



It's Our 85th Holiday Season!

For some classmates, it could be more, but we have all morphed from childish delight at this season to our present situations. So far, we have experienced a multitude of life events. Some have been wonderful, and others have been sad or disappointing.

Reviewing our archive of photos over the last 19 years, one can see a progression of classmates in their 60's to the current age of 80's. Some earlier familiar faces have slowly disappeared. Since this newsletter has been published, beginning in 2002, prior to our 50th reunion, we have lost 145 classmates (31% of our class). Still, we can be thankful for many blessings and memories. 😊

October 2021 at PJ's Restaurant



Dick and Sonja Jemison traveled from Ft. Pierce, FL, to the October reunion luncheon.



Cloe Carroll Dance is just one of the Boca Ciega 1954 graduates to enjoy being with their former SPHS classmates.



Nancy Cramer Litten was brought by her son for the occasion.



Myrtle Siemers Larson sat next to Gloria Fernald Flad, but the unskilled photographer caught Gloria with her eyes closed!



Maggie and Karl Maier are regulars at our quarterly reunion luncheons.



Barbara Volley Bowen and June Ward Fleisher enjoyed a table together at the reunion.

Graduations

We received a note from **Edward Levone Smith's** daughter, Jean, that her father had passed away on April 25, 2021, in Macon, GA. Edward was born in Seminole, Florida on January 9, 1937, and attended SPHS. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Barbara Jean. He leaves behind his daughter, Jean Kathryn of Macon, Georgia and his son, James Edward of Princeton, Texas. Edward served in the US Army as Master Sergeant. He was a proud Vietnam Veteran. After 20 years of service in the military, he held several different jobs. His favorites being a tax preparer and working with computers. He became a gym rat at the age of 50. His first personal trainer was Otis Sistrunk. He competed in bench

pressing tournaments while in his 60's. He continued to work out at the gym until he was 83, and his body would not allow him to continue. Blessedly, he is no longer suffering from his many health issues.

Sandra Ehlers Wooldridge notified us that her husband of 66 years had passed away from COVID-19. **Domer Martin Wooldridge, Jr.** succumbed on August 21, 2021, in St. Petersburg. In addition to Sandra, he is survived by four children: Steve, Brooke, Domer and Vara. He had 11 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Domer was proud of his 20-year service with the United States Air Force where he was a Flight Engineer. He spent many hours volunteering for his community where he was the President of the Fossil Park Neighborhood Association for about 20 years. He loved his neighborhood and could often be found, in his front yard, feeding the squirrels and chatting with neighbors.

He was a devoted, caring husband. A loving, supportive father and grandfather. A generous, fun friend and an all-around amazing person, who is greatly missed by all who knew him.



Patricia Reeves Acklin of St. Petersburg lost her battle with pancreatic cancer October 27, 2021, at the age of 85. She was born in St. Petersburg, FL. Pat graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1954 and attended the University of Florida.

She devoted her life to her four children and husband, Boyd. She also served her church and

community. Patricia was a genuine and loving person who treated everyone whose path she crossed with kindness and respect.

Patricia is survived by her husband of 63 years, Ernest Boyd Acklin, Jr.; daughter, Valerie Acklin Cardin; daughter, Victoria Acklin Alderman; son, Christopher Winfield Acklin (Paula); son, Paul Sean Acklin (Erika); eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday, November 14, 2021, at First United Methodist Church, 212 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.



This photo of Pat and Boyd at the July 2021 reunion luncheon is a great way to remember Pat.

SPHS Renovations

This summer, our alma mater was significantly renovated. Because the main building was built in 1926 as the nation's first million-dollar high school, and it is on the National Registry of Historic Places, the Pinellas District spent \$33 million on the renovations. They called in a preservation specialist to direct repairs on the original building. Included were preservations both inside and outside because the years have taken their toll. Hand painted details were restored, and chipped marble was repaired. New light fixtures were installed, and ceilings were painted.

There's a new cafeteria with new art and home economics classrooms upstairs, next to an updated courtyard.

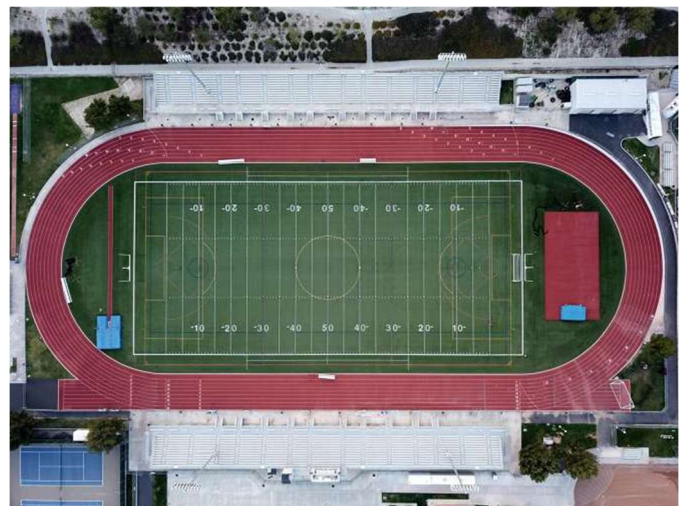
It is fitting that this building has been saved for future generations.



Detail of the restored front entrance.



The auditorium's restoration is impressive.



Stewart Field, where we had our outdoor graduation ceremony, was upgraded significantly. It has the first artificial turf field in the county and the track is a modern composite pavement. The locker room and support buildings have all been modernized.

More details of the renovation can be found on the Pinellas District website:

[Facilities Design and Construction \(FD&C\) / St. Petersburg High \(pcsb.org\)](https://www.pinellas.org/14282/14282/Facilities-Design-and-Construction-FD&C-/St-Petersburg-High-pcsb.org)

Class Contacts:

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

Help us keep your data current!

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

Secretary/Treasurer: Lillian Olsen Classen, at jclassen4@tampabay.rr.com or 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. (727) 743-1462. **No donations are needed until further notice.**

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, January 8, 2022

Location is PJ's Oyster Bar. Gathering time is **12:15 p.m.** If you plan to attend, please let Lil Olsen Classen know by **Thur., Jan 6.** Lil's phone is (727) 743-1462. or jclassen4@tampabay.rr.com



7490 Gulf Blvd,
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

SPHS Class of 1954
10212 58th Street
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632
Address Service Requested