was chosen as Poet Laureate of the state of Texas.

**BLACKHAWK  
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## Scholarship Status Report

Thanks to the combined donations contributed by many of you exes - yes, together they really add up - the **Helen Bisbee Scholarship** has been fully funded and established. We also have just recently fully funded the **Joel Lynch Scholarship**, thanks to a Phillips ex who contributed a significant amount of the money raised to really jump start this endeavor. Our new focus now is funding the **Jim & Freda Shuttlesworth Scholarship** which we anticipate will take another two years to completely fund. Again, your generosity is to be greatly complimented and may God bless your giving. As a reminder, your scholarship donations may be made at any time of the year to any of our established scholarships and sent to **Phillips Alumni Assn/PO Box 1710/ Borger TX 79008**. If you wish, you may also make your scholarship donation in memory of someone dearly departed.

## State Basketball Champions

FYI, the West Texas High School Comanches boys basketball team won the 2-A state championship title last March in the state finals tournament held in San Antonio. The team went 36-2 and defeated Thorndale 61-55 in the finals. In case you may have forgotten, after 1987, Phillips undergraduate students starting attending the new high school West Texas in Stinnett after Phillips, Stinnett, and Plemons consolidated into one school district. Some of our Phillips exes, still are either parents, grandparents, or kin of current WTHS students.

## Old Letters Lead to a Book on Phillips

An excellent article appeared last February in the Amarillo paper written by columnist Jon Mark Beilue who has given Phillips a lot of coverage in the past. The article, reprinted below, is based upon his interview with Virginia Pirtle('63) who was inspired to write the book Glass Windows and Railroad Tracks based on her growing up in Phillips, after discovering some old letters and newspaper clippings in her deceased mother's attic.

Virginia Pirtle Malicoat's mother was part of the houses-on-wheels migration and disappearance of Phillips some 30 years ago. The legal wrangling was over, and what had been several years in the making was done by 1989. Houses, one after another, were trucked away from the unique company town two miles northeast of Borger. The town, founded in 1926 and renamed in 1938 for the next-door petroleum company, in essence went with the houses. "It was sad," Virginia said, "I didn't actually see or want to see any of those houses being moved, especially my mother's, but I was hurt. It almost killed us who grew up there."

But from that forced exodus to the Buena Vista area of Borger ensued a discovery, a discovery that led to a book. In cleaning and clearing out that house, some old trunks were moved from the attic. In them were piles of letters and old newspaper clipping articles. It was a treasure trove of history. Over time, Virginia began to group them and sort them chronologically. They went from prior generations to finally Virginia's generation. By then she knew this was special, and the springboard for something bigger. Always wanting to write, she had her inspiration. She only recently put the finishing touches on her book, a breezy 296 pages. "It's just a kind of coming of age of a young girl in a camp town that was definitely unique from any other town," she explained. For those of a certain age and with a sense of Texas Panhandle history, there's an affinity for Phillips, of which Virginia spends a good portion of her book detailing. It was the self-contained company town nestled right next to the Phillips Refinery and Philtex plants. It was a town of several thousand, one that in the 1940's through the 1960's was a perennial state football powerhouse, whose high-achieving school was a point of community pride. It had two churches, a hospital, Jolly Drug, Ostrom Grocery, 66 Cleaners, a movie theater, a post office, and some restaurants and filling stations, in addition to the schools and its facilities. Because almost all dads worked for Phillips, it was a town that knew no economic class distinctions. One might say it was a version of Mayberry in the Panhandle... "except that we didn't have a sheriff", Virginia added.

Walter Pirtle, Virginia's father, came to the oil boom town of Borger, in the 1930s and moved to Phillips in the early 1940s, [like many of the town's residents did, in seek of a better job]. Virginia was born at ....Continued on page 9

## "They Ain't Making Any More Blackhawks"

Exes in about 60% of the 52 senior classes (whom we're aware of) died this past year. Here is an updated table of class death numbers. Again, the deceased figures below are based on the information at hand, and so the actual numbers may be even higher. This is true because there are several exes of the early classes on our active rolls for whom we've never had addresses (i.e., most all of whom are very likely deceased) or have lost track of in recent years (some of whom may be dead)...plus we just simply don't learn of all the deaths. When these missing exes start theoretically turning 100 years old (as in the 1936 Class), they will be assumed to be deceased, and removed from the active alumni roster file. Another clarification - the class total sizes aren't just based on the senior annual counts, but most class rolls also include exes who attended PHS at any time, even a few who only attended through junior high.

| Class | Total | Dec'd | % Dec'd | Class | Total | Dec'd | % Dec'd |
|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1936  | 40    | 39    | 97.5    | 1962  | 116   | 30    | 25.9    |
| 1937  | 36    | 32    | 88.9    | 1963  | 133   | 28    | 21.1    |
| 1938  | 51    | 44    | 86.2    | 1964  | 79    | 18    | 22.8    |
| 1939  | 56    | 47    | 83.9    | 1965  | 119   | 27    | 22.7    |
| 1940  | 61    | 55    | 90.2    | 1966  | 98    | 22    | 22.4    |
| 1941  | 64    | 49    | 76.6    | 1967  | 91    | 19    | 20.9    |
| 1942  | 88    | 66    | 75.0    | 1968  | 82    | 17    | 20.7    |
| 1943  | 87    | 56    | 64.4    | 1969  | 87    | 18    | 20.7    |
| 1944  | 76    | 58    | 76.3    | 1970  | 83    | 14    | 16.9    |
| 1945  | 67    | 47    | 70.1    | 1971  | 92    | 8     | 8.7     |
| 1946  | 66    | 51    | 77.3    | 1972  | 78    | 16    | 20.5    |
| 1947  | 95    | 63    | 66.3    | 1973  | 86    | 17    | 19.8    |
| 1948  | 83    | 52    | 62.7    | 1974  | 64    | 11    | 17.2    |
| 1949  | 72    | 47    | 65.3    | 1975  | 53    | 7     | 13.2    |
| 1950  | 88    | 46    | 52.3    | 1976  | 56    | 9     | 16.1    |
| 1951  | 66    | 29    | 43.9    | 1977  | 45    | 5     | 11.1    |
| 1952  | 78    | 43    | 55.1    | 1978  | 49    | 8     | 16.3    |
| 1953  | 106   | 53    | 50.0    | 1979  | 47    | 3     | 6.4     |
| 1954  | 100   | 54    | 54.0    | 1980  | 40    | 6     | 15.0    |
| 1955  | 115   | 59    | 51.3    | 1981  | 35    | 3     | 8.6     |
| 1956  | 111   | 47    | 42.3    | 1982  | 42    | 0     | 0.0     |
| 1957  | 128   | 48    | 37.5    | 1983  | 37    | 2     | 5.4     |
| 1958  | 119   | 41    | 34.5    | 1984  | 29    | 2     | 7.1     |
| 1959  | 142   | 52    | 36.6    | 1985  | 17    | 1     | 5.9     |
| 1960  | 144   | 35    | 24.3    | 1986  | 21    | 1     | 4.8     |
| 1961  | 180   | 52    | 28.9    | 1987  | 30    | 3     | 10.0    |

## Blackhawk Sister Acts

Mona('75) and Glenna('70) Hendrickson



Karen('66) and Nikki('69) Tisdale



Standing: Kelly('63) and Erin('73) Caufield  
Seated: Sally('66) and Toni('60) Caufield



Kim('77) and Tammy('76) Arrington



Sis Baker('73),  
"Hawk-of-the Year" Awardee,  
and Aaronda White('73)



*Mona Hendrickson ('75) presenting special collage to Coach Charlie Topinka*



*1968 Class celebrating 50-year reunion at the Pumphrey home*



*Left to right: David Walton ('73), Mike Lewellyn ('73), Eddie Dickey ('63), Gary Mahan ('73) and Leon Cowan ('73) polishing off lunch at WTHS Caf.*



*Jeff Yarbrough ('78), Audie Hatton ('79) and Tim Hedrick ('78) at the golf tournament*



*1973 Class attendees celebrating 45-year reunion at HC program*

*1958 Class celebrating 60-year reunion.*



*1978 Class celebrating 40-year reunion at the XXL Steakhouse*



*1968 Class members in PHS foyer pictured behind the mighty Hawk*



*Frank Strech ('48) and Jo Ann Hubbard ('48) at "who's counting" reunion*