

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 1966
MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Classmates!

Well...it is springtime 2006....It is amazing that it has been 40 years since we were all excited about graduating from High School, and going into adulthood (well...some reached that sooner than others). Who could have predicted what changes we have experienced and what difficulties and opportunities we've all experienced these past 40 years. One of the best parts of these past 40 years for many of us was that we have managed to keep in touch with many of our high school classmates. What great friendships were established during those school years in Grapevine (and Colleyville) - during those years from the first grade to graduation. Don't forget - over 50% of those who graduated as a part of the GHS Class of 1966 started the first grade together...and, we were soon joined by many others who spent most of our public education years together (like Gary Cumbie - second grade joiner!).

First things first....each of you should have received an email INVITATION or received an INVITATION by mail asking that you attend the GHS Class of 1966 40th Reunion to be held June 24, 2006 with an early activity opportunity on Friday evening before (June 23) and a final opportunity for those in town or able to attend on Sunday morning (June 25). Of course Saturday is the big day - a Brunch at the home of Darrell & Donna Faglie at about 9:00 a.m. and Dinner/Music/Fellowship at 6:30 p.m. Saturday evening at the Community Room of Stacy Furniture in Grapevine. Those who received an invitation by mail should have received a stamped postcard to return and those who received an email should respond via email....If you have not already done so, please respond as soon as possible so that we can better prepare for those who are going to attend. As of March 1, 2006 we have already had about 30 classmates and guests who have indicated that they will be joining us for the activities (as far as they know now). We have had a few who have responded that they will be unable to attend, but only a couple of classmates thus far. Please make plans to attend if at all possible - you know how old you are getting! I did see Roger Hardin the other day and he still has lots of hair and it is still black...Rick Stacy and I need to try and find out his secret as we've become pretty much entirely gray. There are those who don't have much gray hair, but they also don't have much hair...you know who you are!

Grapevine High School is preparing to celebrate its 100 year anniversary - activities are actually starting next month and going through Homecoming in the fall.....Of course as Grapevine High School turns 100 in 2006 - the best class to go through its halls is turning 40 years old itself. During this past Homecoming in October 2005, I had the opportunity and honor to drive Mr. Keith Grantham - Distinguished Alumni, in the Homecoming parade. Keith was inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame during the Homecoming ceremonies. Doubly nice for me was that Keith is an ex-student of mine and I had the opportunity to be his math teacher for a few years and was with him and Rick Weaver in

Austin as their sponsor when they won the State UIL competition in Debate in 1975. Keith went on to graduate from GHS and attended SMU and became a lawyer, worked with a Federal Judge and is now a Judge in Austin. I have always told Keith that even though he had a pretty good group in his 1975 graduating class – they just didn't compare to our class. I recently received an email from Keith and wanted to share a little of it with you.

Keith writes: “Because he (his father Jerry Grantham) was on the school board at the time, my Dad used to get a gratis copy of the school annual. The 1966 annual was the first one he brought home. I was in the 4th grade at the time. I remember looking at the year book over and over. High School looked like this truly exotic world full of highly sophisticated and mature people who I wanted to emulate. I remember a picture of you and your other class officers dressed up for what appeared to be a prom. I think you were sitting in a convertible but I may be wrong (it was our class officer photo – not headed to the prom however). Everyone looked really glad to be at GHS and the teachers looked really energetic and capable.

I think that by the time I graduated 9 years later things were different in many ways but still the same in many others. Vietnam and the draft were over and we didn't have a care in the world and I suppose we acted like it. For some reason my classmates didn't seem to be as mature or as adult as the people pictured in your year book. Although we had our vices, and the drinking age was lowered to 18, drugs were not particularly pervasive in 1975 (at GHS). I think that our pranks and the trouble that we caused probably resembled the antics that the class of '66 engaged in more than that of the classes that followed us.

As you know I have known many of your classmates during my lifetime and I will always feel a special bond to your class because of the example that you all set for me in that Grapevine Yearbook for those of us who came later.

I also wanted to thank you again for guiding me through the world of homecoming (in October 2005). It was great fun catching up with you and Linda. I knew that you had a distinguished career and I am so glad and happy to know how well you are both doing. I hope it is not another 25 years or more before we catch up with one another again. Keith Grantham.

Keith's dad served many years after 1966 on the Grapevine School Board and was an excellent School Board Member and is responsible for many of the “good” things that happened for the Grapevine Public Schools and later the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD. Jerry Grantham's contributions are still being felt and will be for years to come.

Since our last newsletter – a number of events have happened. Word came the second day of 2006 that Nancy Pearson (GHS Class of 1965) had passed away after a couple of years of illness. Better Derby Vandiver's husband is battling cancer and had surgery in

early January. Initial findings were that the tumor was smaller than first thought and that the surgery went well and Bill has started treatments. Continue to pray for Bill. We found classmate Carol Smith Strange again....and discovered that she has been battling and dealing daily with fibromyalgia. Carol is in pain and dealing with various medications that also cause her sickness as well. Keep Carol in your prayers as well. Alice Bufford Perkins had moved to Arkansas a few months past and was in search of employment. Alice recently emailed me that she had been hired by Weyerhaeuser and she is excited about her new job and this opportunity. Her work is in Mountain Pine, Arkansas – outside Hot Springs. Continue to keep Alice in your thoughts and prayers as she enters another phase of her life in Arkansas. James (Pat) Tiffin sent me an email in mid-February saying that his wife has been ill the past several months and now she is undergoing cataract surgery in both eyes. James (Pat) said that he was hoping that after the surgery that they would be able to come to Ole Whiskers in April! We hope so, and please keep James (Pat) and his wife in your prayers.

As some of you have read from emails, Van Morrison has long dreamed to be a commercial pilot. After retiring from his Fire Chief position with The Colony last year he had an opportunity....however, due to the “commerce of things” it didn’t last as he had hoped. I wanted to share this with the rest of the class.

Van writes: “**Dreams are often times better off remaining as dreams. There I was sitting in ground school with a bunch of kids learning about a great aircraft. My written exam scores on 'systems' were averaging in the mid to upper 90's (better than at GHS). The kids in the class seemed to be more interested in what it was like to be a firefighter for almost 30 years instead of concentrating on learning about the airplane. The class couldn't have been going any better. I had finally arrived. With all of the information that was being thrown at us, the school was a little like trying to drink from a charged fire hose and I know what that's like. No matter though, it was fun. Then on the last day of class the Chief Pilot came to me with a revised work schedule and a decision had to be made.**

The reserve pilot position was going to end up being every Friday evening from Addison to Oklahoma City then on to Tulsa (overnight in Tulsa) then Saturday back to OKC then on to Lawton Okla. then to DFW (UPS hub) then back to Addison with other 'hot shot' flights thrown into the mix through the week. The original plan was to be part time flying Monday - Thursday with some occasional 'hot shot' work possible. I love to fly, but not at the expense of special family time on the weekend. Getting to share time with our four granddaughters on the weekend (not every weekend) means more to me than getting to fly a Cessna 208 Grand Cargo Master Caravan. So.....after passing the ground school and learning about the new twist on scheduling I declined any further flight training. Believe it or not, I'm really OK with all of that and have found peace with my decision. No regrets.....just a little disappointed.

I am still flying on occasion with a friend in his Cessna 421 and getting some good left seat time in a swell twin engine bird and ferrying aircraft for the RFC Dallas Flying Club to different maintenance bases when they require minor work. Our ole friend Wiley Hokett just bought a new airplane (Piper Turbo Lance II) and he let me check-out in it a couple of weeks ago.....fun airplane. At this point in my life, that's good enough for this ole dog.

We can all relate at least a little if not a lot with what Van has gone thru...at least for a few days...he did live that dream...and, we hope he will have another opportunity soon...hang in there Van Morrison – the ex-Fire Chief, not the Rock Star! We all wish you the best...and, after all is said – you may already have that!

During February, Gary Cumbie, in an attempt to relive some of his pioneering activities of the 1960s ran across a name that “rung a bell”. In visiting with an Alumni of Texas Wesleyan he saw a photo and name of a person that he believed to be Mrs. Hosea, his fourth grade teacher. After doing some investigating (more technically called ‘snooping’) Gary had the email address and sent an email to this lady he believed to be his Fourth Grade Teacher....and, with Gary’s good luck (except when playing poker with Bob Stevenson, Gus Linthicum, Joe Lipscomb, Bob Havran, John Yancey, Darrell Faglie, Jim Box, Rick Stacy and Larry Oliver) – he was right. Mrs. Hosea sent Gary a nice response (I assume from that, she didn’t remember Gary). Anyway, we discovered that John Hosea (who a number of us had as a math teacher in the seventh grade – I think) passed away in the late 1990s. Their son, John, lives in Irving, Texas. And – Mrs. Hosea has accepted our invitation to attend our reunion in June. She is going to be spending the weekend with her son in Irving and will be coming to some of our events. Thanks Gary for following up and it will be great to see and speak with a teacher many of us remember and a number of us (about 28-30) had as one of our teachers.

I hope this Newsletter finds you and your family well....keep us posted on any changes of addresses, phone numbers, etc....and if you’ve not already responded regarding your attendance for the 40th Reunion in June, I hope that you will attempt to attend and see some old folks that have been friends for life...even though we don’t see one another all the time, or if you’re like James (Pat) Tiffin...not since you graduated...Pat is coming...so you might as well too.

Below is an updated list of classmates we are still trying to locate, if you have any ideas, please let me know.

**Jerry Bates Pat Bates Jill Carlson-Williams
Dobie Gill-Lindsey Randy Doty Gail Defibaugh
Kenneth Hughes Doris Jean Jones Bill Tutt
Quentin Hix Betty McQuade Jackie Morgan**

Keep yourself safe and your families close. **[God Bless the GHS Class of 1966!](#)**

Respectfully,
Larry Oliver