

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS of 1966

JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Classmates of the Class of 1966, GHS Classmates, and Friends! It is hard to believe that it is already summertime 2008...not sure most of us even considered 2008 during our time in school and just where we, this community, this school district, and this country would be. No other generation has experienced the massive changes we have experienced in their lifetimes – changes in the world, changes in culture, changes in education, changes in space, change in medicine, changes in transportation, and changes in exploration. It gives us many things to ponder and even more to be praying about.

Since our last newsletter (March 2008), time has moved quickly. It would appear that June 2008, will mark the first time that the United States of America will have an African – American as a major party candidate for President. Whether or not you support his candidacy, this is truly an historical event we are experiencing that impacts many facets of life in this country and this country's future. My only advice, which I'm not sure it actually matters or that I have any right to offer any, is that you learn everything you can about each candidate, then pray for guidance!

On June 1, 2008, Darrell & Donna Faglie and Linda & I attended the funeral service of Kent Kennedy's Mom – Melba Cole Kennedy. It was a very nice service. It certainly helped continue to confirm my feelings about the parents of our generation – their love of family, their appreciation of some of the small, but beautiful parts of life, friendships, loyalty, dedication, perseverance, and the love of God. It was good to see Kent's brother Lynn, and his sisters Kaye and Anne whom I have not seen in many years. It was so obvious to see the impact of Kent's Mother on not only her children, but the grand-children. It made those present very sorry that she was leaving us, but it also allowed us to truly celebrate a wonderful and loving life. Please continue to keep Kent and the entire Kennedy family in your prayers as they deal with such a great loss, and help them be so very thankful and joyful of her influence on so many lives.

It was also in early June that I received word that Donna Wommack's mother passed away. Even though, I didn't personally know Mrs. Wommack, I certainly knew her children and knew and often heard of her influence for so many years at the First Baptist Church of Colleyville. Please continue to keep Donna and her family in your prayers as they too must deal with this difficult loss.

I wanted to provide you with an update on Diane Stacy. This came from her the second week of June. She said that she was "hanging in there". Everyone, especially Diane, had hoped that the treatment that was making her so very ill would be completed by this time. However, due to the reactions, that was delayed and she was scheduled for that last of the "bad stuff" Friday, June 13th. Diane indicated that she would plan on having some "heavy drugs" to help with the reactions for the following two or three weeks. After that time, she would have one drug every three weeks until February 2009, but that medication doesn't have such adverse reactions for her. She said that she has been able to go along pretty well for a time, then BOOM – it all seems to gang up on her. Please continue to keep Diane in your prayers and the whole family.

On the afternoon of June 5, 2008, I received a telephone call from Russell Kidd informing me of the unexpected death of Tommy Henderson (GHS Class of 1969). Tommy was the current year president of the Grapevine High School Ex-student Association. I, as many of you, have known Tommy and his family most of our lives. Visitation was held on Sunday, June 8, 2008 and his service was held Monday, June 9, 2008 at Foust Funeral Home in Grapevine. Please keep the family and friends of Tommy Henderson in your prayers as they grieve this unexpected loss.

On Saturday, June 7th, we had another GHS Get Together at the Golden Corral at Grapevine Mills Mall. In our last newsletter (March 2008) you read of our first such event in Grapevine where we had 45 people

show up with 36 classmates representing classes from 1970, 1968, 1967, 1966, 1965, and 1963. Well, this month we had 46 people attend (see list of attendees below this paragraph), with 37 GHS classmates from the classes of 1958 (one classmate), 1961 (one classmate), 1963 (two classmates), 1964 (one classmate), 1965 (two classmates), 1966 (ten classmates), 1967 (six classmates), 1968 (three classmates), 1969 (three classmates), 1970 (six classmates), 1971 (one classmate), and 1973 (one classmate). We also had nine spouses and guests (non-GHS graduates) that included Tom Walker and his daughter Valerie (Class of 1973). We had a larger room and we did have sufficient space and room enough for people to move around and visit. We started at 6 p.m. and people stayed and visited until 9 p.m. It was a great time and with a number of new people joining us this time. And, from the emails I received, we can anticipate some others the next time! So stay tuned for Golden Corral III coming to Grapevine Mills in September 2008!

Golden Corral, June 7, 2008: Randy (66) & Pat (69) Flanagan, Gary (66) & Jane Cumbie, Doug Moore (66), Lavoy (66) & Jeannette Grider, Linda Dush Mills (69), John (67) & Jeanne Self, Eddie & Jeannie Dalton (67) Cheatham, Leroy & Pam Story (65) McCain, James (67) & Leann Baber, Wayne (68) & Evelyn Highnote, David (63) & Cindy Fry (68) Barnes, Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle (64), Darrell (66) & Donna Young (66) Faglie, Jerry Albano (63), Jim Williamson (70), Mark Shryack (70), Linda Yarbrough Hawkins (67), Van Morrison (66), Charlie & Sharon Huffman Smith (66), Tom Walker and daughter Valerie (73), Janice Tillery (58), Gail Hutchison Reneau (65), Johnnie Mae Washington Braddock (66), Janice Tillery (58), Gary (70) & Bunny Loges, Linda Hamlin (67), Cyndi Powell (69), Beth Harrelson (70), Hoyt (70) & Beth Adams (70) Moore, Ross (68) & Joanie Trinkle (71) Scott, and Larry (66) & Linda Ethridge (67) Oliver. We also had nine Spouses & Guests: Jeanne Self, Leann Baber, Eddie Cheatham, Jeannette Grider, Jane Cumbie, Evelyn Highnote, Charlie Smith, Tom Walker, and Bunny Loges.

During June 2008 - days before and just after the great time had at GOLDEN CORRAL II, I received few emails from a number of GHS Classmates I have not heard from in a long time. Each of these asked to be included in our emails, Newsletters, and notifications of future "Get Togethers". I had a chance to visit a little with Francis Emery Hendrix and Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle at Melba Kennedy's service. They each provided me with their email addresses and asked to be included, and as you noticed in the report on Golden Corral II, Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle was able to attend! Francis emailed me that she would not, but hoped to be at the next one.

Kathy then proceeded to contact some of her classmates and I ended up hearing from Sandra Polovkas Stephens, GHS Class of 1964, who asked to be included in the future. Then came an email from Bob Havran's sister, Susan Havran Carter (Class of 1964). Then came an email from John Mitcham, now going by Bart Mitcham (GHS Class of 1964). Then came an email from Julie Yancey Florence and Don Florence (Classes of 1964 and 1962 respectively). Then from John Forshee (Class of 1964). I had also received an email asking to add Wesley and Gwen Sanders Crow (Class of 1964) to our list. I also spoke with John Brogdon (1964) and Pat Biggerstaff Brogdon (Class of 1965) from a phone number provided by John/Bart Mitcham. So, you can see that our readership and friends continue to see out one another in a celebration of our times growing up and our common experiences (good, bad, beautiful and even ugly) in Grapevine Public Schools during a GREAT TIME in our lives.

On Sunday morning, June 8, 2008, at approximately 5 a.m., Arlene Faglie Dickerson (Sister of Darrell Faglie and wife of Doyle Dickerson) suffered a heart attack at her home in Alvord, Texas. She was care-flighted into North Hills Hospital and had a touch-and-go situation existing for a number of hours Sunday morning. She then had open-heart surgery on Wednesday, June 11th, with two bypass procedures. She is recovering and hopes to go home early the week of June 16th. After a month or so at home and if all goes well, she will need to have some gall bladder surgery that they have delayed until she has recovered adequately. Please keep Arlene and the Faglie and Dickerson families in your prayers.

REMINDER:

The second annual HOLTON'S DRIVE for SIDS Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2008 at Sky Creek Ranch Golf Course in Keller. This is the fund raiser tournament started last September after the loss of David and Darlene Florence's grandson Holton due to SIDS. Please mark your calendars and go to www.holtonsdriveforsids.com for more information.

Most of you already know that on Monday, June 9th, Coach/Mr./Friend Tom Walker was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Many have sent some very nice emails to Tom, which I have printed for his reading. Tom is in good spirits and is positive about his treatment and success of the treatment. Tom has meant so much too so many of us for so many years. Tom has attended many of our reunions and a number of

our GET TOGETHERS over the years – he was in attendance on June 7th this month for GOLDEN CORRAL II and brought his daughter Valerie (Class of 1973) along with him. I wanted to share some of the emails from our friends and classmates that I have provided to Tom (See below). Please add Tom to your prayer lists as he deals with this cancer and as he goes through the treatments. Tom does not have email, but you can certainly send him a card at 1145 Butterfield, Grapevine, Texas 76051.

BELOW IS WHAT I HAVE GIVEN TO TOM FROM EMAILS I HAVE RECEIVED:

Dear Tom,

I thought I should share a few of the emails I have received with comments from lots of folks regarding your current medical condition...but, mostly to let you know just what an impact you've had on so many students over the years...I feel you should know, but I also feel you needed to read some of these first hand and I expect that you'll be reading more. Please know that so many of your former students appreciate the personal attention you showed us during our Grapevine Public Schools years....we often fail to express them at the more appropriate times – I know how much these sort of comments mean to you. I know because unlike almost all of these people, I not only had the opportunity to have you helping me become an adult from my 7th grade through my senior year (Jr. High to Senior High Golf Team), I had the opportunity of having you as a mentor during my time with you as an assistant principal from 82-84 at Grapevine Middle and then worked some with you later at the administration building. You deserve to see these comments of sincere thanks and know that you have an army of folks with you these days and for years to come. You should also know how much prayer support you have/will have over this period of upcoming treatment. A thank you could never be enough, but let me and others try.

Larry Oliver

Larry O would you please pass my email to GHS folks, too
WOW.....he is such a special person to each of us in so many different ways.....
Ol Tom probably whooped a few of you guys back sides and a few galsbut, he did it because he wanted you to turn out good.....and HOW GOOD IS THIS !!!
thanks for sharing your thoughts with everyone.....
HANG IN THERE, BIG TOM.....YOU ARE SO LOVED !!!!!!!
Pat Tillery Weeks (Class of 1967)

Larry

My prayers are with Tom and his family! We were just mentioning at our Alumni Gathering recently how it is difficult for us to refer to him as "Tom"...when we were so use to calling him "Mr. Walker". Whichever name we use for him....we all know him as being KIND and RESPECTFUL and VERY VERY "GENUINE"! Absolutely an outstanding TEACHER and an AWESOME PRINCIPAL!!! We are still learning from him. I've NEVER..EVER heard anyone say anything BAD about him! So let's show our support by joining in PRAYER and by letting him KNOW how much he means to each of us. He took me aside at school one time and told me that I needed to hold my head up when I walked with others. He said I was WORTH MUCH MORE THAN I GAVE MYSELF CREDIT...and I can hear his words as clearly as if it was yesterday! He took the TIME to CARE and he CONTINUES TO TAKE THE TIME TO CARE ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE! Hopefully he knows how much WE CARE ABOUT HIM! Cindy Frye Barnes

Thanks Larry- Please extend my very best wishes to Tom. I know a number of people that have had this 'seeding' treatment with very good results. He and his family will be in our prayers.

Susan Havran Carter (1964)

Thanks for letting me know, Larry.
All the best,
Mary Banks (1965)

Larry,

"Coach" is in fact a significant part of the person so many of us have become. HE is one of the very reasons growing up in a small town like Grapevine is so priceless.

Tom, along with so many others including Mickey Koonce, Mrs. Bickers, Mavis Huffman, Gail Shumate, Buster Copp, Carolyn Frank and of course Madeline Hemley, gave so many of us the foundation upon which we have built the rest of our personalities and lives. They are so much a part of the value system we have wrapped ourselves around, and hopefully still find comfort in remembering.

While under the most sorrowful of circumstances in mourning the shocking death of Tommy Henderson this past weekend, it was a walk down memory lane seeing Coach Walker again after so many years. We recounted stories of those days decades ago, when he was our (Class of 1969 boys) first football coach. I can still vividly remember his having to convince my mother I wouldn't suffer mortal injuries if she'd let me play 7th grade football. She had no way of knowing how important that single event would ultimately be in my own growth and development.

But it was Coach Walker that convinced her.

We can all relate so many tales of our experiences with him, but this past weekend's events also remind us how important it now is for each of us to reach back to help those who were so helpful to us in our formative years. This same commentary can be applied to so many of our old small town citizens and mentors, but recent events certainly highlight the importance of being there for each other and encouraging each other and helping each other as much as we can. Because we certainly don't want to awake some day and learn the sad truth that we may have waited too late to be of help or even say "Thank You" to those who have been so important to who we are and what we stand for. Reach out to Coach Walker and others before it's too late.

David Hardin, Class of 1969

Tom Walker has always been my hero and I am so glad that everyone is thinking of him at this time. He was the first person that my brother Larry and I met when we moved to Grapevine back in 1961 and he was the reason Larry was able to play basketball because my dad worked at night and he told my mother that if she would let him play he would pick him up and bring him home. You don't find that kind of person anymore and as I said before he is and always will be my hero. Linda Hamlin (Class of 1967)

Larry,

I called Tom today and talked for a long time. I had the good fortune of playing for him in all sports and then teaching/coaching for him for 5 years. I can also say that I never heard anyone say anything bad about the man. He is the reason that I became a coach. He is feeling positive about his condition and seemed in good spirits. I hope to take him to lunch next week.

Jay Starnes (Class of 1965)

Larry,

I'll never forget the first time I met the Tom Walker. He was calling roll in Science Class my sophomore year. When he called my name – he asked me to stand and asked if I was related to Arthur Post. When I replied that he was my uncle, he explained that he had attended a local high school with Art. Then during college, my mom and his Janelle were part of the college symphony. Both couples traveled together on the symphony trips. Such a small world – I didn't even know that they knew each other in college until this spring.

I've had the pleasure of seeing Coach Walker over the years. Always greeted with a big smile, a bear hug, and a very warm – how are you doing – it's great to see you. We were blessed at GHS with teachers who inspired, motivated, and encouraged each of us to reach for our goals – whatever they might be.

After reading all of the emails – we really need to make sure we share these memories and kudos with our special friend. It's very apparent that he touched many lives forever. What a very special person.

Thanks to all of you for your wonderful memories. Kathy (Post) Wood (Class of 1967)

Larry,

Thanks once again for keeping us all informed. My thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Walker. He is one of my most admired teachers at Grapevine ISD. I wonder if he has any idea what a positive impact he has had on so many of us? Isn't it amazing how he still remembers everyone's name?!!!! I sure can't do that! Jeannie Dalton Cheatham (Class of 1967)

Hi Larry,

I appreciate your e-mail telling me about Tom Walker. He was like a father to me when I needed a father most. I hate to think what I might have become had it not been for Tom Walker. Tom is and always has been a man amongst men!

M.C. Sims, Jr.
Class of '65

Larry,

Thanks again for all you do to keep us all together. No other school or home town for that matter has the feel of closeness we all enjoy. I am always amazed at the support given to each other in time of need and the enjoyment we all receive from our visits. It is always enjoyable to visit with Tom Walker and I was so glad he remembered to come this time. Tom has always been there for all of us. Tom was a model citizen as well as a great teacher. I know I had the utmost respect for Tom during my school years and even more so since being an adult. I don't know how he does it but Tom remembers everyone and everything that ever happened that they were involved in. Sometimes I hope he forgets some of the things he caught me doing. I never go to a visitation or funeral in Grapevine that I don't see Tom; he is always there with sincere support and love. What a great person to love and look up to.

Darrell Faglie (1966)

LARRY, I HAVE WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF A GREAT COACH & FINE MAN. WISHING HIM WELL !! Larry Cox (Class of 1966)

Thanks, Larry for the email about Mr. Walker "Tom". He is the best. I will always remember what fun times we had at GHS. Mr. Walker was such a leader and a wonderful role model... What an example he set for all of us. But I wanted to let y'all know that my father had this cancer with the same procedure about 25 years ago and is doing great! He is 88 years old and still driving!

Joanie Trenkle Scott (Class of 1971)

Thanks for the info on COACH WALKER ! We all love him very much! AS M. C. Sims said, He is a man among men. My prayers go out for him. He had a huge impact on my life even after I left school and joined the NAVY and went to Nam. God Bless Him!!
Tommy Tucker

Mr. Walker (and he will always be Mr. Walker to me - if I get to be 102, he'll still be Mr. Walker), how can one man influence so many lives and have the ability to call everyone by their name years afterward? I can't think of him without seeing his great smile. As for coaching, the guys may have had the advantage in the sports department, but we were all influenced by his "life coaching".

Ellen VanDeventer Hamlett
GHS - Class of 1966

Tom Walker will always be Coach Walker to me. My first association with him was as my 7th grade football coach. From the very beginning he taught me that losing shouldn't feel good.

We had played our very first football game and were beaten pretty badly. On the bus trip home I was still so excited about actually having played a real football game that I couldn't stop talking about it. Tom walked back to where I was sitting and let me know that we had lost, and when you lose you are to be quiet and reflect on the loss. That taught me a lot about awareness, purpose, focus, team, and attention to the job at hand.

So Coach, thanks for a lesson that has continued to direct me for nearly 50 years.

You have a big team out here supporting you. Chris Ashton (Class of 1966)

Several months ago, a number of classmates from the GHS Class of 1966 discussed a possible trip opportunity for the summer of 2009. After some discussion, we are attempting to see about the possibility of putting together a seven day or so train trip through the Canadian Rockies. We hope to have some information and cost estimates sometime in July. Once that information arrives and more particulars are assembled, we will put out the information to see how many of you might be interested in joining in on such an excursion! This would be similar to our trip/cruise to Alaska in 2005, except we would hope the train wouldn't have to go into dry-dock for a prop change! Anyway...stay tuned for more information to come and start thinking about joining with a group of GHS life-long friends for an invasion of Canada in the summer of 2009!

The Newsletter of June 2008 has been an emotional roller-coaster for me to write, it is filled with some great memories, and with some very sad and some very difficult information as well. I guess it is times like these that can cause us all to reflect on life, our childhood years, our adolescent years, our high school years, our very young adult years, our adult lives with all the valleys and hills life has to offer. But, it also most likely lets us realize again that we were so very fortunate to grow up in a town like Grapevine (and for some – Colleyville) Texas during the 1950s and 1960s. We realize how much we learned about life, about community, about friendship, companionship, mentors, leaders, family, and our teachers. We can easily reflect back and see how so many people influenced us, guided us and in many ways enriched and even extended our lives. I hope that each of you after reading this Newsletter spend a few minutes reflecting. Then I hope you are able to put some of that reflection into action, whether you email, call or write an old friend or an adult who influenced your life or a family member you've not expressed your appreciation to over the years. We are a product of our environment and our upbringing in so many more ways than we ever really stop and realize. Don't let opportunities escape; don't let old friends get too far away from you. We have so much to be thankful for and unfortunately time gets away rather quickly. God Bless each of you; God Bless our times and growing up in Grapevine, Texas; God Bless GHS; and as always God Bless the GHS Class of 1966!

Respectfully,
Larry Oliver