

# The 1955 trojan Alumni PRINTS

Fall 2000

• Send news articles and/or photos to Frank Hunter, 480 Bosphorus Ave., Tampa, FL 33606 • Email fhunter@sptimes.com •

Issue 1

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

### *Random Thoughts about the 45th Reunion*

First of all, I want to thank Gene and the entire Reunion Committee for a memorable weekend. I must admit that I often felt trapped in some time warp, but I am so thrilled that I attended. 45 years is a long time! My return to Portsmouth was an emotional roller coaster, but it was GREAT to see so many classmates and friends again. You probably were unaware that there were three reunions happening concurrently. Second Street playmates, Grant Grade School, and PHS.

I believe I shared with many of you, that my motivation for returning after all these years, was the tragic deaths of Deanie Harrison and Tom Stone on Egypt Air 990. It may sound ironic, but I felt a strong pull back to Ohio, which I remember so fondly. (Although truthfully, I often refer to Portsmouth as a nice place to be from). I was saddened and shocked to hear of the untimely deaths of other close friends, particularly Whitney Miller, Norma Ray, Bill Hobbs, and Jerry McColgan. (I had heard through the grapevine about Kenny Amick and Bill Trone years ago).

I was overwhelmed by the mob of people in the Ramada parking lot Friday night. People from Payson AZ (Charlie Jett) to Portsmouth (Don Snively, Gene Lucas, et al), Tuscon (Phyllis Knowles) to Tampa (Frank Hunter), Middletown (Dave Teeters) to Marathon (Sam Pollock), Louisville (Sharon Queen) to Belleville (Darlene Riddlebarger Hobbs). Thanks to Connie Smith and Jackie James for being my tour guides on the Magical Mystery Tour from the Ramada to the football stadium. You could really feel the energy on that bus. It was almost like our train ride to the Middletown football game in 1953! I was glad to see that PHS is still a dominating power in football but you're right, I didn't watch much of the game. I was more fascinated that Martha and Bob Cook's granddaughter was one of the homecoming queens attendants. That made me feel like I was 82 years old.

Table-hopping at the Ramada after the game was just mind-boggling for me. I was impressed that so many classmates attended, and after a few glasses of wine, dim lighting in the bar, and a little imagination, I began to recognize many old friends... Jackie Buffington, Ginny Bell Smith, Sharon Queen, Nick Huston, Bill Meade, Shirley Perry, Jerry Warren, Donna McCally, and Connie Yuenger.

The 1950s were an innocent time in our lives, and even today, I cannot imagine a more wonderful place to grow up... somewhere between Happy Days and Archie Comics. Please tell Patti Webb that, even though she is a member of her



Connie Yuenger and Marty Lehman

realtors million dollar club, I do not anticipate buying a house in Portsmouth in the near future! Jerry Gillen and I closed the bar around midnight, but I had so much fun on Friday evening, I couldn't go to sleep.

Ahh, but there was more. Our tour (thanks Don and John) of that towering fortress of yellow brick built in 1912 (aka PHS) was an eye opener on Sat. mourning (not a misspelling!). I heard a collective gasp from the group as we came up the steps and realized that NOTHING had changed. Well, OK, the principals office is now on the first floor and the study hall is subdivided. No one would argue with Ralph Applegate that the town needs new schools. Mary Gail Drake and I had our photos taken in front of the Phil Moore Award plaque... proof to our children and grandchildren that it does exist. And confirmation for my children who have always insisted that dad was the biggest nerd at the high school. Thanks to you classmates who told me they were wrong!

Was our lunch at Billy Cliffords restaurant, Patsys, a happening or what? Sometimes the best events are unplanned. This was one of them. Who could possibly complain about the prices and the friendly service. The owner even joined us for lunch. That doesn't happen in Boston!! I had a great conversation with Sam Pollock, someone I didn't really know in our class. But isn't that why we have reunions? And would you paparazzi who took all the photos (that's you Darlene!) please send me a few of the best ones. Thanks.

I had never seen the floodwall murals before. WOW! (Of course, I had never been allowed on Front Street in my youth). What an impressive project. Thanks to Bob Cook for the tour, and congratulations on your incredible lasting achievement. I did think that it was appropriate that we should have Portsmouth weather, hot and humid, for the tour. I can't wait to develop my

photos of the Hot Babes in our class on that Harley in front of the murals. (Frank and Gene... can we feature them on the cover of the 50th Reunion booklet? Karen, shall I send a copy to the society column in Greenwich? Kenny Lane, please send me the spooky details regarding the deathbed confession of the drowning/murder at Millbrook Pond. I apologize for leaving before the end of the tour, but Bob and Nancy (Cox) Otworth had invited me to join them, with Marilee Keeney, to visit Irma Stone (Tom's mother) at Hillside. Very emotional, as you can imagine. And we also bumped into Joe Kegley, age 98!

The setting for Saturday evening's class dinner was perfect. The Friends Center is such a great addition to Portsmouth, and more than compensated for my disappointments at the empty buildings on Gallia and Chillicothe Streets. The turnout was amazing once again Gene, thanks to you and your Reunion Committee... and I had the opportunity to complete many conversations interrupted earlier in the weekend. It was also a chance to meet a few members from other classes including Mike Williams, Roger Merb, Gary and Marilyn (Mucha) Albrecht, who still live in town. One thing still puzzles me. How could I be taller after 45 years? A lot of grey hair and a few extra pounds for sure, but taller? And what fun it was to see my old tennis partners, Terry Kouns, Frank Hunter, Allen Oxley, and Fred Ramsey. Please tell McKelvey that we will meet him at Mound Park in 2005. Bring wooden racquets and white tennis balls! Tom Stone will be calling the lines from the big umpire's chair in the heavens above!

Suddenly it was late, dark, and rainy and the reunion was over! I walked out to the parking lot with Eva, Karen, Bob and Martha and Nancy Bowers. I felt like Michael J. Fox in Back to the Future climbing back into his time machine.

The following morning I talked to Carol Merb and Billy Kirby and Mary Gail all checking out of the Best Western, and compared our impressions of the reunion. We were all really amazed how many emotions and activities we crammed into 48 hours. It was a tedious drive north on route 23 to Columbus. Lucasville, Chillicothe, Circleville, South Bloomfield... still a speed trap! As I neared Columbus, and I am NOT making this up... I suddenly heard Buddy Morrow's Swing Band playing Night Train on the radio. It was surreal! You have to help me... did they play at our Junior Prom in the Girls Gym?... and who was your date? Please bring the answers to the 50th Reunion! or send an Email. (mslarch@aol.com)

My fondest regards to all my classmates in the Class of 1955. See you in five years!  
Marty Lehman



Connie Yuenger, Karen Williams, Sharon Queen, Mary Gail Drake, Eva Strauss, Martha Cook



Jerry Warren, Jackie Buffington



Nancy Cox Otworth, Bob Otworth



Eva Strauss, Karen Williams, Connie Smith, Darleen Riddlebarger Hobbs



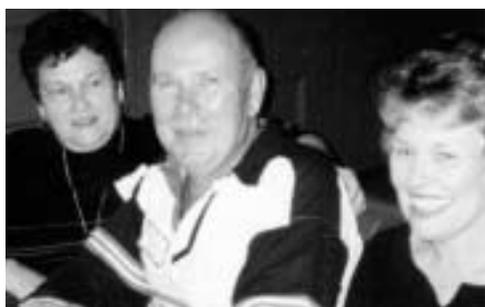
Al Oxley & others in PHS band room



Marty Lehman, Sam Pollock...Bill Clifford, Darleen Hobbs, Al Oxley, Frank Hunter



Mary Gail Drake, Marty Lehman



Norma Lyon Lowe, Ron Lowe, Ken Lanes wife



Connie Smith, Karen Williams, Pat Webb



Eva Strauss, Karen Williams



Fred Ramsey, Jane Dever Ramsey



Darleen Riddlebarger Hobbs, Frank Hunter, Jo Robson, Marilyn Payne



Ginny Smith Wolfe, Bill Clifford



Bob Cook, Martha Fitch Cook, Lovel Pack Marting, Dave Marting



Curtis Richardson, his wife, Gladys Frazier



Bill Meade, Ken Lane, Don Wallace



Phyllis Scaff, Jerry Warren



Gene Hollis, Mary Ann Hamilton, Patty Conklin, Bill Barnett



Gladys Frazier, Betty Fyffe, Janie Poole,



Karen Williams, Connie Smith, Mary Gail Drake, Nancy Cox



Darleen Riddlebarger Hobbs, Jackie James



Patty and Allan Oxley



Marilyn Grierson Payne, Larry Boren

## History Corner

I was a member of the Portsmouth Knothole Gang in the summer of 1950. I was thirteen years old. You had to go down to the YMCA for some reason or another, to sign up. This got you an official membership card which allowed you to attend all home games of the Portsmouth Athletics Professional Baseball Team for free. Of course, the seats were in the bleachers at the far end of the stands. The Portsmouth A's were a minor league baseball team, a member of the Class D Ohio-Indiana League, a Farm Team that belonged to the American League Philadelphia Athletics. The other teams in the league were Lima, Marion, Muncie, Newark, Richmond, Springfield, and Zanesville. They played their games in the baseball stadium just east of the Municipal Stadium in the Labold Field area.

We Knotholers had high hopes for the A's in the summer of 1950. After all, they had tied Marion for the league championship in 1949. But, alas, they had a miserable season. They finished the season 42 games behind, in seventh place, with a 46-89 won-loss record. We nosed out Zanesville for last place by one-half game!

I do remember rooting for my favorite player, Centerfielder Forrest (Frosty) Rende. He batted .256 and hit 14 home runs. Andy Gilbert of Springfield led the league that year with 37 home runs.

Perhaps the highlight of the season was the day that Connie Mack came to Portsmouth to visit his farm team. I was standing on the James Street sidewalk, just at the top of the hill, as Mr. Mack went by in a nifty Cadillac convertible. He was dressed in his usual business suit and wearing a derby hat, which he managed in. He never wore a uniform. And, he was waving to everyone along the way.

1950 was the last year that he managed The Philadelphia Athletics. He had been their manager for fifty years, since 1901, when the American League was founded. He held the record in professional baseball for tenure with a single team. His record was made easier by the fact that he also owned the team. In 1955 the Philadelphia Athletics became the Kansas City Athletics and in 1968 the Kansas City Athletics moved to the west coast and became the Oakland A's. Blaine Bierley

## Wanted - Photos & Stuff

We hope to publish this letter six times a year to help hold the class together. In order to to pay for the printing and postage, we would like to have a yearly contribution of just \$5 per class member. If you have a financial problem, let us know and we will waive the amount. On the other hand, if you can contribute a little more, please feel free. We feel it is important to keep in touch and care for each other. Perhaps we can generate enough interest for a yearly reunion. Send photos, stories and your favorite high school memories as soon as possible. (50's song, poem, movie, hangout, Ports. memory, and activity). Send that information to Frank Hunter, 480 Bosphorus Ave., Tampa, FL 33606 and your \$5 to Gene Lucas, 1419 Second Street, West Portsmouth OH 45663.

## Reunion Kudos

Many thanks to you (Gene) and the committee for a memorable time. The football game was interesting for me as I was in the band when I was in high school and did not have the advantage of sitting through the half time ceremony.

The weather was so mild. I also enjoyed the high school tour. The memories hit me so suddenly when I walked in. I was shocked. It is always a treat to see the murals and especially to hear Bob's comments.

*Connie Smith Enlow*

It was a pleasure to meet all of you. Although it was a very emotional time for me it was also great to get to connect faces to the memories Mom had always described to me. She had such joyful memories of her growing up years. Thanks for including me! I just had to be there so I could include Mom in the reunion - they were always so important to her - I'm sure she and Whitney were having a hoot talking about all you! The visit to Ohio was good for me - I would not call it "closure" but it was very therapeutic. Instead of crying and being sad whenever I think of Mom, I am now recalling happier times and memories and I think of her a lot more with laughter and a smile. If you are ever to be in Seattle, let me know. I am a great tour guide!

*Cheri Lou (Norma Ray's daughter)*



## Guess Who

At age 2 and age 62. Her favorite memories are:

Song  
Poem  
Movie  
Activity  
Hangout

She has a complete collection of 50's music on 45 rpm records. Retired from a successful career in advertising and public relations, she enjoys writing, poetry and cooking. Hint: JLB



## PHS Tennis Team

Five members of the undefeated team of 1953 attended the reunion. Missing are Charles McKelvey and Tom Stone. L to r: Fred Ramsey, Terry Kouns, Frank Hunter, Al Oxley and Marty Lehman. Should they challenge the current PHS team next reunion? What do you say, Marty?

## Address Changes

I am sorry I missed the reunion. I spend about half my time in Thailand and the other half in the US and this reunion caught me in Bangkok. I have worked with the US Trade Development Agency in SE Asia since the late 80's consulting and lecturing on telecommunications. I am married (1997) to a Professor of Chinese language and culture who teaches at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok (Remember 'Anna and The King'? - That one,) so I consider Bangkok my second home. Dr. Jintana also lectures at US Universities, and Beijing U. occasionally, so we maintain a home both in Bangkok and Florida (& occasionally Denver). It's a big, beautiful world as long as you remain curious. Six kids, 12 grandkids, all healthy, (semi-) wealthy and (sort of) wise.

I will be in Bangkok until late January. You can reach me at lxbart4@access.inet.co.th or the aol address lxbart3@aol.com. My Thailand Address is: Patumwan House 22, Kasemsun Soi 1, Rama 1 Road WangMai, Bangkok Thailand, 10330.

How could 45 years have passed? PHS in the 50's was a great school. I hope it still is. Many of today's schools don't even offer Latin, Geography and English Literature, three of the most helpful classes I received at PHS. Times change. Also sad to hear about losing 10 classmates. Best Regards and thanks for contacting me.

*Lowell Barton*

## Illness

Sam Winters has Parkinson's Disease-Shy/Drager Syndrome and could not attend the reunion. The disease is progressing more rapidly than his physicians predicted. Sam was extremely disappointed & did not want to cancel but realized at the last minute that he was not physically or mentally able to make the trip. Please drop Rita and him a note. 5809 E. Hearn Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85254, Phone 602-765-8030

## PHS Football 2000

The members of the undefeated team of 1953 who live in Portsmouth visited the PHS team the day before their last game to give them a pep talk on what it is like to be an undefeated team. It must have inspired them as the next night they defeated Wheelersburg 45 to 0. They finished the season ranked # 1 in the state in Division III to become the first undefeated team since our own team of 1953. Stay tuned for tournament news.

## Recent Deaths



Nancy Clausing Wertman, 63, of Columbus, died Sunday, Oct. 22 at a Columbus hospital. She was a retired registered nurse from the office of Dr. Jack Miles. She was preceded in death by her husband, John; and one daughter, Beverly.

Surviving are one son, Curt Wertman; three daughters, Rosemary Wertman, Caroline Wertman and Tina Collins; one sister, Joanne Gilman, one brother Lloyd Clausing; and 16 grandchildren.

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## Remember This?

When we never thought of guns in school...



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