



## First Luncheon of 2013

Our class seems to have been blessed with gorgeous weather every time we lunch at the Columbia Restaurant on *The Pier*. January 12 was no exception. Thirty-one classmates and guests enjoyed the weather, view from the pier and most of all the fellowship of each other.



Shown L to R at the Columbia are Ed Parsley and Harry Moorefield.



Chatting before ordering are, L to R.: Judy Rogers Owens and Janet Sieck



Jack Phillips and Lois Gillies regularly enjoy Class of 1954 luncheons



Bette Jackman LoBue, June Ward Fleisher and Boyd Acklin were there enjoying the time together.



Seated CW around the table are: Sherry Nichols Rasmussen (SPHS '55), Pat Reeves Acklin, Boyd Acklin, Bob Walton, Bill Buckingham, Sandra Shoemake Buckingham, Judy Rogers Owens and Joe Chamberlain.

## Bye-Bye Pier

For classmates who do not live nearby, we have some news about a landmark on the waterfront. Plans are underway for The Pier to be demolished this year, so we plan to meet for lunch there one more time before this happens. The replacement is called *The Lens*. It is not anything like the original *Million Dollar Pier* that we remember from our high school days. Nor will it resemble the current inverted triangle pier. The new structure is supposed to cost around \$50 million and be ready by the summer of 2015.

Following is an architect's rendering of the pier replacement, showing a loop out into the bay.



You can track progress of the new pier at this web address: <http://www.thenewstpetepier.com/>

The whole downtown/waterfront area continues to change and you should plan to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion in downtown St. Pete, May of 2014, to see the changes. Here are some photos taken by our classmate James Lyn Provo of the area immediately around the present pier.



The Pier viewed from the approach.



SPA Beach looks nothing like it used to in 1954.

## Expanded Website

When we went to a new Internet Service Provider (ISP) last year, it opened up new possibilities for us. The storage space allotted for our on-line material has been expanded significantly. This has enabled us to place the quarterly newsletter onto our class website. To date, the newsletters for 2012 have been archived there. This and future issues will also be placed there. What does this mean for all classmates? Those with a computer can go to our class website and see the whole newsletter, with color pictures, and not have to worry about what kind of Internet service they have. Some classmates have trouble opening the large newsletter file we have attached to their e-mail. This problem is eliminated by viewing the newsletter via the class website. Although 53% of our classmates receive their newsletter by e-mail, **all** others can have Internet access to our newsletters, too. By going to your local library, you can use their computers and Internet browser (ask for help from the library staff if needed.) to go to this address and find everything we know about the Class of 1954:

<http://sphs1954.org/>

You will find, not only back issues of the newsletter, but addresses and many more photos of past events, the latter taken by James Lyn Provo. Also, you can verify the information we have to ensure that we have your correct address, telephone, e-mail, etc. This helps keep the data from going stale.

## Letters & Notes

**Ed Evans** writes from Crawfordville, south of Tallahassee: "I don't know about you, but everyone in the whole country can move as long as they don't move to our state. There were 4500 people living in my county when I moved here in the late 60's and now we have over 35,000 in the county. If I weren't so old I'd look for higher ground but as I am sort of a fixture around here. I guess I'll finish out my days here. I have made 3 visits to the hospital in the last three months, so I'm tired of that place. Doing fine now; how is all the old gang getting along? Sure hope everyone is healthy and smiling. Should you need some cold weather, we have some to spare so I can try to get some of it pointed in your direction."

**Bill Warner** writes from Gainesville, GA on 12/31/12: "Didn't realize I was lost or the availability of the [class] website. The information you have on your list is at least two years old; when I moved I guess I forgot to update you all. But I'm still alive and kicking. You are listed as a friend on my Facebook - guess I thought Facebook automatically updated everyone. After two years I'm still in a learning curve with modern technology. When I was at Ga. Tech the most advanced technology we had was a slide rule. My sons still get upset with me. One of them (Tech grad) calls me a byte miser. The Tech bowl game has started so to need to finish this. Happy holidays and best wishes to all for a happy, safe, successful and prosperous 2K13."

**Carol [Brimley Norris] writes from Finland:** "The SPHS newsletter this time inspired Jyrki [hubby] to praise its excellence in quality, color, and layout. And though we lose a few, SPHSers are surviving at a great rate. I hope the cold helps to preserve me, but each year my sympathy grows for St. Pete's Snow Birds from the chilly upper reaches of the USA. I need boot-spikes, a back-pack to allow use of my Nordic poles on icy spots, puffy coat, earmuffs. Driving this week, I found our narrow lanes, in spots, do not accommodate our car AND a taxi. I learned a new word (in year #27 here) from the taxi-driver: "Perutta!!" "Back up" is similar to Finnish for canceling a class . . . which I never do. Even if ill, I feel safer when surrounded by 14 devoted doctors. Their PhD thesis topics just this fall involved how metal hip-joints loosen, how diabetes works, how wise are blood transfusions, how to treat mouth

cancer or save preemies. It's endlessly interesting, and written in good English. My boss began to worry. Would I keel over or quit? So she hired a backup Aussie genetics PhD who quickly studied pedagogy here so she dared to use my books to teach a few morning classes (I teach from 4 to 7 pm twice weekly). But SHE promptly got pregnant; no danger of my doing THAT at 76. With hopes for health and happiness for you all in your active lives doing good things, Love Carol and Jyrki, Finland.  
[carol.norris@helsinki.fi](mailto:carol.norris@helsinki.fi)



Carol and Jyrki in a photo from their year-end newsletter.

Our classmates enjoy hearing about each other in this newsletter. If you have anything you want to share with your classmates, please send it in. If you send anything that is of a private nature, so indicate, and it will not be published. Thank you.

## Helping Out

Donations to the class treasury help to keep this newsletter coming and help to underwrite our reunions. Please send them to class treasurer, Lil Olsen Classen. This quarter, we thank **Dan Richardson** for his helpfulness.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Reserve May 2-3, 2014 on your calendar for the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. The Hilton Bayfront is the site.



**Class Contacts:**

**Class web site, where you can find it all:**  
<http://sphs1954.org/> . This is relatively new, so update your browser favorites.

**Reunions Chairman:** Boyd Acklin, 1110 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or [eacklin1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 547-6857 or [ronr@alumni.ufl.edu](mailto:ronr@alumni.ufl.edu)

**Next luncheon is  
Saturday, April 13, 2013**

**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 Wed., April 10. Nancy's phone is (727) 392-7417.**



SPHS Class of 1954  
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Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632  
Address Service Requested