



Special Events

Our class is approaching a really big birthday next year in which most of the class will be 80 years old! Some are older and some are younger, but 80 is the median age in calendar 2016. This has really crept up on us, but we need to think about celebrating our longevity in a special way. According to our records 2/3 of our class is surviving. That's reason to celebrate!

Recall that we had a 75th birthday cruise that was a great success. No one even got sea sick! Maybe we could think about a real cruise for a few days out of Tampa Cruise Terminal for the big birthday. They can be booked for about what a hotel room at the beach would cost per day. A cruise of a few days would enable us to get in lots of visiting and catching up on each other's lives without making many strenuous physical demands. Also, we would not have to cook! We do need to consider our collective mobility needs and not schedule any mountain hikes or rafting adventures. ☺

There are lots of options besides a cruise, so we need to hear what ideas you have to share. Contact someone listed on the back of this newsletter with your ideas.

Retirement, Really?

It's true that most of us are retired from our life's work, and even post-retirement jobs that kept us busy as we wound down, but there are exceptions among our classmates. For example, James Lyn Provo, our class photographer, is still very active in his specialty area of high vacuum physics and chemistry. His career was with the U.S. Department of Energy, Sandia National Labs and General Electric Co. in this specialized area. So much of our technology today depends on deposition of thin film rare metals which can react with hydrogen to form hydrides. This is Lyn's area of expertise and he regularly publishes refereed articles in the prestigious *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology*. This is a publication of the American Vacuum Society.

Last year, he published an eight-page report on his study of the effect of vacuum chamber materials on the efficacy of generating thin film hydrides in the chambers studied using dynamic residual gas analysis, a technique developed by Lyn. He studied stainless steel, aluminum oxide, copper-beryllium and aluminum coated copper as the chamber materials. Surprisingly he found that stainless steel was the poorest chamber material tested.

This year, Lyn had an eight-page report published on how to produce and characterize hydrides by reactive evaporation in high vacuum. Lyn's paper was the first to discuss this topic world-wide. Other publications have accounts on work of thin film preps for basic physics, cancer research, oil well logging, drug and explosive detection, nuclear waste, process control and other novel applications. But, Lyn's results had not been announced previous to his January 2015 publication in the *Journal of Vacuum Science & Technology*.

James Lyn still has occasion to consult with Sandia National Laboratories, where he had his last "official" retirement – so, retirement does not suit him very well.

Palmetto & Pine

Memories

The April 27, 1953 edition of the SPHS newspaper had this front page banner headline and article:

“Acklin Leads Council Next Year Bolton and Willingham to Help

Boyd Acklin attained next year's Student Council presidency in the recent election. Under him will serve **Bob Bolton** as vice-president and **Lynn Willingham** as secretary. Senior councilman-at-large are to be **Bernie Wade** and **Jim Harriot**. **Bob Saltz** and **Skip Wilhelm** will be junior councilmen-at-large. **Charles Schuh** will have mastery of the Senate. **Jim Barger** ran unopposed for top position in the I.C.C. as did **Jean Dickenson** for *Palmetto and Pine* editor.

Cheerleaders to serve under **Rosemary Stephenson** for the coming year are as follows: **Suzie Fisher, Joan Harmon, Jocie Horlacher, Jean Logan, Betty Otey, Ginger Rose, Mary Liz**

Slater, Pat Smith and Gail Willingham. The election results were formally announced at the [Civitan Club's] 'Inaugural Ball' last Saturday."

In the same issue was this article:

"Swope Elected French Treasurer

Nancy Swope was overwhelmingly elected state treasurer of the newly formed statewide French Club recently. A handful of French students and Les Aigles adviser, Mrs. Gladys Gould, visited Rollins College in Winter Park April 17 and 18 for this annual French Weekend.

Baroness Yvette Von Baecap, head of the Rollins French Department served as hostess for the group. Upon arrival they went to La Maison Francaise for programs which were followed by an informal dance later that evening. In the morning a business meeting was attended by SPHS delegates Loretta Lewis, Nancy Swope and Bill Eckert, while the rest toured the campus. After a general meeting in Annie Russell Theater [National Historic site built on campus in 1932 and honoring a noted actress from the early 20th century.] the assembly went to lunch at Somerset House.

Climaxing the day was a swimming party before the SPHSians departed, via Greyhound for home."

The October 9, 1953 issue contained this article about our classmate:

"Meet Your Majorette

By Arlene Davis



Sandra Collins

She'll sit on a cushion and sew a fine seam and feast upon strawberries, sugar and cream. [A line from James Whitcomb Riley's children's poem, *Curly Locks*.] This is far from the description of Sandra Collins, who is in the spotlight for this week's senior majorette.

Sandy or Tom Collins (hmmm) as she is often called, first saw the light of day July 13, 1936 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Before coming to St. Petersburg, she attended Wilkinson High School in Indianapolis, and on arriving in St. Pete she attended 54th Avenue, Lealman, Mirror Lake, Disston and finally SPHS. While at Disston she started her career as a majorette and continued her talents for two years at SPHS.

Along with being a majorette, she is also a section leader of the band, and a member of Service, Pan Am, and El Circulo Clubs. Last year's trip to Washington with the band Sandy relates as her most embarrassing experience. It seems she was going to dinner in Raleigh, NC, with alumnus Jim Leware, and naturally following him she started to walk very calmly into a room, just looking up in time to see MEN on the door.

Becoming a majorette and attending last year's prom stand out in Sandy's mind as the most wonderful times she has ever experienced. She likes everything, including boys and especially peaches and cream. Above all, people who don't make signals when driving just get Sandy's goat. Speaking of odd hobbies, Sandy really tops the list. It's playing with her seven cats. This isn't an advertisement, but Sandy says she'll be glad to give away four of them to any lucky person who wants them. Sandy plans to start at Junior College with a major in music education or secondary education. [SPJC is now known as St. Petersburg College – a four-year institution with 11 campuses & centers, and enrolling 65,000 students annually.]

Graduations

Carter Browning Tyler, a classmate who transferred to Boca Ciega High School for his senior year, died on July 26, 2015. He was a U of F grad and taught math at Miami Sr. High for 30 years. He returned to St. Pete on retirement. He is survived by a companion, Jill, two sons, and three grandchildren.

July Reunion Luncheon

Twenty-Six classmates met for the mid-summer luncheon at the Courtside Grille in central Pinellas County. This has been a very hot and muggy summer, so it was a good turnout of people who have not escaped to cooler climes.



Our SPHS 1954 golf team was there. Dave Beazley and Ed Parsley enjoyed reminiscing about times on the links.



Joyce Lindsey Sperry has discovered the fun of attending our quarterly luncheons.



Boyd and Pat Acklin really don't look or act their age. 😊

Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher is a regular and she also participates in mini-reunion events with other classmates from time to time.



Prayer Concerns

One of our class artists, Neil Gatewood has shared his recent health issues with us. He has been through successful surgery for lung cancer and a bout with post-surgery infection. He lost 30 pounds in the process. Neil is now home experiencing what he characterizes as a slow recovery. He would love to hear from you. His address is:

1015 Brooksglen Dr., Roswell, GA 30075-1371

Our thanks go to classmates Dick Jemison and Ed Parsley for generously donating to the class treasury for expenses.

Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find it all:
<http://sphs1954.org/> . Help us keep your data current!

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. (12 years, so far.)
 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) 544-2374 or
ronr@alumni.ufl.edu

Next Reunion luncheon is Saturday, October 10, 2015

**Location is Harvey’s 4th Street Grill in
 St. Pete. Gathering time is 1:00 pm. If
 you plan to attend, please let Nancy
 Cramer Litten know by Thur., Oct 8.
 Nancy’s phone is (727) 392-7417.**



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www.harveys4thstreetgrill.com

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