



Counting Down to the 60th Reunion

The reunion subcommittees are busy making plans for decorating, entertainment and registration. Venue arrangements are firm for the Bayfront Hilton in downtown St. Pete, May 2 – 3, 2014. A block of rooms has been set aside for classmates who choose to stay there. Rooms are \$119 per night plus 12% tax. Also, parking is \$10 per day, with graduated rates for parking less than a day. Tentative food costs are \$30 to \$40 for each night's events, subject to change.

Friday, May 2 will be a social gathering for celebrants to visit and get caught up. There will be one door prize for a lucky classmate. Time for visiting is the focus, so Friday will not have planned entertainment. The theme of *Starlight and Sawdust – Reprise* will be carried out in the food for the evening.

Saturday evening will be a little more formal, with a banquet and tentative entertainment by the SPHS choral group, *The Pitchforks*. Recall that they were a great hit at our previous reunion. Also, there will be a DJ for dancing and recalling oldies. One door prize will be awarded.

During the weekend, there will be plenty of time to take short walks from the Hilton to downtown attractions, such as the Fine Arts Museum, St. Pete Historical Museum, Dali Museum and the Dale Chihuly Glass Museum. Classmates who have not been to St. Pete recently will be amazed at how different and dazzling the downtown area has become.

Graduation

James M Richardson was a resident of St. Petersburg and died August 23, 2013. Jim had served in the United States Army and was interred at the Florida National Cemetery, following memorial services at Northside Baptist Church. His wife, Jean, preceded him recently in death. Jim is survived by a son and a daughter. He also has three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

News & Notes

“Thank you for mentioning my mom’s passing [Mike Hillengas Renbarger] in the newsletter. I know she will enjoy next year’s reunion from afar - especially if a little Dixie land jazz happens to be played. Thanks!” **Stan Renbarger**

“I read every word, look at the pictures many times-thanks so much!” **Bev (Furman) Praschan**.

Classmate **William White** has become interested in the Manhattan Casino, which is located at 642 22nd St. S. in St. Petersburg. Built in 1925, the Manhattan Casino is significant for its contribution to entertainment and the culture in the African American community for more than forty years. Some of American music's most legendary performers played at the Manhattan including James Brown, Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Lionel Hampton, Cab Calloway, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, Sarah Vaughn, Fats Domino and the Ink Spots. After the era of the big bands, the Manhattan Casino hosted dances featuring local artists; rock and roll and blues singers popular in the 1960's. After it closed in 1968, the City of St. Petersburg acquired the property and renovated it in 2005, for \$2.8 million. In May, ground was broken for a restaurant at the Manhattan Casino, Sylvia's. Sylvia's is patterned after the renowned Sylvia's restaurant in Harlem, NYC. Sylvia's serves soul food and the St. Pete version will simulate the original menu.



The July class luncheon was enjoyed by all. Class Photographer, **James Lyn Provo** provided an 8” x 10” copy of a group photo taken at the Columbia Restaurant to everyone in attendance. This is a treasure and is greatly appreciated.



This snapshot of the July luncheon at the Courtside Grill shows a few of those enjoying the fellowship. Left to right: J Lyn Provo, Fran Ellinwood, Emil Sales, Gloria Fernald Ellinwood, Joe Flad and Karl Maier.



Visiting from their home in Georgia are the Mohr's, Deane and Doris Hustin. To Deane's right is our class secretary, Nancy Cramer Litten.

The **Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning**, Indian River State College's health club for the brain, is designed for men and women age 50 and better who are interested in exploring shared topics of interest in a college atmosphere. No pre-requisites, no long semesters, no grades, no tests---learning simply for the joy of learning. Programs are peer-led and peer-directed by the membership. Peer leaders volunteer to lead discussion and study groups, hands-on activities, field trips, lectures, book and film groups, all in a welcoming and appropriate environment for the adult learner. These programs do not apply to any IRSC degree program and are non-credit. The Fielden Institute for Lifelong Learning was endowed by **Dr. Jean Dickinson Fielden** in memory of her late husband, Dr. John "Jack" Seward Fielden. Jack received

degrees from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University and Boston University. Except for serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he spent his life in academia, as a member of the faculty at the University of Illinois, Purdue, and Harvard, and Dean of the Business Schools at Boston University and the University of Alabama, where he met **Jean**. Jean continues to serve as a devoted advisor and peer leader of the popular multi-campus offering, *Great Adaptations: Books into Films*.



Website

Our website host, **iPage**, sends us a regular report about how our website is being used. The recent data show that about 10 people per day access our class website. Also, about four pages are viewed by each visitor, on average. Remember, everything we know about our class activities and classmates is available at the class website; <http://sphs1954.org/>

Palmetto & Pine

Nostalgia

As we approach our 60th reunion and the 61st anniversary of the Jr. – Sr. prom that our class staged, a search of the *P&P* archives turned up these articles for the Friday, May 22, 1953 issue:



“Jr.-Sr. Prom Planned for Tonight

Students to Dance Under Big Top

It was released Monday via the colorful clown which adorned novel invitations that juniors and seniors will dance in a gala, circus-themed atmosphere at the traditional Junior-Senior Prom tonight. Decorations and floor show will carry out the theme, formally dubbed “Starlight and Sawdust” which is enchantingly characteristic of the circus.

The long-awaited, highly secretive ball will revel in all its sparkling glory from nine till one at the Coliseum. Dick Crockett and his orchestra will provide the music for the formal dance which for so many years has served as a final and thrilling farewell to the seniors from the Junior Class.

Sarah Shaw and Jim Budd, co-chairmen of the Prom, have issued these following rules for Prom attendance:

1. Those receiving free invitations will be all seniors, and those juniors who have paid their 75 cents class dues by April 27. If dues were not paid by this time your invitation will cost two dollars.
2. You may obtain a two-dollar invitation for an outsider who is:
 - a. Junior or senior of another high school;
 - b. Alumnus of SPHS;
 - c. Engaged couples whose engagement has been formally announced; and
 - d. Married Couples.”

Other articles in the May 22 edition told about special classmates:

“Kornfield Named State NHS Secretary



Debbie Kornfield

Debbie Kornfield, SPHS Junior, ran unopposed for Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida National Honor Society at the state convention when the St. Petersburg Sunshine Chapter played host to almost 300 NHS members on May 7, 8 and 9. [Location for the convention was the Soreno Hotel.]...

The convention co-chairmen were Carmine Ranieri and Jane Soper.”

“Stull shuts out Hillsborough 1-0

Superb-pitching Sonny Stull gained his seventh win of the season and eighth for SPHS’s Green Devils by blanking Hillsborough on five hits, 1-0.

With two men on and two out in the bottom of the seventh Stull served up a good pitch to one of the Hillsborough left-hand hitters. The leftie poked the ball on the line out to straight away left field. Don Vaughn, the Devil left fielder, who was playing in left center was off at the crack of the bat and speared the ball on the run in deep left field. That was the last out of the ball game.

Stull fanned seven in another of his excellent pitching performances, never being seriously in trouble. But it was a good thing he was on, because the Devils managed to get only three hits off two Terrier twirlers.

Coach Bob Gilbert’s team won the game in the third inning. Don Rohrbaugh, who also starred in the field, walked, stole second and went to third on an infield error. Coach Gilbert then ordered Gordon Mackenzie, who had walked, to get caught trying a fake steal from first to second. Gordon followed instructions and in the run down attempt, Rohrbaugh waltzed home with what proved to be the winning tally.”

Helping Out

Donations to the class treasury help to keep this newsletter coming and help to underwrite our reunion expenses. Please send them to class treasurer, Lil Olsen Classen. This quarter, we thank **Bev Furman Praschan, Geri Martin Willingham and Gail Willingham Payne** for their gifts to the class treasury.

Class Contacts:

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

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 12, 2013

We will meet at Bayfront Hilton
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) 392-7417.



<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/florida/hilton-st-petersburg-bayfront-SPTSHHF/index.html>

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