

GRAPEVINE HIGHS SCHOOL CLASS of 1966

SEPTEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

Here we are – October 2011! Seems like only a couple of weeks ago it was May 1966, well maybe it seems more like three weeks ago. Time sure flies these days whether you're having fun or not! In the metroplex, we have just experienced a summer with the most days over 100 in recorded history. That wonderful record along with what seems like no rain for months has made this a very hot and difficult mid-2011! I know that we all continue to pray for rain and cooler weather. Hopefully, we have turned the corner on the excessive heat, but it still doesn't look good on the rain front for some time to come. The heat, drought, and the wildfires have made things difficult and more than just a little difficult for those who've lost their homes due to the many fires in Texas. Our prayers and hearts go out to those who have had such horrendous experiences this summer.

It has been just about two months since our 45th reunion. In the midst of the summer heat we did have a great experience at our reunion in July! Again, a most sincere thank you to all who contributed to the cause that funded the reunion and our website for the next five years! If you forget, go back and read the July Newsletter about our reunion and about how special our class really is.

As we have seemed to age, especially these past few years, we face numerous losses in our lives – Grandparents, Parents, aunts, uncles, friends, etc. We find ourselves spending more time at funerals than we ever thought about. In early August, we received a note that John E. Quinn, Jr., brother of classmate Mary Quinn Tobleman, passed away on Saturday July 30. Many of you remember John as we were growing up, and many of you know John struggled with health problems most of his life. However, John never let that stop him from doing what he loved most – working with the Boy Scouts of America. John started in scouts in 1959 and for more than 50 years and received the Silver Beaver Medal in Scouting in April of 2009 for his lifelong dedication to Scouting.

Also in August, I received an email from Mary Ann Sparger Ashton, who forwarded an email from Wayne Quenichet telling her about the loss of Mrs. Quenichet at age 90. Just a couple of days later, we received word of the passing of Mrs. Tina Anderson, Mother of Andrea, James, Marilyn, Cathy, Steve and Patrice. Services were held at the Tyler Memorial Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 17, 2011.

Beth Adams Moore was admitted into Baylor Hospital Grapevine ICU in Mid-August with severe asthma. Beth was on a ventilator for days. In late August Beth was moved out of ICU into a room and was taken off the ventilator. After spending days in bed with her breathing problems it was a struggle for her to get out of bed with her nerve damage in her legs – getting moving again. At last report Beth is home and doing better, and I know Beth and Hoyt want to thank everyone for their prayers and support.

In early September Sandra Tate, sister of Mayor Bill Tate, passed away while at Baylor Hospital Grapevine. Sandra Tate was a wonderful lady, who over the past number of years has worked so very hard with the Grapevine Historical Society and the Grapevine Pictorial History Book that was recently published. She worked hard in developing the historical story for those taking carriage rides and other tours of Grapevine. Sandra has been active for so many years in Grapevine in so many ways. She is one of those Grand Ladies of Grapevine and was so very much loved and appreciated by so many – she will be greatly missed.

The 2011 Homecoming had issues this year, and I want to especially send out a BIG THANK YOU to Russell Kidd, president of the Grapevine High School Ex-Students Association. Homecoming was scheduled for early October with the parade, Hall of Fame Tea, and Ex-Students Banquet all in place. Then, unexpectedly, the date was changed by Grapevine High School due to some political pressure to late September (parade on Thursday, September 22, Hall of Fame Tea on Friday, September 23, and the Ex-Student Banquet on Saturday, September 24). When that happened,

we lost time in parade preparation, lost time in getting all together for the Distinguished Alumni Award and Hall of Fame Teacher, as well as lost the hold on Austin Patio Ranch for the Saturday evening Ex-Student Banquet. With all that said, thanks go out to Rick Stacy for allowing the Ex-Students to book his third floor banquet room for the Ex-students Banquet. All went off pretty well, but we did have some messed up other class reunions that had been originally scheduled in conjunction with the October Homecoming week. The attendance at the Ex-student Banquet was significantly less than usual, but we can attribute much of that to the change and location. However, again thanks to the Ex-Student Association (especially Russell) for getting things changed and pulled off very well considering the difficulties.

I want to tell you that the Hall of Fame Tea was truly special at this year's Homecoming. This year Madeleine Hemley was inducted as an Outstanding Teacher. Her daughter, Peggy was here for the reception and said a few words on behalf of her mother. There is little doubt that there have not been many, if any, teachers who have had as much impact on Grapevine High School as Mrs. Hemley. I said Grapevine High School, but we all know that she was our music teacher starting in the first grade – bringing her grocery cart full of music and instruments into our rooms to teach us music. She impacted us throughout our public school years. What a great honor it is to have been in her classes and experienced her talent and dedication to her profession. I must say that I was also blessed to have taught at GHS and had her as a colleague as well. I also enjoyed being a part of her community chorus that was formed in Grapevine over thirty years ago. It was wonderful to finally have her honored – she probably should have been the first inducted as an Outstanding Teacher of GHS.

Also honored this year at Homecoming was Distinguished Alumni Ann Powell. Ann graduated in 1972. She was a wonderful student (I was fortunate to be her math teacher). She was involved in so much and was academically one of the top ten students her senior year where she was also student body president. Her true love was language and writing. Ann told me that Gayle Shumate and Maurine LeBeau were the teachers at Grapevine High who truly brought language to life for her – it was her Latin and English classes that truly inspired her in that direction. Ann is now the Managing Editor of Readers' Digest in New York City; she has also been the managing editor of Vanity Fair Magazine and others over the past years. She headed up the team for e-books and i-pad apps for Readers Digest. Ann grew up in Colleyville where her mother ran a kennel on Glade Road. Her sister Gayle (1975 Graduate) is now a counselor at GHS. It was great seeing Ann again and catching up with her – it is always especially great to have an ex-student inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame as a distinguished alumni!

Time has passed by quickly since our Class Reunion at Cross Timbers Winery (again, thanks to Don Bigby for his hospitality and great event). We have not had any "get togethers" since the reunion. However, we are scheduled for another "get together" at Sammies Bar-B-Q on Saturday, October 15th....if you are interested show up about 6 p.m. – in the back room and join the Class of 1966 and others from the sixties who often join us for a time of good food and fellowship.

This is a short newsletter this month for many reasons – a number of which may be related to my inability to get things done! GHS Class of 1966 Classmates, be on the lookout for a notice of our annual Class Christmas Party. We have a place (a new place for the event this year – a surprise home of a classmate) and we are now only trying to determine the date and time. More info on our Class Christmas Party within a week or so.

Until I see you at Sammies on October 15th or at the Class Christmas Party, may you be in good health, spend lots of good times with family, friends and GHS Classmates – And, God Bless you all and GHS Class of 1966!

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Oliver