



Holidays are Here

Although the scene in St. Petersburg does not look like this picture, there are probably some of our classmates who do experience snow, etc. ☺

The holiday season started earlier than usual this year with Thanksgiving on November 23. Now, there is furious activity to buy presents, host or attend parties and have family gatherings.

Our class has had a mostly peaceful second half of 2017. We lost only one classmate in that period. But many of our 80-something aged classmates are experiencing health issues. Still, we are blessed to have two-thirds of our class surviving to see the new year!

October Reunion Luncheon

We had our first ever luncheon at PJ's Oyster Bar on St. Pete Beach and it was a big success. There were 34 in attendance, with some coming from afar to attend.

For you to see who attends reunion luncheons and to encourage more local interest, here is a list of the recent attendees (in order of reservations made to Nancy Litten):

Joanne Biringer
 Fred Wheeler
 Nancy Litten
 Emil Sales
 Lil & Bill Classen
 Pat & Boyd Acklin
 Ron & Sherry Rasmussen
 Barbara Thompson
 Shirley Beaupre and Bob Michaud
 Bob & Helen Kaniss

Dan Abbott
 Harriette Bey Urbahn
 Mary Jean Bey Robertson (SPHS '53)
 Janet Sieck
 Eileen Toney (Class of '60)
 Don & Ginny Bogue
 Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher
 June Ward Fleisher
 Barbara Volley
 Lyn & Suzanne Provo
 Bob Walton
 Fran Ellinwood
 Pat Maurer Sehner
 Judi Hirshberg & John Marcellus
 Karen Plaskett Fintzy (all the way from California)
 Walter Lettau

Following are some photos taken by class photographer **James Lyn Provo**:



Karen Plaskett Fintzy, Dan Abbott, Suzanne Provo and Fran Ellinwood were all smiles for the photo.



Bill and Lil Classen have almost a perfect attendance at our quarterly reunion luncheons.



Left to right: Joe Flad, Gloria Fernald Flad, Harriett Bey Urban, and Mary Jean Bey Robertson



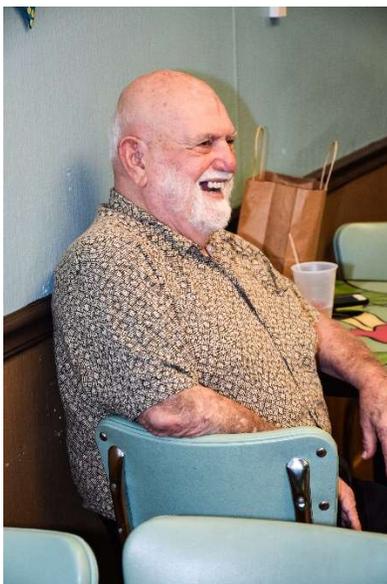
Regular participants in the luncheons are L to R; Sherry and Ron Rasmussen, Boyd Acklin and Pat Reeves Acklin.



John Marcellus and Judi Hirshberg Allen are now husband and wife, living in Port Richey, FL.



Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher helped us find the dining room at PJ's Oyster Bar for the luncheon.



Walt Lettau travels from the center of the state to join his classmates for the reunion luncheons.

Post-Irma Report

Hurricane Irma threatened the Tampa Bay area, but could have delivered more damage than it did. We were blessed. After coming ashore at Naples, it passed up the state, to our east. That caused water to be blown out of Tampa Bay and Hillsborough Bay. Fortunately, the back side of the storm passed when tides were low and there was minimal storm surge.

Wind was another matter. It caused lots of trees to uproot and branches to break, downing power lines. Some homes only suffered short power outages, but tens of thousands had outages of up to

two weeks. Clean -up crews are still working to remove trees and limbs from public spaces.

Rain associated with the storm caused flooding in all the usual low places, and people placed sand bags to keep the water out of their homes and businesses.

Even though the storm was on the west side and central part of Florida, the eastern seaboard also suffered much damage – from the keys to Jacksonville. The Carolinas saw storm winds and flooding, too.

Classmate News

Much of our so-called news these days is health-related. ☹️

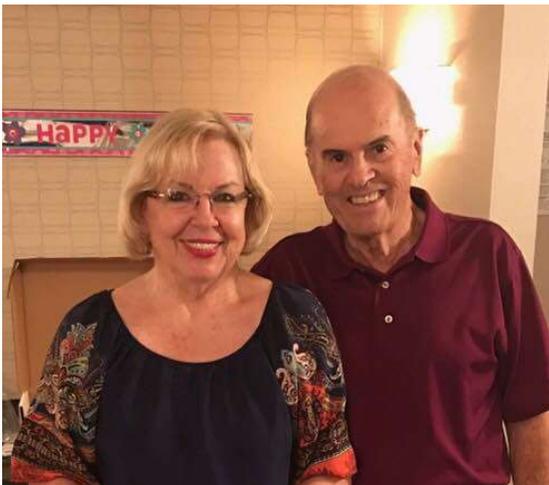
Many of the issues we face are mobility-related. We are getting creaky and it is more and more difficult to get out and around.

We know of at least two of our classmates are on dialysis.

Pat and Boyd Acklin were in a serious auto accident in November that left Boyd in hospital for a couple of weeks. He suffered broken bones and bruises, while Pat had some facial bruises, but nothing broken. They are both home and mostly recovered.

It is kind of strange to experience all the reports of classmates' 80th and 81st birthdays. We used to think that was old, but now it does not seem so old!

Sally Cook Vazquez shared her photo taken on her 81st birthday and neither she nor husband Willie look anywhere near that age.



Myrtle Siemers Larson has had a busy 80th year traveling to see her family members. She went to Kailua, Hawaii, Maryland, Washington DC, Boone, NC and lots of other places, as described on her Facebook page.

Twice a year, ladies from SPHS and BCHS get together for a Green and Gold luncheon. The most recent one was held December 6, with 20 in attendance at Carrabba's' restaurant in St. Pete. They exchanged goodies (cookies/candy) and had a great time getting into the Christmas spirit. If anyone wants to join this group which meets semi-annually, contact **Phyllis Reichelderfer Doescher** at 727-541-5406 or pjdladybug@tampabay.rr.com.

You are encouraged to send us your news and to let your classmates know what you have done and what you are doing. About half of our class does not have the Internet or Facebook, so you need to share via this newsletter. ☺️

Classmates Care

This newsletter helps us keep track of classmates. Our classmates generously help pay newsletter printing and postage costs, and the costs for the Internet website. We try to acknowledge donors in each edition. Thanks, this time go to:

- **Joyce Lindsay Sperry**
- **Warren Kendall**
- **Janet Sieck**

Graduation

We lost Warren Bicker on October 2, 2017. Warren lived in Hernando, FL with his wife Helen at the time of his sudden death. He had been a drummer in the SPHS band and went on to join the US Navy. He was a retired tug boat captain and owned and operated Bicker Tire Company. He had a married son and married daughter and three grandchildren. Services were held October 11 with graveside ceremonies at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell.



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. (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 58th Street, Pinellas Park, FL 33782-2632, (727) 544-2374 or r.rasmussen@ieee.org

Next reunion luncheon is Saturday, January 13, 2018

Location is PJ's Oyster Bar on St. Pete Beach. The menu includes non-seafood, if you have an allergy. Gathering time is 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend, please let Nancy Cramer Litten know by Thur., January 11. Nancy's phone is (727) 392-7417.



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