

Class of '57 Newsletter

November 2007

Volume 23

66 Classmates Attend 50th Reunion of Class of 1957

Sixty-six members of the Columbia City High School Class of 1957 attended the 50th reunion of their class. The reunion dinner, September 8, at the Eagle Glen Event Center, also was attended by 51 spouses and other guests. Classmates from 12 states and Canada also gathered for reunion events on Friday evening, September 7, Saturday afternoon, September 8, and Sunday morning September 9.

Twenty-one deceased members of the class were remembered with 21 candles and a special memorial read by classmate Ted Gruver at Saturday evening's reunion dinner.

During the brief business meeting following the dinner, the class voted to meet again in 2010 and elected new class officers. Carol Schuman Krider was elected president; Barbara Snapp Klopenstein, vice-president; Rosalie Farber Kleespie, secretary; and Janis Smith Kelly, was elected treasurer. Outgoing class president Rex Carpenter served as the reunion's planning committee chairman and as master-of-ceremonies at Saturday evening's dinner.

Following the dinner and business meeting, Daniel Lee Martin, a Nashville musician who hosts *Backstage and Backroads with Daniel Lee Martin* on The Sportsman Channel, sang several selections from the two CD's he has released. One of the songs, *A Guitar With No Strings* was written by him in memory of his late father, Daniel Martin, a member of the Class of 1957. His mother, Patricia Puckett Martin, a member of the Class of 1956, sang with Daniel Lee on another song.

The CD's mentioned above can be purchased by contacting Janis Smith Kelly at 804 E. Jefferson St, Columbia City, IN 46725 Phone Number 260-463-6238. Janis' email address is jlkelly@embargmail.com. The cost of the two CD's is \$12, a special for our class members.

Members of the class attending at least one portion of their 50th reunion were: Barbara Snapp, Nancy Poffenberger, Rex Carpenter, Randall Carpenter, Patty Wine Brenner, Shirley Zink, Bill Weigold, Raymond Shoda, Jerald Putman, Neil Cooper, Carolyn Hilligoss, Pauline Juillerat, Ted Gruver, Jackie Kilty, Ray Bechtel, Eugene Heckman, Sharon Bates, Rosalie Farber, Marlin Worden, Sevits, Jo Ellen Adams, Maribelle Sheets, Joe Yoder, Tom Felger, Robert Anderson, Roger Anderson, Don Adams, Martha Cooperrider, Mary Cooperrider, Jon Pontzius, Louise Knisley, Donald Deutsch, Ron and Margaret Lovely, Roger Bridge, Eugene Brown, John Pence, Mary Ann Squires, Orville Grable, Dean Growcock, Jeanette Snyder, Judith King, Shirley Hosler, Russell Erne, Rose Ann Ness, Mary Ann Houser, Thom Feit, Janet Bridge, Jim Kyler, Patricia Gibson, Judith Reimer, Bill Ramp, Ted Lipke, Larry Hearld, Terry Smith, Darwin Zumbun, Dave Wigent and Kenneth Juillerat. (*Because of space only the median names were used*)

NECROLOGY 2007

Silence for for 57 seconds - 21 lighted candles

Ted Gruver did a wonderful job of honoring those classmates who have passed away. Following is his necrology for the members who have passed.

"As we reflect on our 21 deceased classmates it reminds us of the droplets of wax sliding along on the side of a lighted candle. It reminds us of the many tears that have been shed during a life time, tears of joy, tears of sorrow and tears of pain. Tears from the loss of family members and friends.

The endless pain of a deceased child.

As the candle burns slowly to the end, it flickers and then becomes non-existent, no more light, but memories glow.

Our 21 deceased classmates, thought then of how life on this earth should have been lived: to dream of dreams that they could live and attend this 50th class reunion.

All of us here today wish we could live forever and hope we will attend our next reunion in 2010 and many more, but like a candle, the flicker will cease.

But don't be afraid, you may have charted your life, sailed distant ports, but eventually the rudder will slip from your hand, like the candle has shed its last droplet of wax and we too will pass from this earth.

Time has passed and time marches on, so for now, cherish today, this 50th Class reunion, because yesterday is but a dream. Remember

our deceased classmates the next time you see or light a candle."

Those classmates that have passed before us include:

Arthur Bates	2006
Judith Bevington	1998
Dean Brown	2002
Gene Burns	2005
Sarah Duncan	2003
Tom Eastman	1991
Janet Gillispie	1994
Judy Grant	2002
Virginia Hamman	2005
Russell Hursey	1994
Judith Lauer	1994
Kay Leininger	1999
Gary Link	1987
Daniel Martin	1997
Jerry Parrett	1975
John Pearce	2005
Gerald Schrader	2006
Clyde Shoda ...	2004
Roger Treece	2007
Ed Weidenhoeft	1962
Tom Wiley	1999

To keep an update of this list visit the CCHSAA web site, then click on "alumni data base".

Judy Reimer Thompson says in her letter: "Our reunions are great! The only part I don't like about them is reading about the ones who have passed on before us. We need to get some input on their lives after they graduated and what their success was when they were living."

This may be a new venture for us.

Changed Email Addresses

The following people have changed their email addresses.

Russel Ern
Russleta61@kconline.com

Heidi Schwarz Siewert
jsfm@aol.com

New Addresses

Heidi Schwarz Swiewert
6179 Harmony Hill Drive
Rhineland, WI
54501
PH # 715-362-6403

A Note from CCHSAA Class Coordinator

Classmates:

The list of officers elected during our recent reunion will be in charge of planning the next event in 2010. Please go to the Reunion Information Page at <http://www.cchsaa.org> website.

Anyone who would like to assist or has input; please contact any or all of those listed.

Your Class of '57 Class Coordinator,
Ray Bechtel

Former Student's Whereabouts Discovered

Through the use of today's computer abilities **Ray Bechtel** was able to track down **Tom Wiley**.

We remember Tom as being a quiet unassuming even bashful young man who joined our class when we were juniors. After Columbia City High School Tom attended Purdue University where he studied animal science. Tom's father introduced him to horse racing at county fairs in Indiana and Illinois. Tom entered the sport of horse racing in 1966 while working as a field-man for Hampshire Swine where he served as a ring-man at sales. Eventually Tom became the president of the Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association. In 1972 he became a full-time trainer-driver, and campaigned his stable throughout Illinois. Tom owned several horses that won high honors in the field of harness racing. Tom started his own company "Livestock Tech Inc." which ships livestock overseas. He was also director, vice president and then president of Illinois Harness Horsemen's Association from 1999 through 1997. During the years that Tom was involved in harness racing he owned several harness race horses. One of his top performers was a horse named *Spotty Maid*, the 198 Illinois Pacing Filly of the Year, who went on to win for Wiley at the Meadowlands.

Tom had a rare heart virus, amyloidosis, which took his life. He died February 18, 1999. He was 59 years old at the time.

The information given above was taken from a Employment History published by ZoomIn Web Profile on Tom Wiley that was published on 11/12/2002

An Abbreviated Letter

From Svein Tobbiassen

Hoping to reach fellow class mates gathered in Columbia City for the 50th anniversary celebration this weekend, I forward the following message to the above contacts. (Rex Carpenter's e-mail address was lost in a computer crash).

Having reached the respectable age of 69 this week, I ponder the fact that old age approaches and time seems to accelerate as the hourglass empties.

I am intrigued and exited by the news that Keith Pritchard is about to publish a novel and would much appreciate info about the event - so that I could order a copy of his book and add it to the section for American fiction of my library (now alarmingly comprising 4- 5000 volumes & causing my wife to panic).

As you have by now understood, there are reasons why I could not join you in the Class of '57-celebration: All resources being consumed by the burning passion of buying and reading books, I find myself short of cash but rich in spirit.

With no time to venture outside the village of Aas and increasingly inclined to a hermit-like existence a la Thoreau's Walden and sporting a whitmanisque appearance (you can imagine my family's consternation), I remain

Yours

always

Svein 'Toby' Tobiassen

Svein listed several books and literary sources that he has read and used. We are sorry that there is not enough room for his words. His list includes such books as *Remains of the Day* by Kazuo, He uses one of his sources *Guide for People Who Love Books*, and Francine Prose's *Reading Like a Writer*. He is impressed by Scott Spencer's *A Ship Made of Paper* and Denis Johnson's *Angel's*. He is also impressed with the vitality of the contemporary writers.

A Note From Heidi

"This letter is a somewhat late in answer your note (enclosed copy from 2002)!... I thought this to be a good time to write and send Best Wishes for the 50th Class Reunion."

Joe Yoder received this letter from Heidi upon his return from the 50th reunion. In a letter Heidi tells about her children and grand children. If you would like to have a copy of her letter please contact Joe.

In closing Heidi says

My love of music has kept me active singing as well as directing our church choir, leading our Sunday School children's ministry, as well as a children's choir founded just last year -- all home schooled students from kindergarten through high school. Fifty kids signed up and we now have both a junior and senior choir named "MARANATHA SINGERS"

In closing, Congratulations on the 50th Class Reunion, and I send warm greetings and everything best from the North Woods Wisconsin to all my classmates.

Fondly remembering our school years,

Heidi Schwarz Swiewert

Comments from Thom Fel

The 50th reunion of CCHS class of '57 brought back wonderful memories. While I was unable to attend neither the Friday evening or Sunday morning events, the Saturday evening dinner was of a wonder. Chatting with Ted Lipke was quite down to earth, with a realization of what different paths we take. It was great to see Ron and Margaret Lovely. I had the pleasure of a long phone conversation with him during this past summer. Of course Rex Carpenter was as loquacious as ever serving as the M. C. for the evening. I do especially love this comparison of getting everyone together for the photo and moving us along through the dinner portion as "Trying to herd turkeys in a thunderstorm." Well said Rex. There was the joy of sitting next to Joe and Dee Yoder, and my catching up on life in Cape Coral, FL. since our move away from the region over a year ago. Great to chat with Russell Erne, who 50+ years ago sold me a "home made" motorized scooter. My brother is convinced it currently lies somewhere in the muck of Loon Lake. Great to meet again, Tom Felger, Bill Weigold ~ certainly do want to see his art work in Las Vegas, Robert and Roger Anderson ~ I could not tell them apart 50 years ago, and had similar issues at the reunion, and Mary Ann Squires Anderson ~ who looks no older than when we left CCHS. No comments of our reunion would be complete without mention of the performance of Daniel Lee Martin.

Thom Fel

Honest, filled with humor and remembrances, and a performance that brought an audience to their feet, are all comments that so fit the music of Daniel. There are no other words that best describe than, for an audience who remembered his father and loved his mother than - this was the best tribute for we of '57.

I am glad that our group decided that 2010 will mark our 53rd reunion of CCHS Class of '57. I certainly plan on attending. But I must say that for me, the highlight of the entire weekend was on Sunday evening as my brother (Jim, class of '61), his wife, and I joined Jon Pontzius and Jo Ellen Adams McConnell at her home.

While talking about the events of that weekend, Jo Ellen brought out her yearbooks from our four years in high school. Jon and I began to read the inscriptions that classmates had written in those books. Now remember that Jon and Jo Ellen dated during our senior year. Reading what others had written became the highlight of the weekend! I do not think that Jo Ellen had read those remembrances for the past number of years. Since Jo Ellen is a lady, and I certainly am a gentleman and not of the "kiss and tell" type, I will allow her to reveal what was noted. That being said, I would recommend the planning committee of our 53rd reunion, to urge classmates to share what others had written in their yearbooks of the day. It certainly could become a highlight of an evening.

In all, the summer of 2007 was wonderful, a remembrance of Wabash College during June and one of Columbia City High School during September. I am glad that our group decided that 2010 will mark our 53rd reunion of CCHS Class of '57. I certainly plan on attending.

Parents Still Living

Barbara Snepp Klophenstein reports that her mother is still living by herself. She doesn't get out much and is on oxygen and has arthritis. She lives in Columbia City and Barb goes to her house to help out every day. Her mother was 92 in October.

Former Friends Found

Here are addresses for **Louise Knisley** Custer, **Barbara Bennett**, and **Elnora Buckless** Lewellyn who were former students with the class of '57. These three classmates were located through the hard work of **Carol Schuman** Krider. She is still trying to locate **Sandra Faulkner**.

Louise Knisley Custer
1807 Klug Drive
Ft. Wayne, IN
46818

Elnora Buckless Lewellyn
301 Melching Cr.
Ossian, IN

Barbara Bennett
4824 E. Blue Jay Ave.
Orange, CA
92669

Marsha Sevits Brady
1101 Commerce Ave. #99
Haines City, FL
33844

Was It Worth It?

The following are comments made by various people concerning the 50th reunion that was held September 8, 2007.

Judy King Yockey replies by saying:

"Was making the effort to attend the reunion worth it?" oh my, yes, it certainly was. The feeling that I had when I talked to each person was that we had talked just yesterday, and the last 50 years had simply melted away. What great people we have in our class. I loved having so many events to have a chance to see more people. We attended all but the Sunday breakfast because we had made arrangements to see my cousin in Ft. Wayne. It was the only time we could be with them, but in the future, I hope we can make different arrangements with them so that we won't miss any of the events. Everyone was so kind to my husband Lee and tried to make sure that he felt welcome and part of everything....

Janet Bridge Maybee says:

"Certainly it was worth making the effort to attend the reunion! I remember my and Bob's parents attending their 50th class reunions and thinking they were pretty well up in years. It still amazes me that we are actually as old as we are. Most of the time I don't feel like I'm 68. Yes, Judy Reimer's hearty laughing as well as the GGOLs and others having fun helped me know that we all really are only as old as we choose to act, or maybe as old as we think we are. I also don't do a lot of talking, usually listening to all the interaction between others. We have a great class and I'm kind of proud of the way we keep in touch and that so many of us showed up for the reunion. Not that any of the credit goes to me. Many thanks to all of you who make it happen.

Janet continues to say:

"While I'm at it, I want to thank those who put the reunion together. It was very enjoyable and I'll be enjoying the memories as time goes by. The 50s music CDs from Ron and Margaret are so fun and I'm glad for the updated directory.

"It was so good to spend a little time with my cousin, Roger and Bev Bridge. We rarely see each other and it was such a blessing to see them again and get caught up a bit on our families, etc."

Maribelle Sheets Carter responded by saying:

"...Yes. It was like going to your child wedding reception. Never enough time to talk to everyone. Or it was like cooking a Thanksgiving dinner. The anticipation is great, but the meal is over too soon.

I think the class directory is a great way to keep in touch and continue to know more about our classmates. I plan to carry the directory along in my travels and plan to make a few phone calls along the way."

Jim Kyler comments that:

"I really enjoyed the Columbia Twp. get together. It was great seeing everyone. These reunions seem to mean more when you get our age."

Judy Reimer Thompson says the following:

"The Pizza party was a success. I didn't start the kissing part, but we had fun. That's the whole idea of getting together. The Cooperrider twins and the Anderson twins were a blast." ... *Judy had lots to say in a three page letter. This sums up her thoughts.*

From Linda Brown (Eugene Brown's wife):

"I only knew Carol Krider before Friday night. I had met her in about 1971 when we attended the Columbia City Methodist Church and we had lost contact but it was a pleasure to see her again and get reacquainted with her and get acquainted with the others in my husband's class.

"We had a very good time everyday. It seemed obvious everyone was having a good time."

Carolyn Hilligoss Fisher says:

"Yes, we (my husband also) did have a great time. FRIENDS are most important at this time of my life, (which could be shorter than you may expect), so enjoy every day to it's fullest and be thankful for God's blessings.

The W.C. afternoon "open house" was successful and definitely should be continued in future years.

I was able to attend all the functions and enjoyed ALL.

Thanks to the entire Reunion committee for their time and efforts to make our '50th' a big success."

Nancy Poffenberger Rosenberg comments:

"This reunion was our very best one ever. No goofy high school stories, a great meal, and plenty of time to chat with old friends. We missed all who didn't attend."

Thanks again to all who worked to make this reunion one of the best that we have had.

Golfing Hole Sponsored

The class of 1957 sponsored hole #17 at the 1st Annual Legacy Golf Tournament at Eagle Glen Golf Course on September 29, 2007. The scramble golf tournament was held during CCHSAA "Alumni Day and Homecoming events in Columbia City to benefit the alumni association scholarship fund. The cost to sponsor hole #17 was paid by a class of '57 anonymous donor.

On the Mend

Shortly after enjoying her time with friends at the 50th reunion, Jackie Kilty suffered a stroke on Saturday, October 6th. Luckily she was taken to a hospital where she was admitted to Intensive Care for three or four days. Her sister, Terry, came from Italy to help care for Jackie. The latest word as of October 16th was that Jackie had returned home where she continues to work on lowering her blood pressure and convalesce. Jackie has contacted the newsletter publisher and reports that she wishes to thank those who have sent their best wishes. She continues to improve and would enjoy cards and letters of encouragement. Jackie's email is jkilty@cfl.rr.com. Her address is:
2211 Sabal Palm Drive
Edgewater, FL, 32141

Treasurer's Report

7/12/07	Beginning Balance	\$609.07
Receipts:	2350.00	
	22.01	
	<u>1398.00</u>	
	\$4120.01	
Checking Balance:		\$4729.08
Disbursements:		
Name tags	108.00	
Flowers	9.00	
Printing	127.45	
Pat Murphy	100.00	(band)
Pizza	205.64	
Evening Meals	2338.05	
Dan's room	197.16	(entertainment)
Paper products	56.49	
Pop and Ice	<u>44.89</u>	
Total	\$3187.28	
Total Checking Balance		\$1541.80
Flower Fund Disbursements:	0	
Newsletter Disbursements:	0	
Checking Account Balance		
as of 9/11/07		\$1541.80
Treasurer		
Janice Kelly		

Pictures Taken at Township Parties



Columbia City

Back rows of men: John Gerard, Tom Felger, Larry Hearld, Bill Weigold, Jay Smith, Ted Gruver, Tom Feit, Ron Lovely, Ted Lipke, Bob Hall Middle row of ladies: Ruth Ann Bowie, Sharon Bates, Judy King, Margaret Moyer, Mardell Feit Front row of ladies: Nancy Poffenberger, Carol Shuman, Rosalie Farber, JoEllen Adams, and Marsha Sevits

Columbia Township

Left group of men: Marlin Warden, Gene Brown, Jim Kyler, Right group of men: Roger Bridge, Don Deutsch, Raymond Bechtel, Remaining three: Rose Ann Ness, Judy Reimer and Bill Ramp





Thornecreek Township

Left row (top to bottom): Jeanette Snyder, Shirley Ann Houser, Jackie Kilty, Shirley Zink Rex Carpenter, Martha Cooperrider Right row (top to bottom) Rex Carpenter, Gene Heckman, Shirley Hossler, Mary Cooperrider, Patty Winebrenner Off by his lonesome is Jon Pontzius
Also attending was John Pence, but he left before the photo session.

Washington Township

Back row; Jerald Putman, Kenneth Juillerat, Barbara Snapp, Joe Kreider, Maribelle Sheets, Janet Bridge, Paulne Juillerat, Carolyn Hilligoss, Pat Gibson The front two are Judy Riemer and Joe Yoder

