



Courtside Grille Luncheon

Our summer quarterly luncheon was held at the Courtside Grille in north St. Pete, in the Carillion area. The restaurant was founded in part by Matt Geiger, who played basketball for Countryside High School in Clearwater. Matt played college ball at Auburn and Georgia Tech. His 10-year NBA career was with the Miami Heat, Charlotte Hornets and Philadelphia 76ers. Upon retirement in 2002 he returned to the area and built the largest mansion in Pinellas County, some 28,000 square feet on 28 acres with a 5,000 sq. ft. guest house.

We had a good turnout for the July 14 luncheon, 30 classmates and guests. The food was good, and the location was more accessible to out-of-county classmates. Deane and Doris Hustin Mohr were in town, from their home in Georgia. J. Lyn Provo snapped this photo of the Mohr's:



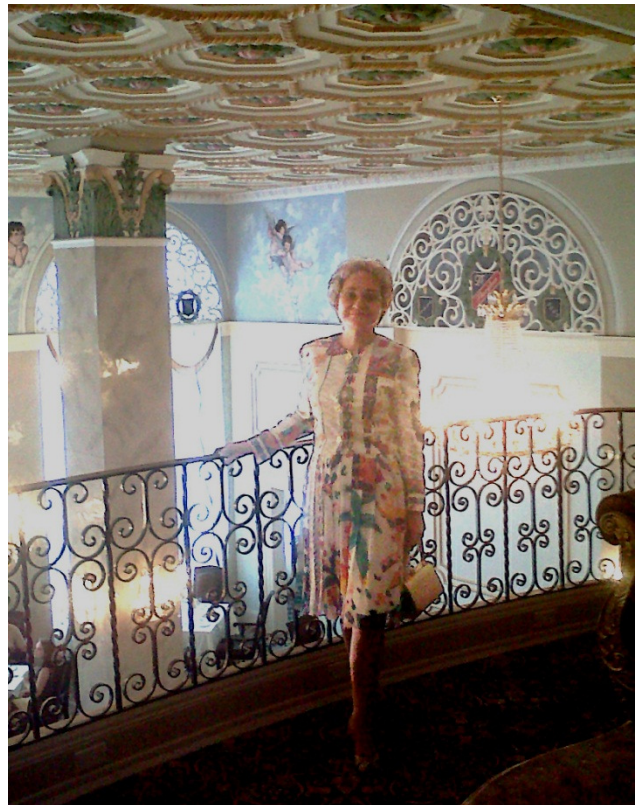
Graduations

Since our last newsletter we have learned of another classmate's passing. On the positive side, however, 74% of our class is still alive!

Georgia Morris McNulty passed away on August 26, 2012. After SPHS graduation, she became a legal secretary and a few years later married her boss, Robert McNulty. She had three children and six grandsons. Georgia was active in her church, was a fantastically good neighbor and had a wonderful sense of humor.

Letters & Notes

Gloria Fernald Ellinwood reports that she was treated to a birthday dinner recently at the restored *Floridan Palace Hotel* in Tampa. It used to be called the *Hotel Floridan* and has been restored to its previous grandeur, after closing in 1987. Gloria ate in the Crystal Dining Room and was very impressed with the overall restoration and the menu. Ron Rasmussen remembers the hotel as the location where some Mirror Lake Junior High chorus members stayed when they performed in Tampa, circa 1950. Originally opened in 1927, such notables such as Babe Ruth, actor Jimmy Stewart and Elvis Presley were former guests. The *Floridan* is rich in history and it is gratifying that it has been lovingly restored.



Gloria is standing on the mezzanine, above the Crystal Dining Room in the renovated Floridan Palace, downtown Tampa.

Nancy Zelt Hawblitzel has shared with us about her interesting life and that of her deceased husband, Don: "Most of you know that Don and I were so privileged to be a very small part of what God was doing over there [USSR, Russia] at that time in history.[Before and after the fall of the USSR.] It has been a thrilling ride! We never imagined that we could experience such amazing grace in our lifetimes.

It has been over 20 years now for me and I have watched the Lord do many miracles in relation to this ministry and in my own life. I know beyond any doubt that those years for Don were the most fulfilling and exciting years of his 76 years on this earth. He absolutely loved what he was doing and never lost the passion for the work. I am so grateful to God for our time with the Jesus Film Project and the International School Project.”

Donna Thomas Scoates replied to an e-mail sent regarding Georgia Morris McNulty’s passing: “Thank you so much for sending this on to me. When my family moved to Florida in 1949, I entered the 8th grade in Mirror Lake. I had two best friends, Georgia and Sue Rexrode. Sue moved back to West Virginia before graduating from SPHS. Georgia and I remained best friends after graduation. We continued to send Christmas cards with pictures and notes until I had back surgery in 2005. That went awry and I was told I’d never walk again. I was in skilled nursing and rehab facility for 9 months. We lost contact at that time. Thanks again. I’ve been trying for years to contact her and this brings closure.”

Roy Kaple e-mails us that he would like to receive the newsletter in compressed format. The photos in the newsletter are usually large and people with dial-up Internet access have a problem downloading them. Any classmate who would like an e-mail version of the newsletter should let us know. The downside of that is that most formatting is lost and the e-mail is disjointed, compared to its layout format.

Dan Abbott was unable to attend our July luncheon and sent this note: “Sorry I missed the luncheon, but I have been here in Indiana for two months with my daughter who has been trying to buy a *harp* business, similar to her existing business in Hong Kong. This week the deal crashed so she is a bit disappointed, as am I for her. It has not been an extremely profitable business, anyway. But she thought she could turn it around. The good news is that she is anxious to get back in the US after 20 years in Hong Kong, and I am happy about that for sure. Anyway, I have a return trip flying back on the first. Talking about heat, it has really been hot and dry here. The corn crops are brown in the fields and only marginally growing to about three feet. Generally speaking, few farms here have irrigation, so the farmers are on TV telling their problems. And

it is sad. Today was predicted to exceed 103 Degrees, so I hope to get to Florida to get some cool.”

Horace Fite writes from Pensacola: “Just a note to let you know how much I appreciate receiving the *SPHS Class of 1954 News*. If you cannot put a face together with my name, don’t be surprised. I wouldn’t expect many, if any, of the class to remember me because I was in the unique position of attending SPHS for only the last few months of my senior year. Unfortunately, due to moving frequently in those years I ended up attending 4 high schools in 4 years. Nevertheless, I lay claim to SPHS and thus enjoy hearing about the SPHS Class of 1954 these many years later. Although in the intervening years I continued the habit of moving from time to time, it’s nice to realize that so many of the class remained in and around St. Pete. Now, for me, the adventure of putting down roots in one place or another has worn thin and it looks like Pensacola is finally the place I call home.

If anyone is interested, here’s what has been happening on my end over the past nearly 60 years. Following graduation from SPHS, I moved on to SPJC, then University of Tampa and Stetson Law School. After graduating from Stetson Law in 1962, I was employed as an IRS attorney in Atlanta and worked there for several years. During that time I met my first wife (also a Stetson grad) and in the mid 60’s we transferred to IRS headquarters in DC. Thereafter, we moved again to Atlanta, then some years later back in DC just in time for Watergate, then to Tampa, and finally again to DC where in the early 90’s we ended our years with the government. Over time, my wife had developed expertise in the area of pension law (something I never fully understood) and worked in management both at the IRS and the Department of Labor, while I headed up IRS’s disclosure operations and (later) congressional affairs offices. Unfortunately, a long and relaxing retirement was not in the cards. In the mid 90’s she died of cancer and not wanting to return to the government, I chose Pensacola as a winter home.

Life is never boring, it seems. A few years later in Pensacola I met my second wife, a German lady who earlier had become a U.S. citizen. Since most of her family was in Germany, we acquired a home in Northern Bavaria (Rotherburg von der Tauber) and spent considerable time there while commuting from time to time between Rotherburg and Pensacola.

Sadly, our time together was little more than 8 years. In 2006, she too died of cancer. I still have the place in Germany hoping to return – but illness on my part has curtailed plans. Now, following major surgery last year at M.D. Anderson in Houston, I am able to walk only with the aid of a walker. Since Rotherburg is a cobblestoned 12th Century walled town, a walker won't work. Nor, given my incessant medical appointments, would a side trip to St. Pete. So keep the *SPHS News* coming. I'm always interested in seeing what's happening back there."

Prayer Concerns

Jack Hedman was in the ICU at St. Anthony's Hospital for a number of days this month. He was recently moved out to another room, as the doctor's indicate there is nothing more they can do for him in the ICU. He is still in the hospital and very ill. Please lift up Jack, his wife Carol and their family in your prayers.

Ben Merritt's widow, Judy, is good friends with Carol Hedman and has been supporting Carol during Jack Hedman's hospital stay. However, Judy is not well and has been ordered to bed by her doctor.

Dolores Carr Dewitt lost her son, Scott Arthur Dewitt, on July 1, 2012. Scott succumbed to lung cancer.

Pat Reeves Acklin lost her mother, Marjorie, on July 24. Marjorie was only six months shy of her 100th birthday and passed peacefully. Mrs. Reeves was a grand lady and many of Pat's classmates knew and loved her. Pat is getting back to normal speed after her knee surgery and subsequent staph infection.

John Patrick's wife, Kathy reports (7/1): "John's platelets are dropping again; his hemoglobin, red blood cells, etc. are low. He gets really tired at times and doesn't have much energy. It seems as though we take one step forward and three steps backward. We are still hoping we can come for the luncheon, but won't know until that time gets here or closer anyway. He is able to get around better now with the help of his cane and that is a real blessing. We have been going to church and that is a big blessing because he couldn't even go to church for almost a year, so it's GREAT to be able to do that."

Judi Hirshberg Allen's brother, Sherwin, is starting treatment for cancer. He has also been hospitalized recently for asthma, but is now home.

Judi reports that he seems positive about beating the cancer, while he is being medicated for pain.

Beverly Furman Praschan's infant great granddaughter, Ruthie, completed surgery September 10 on her skull for a condition that causes the bones to fuse too early in her development. The surgeon was pleased with how it went, and the plastic surgeon skillfully repaired the surgical areas of her head. Ruthie had a lot of pain and swelling for a couple of days after the surgery and it distressed her parents that only time could relieve her crying. They can now hold her and some tubes have been removed. This little tyke and her family still need our prayers for her full recovery.



Tiny Ruthie is recovering in her bed following surgery.

Helping Out

Many thanks go to these SPHS '54 classmates for donations to the class treasury in the previous quarter. Donations pay the printing and postage costs for this newsletter, and to subsidize our 60th reunion* costs:

Warren Kendall
Barbara Hayman Briggs
William White
Chuck Burnham
Jon Fogarty
Margaret Ritter Kellestine

* Put May 2014 on your calendar; exact date TBD.

Class Contacts:

Class web site, where you can find addresses:

<http://home.roadrunner.com/~parkcentral/> However, the URL will soon change. Watch for an update.

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

Contributions: Donations are a big help and they keep this newsletter coming. Please send them to Lil Classen, Treasurer, 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) 547-6857 or ronr@alumni.ufl.edu

**Next luncheon is
Saturday, October 13, 2012**

We will meet at The Columbia Restaurant on The Pier. Gathering time is 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know no later than Tue., October 9. Nancy's phone is (727) 392-7417.



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