

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

DECEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

Can you believe it??? It is December 2007, Christmas is upon us again. As I started putting the GHS Class of 1966 December 2007 Newsletter together many different emotions began to run through what little mind I have remaining. Many events have taken place since the last Newsletter...another school year almost ½ over; we had a bucket full of class birthdays for all those who've already turned sixty; we've had holidays like Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and here comes Christmas and New Years. We have had a little bit of winter in Texas, but not much – guess we will have to wait to see how the end of the month and January and February perform. The only thing that has been like our weather is the stock market as it becomes more and more like Texas weather.

It is not too late to send a/several important Christmas Cards. Take the time to send one or several to this address as a part of your 2007 Christmas –

*A Recovering American soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001*

We continue to have some of our classmates, from other classes, ask to be included in our emails and newsletters. That has been really great and I'm glad that so many others have started staying a little more connected with some OLD friends. We need to keep those memories fresh as we continue to have more and more difficulty in remembering events, people and more especially our own short comings (that was meant to be a joke).

Caroline's husband John has accepted a new position and is so much in demand that he has an office in Dallas and an office in Fort Worth. OK John and Caroline, it is time for you to move closer to Grapevine!

Darrell Faglie's new business with Wright Construction is going well. Darrell is still working on getting his offices completed and hopes to have them ready to move into soon after the first of the year. Donna has made her decision to retire from her teaching position at the end of this school year and to work full time for Darrell – some would say that she has been working full time for Darrell most all her life already! Congratulations to Darrell on the great success of his new business endeavor and to Donna for getting ready to retire from her dedicated many years of “stomping out ignorance” in the HEB ISD.

Another note for Mr. Darrell Faglie, he will be ordained by the First Baptist Church of Grapevine as a Deacon in January 2008!

At Ole Whiskers in November, we had two new folks who showed up. Donny Huber, class of 1968, has moved back to Grapevine. Donny lived next door to Chris Ashton and on the same street (Wall) and just houses away from the likes of Chris, Charles Tenney, Jack Belcher, Wayne Highnote, Earl Stephens, Darrell Faglie, Roger Harrison, David Florence, Doug Moore, Billy

Moore, Linda Blevins, and a number of others. It was good to see Donny and I received an email afterward from him saying what a great time he had visiting with folks.

Another first timer for Ole Whiskers was none other than Terri Gregg Spann who drove over from Keller to join us. It was a surprise – no one knew she was going to be there – and everyone was pleased to see her. This was the first class activity she has been too in a long time. Terri, thanks for joining us, just make sure you don't wait as long to join us again! It was also great to have David Barnes (class of 1963) back with us again at Ole Whiskers and I guess I feel forced to say it was great to have Cindy Fry Barnes (Class of 1968 & David's wife) join us again as well. I will have to admit that Cindy directed our conversations into more uncharted territories than normal...I am not sure we can stand many more and continue to frequent that eatery. We wish David could talk Kathy (his sister / our classmate) into joining us sometime! Kathy, if you are reading this – that was a subtle “hint”.

We are hoping to start alternating locations and will try to begin to have some of our get-togethers in Grapevine to make it a shorter trek for those living in the Fort Worth/Tarrant County area. Stay tuned, as we hope to announce the location for January just after New Year's Day.

In late September, I hosted a little poker event in our home for some life-long poker buddies – who try to get together several times a year to see who can tell the most and/or best lies. Keeping track of that is a most difficult task. I only say this to let you all know that Joe Lipscomb managed to lull us into a stupor and take significant advantage of our “good and giving” nature and relieve, collectively, of well over \$30 in one hand. He should feel ashamed for his evil trickery, but at last check, he was more than proud of his ability to dup us out of our funds. He not only got money from those in attendance, but managed to get money from Yancey and Faglie (both were unable to attend) at a later time. I don't think the rest of us would have felt as inclined to submit after the fact, but these two either were even less cerebral than us or just felt sorry for us and didn't want us to suffer alone. So, keep that in mind if you run into contract with Joe Lipscomb over the holidays in hopes that he will be more giving! Good job Joe, we probably deserved it for falling for such a scam!

I also want to let you all know that in October I was diagnosed with diabetes. With help from my doctor and with support from Baylor Grapevine staff, I have changed my eating habits and started taking medication in hopes that I can control it with diet and oral medication. I am trying my best so that I won't have to move to insulin injections as well. I ask for your prayers as I deal with this disease and try to make enough changes in my life to successfully deal with it.

SEPTEMBER 2007

It was a warm afternoon...lots of sun, a slight easterly breeze and there they were...members of the class of 1966 about to take on the field at the Holten's Drive for SIDS golf tournament at Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club in Keller, Texas. We looked dapper in our professionally designed golf attire. Our clubs were clean; we had new golf balls and an attitude to match. I guess this started out too out of sync to have convinced anyone. Well, we did show up...we being, Rick Stacy, Joe Lipscomb, Gary Cumbie, Jim Box, John Yancey, David Florence, Donna Young Faglie, Darrell Faglie and me – golfers of the purest sense. We were joined by semi-professional golfers: Steve Cumbie, Jay Stacy and Linda Oliver to make up our three foursomes. I didn't actually verify the scores of the Stacy, Stacy, Lipscomb and Florence team or the Cumbie, Cumbie, Box, and Yancey team, but I do know that the Faglie, Faglie, Oliver and Oliver team were not in last place

and actually missed the free golf lessons by at least four strokes. There were a number of miraculous shots that I witnessed – they do have some good shots left for old guys (of course I have left out the ladies who are as young as ever and always hit excellent shots and were always willing to provide priceless suggestions). We will try again someday in the future – when our injuries and egos heal...but, a good time was had by all! The benefit efforts raised over \$30,000 for SIDS! Congratulations to Shawn & Kathy and David & Darlene in such a successful endeavor as Holten's Drive for SIDS! And, thanks to everyone who participated in the event.

OCTOBER 2007

October 22, 2007....the first really cool day of the fall; it was misting, somewhat foggy and windy. I got to work early, with the idea of getting some things done so that I could attend the funeral services for one of the people who had a great impact on my life. Today, I and others would say goodbye to Jesse Irvin Stockton. Jess was born on May 8, 1924. He left this world to be with the Lord on October 20, 2007.

I first met Mr. Stockton in the fall of 1956 – (Jim Stockton was in my third grade class). He soon convinced me that I should be in the band. Little did I even suspect that he would be such an influence in my life. Over several years he worked to train me in playing a musical instrument. First, I played the clarinet (not a very masculine horn). Within the next year, he persuaded me into changing to a tenor saxophone with the expectation of eventually playing in the stage band – the fun music. At this point, you have to understand or remember that 7th graders were in the High School Band. But, it was that prospect – stage band - that kept me in band when so many of my classmates opted out for sports – football, basketball, etc. that came with our entry into Junior High School. In Junior High School, I was even fortunate to secure a first chair tenor saxophone position in the High School All District Band. I did make it into the stage band, and band became a huge part of my life.

I made so many friends in band. I have so many special memories of band. In band, I met older classmates who taught me all the finer aspects of being an upper classman (of course some of those things also got me into trouble). I got to know people that I would probably have never gotten to know as well – like Ellen Deacon, Jo Ann Shoaf, Bill Cherry, Linda Stockstill, John Brogdon, Jimmy Ledwell, Brent Germany, John Rienicke, James Naler, Ray Yarbrough, Carol Alering, Jesse Hilliard, Joey Vaughn, Gail Armstrong, Ken Griffin, Molly Lane, John Mitcham, Ronald Beard, Barbara Vaughn, Doug Alberts and Kathy Logan, just to name a few. Of course that didn't even count those classmates from the class of 1965 – Kerry McCombs, Ralph Eidson, James Buckner, Bill Crabtree, Barbara Morris, Jeannie Smith, Gail Hutchinson, Charles Tenney, Pat Biggerstaff, Nancy Pearson, Bob Case, Beverly Hodges, and others. Nor does that include so many great friends that were under-classmen – like Earl Stephens, Randy Vinson, Jeannie Dalton, Linda Graham, Diane Cherry, Charles Lancaster, Mark Shryack, Jimmy Hammock, Jackie Belcher, Patti Buckner, Tommy Taylor and others. So, my circle of acquaintances was greatly expanded by my being in the GHS Band.

With all that said, I have to tell you that it was Jess Stockton who I got to know so very well as a person – not just as a teacher / band director. With his son Jim being in our class, I often visited their home. I got to know the family. I found out how much Jess like to fish. I remember when he got a Whitehouse Boat. How much he liked to mess with cars. I met his wife, Jim's mother, Dorothy. What a wonderful lady she is. I got to go places with the family. I got to go to the State Fair so many times with them (Jess played in the Cotton Bowl band) that I can never think

about the Texas State Fair that it doesn't quickly bring back the many memories I experienced there with the Stocktons. I got to go on trips to Brownwood with the Stage Band and compete in UIL competitions at many places. I got to go to the State Solo & Ensemble State Contest every year in high school. I got to hear some great high school, some great college, and some great professional musicians – just by being asked to tag along. My appreciation for music expanded beyond my wildest belief.

I got to make up songs like “Jesse, Jesse Stockton, King of the Wild Dance Bands” that we sang on the bus to Brownwood. I discovered what a great sense of humor Jess had...I truly enjoyed hearing him laugh, so I tried to say something “funny” every chance I got. I especially remember the time I was with Mr. Stockton on a trip to town and returning to the band hall we could see just the head of my dear friend Bob Lawrence looking out the window. In an attempt to get a laugh from Mr. Stockton, I said “Look, hit the Monkey and get an extra 40 points”. It worked, Mr. Stockton did laugh out loud...well worth the dig at my good friend Bob. Of course, I must admit that similar efforts at other times got me into trouble.

We had the band paper drive; to raise money for uniforms - where we rode around picking up paper families saved for our fund raiser – what great fun he made work. Of course, I have to admit that he could also be serious. He worked the band hard; he wanted us to be successful and knew that it took work and dedication to make that happen. But, he also allowed us to be kids when time (and effort) permitted. I think most of the band members were truly disappointed that he left our senior year for Highland Park – we won the first FIRST DIVISION award in the UIL Marching contest our senior year. I know that most of us gave a lot of the credit for that Division I Marching Award to Mr. Stockton and hated that he wasn't there to share in it with us.

He introduced us to private teachers, like George Gaidosch. He exposed us to concerts with professional musicians and college stage bands. However, the most important thing was that he cared about us. He wanted the best for us. He was one of our strongest advocates. He treated us fairly and honestly. He modeled so many fine qualities for us. He was not just a teacher and mentor; he was a friend in the truest sense. I wish I had of thanked him personally within the past few years. I did speak with him on the phone several years ago, and he remembered so many things that happened, he asked about so many that were a part of the GHS Band during his years in Grapevine. What a wonderful man, what a great influence he had on so many lives. We in the class of 1966 and many others will miss you Jesse Irvin Stockton, but please know your work and influence was not in vain, but the qualities you instilled in so many continue to be passed down from generation to generation...you helped to make us better human beings. Thank you so very much.

Classmate Penny Parker Mayfield's, Phil Parker's, Jane's and Jean's mother Imogene Parker passed away this October. What a wonderfully lady and what a wonderful family. The service was very special, in that her grandson led the service. It was very beautiful and had many great messages for everyone who attended. Continue to keep Penny, Phil, Jane, Jean and other family members in your thoughts and prayers.

Classmate Sharon Huffman Smith lost her mother in the early morning hours of October 12th from a massive stroke. Sharon's mother was 86 years old and still living alone. The evening before she had attended a Sunday School class outdoor dinner at Sharon's home, where she visited and enjoyed everyone. Sharon indicated that she had been in good health right up until

her stroke. During the Holiday Season of Thanksgiving and Christmas it is especially difficult to deal with the loss of a parent, please keep Sharon and her family in your prayers.

Sharon told me that Gayle Shumate was there to give her a big hug during the difficult time. You know we continue to realize how fortunate we were to have teachers and administrators during our school years. They even continue to serve us, mentor us, support us and love us – even after more years than we would want to admit. We continue to be blessed by the likes of Gayle Shumate, Tom Walker, Coach Boydston, Harlan Jewett, and Edith Pewitt. I know that there are others, but how blessed we were and continue to be by their presence in our lives.

NOVEMBER 2007

Harold and Betty Sharp, parents of 1965 graduate Bobby Sharp, were fatally injured in a one car automobile crash on November 7th. Bobby's sister Kay Sharp Wade was a 1968 graduate of GHS. The Sharp family was very active members in Memorial Baptist Church during the time they lived in Grapevine. They had moved to East Texas many years ago. Some of us know too well the difficulties and grief in losing our parents, but to lose them both at the same time is beyond my thought process. Please keep the Sharp family in your prayers during the Christmas Season when such losses are so difficult.

Classmate Jim Box had emergency eye surgery on Tuesday, November 11th for a detached retina. The surgery went very well and he is recovering at home. Nancy is taking excellent care of him! Jim just returned to work – ½ days at a time, but is doing well. Keep Jim in your prayers during this recovery time.

Gus Linthicum's sister Jeannie passed away on or about November 10th due to a sudden respiratory infection. The services were held in Granbury. Please continue to keep Gus, Sherry and Tony in your thoughts and prayers as they go through the Christmas season with such a loss.

DECEMBER 2007

December 8, 2007 has come and gone. We had our fourth annual GHS Class & Friends Christmas Get-Together at our home this year. We had about 40 guests show up for our "Pot Luck Dinner" (which was excellent as usual) and White Elephant Gift Exchange that had numerous truly significant "White Elephants" this year. After experiencing a record high of 84 degrees the day before, the cool front arrived about dusk and the temperature did get cooler at least – to make it seem more like the Christmas Season. We also want to thank Johnnie Mae for bringing a special guest – BEVERLY HORTON, who joined in with the group for a fun evening. Cumbie finally got to hug Ms. Horton and we all know that has been a fantasy of his for years....so to Gary Cumbie (our youngest classmate) – MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I do hope that more will join in with us in the coming years as this is a great time to enjoy a group of great friends (some would definitely refer to us as "OLD Friends), enjoy some great food, some wonderful fellowship and some great sharing of the Christmas Season and lots of "Wishes for a Merry Christmas".

I wanted to provide you with an update on Diane Stacy. I had an email from Diane on Sunday, December 9th, and she said that she was doing better each time (after treatments). They, the doctors, have given her a new drug to help rebuild her blood faster and the side effect is an excruciating headache. Otherwise, the other side effects are lessening, according to Diane. On

December 26th she is scheduled for her last “bad” treatment, and then if other things check out, she can start the 12 weekly treatments. She said that after mid-April she hopes to begin to grow hair back and feel more human again. Continue to keep Diane, Rick and the family in your thoughts and prayers as she continues to undergo cancer treatments and deal with all the issues those treatments bring with them.

It seems as though Christmas gets here faster and faster each year. Christmas is such a splendid time of the year. I never get tired of seeing such wonder in the eyes of the young children, I never tire of fond Christmas memories, I never tire of seeing family and friends and wishing one another “Merry Christmas!” (if you’re not trying to be too politically correct). I never tire of “giving” during the Christmas Season. I never tire of seeing and hearing carolers, and I never tire of seeing decorations that include Santa Claus and reminders of Christ – our true reason to celebrating. However, I never get used to the overkill of the commercialism, the ever increasing prices for presents (if you’re not trying to be too politically correct), or people asking us to say “Happy Holidays” rather than “Merry Christmas”. I never understood why we were encouraged to say “Happy Holidays”. I never enjoy taking down the decorations. I still remember our school Christmas Pageants in Elementary School...reminds me of how great Mrs. Hemley impacted our lives. I have truly enjoyed our class Christmas Events over the past three years! I never get tired of thinking how much my Dad liked to just get a few more presents for everyone the last few days before Christmas. Dad seemed to get into Christmas just a few days before and seemed to hide it well up until then. I enjoy remembering how much my Dad like Egg Nog, leftover turkey and all the sweets of Christmas. Tish made Christmases so bright, exciting, and fun...I miss her and Dad and I’m sure we will miss our dog Bogey this year...last year was his 10th Christmas with us, but he succumbed to cancer about two weeks later. We all have those in our families and good friends and pets that we miss, but we need to thank God for sharing them with us and thank Him for the joys they brought to our lives for time we had. Don’t let the Christmas Season end without contacting an old friend or family member you don’t see very often and tell them how much they have meant to you over the years – that will make for a very Merry Christmas. That is also the reason we need to cherish the time with family and friends during the Christmas Season. I hope this Christmas is one you will always recall with fondness, true celebration of the birth of Christ, and the great times with family, friends and even some old GHS Classmates –

MADE GOD BLESS THE GHS CLASS OF 1966
AND
MERRY CHRISTMAS Y’ ALL!

Respectfully,
Larry Oliver