

Most of our classmates do not see winter like this

Our Season of Isolation Continues

The average age of our classmates is 84 years. This puts us squarely in the high-risk category for COVID-19 and many other diseases. Many of us have hunkered down at home for over nine months. This creates both positive and negative situations. Some people use the time to work on their long-neglected to-do list. Others have increased screen time on their smart phones, computers, tablets and television.

Sadly, some have been driven into depression because of the solitude of it all.

Those of us living in Florida have been fortunate not to have severe regulations that keep us at home. The groceries, bars, restaurants, theaters and churches have all opened, with restrictions. Overall, Florida has better survival statistics than many states with smaller populations and much stricter regulations in place. However, our nursing homes, hospitals and doctor offices have strict regulations that seem to be working well.

The light at the end of the tunnel has not yet appeared for us to resume reunion luncheons. Hopefully, the environment will improve by mid-2021

This Newsletter

This newsletter serves at least two purposes. Primarily, it keeps classmates updated about those with whom they attended SPHS 66 years ago. The second, less obvious purpose is to maintain current contact information about as many classmates as

possible. Sending out the newsletter every 90 days enables us to track classmates who move or die. Usually, the USPS will send us their FORM 3547 providing the forwarding address. We request this address service, and it costs the class treasury sixty-one cents for each notice. Sometimes, this process is thwarted by those at the old address because they just toss the newsletter and the former resident never filed a Change of Address form with the post office. There are several instances where the newsletter was mailed to a classmate's address for years after he/she moved away. By mailing every 90 days, we hope to maximize chances of tracking classmate moves.

The sad, but useful situation is when a classmate's survivor lets us know of a passing. Over the years, we have learned about a dozen classmate's passing, from their survivors.

Emails are the other address changes we discover by regular distribution of the digital version of the newsletter. This leads first to mailing a hard copy to the last known address in hopes of finding a forwarding address. If that fails, we try the phone or an online search. When all else fails, the name is added to the Missing list on the class website.

Graduations

Dan Abbott, succumbed to cancer on Monday, November 9. His wife, Norma told us that he had a severe reaction to two chemo pills he took in an attempt to combat the cancer in his lungs. He was diabetic and died at home. We have no other details, as there has been no published obituary.



Dan Abbott, left, and Neil Gatewood attended this reunion lunch at the Columbia Restaurant, on the pier, February 2, 2008.

Class of 1954 Memories

Looking back at some of our major reunions can recall happy times.

50th Reunion the Golden Gala on Clearwater Beach.



Bill Rothas, left, and Harry Rothwell get caught up, as shown in this photo taken by Dan Abbott.



Dan also photographed classmate Lamar Owens at the reunion.



As Part of the 50th reunion activities then current SPHS principal and 1954 classmate, Barbara Drescher Broughton, conducted a tour of the school.



Joel (Bobby) Anderson proudly displays the painting he won. Classmate, artist Neil Gatewood donated his fantastic artwork for the reunion



Charlie Schuh and wife Jean Swivel Schuh performed a "Green Bench" skit which had us all in stitches.



Alma Mater on display in the school museum-former library.

60th Reunion at the Hilton in St. Pete

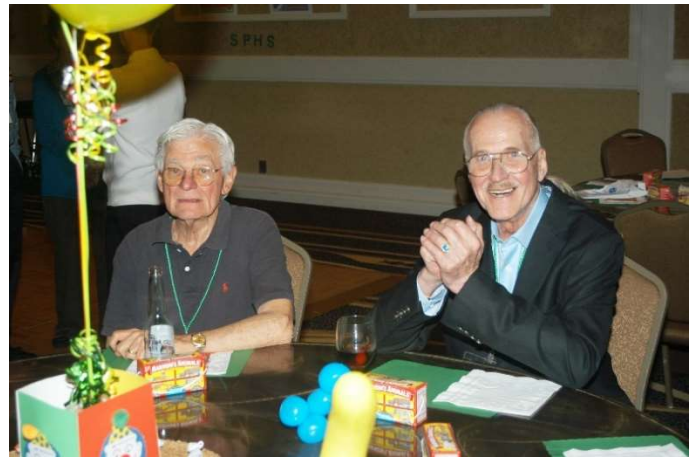
As with almost all of our reunions James Lyn Provo recorded the event through his lens:



Lady classmates served at the registration desk: Front row L to R are Sally Lou Carlson Cronk, Sandra Hollins Jemison, and Gail Willingham Payne. Back Row L to R Sylvia Hommer Acton, Suzanne Provo (SPHS '66) and Marlene Matouk Haugland.



Nancy Carson Parker (left) came from Texas to visit with her SPHS classmates, such as Frances Ellinwood.



George Perkins (L) came from Connecticut and Bernie Wade came from California for the 60th reunion.



Don Bogue and Boyd Acklin display amazement at part of the decorations made for the reunion's circus theme.



Sig Klein often came from Tampa to luncheon and major reunions. Sandra Collins Stevens traveled from Garland, TX for the 60th reunion.



Teacher Adrian Davis' painting is in the school museum.



Sandra Collins Stevens took this photo of the Decorations Committee: L to R, Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher, Joanne Schindler Biringer, Fran Ellinwood, Cloe Carroll Dance, Myrtle Siemers Larson, Sally Cook Vazquez, Marilyn Sweet Johnson, June Ward Fleisher.

Class Contacts:

Class of 1954 web site, where you can find e-mail, phone numbers and mail addresses about our classmates: <http://sphs1954.org/>.

Help us keep your data current!

Continuing Reunion Chairman: Boyd Acklin, 1110 42nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33703, (727) 527-0361 or eacklin1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lil Olsen Classen, at 8037 Elbow Lane N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. **No donations are needed until further notice.**

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 r.rasmussen@ieee.org

Next reunion luncheon is

TBD

SPHS Class of 1954
10212 58th Street
Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632
Address Service Requested