



## Farewell to the Pier

We met one last time at the *Columbia Restaurant* on The Pier in downtown St. Petersburg. As previously reported, it will be demolished due to irreparable damage to the pilings by salt water. The replacement is supposed to be open in a couple of years. The Gonzmart family, who owns the Columbia restaurants, is seeking another site near the waterfront to build a replacement for the one that had been on The Pier. The *Columbia Restaurant* had been a fixture on The Pier for 25 years.



Class photographer James Lyn Provo captured this action scene from the fourth floor of the pier. There was a water ski show scheduled at the same time as our class luncheon and we enjoyed a glimpse of it.



This year, The *Columbia Restaurant* issued souvenir menus to commemorate the history of the Million Dollar Pier (1926-1967) and the current pier. Clockwise, we see Jack Phillips, Lois Gillies Phillips, June Ward Fleisher, Sally Cook Vazquez and Bette Jackman LoBue studying their copies of the souvenir menus.



Our class luncheons are so much fun that we often have guests of our classmates attend too. Our classmate, Janet Sieck, second from right, brought several of her SPHS grad friends.



Happy to be at the Pier one last time are L to R: Jean Swivel Schuh, Joe Flad, Jr. and Gloria Fernald Ellinwood.



Harry Rothwell and Susanne Gould Provo (SPHA '56) were present to enjoy the fellowship and the nostalgic experience of a final lunch at the *Columbia Restaurant*.



SPHS Class of 1954  
Last Luncheon Meeting at the 1973 St. Petersburg Pier  
April 13, 2013

James Lyn Provo took this photo for the record and then Photo Shopped himself into it!

## 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.



The reunion committee has cranked up activities to prepare for the big 60<sup>th</sup> reunion. We have met with the Hilton's staff several times to establish the rooms and menus for the reunion, as well as a block of rooms for those who want to stay on site for the weekend. Rooms are \$119 per night plus 12% tax.

Also, parking is \$10 per day, with graduated rates for less than a day. Tentative food costs are \$30 to \$40 for each night's events, subject to change. The hospitality room is on the first floor, not far from the pool.

Theme for the 60<sup>th</sup> is *Starlight and Sawdust – Reprise*, which was the theme of the Jr.-Sr. prom that our class staged for the classes of 1953-1954 at the Coliseum. We probably will not have expensive rented costumes and large paper Mache animals, as with the original prom, but the decorations will be fabulous. Phyllis' decorations committee is already at work. 😊

## Graduations

**Irene "Mike" Hillengas Renbarger** passed away on Saturday, May 4, 2013. She had lived in Homosassa, FL with her husband James, after he retired, since 1991. Mike aided Dr. Geneva at SPHS, Floyd Christian, as Pinellas County School Superintendent, and several schools in Gainesville

and Miami. Mike was a member of Homosassa First United Methodist Church and has served previously on the board of her property owners association in Miami. She had three children and three grandchildren. Mike was the center of her family and was a gentle and loving person to all who knew her.

**Joan Harmon Burkhardt** died at home in Raleigh, NC with her family by her side on Thursday, June 6, 2013. She was very active in her Episcopal Church and participated in mission trips and other church outreaches. Joanie was a FSU grad and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha there. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Joan is survived by her sister, Barbara Ganey, in Gainesville, FL three sons who live in the Raleigh area and three grandchildren.

## News & Concerns

“Thank You again for the cheery hometown news of our 1954 Classmates. I am always glad to hear their life ventures and to see our senior persona. I do think frequently of trying to visit but am still involved with my development project near Merced, CA. What happened to my retirement? What a shock that we are now as old as the new Pope. Your letters are always welcome and give me encouragement to revisit you all.” Warmest regards to all, **Bernie Wade**, San Leandro, CA

“Enjoyed this [March Newsletter] so much. - Interesting plans for the pier; thanks so much for keeping me in the loop. As I looked at all those old men and ladies I realize I’m one of them! It’s hard to think about our old friends as they are now.☺) Boyd and Pat look great! But they always did.☺)”, **Beverly Furman Praschan**, Mesa, AZ.

**Joe Flad, Jr.** has experienced some major life events just since our last newsletter! Earlier this year he had a stroke at his home in Leesburg. He was nursed back to health with the help of his fiancé, and our classmate, Gloria Fernald Ellinwood.

Then, Joe shared the announcement of his engagement to Gloria, in late March.

Sadly, the joy over the engagement was dulled by the death of Joe’s son, Joe Flad, III on March 31. We extend our sympathy to Joe and his family, along with our congratulations to both Joe and

Gloria on their good news. It was good to see them both at the April class luncheon at the Pier.



This photo was taken of the happy couple on Valentine’s Day, 2013

Our leader, **Boyd Acklin**, has bounced back from having stents installed. He and Pat even hosted a reunion meeting, May 29, the evening of the day he was discharged from the hospital! We need to pray that Boyd will be strong for his family and to lead us to a great 60<sup>th</sup> reunion.



**Myrtle Siemers Larson’s** husband, Fred, continues to have health problems, but is some better and able to get about. Also, her son-in-law, Marty Webber, recently passed away. Marty and Myrt’s daughter Connie are both SPHS grads. We extend sympathy to Myrt and her family.

## 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 **Nancy Shenk McDonald and Sandra Hollins Jamison** 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 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, July 13, 2013

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



<http://www.courtsidegrille.com/>

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