

FRESNO HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1955 NEWSLETTER

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No. 2 April 2007

This newsletter is dedicated to the following classmates who have passed away (our notification came after Oct. 2006).

Blaine Edwards 1/15/01
John Nowell 6/05
Quentin Puerta 12/8/05
Robbie Hier Kulla 8/06
Harry Helzer 12/27/06
Bobbie Rylee Engles 12/27/06
Juanita Sakajian Haugen 3/5/07

REUNION NOTES

I cannot begin to express my thanks to all of you who emailed and wrote notes on your questionnaires and told me how much you enjoyed the newsletter and knowing what we were planning. That is just part of it. The contributions to the newsletter and dinner fund were overwhelming to me and my committee. Your generous contributions went like this:

Newsletter Fund \$1000.00
Dinner Fund \$ 500.00

I hope everyone received their donation receipt. I emailed to those I had addresses for and mailed the rest. To those who have not sent in the questionnaire, I hope you will take the time to do so. That contact name really helps out.

NEWSLETTER: We will be doing 2 newsletters per year – in April and October. The best news is **Arnold Joyal** volunteered to format it for me. We will keep the format to 2 pages back to back. **On the back page of each newsletter will be a list of people to contact.** If anyone with newsletter experience would like to help, please contact us (you do not have to leave the house to do this). If you have news you would like to share, email or send it to us. We are interested in past memories and present experiences, trivia, etc. When you read the articles in this newsletter you will get an idea of what we are looking for. Remember, every time we mail out we deplete funds. **We will continue to ask in each newsletter for funds to continue.** The cost with a donated copier is 43 cents – without is 75 cents per newsletter. Our first newsletter cost us \$170 and this one cost \$291.

DINNER FUND: We are estimating that the reunion package will not be less than \$60 dollars and that is with no frills. Based on that, we have enough for 8 classmates/spouses. I do not have any names. Remember it is on a first-come basis. Please contact Sharon Haverty. Costs have gone up considerably since 2005.

If you send us a check for either fund please make payable to **Fresno High School Class of 1955.** Mail it to:

Sharon Haverty
3773 W. Robinson Ave.
Fresno CA 93722

LOST CLASSMATES

We have a committee of seven that is listed on the back of the newsletter, trying to locate classmates that we cannot account for. One problem is having maiden names only for some of our female classmates. If you know of another last name for them or a spouse's first name, please contact one of us. They are: Judith **Brink**; Judith **Brown**; Barbara **Collman**; Joyce **Erickson**; Nona **Frost**; Carol **Good**; Dee **Hickman**; Jenean **Humphrey**; Barbara **Klein**; Kathleen **McCahill**; Margaret **Missakian**; Sandry **Mowrey**; Patricia **Mulford**; Kay **Taylor**; Colleen **Van Cor**; Barbara **Weare**. You have no idea how a married or spouse's first name opens up the search.

!!!! FOUND CLASSMATES !!!!

We found the following classmates (found is a hopeful word on my part that means we mailed and nothing came back. This next time is the litmus test): **Phillip Barnett, Nona "Berry" Cull, Leona "Burton" Hunt, Terry Gross, Thomas James, Bud Jewett, Winona "Johnson" Toffoli, Margaret "Rogers" Chase, Sue Simmons, Loretta "Taves" Lemos, Sandra "Whyte" Moore, Margaret (Peggy) Czarnek Yeiser.** When we mailed out the newsletter, I had only eight letters returned and was able to find addresses for all. This means our database is in excellent shape. We have shortened the lost list to 46 classmates. After finding **Leona Burton Hunt** she wrote that her family has moved 28 times since she married.

One of the special finds was **Winona Johnson Toffoli.** I had searched for two months and kept coming up with her old address. Finally I Googled her name and the screen came up under Lake County Farmer's Finest and found she is the owner of the Remembrance Vineyard in Finley, CA, near Clear Lake. She has ten acres of Syrah grapes she sells to small wineries. Please check out her interesting website at www.remembrancevineyard.com. It takes you through the past to the present. If any of you take wine tours or like to drive through wine country give her a call. Her information is on her website.

TRIVIA TIME

The Senior Class play in 1955 was "*Night Must Fall*". Can you name the person who designed the cover? Can you name one of the doormen? Okay Asheville, NC, it's coming at you – who played the part of Inspector Belsize? And finally, who was the prompter? The second part of this is....what was the day and date of graduation in 1955? You will need your magnifying glasses to read the answers somewhere in this newsletter.

CHANGES CHANGES CHANGES

Please remember to notify Sharon Haverty of **any** changes to your address, phone number, or email address.

FHS ALUMNI DINNER

If you have never attended one of these dinners you should make the effort to come. The dinner is on Saturday, May 12, 2007, on Echo Ave. in front of Fresno High. No-host cocktails at 5 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. This year the alumni are honoring the FHS Senate which began in 1890. This is the oldest continuously-operating high school club in America. Dinner tickets are \$35 per person. Make check payable to: FHS Alumni Association, 655 E. Michigan, Fresno, CA, 93704. Include your name(s) and year(s) of graduation. Dinner is prepaid only and you pick your tickets up at the door. You will be seated according to year of graduation so we would all be together. Deadline for reservations is May 5, 2007. For information contact Marie Slater at 559-224-5241, or email: mcs31@cvip.net. This is a very enjoyable evening. The alumni association has been very good to the class of 1955 by posting our information on their website and putting our articles into their newsletter. Their website is: www.fresnohighalumni.com.

A TEACHER MEMORY

Sharon Haverty writes - I had Mr. Mecartea for 10th grade English. One day the class assignment was to write a 1 page article but we could not use the pronoun "you". I reread my paper over and over to make absolutely sure I had no "you's" then turned it in. Guess what, I missed two of them. Now every time I write something, the memory of that assignment goes off like a gong. Who else remembers that assignment? When you are out of things to do and are "really bored", take a pen and reread this newsletter and circle all the "you's". See if I used the word in the right context. You do not have to respond. **Does anyone have a classroom memory to share. If so contact Arnold or Sharon.**

CHOO CHOO NOSTALGIA

You knew this would come up in one of the newsletters sooner or later. Remember those football train trips? The lead article in the October 28, 1954 Owllet was titled "**Warrior Team Rooters Hope To Rock Bakersfield With Biggest Jolt Since '52 Quake; Special Train Seats Still On Sale**". Will the Owllet staff writer please come forward! Also, there was a typo by the typesetter on the date which read, October 28, **1945**. Any Owllet staffer remember that? Inserted in the middle of this article was a highlighted box that gave the cost of the roundtrip. It was \$4.75 for students including a game ticket. For adults the cost was \$4.15 not including game ticket. Did anyone remember there were special cars for adults on that trip? This of course was our senior year, we lost that game 12-7. The first train trip was fall 1952 to Bakersfield when we were sophomores. We lost that game 20-7. The second train trip that same year was the Valley Championship game against Porterville which we **WON** 7 - 0. I checked the Amtrak fares roundtrip to Bakersfield and the cost today is \$50.00. Finally, there were five cartoon drawings going down diagonally on the front page of this Owllet representing the train engine and cars with FHS rooters. Pretty neat. Does anyone remember who the artist was?

HERE IS WHAT WE WANT FROM YOU

We want feedback of your memories on any one of those trips. We do not want a story, just a sentence or two about the trip. We want to make this a feature article. Please note the year you are writing about. We will print all the memories we receive. All of you have been so supportive of this newsletter venture and here is your chance to contribute. Email to shaverty1955@comcast.net or ajoyal@comcast.net. We have six months to the Oct. 2007 newsletter so you can mail if necessary. Check the back page for addresses.

COFFEE - LUNCH - ETC.

Something else we would like to highlight is classmates who get together weekly, monthly, yearly. In this newsletter there are two groups we know of in Fresno. I know there is a large group in the Santa Cruz area and those Washington Jr. High girls who are infamous for their yearly get togethers (Helen we expect you to write the article). If you are involved in anything like this please send us an article and include a picture of your group. (Of course we want you to identify the people in the picture.)

WEEKLY FRIDAY GIRLS

For the past year nearly every Friday, two to nine FHS "girls" and "guys" from the class of 1955 gathered at La Boulangerie Bakery in Fig Garden Village at 10 a.m. - no matter what. Whoever got there first had to throw his or her body over two tables and remain there until classmate help arrived. Our group has grown and it was getting too difficult to find enough seats for all of us to sit together so we have decided to take turns having coffee at our homes. We talk about everything and nothing and laugh ourselves silly. We were an all-girl group but Dave Meyer took the plunge and joined us, then Bob Emerzian. We have a yearly birthday party at a restaurant, have a Christmas coffee at Carol Bowman Underhill's and we are considering a 70's birthday dinner or trip to some unknown destination (if you have seven women you have seven destinations). **Anyone is welcome to join us. Contact Sharon Haverty.**



Front Row: Rosanne Jensen, Dave Meyer, Ellie Mason Huston, Ann Leonardo Thaxter. Back Row: Janice Agbashian, Carol Bowman Underhill, Donna Stewart Kelton, Delores Pedroncelli Mehling, Bev Schmidt Larios. Not Pictured: Sharon Henryson Haverty, Bonnie Mott Ruether, Barbara Christensen Hand.

THE ADVENTURES OF LARRY WALTERS ON THE AMAZON RIVER



Sharon Haverty sent an email to Larry last October to confirm his address. He replied that he was on a boat on the Amazon River. This is his account:

There I was at 68, having visited my daughter and grandkids in Cabo, enjoying the retired life about a mile up in the mountains of Banos, Ecuador. I was augmenting my paltry Social Security income by teaching English a couple of hours a day and living in a ground-floor room at \$5 a day. (No cooking, but great veggie meals at the stuck-in-the-60's Casa Hood Restaurant. Every morning I was taking the hot sulfur baths conveniently provided by Tungurahara, our nearby volcano, when it happened – ERUPTION!

Maybe you saw it on TV. Everyone began to leave and the school closed, so I headed South by bus to Peru and the head of the Amazon River at Iquitos. The plan was to follow the trail of Fitzgerald and wind up in Manaus. Here we go.

Sunday Aug 6 ... Three days to Leticia Columbia aboard the boat RIO AMAZONAS, a 4-star luxury river boat. The price for a single with air and super buffet meals was \$750, but I had good luck and got a last minute one-way for \$200 cash from the owner of the company, an American who has been running this trip for more than 30 years. We had a great chat about his early days sailing off the coast of Mexico.

Wednesday Aug 9 ... Eight am arrival in Leticia and somehow got a Yellow fever shot and Brazil visa (cost \$100 US) in time to board the Manoel do Manaus, due to depart at 3 pm. The cabin was a small bare steel cell with upper and lower bunk and thin foam mattress and one old wood chair located on the second deck aft. But it did have air conditioning. I had to buy a towel and pay for two - a whopping \$264 for five days. The natives paid \$75 to sling hammocks (about 200 of them) on the main deck amidships, about two feet apart.

Meals were included:

Breakfast - cafe con leche

Lunch -rice, beans, spaghetti, and chicken
Dinner - the same, but no beans.

We had to line up every day for the same meals for five days. After being told that there was no dinner the first night, we did not leave till 8 pm waiting for a late cargo.

The upper deck had a bar but no shade, and was only bearable after the sun went down. There were two giant speakers playing Brazilian Forro music at full volume. Fortunately there was an Australian couple to play cribbage with for the week-long trip of brown water and green jungle. Yes, it was the AMAZON!

Manaos ... Yes, that is the old spelling, seen on the Manaus Railway Tram, located in front of the opera house. What a glorious building - as big or bigger than even LaScala, and painted pink with white trim. Everything was well tended. There were long sweeping stairs up to the entrance and a huge tree-lined plaza in front, full of benches and speakers. Today they played Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" at a decent volume. Last night they showed Penocchio in Braseliero followed by Chaplin in the open-air cinema there, and then a pop group played live till 10 pm. Everyone was sitting out and drinking under a pleasant evening sky.

Well, luck prevails and yesterday afternoon about six, I walked up to the opera house to see if I could peek inside. Low and behold, the Lord works in mysterious ways. There was a Bossa-Jazz concert starting and it was free. What a trip to sit in that great palace and dig some Jobiem with a jazz beat!

Traveling By Bus In Brasil (Some do's and don'ts for beginning Portugese speakers)

The object was to get from the baths at Spa Sao Lourenço to Paraty, one of the most beautiful beaches in Brasil, and some 300 kilometers south. The direct bus from Sao Lourenço leaves at 11:45, but a "smart ass" spotted another line that went to some of the same cities and left at 8 am. So, to save time, it was boarded, and when it arrived at the interim city, I found that no other bus left till 7:30 pm.

So it was a taxi to the next town to find that the bus from there leaves at 6 pm! Since it was only 11:30 I decided to again take another line to another interim city leaving at 1 pm, only to arrive at that city at 2:00 and find that no buses are leaving till tomorrow at 7 am. There were no taxis in sight, but finally a man was found who began to tell us that it was very difficult to get from here to there. But, for a large fee, he would take us in his car.

We questioned him about the fee, but, due to a lack of language skills, we did not discover until later that the trip included a 10 km drop of 2500 feet through a national forest down steep hills on a washboard-type dirt road. This was done in an old VW driven by a wild-eyed local.

But, finally, Paraty, then to Rio and a flight home.

BAY AREA MINI-REUNION SET FOR MAY 5, 2007

Gail Giffin has graciously volunteered to host the "Second Annual FHS Class of 1955 Bay Area Mini-Reunion" at her home in Lafayette on Saturday, May 5. Contact Gail at fatslice1@comcast.net (3175 Teigland Road, Lafayette, CA, 94549) or Arnold Joyal at AJoyal@comcast.net (4961 Corbin Ave, San Jose, CA, 95118) for further details.