

Barbara Baldwin Salyer - WHAT A WONDERFUL 50TH REUNION!!!

Now that our 50th Reunion is but a memory, we would like to share with all of our classmates some of the activities and feelings of those classmates attending. The Reunion Committee had a wonderful time as the event unfolded; however, I don't think that any of us would be willing to do another large-scale reunion. When you achieve "almost-perfection", you don't try to repeat it! We may come up with a one-night or one-day event in the future; and as you can see from this newsletter, we are going to have our Annual Reunion Picnic on April 22, 2001 at Reid Park.

The five group pictures that were taken on Saturday evening are ready, and the photographer was right when he said something to the effect: "I like to take pictures of 'older people' from above so that the people are looking up and the double chins and wrinkles don't show." The pictures are great! We can only regret that about a dozen of the classmates did not make it into the pictures. I apologize for having delayed the mailing of the pictures, but I wanted to enclose this newsletter, and finding time to write the newsletter was not my number one priority over the Christmas holidays.

As soon as I can figure out how to accomplish the task of putting the pictures on the web site, they will be up there—along with the list of those attending. We were thrilled to have Florence Reynolds, Elbert Brooks, William Duffen, and Opal Bane Ageton with us for the Saturday night dinner-dance. My biggest thrill was a presentation by Frank Patania on behalf of the Class of 1950. He had been commissioned by the Class to design a thank you gift for me for heading up the Reunion Committee. Frank presented me with a beautiful silver and gold necklace with a malachite and azurite pendant. It is absolutely beautiful, and I will treasure it for the rest of my life. Thank you Class of 1950.

Two years ago when the Class of 1950 Reunion Committee started detailed planning for our 50th Reunion, we thought we had a lot of time to do the planning. Time at this stage of life seems to get away from us and speed along on an agenda of its own. Before we knew it—the time was here. Our only regret is that there were so many of you that we would have liked to have had with us. The most frequently asked question was: "Is So-and-So coming to the Reunion?"

Would you believe it? We had 193 classmates actually attend the Reunion, and a total of 309 with spouses and guests. 220 attended the Friday Night Gathering, 125 gathered in the High School Cafeteria on Saturday morning, 304 were at the Dinner Dance, and 50 people went to Kartchner Caverns on Sunday morning. We even managed to have four energetic souls participate in tennis and seven participate in golf. A listing of those attending is included in this newsletter and will be posted on our web page in the future.

Jesus Aguilar, Peggy Haymore Eich, Hector Felix, Bob Hall, Bob Jinkens, Sydney Deal Oppenheimer, Jim Schock, Raclare Cordis Kanal had all planned to attend, but were unable to do so. We missed them!

This 50th Reunion for the Class of 1950 was a labor of love for myself and all of the members of the Reunion Committee. There was no way that one person could possibly keep track of everything going on; all of the members of the Reunion Committee worried and worked hard. The Reunion was a group effort--with many little extra touches.

Our special thanks to Valeria Sheaffer Johnson for donating a copy of her brother's book, "Jack Sheaffer's Tucson 1945-1965" by Jack with Steve Emerine, for each of the packets given to the classmates attending the Reunion. For most of the past four decades, Jack Sheaffer used his camera to capture calamities and catastrophes, celebrities and ceremonies, presidents and princesses, and hundreds of other topics for readers of Tucson's morning newspaper, The Arizona Daily Star. 400 of his favorite photos are chronicled in the book, and the Class of 1950 and their families will enjoy this book for many years to come.

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Joni Clore Price - What an Elegant, Swell-Elegant, Swell Party It Was!

The heading quoted from song came to mind the Monday morning after our 50th Reunion. So many memories just happened in a special way. People were there that you have had contact with over the years; others that you have not seen since graduation. All of a sudden, so much personal history is flashing before your eyes. Below are some recollections from a very interested participant.

Some coincidental meetings occurred when an elevator door opened and there stood Theresa Guerrero Mallick; or after arriving at the hotel, recognized Betty Waring Butler in parking lot; another time, met Voris Cook Herman coming into hotel lobby.

Recapping some special memories out of my memory bank:

Remembering Ed Leigh as far back as 4th grade, Roskruge. Talking with Bill Condron, Doris Leggett Burns, Alice Sutherland Ward, Betty Norwood Sheehan; all from Miles Elementary. Visiting with Mr. Duffen, Miss Reynolds, Mr. Brooks, Mrs. Opal Bane-Ageton. Sitting at table Saturday night with Jeanne Hughes Shapiro, Jacqui Robinson Lucas, Carolyn Cox Hudgins, and Patti Myers Spaulding and realizing we had been friends for over 50 years; and that many tables around the room contained similar stories. Remembering with Tom Dickinson about Summer School, June 6, 1944, (D-Day). Missing Peggy Haymore Eich, who came for the reunion and then couldn't attend due to illness. Reading Don Carson's issues of Cactus Chronicles from our senior year with Jack Fellowes and Ann Kelley Boice in Hospitality Room. Meeting Jim Walker for the first time due to "double shift" schedule. Reminiscing with David Gardner about a party from Mansfield days. Hugging Kathy Dillas Brown (my graduation marching partner) and Lois Baker Sundt Mueller. Watching a surprised Barbara Baldwin Salyer receive a beautiful pendant designed and presented by Frank Patania. . . "Thanks for all your efforts from all". Listening to John Huerta's dinner greeting as he recalled "how it was with us in OUR TIME." Showing old photos of some of our senior girls at Sabino Canyon; Homer Darnell and Bob Martin looking on.

Two comments come to mind: Carolyn Hudgins' noting that "none of my friends have gray hair"; and Patti Spaulding remarking that she'd been working with people in Tucson business community who were classmates and didn't realize the Class of '50 connection until the Reunion. So many memories and stories; these are just a few of mine!

In closing, a huge THANK YOU to all who came and enjoyed it as much as the committee did. It was our pleasure!

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Alba Bustamante Torres—Dedicated to the Round Tables, as well as Aida Wilkins Mendez and Lillian McAlpin Ulloa

Dear Barbara: The way I describe our 50th THS Reunion--The best single thing about our 50th THS Reunion was the spirit felt in the entire event.

From the planning of it, to the present, the spirit of goodness permeated everything. Everyone involved in any way knew we were doing something very good, something productive.

The Reunion itself was filled with joy, the joy of each other's presence. It was also filled with energy and all the hard work which brought it about was abundantly in evidence as were abrazos and loveliness. Cooperation, team work, good leadership and being together, with fellow students, some of whom had not seen each other since graduation, was so good, so sweet and so full of surprises. Everyone was present, whether physically or not, because everyone was remembered.

The improvisations, which took place in order to accommodate the inevitable unexpected, were a credit to those in charge and those involved. This unique event was also a way to honor our parents and our teachers. It was well organized. It was not perfect, confirming our human aspect. Our reunion covered our past, our present and hopes for future reunions and ever-expanding legacies to the sons and daughters of Tucson High School. Cariñosamente, Alva B. Torres y Alba.

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Notes from the 50th Reunion

Jack Fellowes

Hi, just a note to thank you for making the reunion so special! Having thought of you all during the dark days in Hanoi, when my mind took me back to those days in THS, and how much it meant to me to have those great memories. I firmly believe you all helped me survive. As a result, you must understand how much I love all of you.

Lois Baker Sundt Mueller:

Thanks, thanks and more thanks for creating one of the brightest memories of my life. In an already full and blessed life, it was a topper. All your work was greatly appreciated, and I hope you'll pass on thanks to those whose e-mail addresses I may not have. What joy to share some time with the folks who once shared some of our most formative years! Blessings and love!

Joe Japka:

Just to thank you and all of the folks who contributed to a terrific experience at the reunion. My wife loved Tucson and all the friendly people we met. We stayed a week, and still had more to see, so some day we will return.

Bill McGlynn:

Thank you so much for all the effort that went into the class reunion. I don't think most of us know what's required to make a class reunion successful. I'm sure it takes lots of love and hard work. Yours was "The Best". It couldn't of been any better had you had Martha Stewart guiding you all the way. Thanks again for a job well done. God Bless.

Bob Jinkens:

Again, thank you for all the work. I really wanted to attend; I bought new luggage, put new brakes and tires on the car and was ready to go. It is a good think that we did not leave or we would have had to stop midway and drive back to Tulsa.

John C. Blair:

Gladys and I just got back and wanted to get this to you. You and all your associates did an absolutely wonderful job of setting up and running the reunion! We enjoyed every bit of it. The banquet at the Sheraton was outstanding! I enjoyed "catching up with quite a few old friends from 50 years ago, it was great. Thanks, thanks, thanks.

Vernon Yeiter:

You are probably going in circles at this time due to the festivities starting tomorrow 10/20, but wanted to say something to the class. I'm just a picture in the TUCSONIAN, but, I wanted to tell you that as much as we had hope to do so, my wife and I will not be able to attend.

To those of you who remember me, I wish I could be there to reminisce with you and talk about things we haven't talked about since I last saw you 25 years ago. Could it have been that long??? And to those of you who do not know or remember me, I wish to say Hi and tell you that it was a privilege to be a part of the Class of 1950. I would so much like to be there with you and to celebrate this joyous occasion!

I have always considered Tucson Senior High as my home school and enjoyed the happy times (and the sad ones too) I spent there. But, due to the health of my wife, Nancy, and many family obligations, as much as I would love to be there, I simply am not able to do so.

Thank you for keeping me up to date on the annual festivities over the past few years. You have kept me in touch with a very important part of my life, and I will be thinking of all of you every day this weekend. Wishing I could be part of it, and wishing the best to each and every one of you Fondly, your fellow classmate.