

Summertime Schmoozing

Our regular quarterly luncheon was held at Harvey's Fourth Street Grill on July 13. Attendance was down a little due to classmates being away on vacations. It is good that we can still wander from home and visit family and other places!

Here are some of James Lyn Provo's photos of classmates and guests who showed up at Harvey's:



L to R: Joanne Schindler Biringier and Harriette Bey Urbahn.



L to R: Suzanne Provo and Lil Olsen Classen.



L to R: Karl Maier and June Ward Fleisher.



Bob Walton is a regular at our class lunches.



Frances Ellinwood enjoys the times to visit with her classmates.



L to R: Lil Olsen Classen, Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher and Carol Deuel Phelps.



Lois Gillies Phillips rarely misses a class reunion lunch.



Sitting in the back room at Harvey's are L to R: Bill Classen, Suzanne Provo, Lil Olsen Classen and Carol Deuel Phelps (Carol's left side).

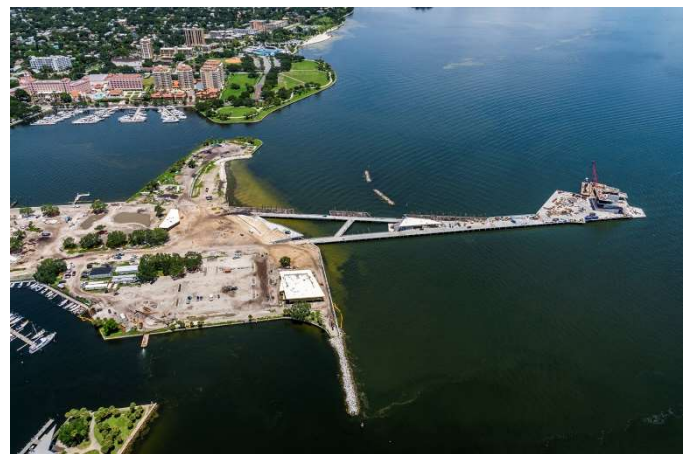


In the foreground on the left is Emil Sales and on the right is Nancy Cramer Litten.

Update on the St. Pete Pier™

Yes, the city has trademarked the name! It has been a few years since we covered this subject and there has been a lot of progress on the new pier. Construction is still ongoing with the whole project well over 50% complete.

After a slow start, with various concepts being studied, the replacement for the "Million Dollar Pier" is becoming a reality. The new pier is pegged at \$76M and will be dramatically different from the pier we knew in high school.



This aerial photo was taken this month and shows the overall situation of the new pier.

All along the walkways will be sculpture and other outdoor art. Access to the pier head will be by two different routes. The pier extends 3065 feet into the bay. For historic purposes, a few pilings from the original pier have been left in place to view.



The large white rectangular building on the south pier approach is a *Doc Ford's Rum Bar and Grille*. This is a theme restaurant named for the main

character in author Randy Wayne White's book series about a Florida Gulf Coast adventurer. Other Doc Ford restaurants are on Ft. Myers Beach, Sanibel Island and Captiva Island.

Construction involves virtually the whole peninsula between the Vinoy Yacht Basin on the north and the St. Pete Yacht Basin on the south. There are new parks and commercial establishments being built on land that used to house a pool, parking and a solarium. During construction, 2nd Avenue North, from Beach Drive to the pier is closed to traffic and pedestrians.

Completion date for the project is hard to find, but we will report it when it happens.

Classmates Care

Our classmates have been very generous in helping meet the expenses of our class activities. This newsletter costs about \$45 each quarter to mail to those without Internet access. Maintenance of our website is about \$100 a year. These costs are met by your donations and we are at a point where we can tell you that there is no current need for more. When and if the class treasury runs low, we will let you know.

Thanks go to **Marlene Matouk Haugland** and **Judy Chittenden MacReynolds** for their donations this past quarter.

SPHS Getting Major Upgrades

A two-year program to upgrade our high school is underway. The county and private citizens have allocated \$32.8 M to repair and modernize the historic school. It is part of a county-wide plan to upgrade nine schools for \$158.5 M.

Built in 1926, its classic architecture landed it on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1984. This means exterior changes to the original building are subject to review and approval.

Construction will include renovating classrooms, the auditorium and the administration office space, building a new cafeteria and enlarged courtyard area. Overall updates to infrastructure throughout the school will include a new roof, updated heating and air conditioning systems, electrical wiring, plumbing and paint.

New spaces for art, band and chorus students will be added adjacent to the cafeteria, thus relieving previous crowding.

Stuart Field is also receiving its first improvements in many years. The concession stands, restrooms and track surface are included in the upgrades, as well as a new scoreboard. Too, a rubberized track will be installed.

The playing field surface itself will be the first school in the county with artificial turf.



This is a rendering of the new cafeteria and courtyard, located behind the original building seen at the left.

Alumni of SPHS, including former Governor Charlie Crist, were present for the groundbreaking and all expressed delight that our school was being modernized, while preserving its historic place as one of the oldest high schools in the state.



Artist's concept is shown. of the Fifth Avenue side of the school and the renovated courtyards.

Graduations

Sadly, we have received word that classmate **Barbara Jean Thompson Reed** passed away since our last newsletter. No details are available. She often attended our quarterly luncheons.

Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find e-mail, phone numbers and mail addresses about our classmates: <http://sphs1954.org/>.

Help us keep your data current!

Permanent Reunions Chairman: Boyd Acklin, 1110 42nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or eacklin1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lil Olsen Classen, at 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please make checks payable to: "SPHS Class of '54",

Classmate updates, news-to-share, etc., should be sent to: Ron Rasmussen, Editor, 10212 58th Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or r.rasmussen@ieee.org

Next reunion luncheon is Saturday, October 12, 2019

Location is PJ's Oyster Bar. Gathering time is **11:30 a.m.** If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know by Thur., October 10. Nancy's phone is (727) 201-9862.



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