



## Holiday Thoughts

This time of year brings many mixed thoughts of family and friends, past and present. Our class is a bunch of octogenarians and we have experienced many Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year holidays. Yet, as we look around there are fewer of us left. ☹️ Some of us are the oldest ones left in our family or our group of friends. That is no reason to think that this is just one more holiday season – like we have seen it all before. There are lots of activities in the community, at houses of worship, or with younger family and friends with whom to enjoy this season!

### October Luncheon

Our plans to meet at Harvey's Fourth Street Grill were thwarted by weather and/or gremlins. When we arrived at Harvey's, a representative met us at the door and said they had a power failure. Of Course, this meant our luncheon there was kaput. Everything was not lost, however, as Carrabba's Italian Grill was only a few blocks south on Fourth Street. They said that they had plenty of room for our group. Harvey's greeter offered to send our people to Carrabba's as they arrived at Harvey's.

Carrabba's set up one long table for our group and we had lots of time for visiting. The acoustics were better than Harvey's and we could talk in normal voices. The consensus was that we should return there in January for our luncheon.

#### New Mail Returns

Every new issue of the newsletter brings a few non-delivery notices. If you know classmates have moved, please share information with us to update our records and website. Here are two of the latest ones to slip off the radar:

Dr. Faith Olson. Ft. Bragg, CA  
Rev. James Cox. Waverly, GA



Carrabba's seated us a one table, which was better for conversation than separate tables.



In this view, we can see furthest away Don Bogue, Ginny Bogue, Gloria Fernald Flad, Joe Flad, Boyd Acklin, Glenna Miller Clouser, Rosemary Stevenson Hempel, and Pat Reeves Acklin.



Seated left to right are Class Secretary Nancy Cramer Litten, Sherry Rasmussen (SPHS '55), Ron Rasmussen, Karl Maier and Janet Sieck.



Rosemary Stephenson Hempel was there, looking as young as ever.



The Flad's, Gloria and Joe travel all the way from Leesburg to join their classmates at our luncheon reunions



Don and Ginny Bogue seldom miss a reunion opportunity.

## Classmate News

**Doris Hustin Mohr** wants all her friends to know that she has moved to Birmingham, AL. After Deane died, the house was just too big and quiet so she moved to be near her son, daughter-in-law and her two favorite grandchildren. In the move, Doris lost her Annual and would love to have a copy if anyone has an extra. Send all mail to her son: Robert Mohr, 396 Jackson Street, Gardendale, AL 35071. No phone or email right now. And Robert gets the mail so he can sort out the legal stuff.

**Covert Brock** says, "Thanks for sharing. I am still spending summer at our lake house and winter in Arizona. Health is good for an 80-year-old and active on the golf course and fishing. Oh, am still playing drums and singing."

**Ed Evans** writes from the panhandle: "...I am a wood turner and would be glad to turn a bowl for use as a fund raiser for our class. Just let me know. It will not be green and white but that should not be a problem. I can give you a value so you don't let it go too cheaply." Thanks for this offer, Ed. We will look for an opportunity to take you up on it.

Class photographer, **Jim Lyn Provo**, missed Thanksgiving at home because he was in the hospital for 10 days with a heart issue. It was low blood pressure and respiratory rate. Now with a pacemaker, he is feeling well and is ready for the new year!

Our own **Bette Jackman LoBue** has published a science fiction book, *Time Probe*. Check it out at Amazon.com, or your favorite book store.

## Graduations

**Sue Talton Hill** died in Selma, NC on March 11, 2016, following a long battle with lung cancer. She is survived by daughters Debbie Hill Curlings, Jennifer Hill Attisano and their families. She has two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Sue was a beauty queen, equestrian trick rider and baton twirler. After SPHS, her family moved to Selma, NC and she attended East Carolina Teachers College. Sue called St. Pete God's country and coming back



to the beaches was one of her favorite places to visit. She loved to tell stories about her childhood growing up in St. Petersburg and her time as a Green Devil at St. Pete High.

**Gary Jeffries** died on September 12, 2016 in Alamo, TX. He died of complications of pneumonia and a tumor in the lung. We always wanted to attend a reunion but never did. Signed his wife, **Pat**

We have learned that **Robert (Bob) Bradford** passed on September 18, 2016 at home in St. Petersburg. Bob was born in St. Petersburg and his family operated Bradford's Coach House Restaurant. He was a direct descendant of Governor William Bradford of Plymouth. After SPHS, Bob graduated from the University of Florida and then U.S Naval Officer's School in Newport, RI. Bob and his wife Cathy have four children, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister Celia Swanhart and a long-time friend, Sue Rubino.

**Nancy Stiles Lefebvre**, a native and life-long resident of St. Petersburg, died on September 23, 2016. She is survived by her husband of 50+ years, John, a son John 2<sup>nd</sup>, sister Martha Heffern, brothers Joseph and Thomas. Nancy was a bookkeeper and was a member of Christ United Methodist Church. She sang in church choirs her whole life. Nancy was a volunteer in the clothes pantry at Day Star Life Center.

### January Luncheon Location

In 1903 a plumber by the name of George Turner, Sr. purchased the six acres that would become a world famous botanical attraction. Using an elaborate maze of clay tiles, he drained an ancient lake on the property, leaving a rich muck soil that was ideal for his favorite hobby – gardening. Neighbors so enjoyed strolling through Mr. Turner's garden, that by the early 1920's, he was charging a nickel for tours. Three generations of the Turner family continued the vision that created this unique tropical garden, with its flowing ponds.

The City of St. Petersburg purchased Sunken Gardens in 1999 with funds from a voter approved

tax. Preserving the garden was a community effort. With Mr. Turner Sr.'s original vision in mind, the city's goal is to preserve this historic botanical garden and provide cultural and educational opportunities.

The main building on Fourth Street was built in 1926 (the same year as the present SPHS building) and it became the Coca Cola Bottling Company in the 1940s. The Turner family purchased the building in 1967 to create the World's Largest Gift Shop and the King of Kings Wax Museum. They closed the building in 1995. The city has restored it to its original Mediterranean Revival style and it is the new home for Great Explorations, a children's hands-on science museum and Carrabba's Italian Grill. If you have not been to Carrabba's lately, you will find that they share the same parking lot with the children's museum and Sunken Gardens.

### Our Classmates Help

This newsletter provides a way to connect with longtime friends and it also gives us a way to maintain our database. Hopefully, each mailing gives us forwarding information for those who move or change e-mail address. Thus, the newsletter works both ways – for recipients and for us who send it.

We currently have 160 on distribution via e-mail. They get to see all the photos that Jim Lyn Provo takes in living and high resolution color. The other 139 classmates on distribution receive the black and white version by US mail. Each newsletter costs the class treasury about 65 cents to print and mail.

There are classmates who generously help pay these newsletter costs We try to acknowledge them in each newsletter. However, some prefer to be anonymous about class gifts.

We thank these classmates for recent gifts:

- Sylvia Hommer Acton
- Lois Gillies Phillips
- Marie Sawyer Wolf
- Janet Sieck
- Shirley Beaupre Michaud
- Susie Fisher Poucher
- Bev Furman Braschan



### 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 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. (14 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 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or  
[ronr@alumni.ufl.edu](mailto:ronr@alumni.ufl.edu)

### **Next reunion luncheon is Saturday, January 14, 2017**

**Location is Carrabba’s Italian Grill in St. Pete. Gathering time is 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know by Thur., Jan. 12. Nancy’s phone is (727) 392-7417.**



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