



Class-Wide 75th Birthday Party

In the last issue, we announced tentative plans for a class-wide 75th birthday cruise. Well, the plans are now firm and the luncheon cruise and post-cruise gathering is on our regular quarterly luncheon date, Saturday, October 8, 2011. The party will begin on the *StarLite Majesty* out of Clearwater Beach City marina. After the cruise, arrangements have been made to continue the social at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort, just two miles south of the marina. Cost for the luncheon cruise is \$29.75 per person, and it includes tax, tip and soft drink. Other beverages are available at additional cost. **Final payment is due by September 15 to our class treasurer, Lil Classen, 8037 Elbow Lane, St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please tell Lil (e-mail fsulil@yahoo.com) if you plan to go to the Sheraton, afterwards, as we need to know how many snacks to order. ☺**



Here is the detailed schedule:

- 11:00 a.m. - Arrive at the Clearwater Beach City Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd., Slip #152 and obtain a parking pass from *StarLite Majesty* ticket office for \$2. This is good for the duration of the cruise. Optional metered parking is also available. There is a round-about on Clearwater Beach that is a little tricky. You will need to enter it from the causeway and virtually return in the direction from which you came – 360 degrees! A few hundred yards back toward

downtown Clearwater, you can turn right into the marina parking lot.

- 11:30 a.m. - Board the *StarLite Majesty* and depart. The ship cruises up and down the Intracoastal Waterway – very calm for people with motion sickness tendencies.
- After departure and some sightseeing, lunch will be served by your server from your selection of an item on the menu:
 - Shrimp Creole
 - Beef Burgundy
 - Fish Fresh-From-the-Wharf
 - Chicken Cordon Bleu
 - Vegetarian Harvest
 - Grilled Chicken Salad
- For dessert, a 75th birthday cake will be served on board the cruise for our classmates & guests.
- 2:30 p.m. – Arrive and debark at the marina upon conclusion of the cruise. If you exit the marina parking lot at the extreme west end, you can enter the round-about and then exit out of it going south. If you exit near the cruise ship, you will have to go back toward downtown Clearwater and make a U-turn at the signal on Causeway Isles. That will get you aimed back toward the round-about and a southerly course down Gulf Blvd.
- 3:00 p.m. – Travel two miles south on County Road 699, Gulf Blvd, across the Clearwater Pass bridge, to the Sheraton Sand Key Resort. This is where we had our Golden Gala 50th reunion in 2004. The Sheraton is hosting our group at tables in the north patio, for no cost. The class is purchasing snacks and there is a cash bar for those who want a beverage. There, we can continue to visit or take a stroll on the beach until sunset – around 6:30 p.m.



Accommodations

For classmates wanting to stay Friday and/or Saturday night on Clearwater Beach, there are some options. A quick look in mid-August showed many hotels sold out on Oct 7-8, so act now if you plan to stay on the beach. Also, expect to pay \$100 - \$250 per night, plus 12% resort tax. Some are even pricier.

- Sheraton Sand Key: \$139+tax=\$155.68 (ask for SPHS '54 special rate) vs. \$222+tax rack rate (727) 595-1611
- Quality Inn (727) 442-7171
- Holiday Inn (800) 315-2605
- Marriott (727) 562-5400
- Pelican Pointe (866) 599-6674 [**\$79/night & up**]
- Best Western Sea Wake (321) 332-7074
- Hilton Clearwater Beach (727) 461-3222
- Hyatt Regency Resort (727) 373-1234

Letters & Notes

Sally Cook Vazquez, a regular member of our reunion committee and local class activities, had hip replacement surgery in June and is recovering well - even ushering at church! She has been instrumental in making arrangements with the Sheraton Sand Key Resort on Clearwater Beach for our 75th birthday party.

Dan Richardson sent a note in July saying, in part, "I leave tomorrow for Istanbul again and will be there until mid-October. Hope to make it to a lunch before the pier is dismantled."

"Thanks for keeping us informed! Jim & I are driving to Ohio on July 6 for a basketball get-together in Toledo (one of the Ohio cities where he coached) and to visit 3 of our 6 gals. However, the birthday luncheon cruise on Oct. 8 sounds exciting, especially since we hope to be in St. Pete for my sister's 82nd b-day." **Nancy Anne (Shenk) McDonald**

Lucy Jacobus Bean writes, "Thanks for the newsy letter about our class of '54. Wish we could be there for the 75th [birthday] reunion off Clearwater, but we'll be looking forward to hearing all about it in the newsletter. Our trip to South America was fabulous - all that we could have asked for. The families with whom we stayed (mostly related to [daughter-in-law] Cristina) were so hospitable, it really taught me many lessons in true hospitality! They took off from work at times to take us out to see sights, go on rides on a ski lift into the stratosphere (it seemed); the Andes are so high to begin with and the sights are so amazing, I'd go again in a heartbeat. When we

visited Lima (did you know it was considered desert?), we were thrilled to be able to visit a restaurant/dance place where we watched while professional dancers in Peruvian costumes demonstrated ancient as well as modern Peruvian dance. While they changed costumes, we were allowed to go up on the floor and give it a try. What a hoot! I'll not elaborate, so just use your imaginations. In Bogota, Pereira, Medellin, and Cartagena, we experienced superb dining as well as lovely accommodations, some right on the Caribbean Sea. We were awed at the beauty around us - everywhere! Thanks for reminding me, that I promised to tell you about the trip. It was truly a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience and we are so grateful to have had the opportunity. God bless you all!"

Bev Furman Praschan e-mails from Mesa, AZ, "How did we get this old? Can't believe it! For me it happens over July 4th weekend...next week! (July 2nd.) The only comforting thought is I married a Clearwater High School 1952 grad, and he'll be 77 on your 75th celebration cruise weekend. (Oct. 9th). :) We just got back from great Alaska trip (Mt. McKinley (saw it from 6-midnight!!!) so awesome. Then moose in Denali Park and sled dogs...then 7-day trip from Whittier...Princess all the way...great trip! Glaciers, few whales, eagles, dolphins chasing the ship:)...it was great! [We] spent 3 days in Whistler B.C....beautiful snowcapped mountains there also...and we saw bears...11 of them in 2 days just across the 2 lane road from us...3 young ones....we were at the Biathlon [Olympic] site...amazing to be there...and visit Olympic Village area...also saw some awesome water falls!!! God has created such magnificent sights for us to enjoy! Thank you, God! Have a fun time celebrating your 75th birthdays!! Thanks for all the news and SPHS updates! Love and prayers for all of you!"

Marlene Matouk Haugland writes. "I have so darn many trips on my bucket list...I'll be dust by the time I get around to them all. [I'm] thinking of a Basel-to-Cologne trip on the Rhine for next Christmas. But first Paul has to have his new knee redone. Nothing is ever simple. Home for the summer and I have a list to choke a normal person. Not sure I'll get back to St. Pete this year. Hello to any of the gang who you see or communicate with. I savor your newsletters and read them over and over."

Concerns

At our age, we see more and more health problems in ourselves, our family and our friends. We share these concerns because our class has a common bond and it helps to know that others are praying about very serious problems.

Ed Evans, who lives near Tallahassee, has recently had his wife at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa because of a recurrence of cancer after a five-year remission.

John Patrick, who we knew in school as John Hillyer, recently had a bout with a stomach fungus that the doctors had a hard time diagnosing. They were treating him for a bacterial infection without success until the fungus problem was identified. He is now battling a problem with his blood platelets, gout and a nodule has been discovered on a lung. So John needs our continuing prayers.

Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher's son, Kenny, is undergoing radiation treatment at Moffitt Cancer Center for tonsil cancer. The doctors are optimistic that they can cure this type of cancer.

Myrtle Siemers Larson's husband, Fred, fell in early August and broke four vertebrae (back). Following his discharge from hospital, he will be wearing a very uncomfortable brace for three months, with Myrtle being his 24/7 nurse. This is the second time Fred has broken his back – the first time in 2003 he broke five different vertebrae. Both Fred and Myrtle need our prayers.

Helping Out

Class Treasurer, Lil Classen reports that classmates continue to send in funds to help keep the newsletter coming and meet other class expenses. Letters mailed via USPS cost the class about 70 cents each for printing and postage. That is why we want to send out as many as possible electronically (e-mail). If you are receiving this newsletter by US mail and have an Internet e-mail account, please let us know.

Many thanks go to these classmates for helping:

Edith Brinkerhoff Childs
Marie Sawyer Wolf
Dolores Carr Dewitt
Marlene Matouk Haugland
Frank Ritchie

Summer Luncheon

There was a happy group of classmates at the Columbia restaurant on the pier, July 9, 2011. It was a gorgeous day on the bay and we shared current events in our lives. Neil Gatewood was the one who traveled the farthest, from the Atlanta area. Here are some candid photos that James Lyn Provo took:



L to R: Pat Reeves Acklin, Myrtle Siemers Larson, Neil Gatewood, Boyd Acklin, Dick Jemison (from Ft. Pierce, FL).



Susanne and James Lyn Provo were there from Pasco County.



Clockwise: Boyd Acklin, Dick Jemison, Sonja Jemison, Nancy Cramer Litten, Harry Rothwell, Linda Rothwell.

Class website <http://home.roadrunner.com/~parkcentral/>

Class Contacts:

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

Contributions/Reservations: Donations are a big help and they keep this newsletter coming. Send contributions and event registrations to Lil Classen, Treasurer, at 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Please make 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) 547-6857 or rrasmus1@tampabay.rr.com

Next luncheon is a cruise!**Saturday, October 8, 2011**

We will board the luncheon cruise ship *StarLite Majesty* in Clearwater Beach City Marina at 11:30 a.m.

Reservations are a must, with final payment in Lil Classen's hands by September 15, 2011. Gathering at the Sheraton is free, with cash bar.



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