

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

The year 2008 is winding down rather quickly (as have most years of late), and by the time you get another Class Newsletter we will have a new President. This election year is one of the most confounding I've seen. I hope and pray whoever gets elected can be GREAT! However at this point (Please ignore my editorial comments), I wish we could start over. At any rate I hope each and every one of you who read this Newsletter, keep these candidates and our country in your prayers – we are in definite need of all the help the Lord can provide.

OK, politics aside...

This past few months, since the last Newsletter have flown by and many things have happened to our classmates and friends and time continues to get away from us at a faster and faster rate. Our parents warned us that the days go by faster and faster the older we get...boy were they ever right!

I have been trying to keep up with Rick and Diane Cherry Stacy – since Ricks surgery in July...but, after recovering at their Lake House, they were off to the Mediterranean with their son Jay and his wife. Diane emailed me this week saying that they were doing great. Rick recovered well from his surgery, still hasn't played golf but just because they've been out of town. Diane is still doing treatments every week and is continuing to make adjustments to make them more comfortable. She said that they are not too bad, but cause extreme itching if she gets out in the heat. They truly enjoyed their time with Jay and his wife on the trip. Diane said that they had a fantastic time. Please keep Rick and Diane in your prayers as they continue to recover.

David Barnes is scheduled for some tests on his heart in October. Of course he says it is "really no big deal". They will do an angiogram to check for any blockage. If they find any, they will put a stent in while they're there. As of now he doesn't have any issues, but they can not be certain there's not a problem without performing the tests. He said that he could use all the prayers we can spare even if he wasn't going to have the test. So, please keep David in your prayers.

As most of you know, James Baber had surgery on his leg (again) in August. Unfortunately, they had to go back in after the surgery and try again. The good news is that James is up and about and is recovering. I know that each of you join me in wishing James a speedy recovery, but just as importantly, we want to pray for that recovery for his wife, Leann, as well....I can only imagine what an excellent patient James has been – he has been such an obedient fellow ever since he was a small child! James, we are very glad to hear that you're doing well.

I also know that most of you are aware of the heart attack suffered by '63 graduate Donny Kaker (GHS Class of 1963)...here is the story –

AN EMAIL TO ME AND RON STACY FROM BEVERLY KAKER on DONNY AFTER HIS HEART ATTACK WHILE IN COLORADO THIS SUMMER: First, I want to thank you both for a "job well done" keeping all informed on a very day by day changing situation on Donny's critical heart attack and the days after. Phil and Eric Parker

reported accurate information. Phil and Jeannette were already at their house in Co. when Donny and I drove up (with friends from Ark) July 24th. We were at our house in Co. and had just returned from going out to dinner when Donny asked me to call 911. On arrival of the EMT's they called for the careflight. This decision probably saved his life. Our house to the Denver heart center takes about 1 1/2 hrs. to drive and the careflight took 20 minutes. Donny did have a heart attack that night and was taken immediately in for surgery. The doctor "put in" 2 stents in the artery where he had the heart attack on July 24th and had to stop the procedure due to Donny's failing health at that time. In the early morning hours of the 25th the doctor called me into the CICU and advised me to call Russell and Regina to come to Denver. Also during this time, Phil, Jeannette, our Ark. friends and I began to pray and call all we knew to lift Donny to our Great Physician and Comforter. Donny was put on a ventilator at this time and placed in a drug induced coma to take the pressure off his heart. The idea was to let his body try to "recover" so they could repair another artery that was 95% plus clogged. On July 29th (Russell's birthday; what a gift from his dad) the doctor was able to remove the ventilator and discontinue the drugs. He stayed in the hospital where he continued to improve and began sitting in a chair and walking. He progressed at a rapid speed. On Aug. 2nd he was dismissed from the hospital and I brought him to the hotel where I had been staying from July 24th. He continued to rest and get stronger and went back into the hospital on Aug. 8th. The doctor "put in" 4 stents into the artery that he was not able to fix on the 24th. After spending the night and "doing well", Donny was released the next day. Our son in law Matt, flew to Denver to be with us for this procedure and drove us home. Not sure if I will ever leave home again!! Donny has seen his cardio. here and will have more test and will start rehab, as soon as he is cleared. We know so many prayers were for Donny's recovery and for my strength. We thank each one of you for your love, care, calls, cards and most of all your prayers. We will always give God the Glory for this miracle. The doctors even had to recognize the miracle. We know Donny's history and family history of heart/vascular disease and this has not been a fix, but a progression. Donny will continue seeing his doctors every 3 months and following their advise. He is going to the office for a while each day; not to work, just to go!!! For all that sent cards and were returned to you, I'm sorry (hearing from you all has helped). We do not receive any mail at Camelot Dr. All mail goes to our office: 2022 W. NW Hwy., Suite #210, Grapevine, TX. 76051. Larry, what a wonderful idea to have this way of reaching friends. We thank you for "allowing" us this opportunity to express our appreciation. Your time is recognized. Use what you wish, I email like I talk!!!.....long. Love to all, Beverly

Beverly, we all thank you for sharing this with us and continue to pray for Donny's continuing recovery and well being...yours too!

GHS 1970 graduate, Gary Loges, was taken to surgery this past Friday, September 19th at 3:41 p.m. In an email I was told that they removed an extensive abscess from his heart. They replaced his Aortic Valve and Mitral Valve. They were able to remove the bacteria from the tricuspid valve. The wires were placed in for his temporary pacemaker. These procedures took 12 hours to complete. He was to be heavily sedated for the next two days. Please no visitors allowed until his condition has stabilized. I received an update on Monday evening saying that his chest drains had been removed. Received word on Tuesday that the respirator and feeding tube have been removed....doing OK. Please keep Gary and his family in your prayers.

I received an email from Pat Flanagan, wife of Randy/Jim/Mouse Flanagan and Randy goes back to the lung doctor on September 25th and they will be taking X-rays and see how his lungs are doing with the current medication. He has had Laser Surgery on his eyes twice in the last three months due to the blood vessels leaking and resulting in blood pooling behind his eye. He goes back to the Infectious Disease doctor in October and he will also be going back to visit his heart doctor in the near future. He continues to have some pain in his chest, but Pat doesn't know if it is heart or lung related or neither. He does still get tired easily and when he gets run down he gets sick. Pat said that she is doing pretty well – other than not knowing, she said that Mouse says she is too mean to let things get her down. In spite of Mouse's comment, I think Mouse and Pat could use our continued prayers. GET WELL SOON MOUSE!

In an email I received from Cathy Anderson, (one of the GHS Anderson Graduates – Andrea, Jim, Marilyn, Cathy, etc.) informed me that James (GHS Class of 1965) was in a bad accident on Thursday, September 18th. Cathy was headed to Tyler to help out when he gets released from ICU. Please keep James Anderson in your prayers during his recovery.

Sheila Cox, wife of Larry Cox, sent me an email this week to provide me an update on Larry. Larry recently retired after working 60-100 hours a week since way before he got out of high school! At any rate, he has retired but continues to be plagued with heart issues. Sheila's email said that Larry was doing alright, but that they were disappointed his recent surgery did nothing to relieve the angina attacks, fatigue, etc. He went back to his heart doctor on September 23rd. His doctor believes the pain is coming from blockage in the back of the heart. Larry takes eight medications each day including one nitro tablet. Dr. told Larry to start taking the Nitro twice – once in the morning and one in the evening. Larry is and has been a happy person by nature, his entire life, and enjoys the simple things of life. This is certainly a blessing for the family – Larry's attitude is paying great dividends. He says "I don't drink, don't smoke and watch my diet but, I will not sit in my recliner and feel sorry for myself. Sheila says that he has some bad days, but seldom complains. Please, please keep Larry Cox and Sheila in your prayers as they work on getting Larry to feel better, and pray for his doctors to help them find procedures or medication that can help Larry to feel better and be his "happy self"Larry has been a great friend to many in our class – he and I were neighbors when we started the first grade. It is one of the great benefits of being a member of the GHS Class of 1966 and just being a GHS graduate with the many life-long friendships over the years.

The last Saturday of the month of September is the Second Annual Holton's Drive for SIDS Golf Tournament that was established after the tragic death of Holton Spradley, grandson of David and Darlene Florence. Last year, our class sponsored three foursomes to play in the tournament and the tournament did survive! This year, on Saturday, September 27th, some of our group is going to return to the scene of last year's battle for last place. Gary Cumber, Steve Cumbie (Gary's recently married son), John Yancey and yours truly will challenge the other 35 teams for the last place trophy! David Florence and Joe Lipscomb will be teaming up with a couple of other unsuspecting participants to form a possible next-to-last place team. Jim Box had to move a child! Rick Stacy is still recovering from his surgery and is protecting his throat from all that hollering so that he'll be able to provide his auctioning expertise after the tournament for the live auction. Pray for us, the other participants and this great cause. I hope this year's tournament is even more successful than last years.

As we were attempting to gather some of our old battered bodies together to possibly participate in the Holton's Drive for SIDS golf tournament, we also are working on another World Poker GHS Class of 1966 Championship. After a number of emails of an insulting nature were exchanged between the likes of Gary Cumbie, Darrell Faglie, Jim Box, David Florence, Bob Stevenson, Bob Havran, Rick Stacy, Joe Lipscomb, Gus Linthicum and myself...we are getting closer and closer to establishing a date for another attempt to allow Slim Stevenson to regain some of the thousands of dollars he has lost to the rest of us over almost 50 years of mediocre card play. I know that seems hard to believe, because David Florence swears that Bob studied poker more than anything else during his years at Texas Tech.

On Sunday, September 14, 2008, there was a dedication just outside the entry gates to GRAPEFEST at Main Street and Northwest Highway. This dedication was a City of Grapevine Art project titled "A WILDERNESS WELCOME". The bronze sculpture art work was done by Grapevine Artist in Residence, Mr. Archie St. Clair. Mr. St. Clair has work already in Grapevine, such as the Mayor B.R. Wall bronze statue next to City Hall, The "Sunday Skaters" (bronze children – Dorothy Bess Francisco, J.E. Foust Jr., and Mary Virginia Wall Simmons as children, with dog Muttin (belonging to Uncle Jim Daniel, one of the Grapevine Night Watchmen), the "Judge" sitting on the bench in front of the Wallace Hotel, an numerous other citizens of Grapevine. The

scene at the intersection of Main and Northwest Highway is to provide what the Grapevine Prairie looked like to settlers as they moved by covered wagon into the area that is now Grapevine, Texas. The scene of bronze includes a buck, a doe, a fawn, a bear, grapevine, with native Texas grass and cactus in the setting. Part of the inspiration was taken from Excerpts from *Trek to Texas 1770-1870* by Pearl Foster O'Donnell... "there were droves of deer, wild turkey, buffalo, antelope and wild horses. Game of all kinds, honey and wild grapes were plentiful. This was indeed a wild but lush and enchanting land." During the ceremony, there was a description of the October 1843 efforts of General Sam Houston and other Republic of Texas Commissioners camped at Tah-Wah-Karro Creek, also known as Grape Vine Springs, to meet with leaders of 10 Indian nations. This historic meeting culminated in the signing of a treaty of "peace, friendship, and commerce," which opened the area for settlement by homesteaders and pioneers. The settlement was named Grapevine Springs, and later shortened to Grapevine, because of its location on the Grape Vine Prairie. This scene was done to portray the habitat that existed on the Grape Vine Prairie as it was when settlers arrived in 1844. It was a great ceremony and continues to make me proud of this community and its heritage. Mayor William (Bill) D. Tate described in detail the wilderness of the Grape Vine Springs Prairie that greeted the settlers when they arrived in the 1840s. He was followed by Helen Jean Lucas Reed (daughter of my and many others Elementary teacher Helen Lucas) who, as president of the Grapevine Historical Society, told of life lived by the new settlers who moved onto the Grapevine Prairie. We are so very fortunate to live in a community that works hard to maintain its heritage and history.

Sunday, September 21, 2008, Lynda Yarbrough Hawkins (GHS Class of 1967) had a surprise birthday party at her restaurant, The Waffle Way set up by her daughters, Samantha and Natasha. It is hard to believe that Lynda is getting so old...you know, when I told her daughters she used to babysit Darrell Faglie and me when Darrell and I were just toddlers, they pretty much believed it. So, not only has Lynda gotten older, her daughters have become more worldly in dealing with the likes of some of Lynda's equally "old" friends. Just to show you how that has changed over the past four or five years, I will relate a late September story of her daughter Samantha (Sam). This past Saturday, Linda and I were in the Waffle Way having breakfast with a number of regular cronies from Grapevine (all men, by the way, except for Linda). One of the men was Ex-Southlake Mayor and current County Commissioner, Gary Fickes. Gary had brought in some coffee cups for all the folks at our two tables and some "re-election" signs for us to put up. During all this turmoil of handing out coffee cups (nice ones by the way) and the yard signs, people began to leave and going to the register to pay. Again, with all the confusion, everyone at our table left without leaving a financial token of our appreciation to our waitperson, who just happened to be Sam. Linda and I were out running some errands and stopped back at the Waffle Way for a hamburger for lunch. Upon getting ready to depart, Sam approached me saying that I was on her list. I asked what list that might be. She said that I may have forgotten something this morning when I left. Seeing her hand out, with the empty palm up, I said, "Oh, I forgot to leave you a tip this morning". She gently reached over to our table, extracted the tip I'd left for lunch. Of course, I had to then replenish the tip she'd taken. Where else but in Grapevine, Texas where "home-grown" people still live and work, would you have a person put you on a list to remind you that you didn't leave a tip at your previous visit. She is Lynda's child! Of course, you could have also said that, after I told you that she believed that her mother babysat me and Darrell too! Isn't Grapevine a GREAT PLACE!

I just recently reconnected with John Mitcham (Class of 1964). John now goes by Bart – a necessary change, but a long story that I will attempt here. At any rate, John/Bart is a land speed motorcycle guy these days! His email of (09.22.08) said he was leaving on Friday, September 25th for Maxton, North Carolina. He would be attempting to break his old land speed record and his brother Tim Mitcham (GHS Class of 1975 – I think) is going to try and set a record in the vintage modified class. This will be the first time two brothers hold land speed records on motorcycles. He asked that everyone keep his/her fingers crossed for their success. Tim is also going to make a run for his 175 mph license and John / Bart is going for his 250 mph license. They will both be driving bikes from the John Heath Racing Team out of Atlanta. They are hoping for some calm

winds to make it happen! Watch the newspapers for this one! I know some of you in my class have some fond memories of John's and Richard's and Tim's mother who was one of our sixth grade teachers!

I also want to remind ALL GHS GRADUATES that HOMECOMING 2008 is almost here, and the Grapevine High School Ex-Students Association Invites You to Attend Homecoming 2008.

The Ex-Student Banquet is Saturday, October 11, 2008 and will be held at Austin Patio Ranch (that should bring back some memories). Check – In at 6:30 p.m. --- Dinner at 7:00 p.m. ---- A Dance and visiting will take place with Music provided by the Be Fours. If you are interested in attending the Ex-Students Banquet, please send your NAME, ADDRESS, CITY/STATE/ZIP, PHONE NUMBER/NUMBER ATTENDING along with \$30 per person to: Sarah Sanders, 3337 Pine Tree Ct., Farmers Branch, TX 75234 to get your reservations in time to attend. If you would like to make a contribution to the Ex-Students Association Scholarship Fund, please send your contribution to Ms. Sanders as well...just be sure you are clear as to money for the Ex-Student Banquet and monies you wish to contribute to the Scholarship Fund. ...Make checks payable to GHS Ex-students Association.

The Homecoming Football Game will be at Mustang-Panther Stadium on Friday, October 10th against the Keller Indians. The Homecoming Parade is Thursday, October 9th at 6:00 p.m. on Main Street Grapevine. Grapevine High School Principal, Dr. Jerry Hollingsworth, also invites all ex-students to attend the Hall of Fame Tea, honoring the 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees on Friday, October 10th at 9:30 a.m. in the GHS Library. Hope to see many of you there!

At the Homecoming Tea on Friday, October 10th at 9:30 a.m. there will be two GHS graduates honored as Distinguished Alumni and one past GHS Teacher also placed in the GHS Hall of Fame. The Teacher is Janice Cook (Retired English Teacher at GHS). I was fortunate to be a colleague of Janice during the last part of my GHS teaching career and she is a most deserving honoree – she was an excellent teacher and role model for GHS students. The first Distinguished Alumni being inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame is 1963 Graduate John Agnew (all of my class and most others know John). The second honoree for 2008 is special to me – it is my wife, Linda Ethridge Oliver (Class of 1967). I think we may be the first husband and wife to be Distinguished Alumni from GHS! I hope that many of you will be able to be at the Tea that will honor these 2008 Inductees: Teacher, Janice Cook, and Distinguished Alumni Inductees John Agnew and Linda Ethridge Oliver! Congratulations all around!

NEWS FLASH...

If you are a GHS Graduate of the years 1963-1969, you may have received news to HOLD the DATE of SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008 @ 5:00 PM open on your calendar....This will be an event you will not want to miss for at least four exceptional reasons! SO JOT THIS TIME ON YOUR CALENDAR AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO TO COME IN OCTOBER...actually, IT WILL ALL BE EXPLAINED IN OCTOBER! BE PATIENT, BUT HOLD THAT DATE OPEN!

On Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., we held our Golden Corral III Get Together. This is our third event that tries to bring together classmates from the 60s, but we certainly welcome others as well. For the most part the classmates that attend are from the classes of 1965 – 1970...however, this has expanded significantly the past two times. In March 08 and in June 08, we had 46 and 47 attend, but this month – September, we had 62 people show up and of that 62, 47 were graduates of Grapevine High School: 7 from the class of 1970 (Beth Adams-Moore, Ben Flanagan, Mark Hanna, Beth Harrelson, Hoyt Moore, Mike Patterson, and Jim Williamson; 2 from the class of 1969 (Cyndi Powell and Pat Wilkes-Flanagan); 4 from the class of 1968 (Cindy Frye-Barnes, Wayne Highnote, Donny Huber, and Janet Husbey-Ethridge); 9 from the class of 1967 (John Self, Brenda Nobles-Sims, Richard Mitcham, Mary Lynn Millican-Fuller, Linda Hamlin,

Linda Graham-Harwell, Linda Ethridge-Oliver, Butch Ethridge, and James Baber); 10 from the Class of 1966 (Darrell Faglie, Donna Young-Faglie, Jim (Randy/Mouse) Flanagan, Lavoy Grider, Doug Moore, Van Morrison, Penny Parker-Mayfield, Jim Peek, Johnnie Mae Washington-Braddock, and Larry Oliver); 4 from the class of 1965 (Ronnie Binion, Jackie Santos-Jenkins, Robin Henderson-Robbins, and Gayle Hutchinson-Reneau), 4 from the class of 1964 (Gail Armstrong-Schneider, Anne Kennedy, Gwen Sanders-Crow, and Kathy Lipscomb-Pirkle); 4 from the class of 1963 (Mike Toyer, Elaine Baber-Toyer, Wes Crow, and David Barnes), 1 from the class of 1958 (Janice Tillery); 1 from the class of 1949 (Doris Jo Simmons-Patterson); and 1 from the CLASS OF 1938 (Inez VanDeventer-Morrison – mother of Van Morrison and an aunt of those VanDeventer classmates!). Of the 62 attending, 28 were there for the first time. We had graduates from five different decades represented. What a great time of visiting! For those of you who missed out – I hope you can see from the growing numbers what a great opportunity you're missing by not being at these events!

Here are a few emails I received the evening of or the day after Golden Corral III:

I had a wonderful time and am so glad you worked to get this event together. What a blast from the past and I plan on coming again and again. It was truly wonderful to see everyone there! Thanks again, Jackie Santos Jenkins (Class of 1965)

... It's great to see old friends and make new ones. Gail, Kathy, Anne, Frances, and I have been getting together once a month for over a year and it has brought enrichment to all of our lives, Andrea and Susan join us when they are in town and can. We lost Julie recently and we are still grieving her absence. Old friends are the best. Gwen Crow (Class of 1964)

...I for one was overjoyed at being around people who came up through the ranks at Grapevine. Many of those who were there I did not know at first sight, but their names were familiar and after getting close enough to visit a bit and let my brain get started, I did recognize and remember far more than I thought I would. The time spent was well worthwhile. No organized anything; just come, visit, eat, enjoy and think about the days gone by. I thank Larry Oliver who takes his time to get us together. I'm sure his wife Linda contributes as well. Thanks and I enjoyed seeing all of you. Gail Armstrong Schneider (GHS class of 1964).

...thanks so much, Larry, for all that you do. Your time and effort are sincerely appreciated. You could have kept this just for your own class, but you graciously shared the fun with the rest of us. Thank you! Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle (Class of 64).

Our circle of participants/classmates has expanded far beyond our Class of 1966 over the past several years. When things are sent out via email, I have over 200 GHS classmates on my email list as of a few months back – it does continue to grow. Of course, some are outside the decade of the 60s, but certainly 80+% are in that group. I want to apologize to my '66 Classmates for not keeping up with more of events impacting their lives – I know we all have many “ups and downs” and can use all the help and prayers available. I also know that I have been most fortunate to get back in touch with many classmates that attended good ole GHS while I was in school (after all, we were all pretty much on the same block – 1-12 most of the time). I have gotten back in touch with John Mitcham, John Brogdon, Pat Biggerstaff, Harlin & Jeanne Smith Hamilton, Kathy Lipscomb Pirkle, Gwen Sanders, Randy Doty, Mrs. Hosea, Kerry McCombs, Ralph Eidson, and numerous others over the couple of years that have added to my appreciation of so many wonderful people that I've known over the years – but first made contact with at GHS!

As time gets closer for our quarterly Newsletters, I sometimes have a difficult time starting to put it together. However, once I start, I realize why...each time I find myself being so grateful for so many fond memories of events and happenings of our days at GHS, but even more importantly I begin to remember and treasure the people who were/are a part of my hometown. Not only the classmates, close friends, and teachers, but parents and community adults who helped shape my character. Some may not want to take any significant credit, but each of you know that so many teachers, neighbors, parents, community people had such an impact on our futures. Our classmates parents, our teachers, our scout troop leaders, our little league coaches, our preachers, our Sunday School teachers, our part-time job employers, our volunteer firemen, our business people, The Grapevine Sun, Joe Box/First National Bank, and so many others. I guess as we get older and look back at our lives we are constantly taking inventory of events we experienced, the people we've met, and choices we have made. I just have a feeling that I have been extremely fortunate to be a part of the GHS Class of 1966, a part of those classmates of the 60s and the adults I encountered while growing up. I should thank God more often than I do for providing me with those opportunities and allowing me to not only grow up in Grapevine, but for having allowed me to stay a part of the community for my entire life.

I guess I have rambled over the past two paragraphs to say to each of you who read this Newsletter – Find the time to talk to, get in contact with, search out, and renew those bonds of friendship that were so much a part of your “growing up” life. Thank God for providing those opportunities and people you encountered. I can only assure you, that you will not be disappointed. So, if you are reading our GHS Class of 1966 NEWSLETTER for the first time or found it by stumbling onto our website and are reading it, and you are a graduate of Grapevine High School (especially if you graduated between the years of 1955 and 1970), use the contact email address in our website to contact me, so you can be added to our random mail outs of News or Get-togethers!

SEND A CLASSMATE AN EMAIL...CALL AND TALK TO AN OLD CLASSMATE (I KNOW, THEY'RE ALL OLD)....SEND A LETTER (PRACTICE WRITING).

If these Newsletters keep getting longer, we may have to these hard-bound.

God Bless the GHS Class of 1966 and our GHS Classmates!

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Oliver