



Preview Lunch at the Hilton

The fourth quarter 2013 Class-of-1954 luncheon took place at the Bayfront Hilton in downtown St. Pete. It was, sort of, a dry run for the upcoming 60th reunion planned for this coming May. Plans are all in place for *Starlight and Sawdust – Reprise*, our big reunion event at the Bayfront Hilton.



Boyd Acklin talks to Myrtle Siemers Larson, while Pat Reeves Acklin (back to camera) and Gloria Slater Carnegie look on.



Obviously happy, and about to be wed in December, were classmates Gloria Fernald Ellinwood and Joe Flad.

Notes and Concerns

We extend our sympathy to **Merilyn Sweet Johnson** on the death of her son Robert, on October 3. Robert was only 58 and worked his entire career in law enforcement. He is also

survived by a wife of 38 years, a son, daughter and grandchildren.

Debbie Kornfield Forer writes: “What a wonderful blast from the past with my picture from an old SPHS newspaper! Just this week I was telling my 17 year old grandson that he should have joined the National Honor Society (they now choose it and do not have to be picked for it). Can't wait for him to get home this afternoon and show him the newsletter. Also, he has a homecoming dance this weekend; the tickets are \$70 each (\$140 for a couple) not 75 cent class dues! Can't imagine what the prom tickets will be. Times have a-changed. Thanks to all who put the newsletter together, wish I could get to St. Pete more often. I am looking forward to the 2014 reunion. We really had a fantastic class. With happy thoughts of everyone.”



Karl Maier and Nancy Cramer Litten are regulars at our class luncheons.



Jean Swivel Schuh enjoyed the camaraderie of classmates at the quarterly reunion luncheon.

Graduations

Eugene V. Litten joined his Lord and Savior on November 12. Gene was the beloved husband of our classmate, **Nancy Cramer Litten**. Until his most recent disability Gene joined us at virtually every class luncheon, ever since we started them. He had been in the Marine Corps, a Lieutenant in the St. Petersburg Fire Department, a State Fire Marshall and a talented member of a gospel quartet that he founded. He had a large family and will be missed by all of us.



Here we see Gene in his colorful cruise outfit and Nancy on the dock prior to our class's big 75th Birthday cruise in Clearwater.

Our classmate **Karen Kimpel Johns** died on November 29 in her native town of Memphis, TN. She was the widow of Terry Johns for 11 years and had two sons and a daughter. She also had four grandchildren. Karen attended FSU and was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. She authored two novels. Karen was the last of her immediate family, surviving her parents, brother and sister.

My daughters and I enjoyed the section in the [10/2013] 1954 News regarding **Walter "Sonny" Stull**. Unfortunately Walter was in the final stages of Alzheimer's disease, and I am not sure he completely understood the article when we read it to him. Walter enjoyed his years at SPHS and especially loved the baseball team. Walter passed away on October 9, 2013. Thank you for including the part about his pitching ability. We will treasure the article. Sincerely, Mary Stull (widow of Walter "Sonny" Stull).

Caring Classmates

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 **Dan Richardson, Marlene Matouk Haugland, Bill White and Janet Sieck** for their gifts to the class treasury.

Reunion Details

60th Reunion arrangements are firm for the Bayfront Hilton in downtown St. Pete, May 2 – 4, 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.

Friday, May 2 will be a social gathering for celebrants to visit and get caught up. There will be a 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. Cost for Friday is \$25

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. Saturday cost is \$45, if you want the prime rib or Salmon entree.

During the weekend, there will be plenty of time to see the transformed and nearby downtown attractions such as the Fine Arts Museum, St. Pete Historical Museum, Dali Museum and the Dale Chihuly Glass Museum.

In order to make arrangements for the hospitality room and for meals, we request that you send in a **registration** with payment for any meals you plan to eat. Even if you are only coming to visit and not eat, we need to have an idea of who is coming. The registration form is included on the following page. Please fill it out and return it to our class Treasurer, Lil Olsen Classen. Lil's address is given below under class contacts.

With all the volunteer hours that have already gone into decorations and other arrangements, we hope you make it a priority to attend your 60th class reunion. ☺

Information/Registration for the 60th Reunion

Returning this form, even if you are not attending the reunion, will help us update our records. Thanks

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

College/Degree: _____

Graduate School, Other Training: _____

Profession/Occupation: _____

Spouse's Name: _____ Family Info: _____

Special Accomplishments of Self, Spouse, Children, Etc.: _____

Hobbies, Organizations: _____

Number in my party visiting the hospitality room at the Hilton at any time on May 2-4: _____

Name on my nametag: _____ Name on guest's nametag: _____

#in my party attending Friday night Starlight-Sawdust Hilton social event @ \$25 _____ Total \$: _____

#in my party selecting prime rib entrée at Hilton banquet Saturday night @ \$45 _____ Total \$: _____

#in my party selecting salmon entrée at Hilton banquet Saturday night @ \$45: _____ Total \$ _____

Please return this completed form with your check, if dining, payable to SPHS Class of '54, c/o Lil Classen, Treasurer, at 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Deadline for registration and meal reservations is April 24, 2014. We have to pre-commit for meals to the Hilton, and cannot pay at the door. Meal refunds up to a week before the reunion, if your plans change. For Hilton reservations, contact them directly and ask for the SPHS class reunion rate. Hilton reservations: 1-727-894-5000 <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/florida/hilton-st-petersburg-bayfront-SPTSHHF/index.html>

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, January 11, 2014

We will meet at the Courtside Grill in the Carillon area of north St. Pete. Gathering time is 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know by Thur., January 9. Nancy's phone is (727) 392-7417.



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