

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

JUNE 2005 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Classmates! It has been an unusual spring and here we are into summer. Rather a light spring for rain this year, at least in the Grapevine area. And, actually we have not had very many severe thunderstorms come through as usual either. However, some have had their share of storms.

Since the last Newsletter in March, our class has experienced difficult losses. James Peak's father Bud Peek passed away. Gus Linthicum lost his father and mother, Gus Sr. and Grace Linthicum just weeks ago. Larry & Sheila Cox lost their grandson, Charles Collier, in an auto accident. Clayton Biggers, Hank's father passed away after a battle with cancer just a few weeks ago. Darrell Faglie's sister Margie passed away in April after her battle with cancer. Penny Parker Mayfield has had cancer surgery within the past month and is battling cancer. Please keep these families in your thoughts and prayers – they need the prayers and us.

I know that there are others out there who have also experienced difficulties these past few months that we don't know about. I know that we all face a wide array of difficulties from time to time, especially as we find ourselves on the other side of fifty. It is another reason we need one another. Having old friends during difficult times, who love you and appreciate you without question, is a wonderful gift from the Lord. We have all gone in so many different directions since May of 1966, and a lot of different experiences have passed by each of us. Yet, there is a feeling of comfort in knowing members of our class are out there, ready to help, ready to support, and ready to pray. Take comfort in knowing we are all ready to come to one another's assistance when there is a need.

Grapevine High School is celebrating 100 years next year....keep looking and listening for events to celebrate this milestone for an institution we have all had some benefit from over the years. GHS was just recently named as one of the Top 100 High Schools in the Nation by Newsweek Magazine (mid-May). That is a tribute to many things and many individuals over the years. It is nice to feel a connection to GHS even today.

Alaskan Cruise Hell. On or about Wednesday, May 25, 2005, the Celebrity Cruise Ship the Summit developed propulsion problems a day short of port. As luck would have it that is the same ship some 10 classmates with 44 non-classmate spouses and friends were to set sail on from Vancouver to Anchorage on June 3, 2005. Well....the cruise on that ship was canceled. With just about one week until departure – there were 54 Texas folk without a cruise and vacations planned. So, after about five or six hectic days, the group was split on what might be done? Of course the cruise line will reimburse everyone for the cruise cost and they did throw in a free cruise – nice, but still not much fun. So, now we have several cruises preparing to take place. There is a group that contains classmates Gary Cumbie, Darrell & Donna Faglie, Alice Bufford Perkins, Linda Bowden Cox and Larry Oliver still departing on June 3, but with a few twists. Rick & Diane and the Stacy

clan had to divide up as well at different times. David & Darlene Florence are most likely holding out until July so that they can take advantage of an after cruise train trip from Anchorage to Fairbanks. So, we will have some photos to share at some point, but it won't include the entire group together...a sad reality for us all. I know that Gary Cumbie, Darlene Tillery Florence, Linda Bowden Cox, Diane Cherry Stacy and Van Morrison worked as a group to set all this up after a meeting a group of us had on March 2, 2004 – Texas Independence Day. After planning and waiting for almost 15 months to come to this was not much fun...but, we are capable of making lemonade out of lemons (I really hate that saying, but I will use it for literary purposes).

As I said we had 54 travelers, including Gary & Jane Cumbie, David & Darlene Tillery Florence, Darrell & Donna Young Faglie, Alice Bufford Perkins, Jerry & Linda Bowden Cox, Larry & Linda Oliver and everyone named Stacy within a 500 mile radius – of course, I only jest. But, Rick and Diane brought their family – their children and their families, brothers & sisters – Randy Stacy, Ronnie Stacy, & Rhonda Stacy, and Bill Cherry and their families. Diane's mother and Rick's mother and father RJ and Merrill also signed up to help keep an eye on us all!

Fred and Martha Raven, friends / neighbors of Jerry & Linda Bowden Cox also joined our band of travelers. Don and Renee Brackeen of Forestburg, Texas and future neighbors of Linda and I as well as Darrell and Donna Faglie came along for the fun and brought Renee's father and mother, Glin and Betty Hansard too.

Just know that we had a wonderful group and now we have several smaller but equally wonderful groups going. You'll be hearing tales from this adventure for some time to come – I feel pretty certain, heck Darrell Faglie will tell each story about fifty times before he forgets it! By the way, did any of you get post cards recently? Stay tuned for upcoming tales of the GREAT NORTH and photos to follow! If this goes well...let me rephrase that...if things get better and then go well, we may just have to try this as a class project again soon for (some recent suggestions) Canadian Train Trip, Train from Anchorage to Fairbanks and beyond, Fly to Hawaii and cruise the islands, Florida, New Orleans, Boston, Washington D.C., Las Vegas, and others!

By the way, Gary Cumbie and Darrell Faglie and I purchased baseball caps with "GHS 66 Alaska 2005 on the front with a GHS Mustang and "Mustangs" written beneath it on one side and the phrase "CRUSING TO ALASKA" on the other side for all of the participants....Diane was excited and told me that in all of her life she'd never seen her Mom in a cap.....so this trip has other historical significance. Photos to follow!

Grapevine High School Principal, Dana Drew, was extremely kind and had a special Honorary Grapevine High School Diploma made up, complete with nice book to display it in for the captain of our ship...with signatures from Mr. Dana Drew (current GHS principal) and distinguished class members with printing underneath our signatures for Rick Stacy / Student Council President, Larry Oliver / Vice President Class of 1966, David Florence / Secretary Class of 1966, Gary Cumbie / Treasurer Class of 1966 that we presented to the Captain of the Celebrity ship Mercury. He was truly impressed, once we told him that Grapevine High School was in the May 2005 Newsweek Magazine as one

of the Top 100 High Schools in the United States! Unfortunately, due to our SUMMIT CRUISE HELL, Rick & David were unable to share in this presentation.

Well, phase one of North to Alaska for GHS Class of 1966 came off rather well – considering all we went through to get this going. About 19 individuals set off on various days to meet in Seattle, Washington on Friday, June 3, 2005 to board the Celebrity Cruise Ship the Mercury after 1 p.m. Some arrived shortly after 1 p.m. and others arrived close to departure time...some even flew in to Vancouver, then flew to Seattle, some flew in to Seattle the evening before...but, eventually our Cruise / Travel Agent Sue Moody was still on the Mercury from the same cruise the week before. Gary and Jane Cumbie flew in to Seattle the evening before with a three hour delay for their airplane departure at DFW. Our and the Faglie's neighbors, Don & Renee Brackeen along with Renee's parents, Glin & Betty Hansard, departed Thursday evening with a plane delay at DFW as well...then flying to Vancouver and catching a shuttle flight into Seattle. Kay Rutledge, Sue's friend, along with Linda & Larry Oliver and Darrell & Donna Faglie and Alice Bufford Perkins departed DFW for Seattle Friday morning, June 3, after a thirty minute delay to Seattle. Jim and Toni Rinehart, ex-Grapevineites now living outside of Denver, CO, arrived to board early on Friday. Linda Bowden Cox and her husband Jerry, along with their friends from Spring, Texas – Fred and Martha Raven departed Friday morning from Houston headed to Seattle.

Anyway, we all did board on time to leave out about 5 p.m. Friday, June 3, 2005 out of Seattle port with a great view of downtown and the space needle. Weather was cloudy, but nice. After a party-like send off on deck and getting our luggage unpacked we all gathered for dinner...then, being a long day...went to our staterooms pretty early (since we had already lost a couple of hours).

SEA HELL upon waking Saturday morning. Our first evening out took us out to sea the western most distance from land and the wind was up to 50 knots out of the NW, so it managed to produce rather large waves/swells hitting at an angle at the bow of the ship...upon waking, a large percentage of the passengers and a percentage of the crew were sea sick...not a good day. The ship actually ran out of drugs. Alice Bufford Perkins and Darrell Faglie were probably the most "down" from the experience, however, all the others were to a lesser degree pretty unhappy and green. Only Gary Cumbie, Jim Rinehart, Don Brackeen and Larry Oliver seemed to avoid the sea sickness, but managed to make up for some of the day by not being very successful in the casino! The website will have a few photos of the sickees so you can see for yourself!

The large swells and waves continued throughout most of the day on Saturday, but by 6 p.m. most were feeling some better and managed to hold some dinner down and had a better time of it.

We had great weather...no rain, no mist, mostly sun and temperatures were really nice....I only had a coat on outside one time (viewing of Hubbard Glacier). We could not have asked for much better weather for the seven days at this time of the year...heck we didn't even get rain while in Seattle either on the departure day or the arrival day.

We all spent too much money trying to win money playing bingo on the ship...Darrell Faglie got two bingos, but probably still didn't make enough to cover his participation costs! But, it was fun.

We spent most evenings having a late dinner and then going to the stage show on the ship which included singers, dancers, Broadway type productions, ventriloquist, a great singing group, ladies scantily clad and men fully clothed – much to Jane Cumbie's dislike - not sure if it was that the men were fully clothed or that Gary was much too happy to view the ladies.

There were numerous shops on the ship that seemed to take money away from a number of our group and there was some great shopping on shore at Juneau and Ketchikan. Check out some of the new jewelry purchased by a few the next time you see them.

The Brackeens & Hansards took a helicopter ride over the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau and they said that it was magnificent. The Cumbies, Olivers, Alice Perkins, Sue Moody, Kay Rutledge and our ships Naturalist along with another Naturalist went out from Juneau on Captain Larry's Boat whale watching. This was one of the best times we had while we were off the boat. We encountered several humpback whales coming into Juneau onboard the Mercury. So...on our Whale Watching trip we went in search of Killer Whales – Orcas! And, did we ever find them. We saw at least 20+ Orcas on the trip – close up. There were several pods with at least two large males and numerous females and pups. They were spectacular. The Naturalists onboard were so informative and took us up close to the whales. We also were taken close to shore where we were able to watch well over two hundred sea lions, some weighing in at just under 2000 pounds. We saw bald eagles and numerous other birds in the large trees near the ocean. We also ran into a number of small seals lying on a buoy sunning themselves...we got pretty close to those guys who were more interested in sunning than us. This excursion lasted about 4 hours and it seemed like only an hour...the time went by very fast and we had a great experience – If you go to Juneau Alaska don't pass up Captain Larry's Orca Watching Trips! It was FANTASTIC!

A number of our group also visited the Mendenhall Glacier...it was also a great treat and the scenery was absolutely beautifully (see the photos). A number of the group walked to a huge waterfall of melting snow adjacent to the glacier (again, see the photos). This was a HUGE waterfall...look for the little people at the base!

Upon completion of our Whale Watching trip, we didn't have much shopping time left...Gary and I were most disappointed. However, the Whale Watching group did jump the bus back to the ship downtown and zipped into the Red Dog Saloon downtown Juneau. Where all were treated to a drink called the "Duck Fart". It was quite tasty. It is one part Kahlua, one part Baileys and one part Crown Royal. You needed to slam it down, and all did well...it was very good and triggered a need for Gary and I to have a beer chaser while the others went to take in a little shopping.

During the evening we sailed to Skagway, Alaska. At Skagway, Jerry & Linda Cox, Fred & Martha Raven, Darrell & Donna Faglie, Alice Bufford Perkins, Gary & Jane Cumbie,

and Larry & Linda Oliver took off on the White Pass & Yukon Railway. This was a twenty mile trip up into the mountains at the edge of the Yukon Territory some 2800 feet above sea level. It was a four or so hour trip, with unbelievable views (again, look over the photos). This was great trip and we got to see such beautiful mountains and glaciers, and lots of waterfalls. We traveled through a couple of tunnels through solid rock. This was an excellent trip.

After a fun evening, we sailed for the Hubbard Glacier. This was an unbelievable spectacle. Check out the photos, the glacier was a wall of ice coming down through the mountains that was over three hundred feet out of the ocean and taller than our cruise ship. It contained a lot of “blue” ice, which we found out was that blue due to the extreme pressure that pushed out all of the air bubbles which made the ice appear blue. We spent a great deal of time watching the ice break off and fall into the water. It was like hearing shot guns go off and by the time you heard it, the ice was already in the water making a huge splash. This was a marvelous view of nature that one could say it was some of God’s best work. It was fantastic to see.

The next stop was Ketchikan, Alaska. Before getting there we were able to attend a special cocktail party held by the ship captain. It was a very special event where the captain toasted this group of VIPs we managed to get into. We appreciate Sue Moody working this out for the group. It was after the Captain’s speech that we were able to present him with an Honorary Diploma from Grapevine High School. The Captain was most gracious and Gary Cumbie and I also presented him with a cap our entire group wore (see the photos). He was most impressed with the cap and told me that he had never been given an honorary diploma before – as I said he was most gracious. A photo of the honorary diploma is in with the cruise photos.

A group consisting of Fred Raven, Jerry Cox, Darrell Faglie, Donna Faglie, Linda Oliver, Larry Oliver, Don Brackeen, Renee Brackeen, Glin Hansard, and Betty Hansard were invited to have a tour of the ships galley (see the photos). That was also arranged by Melinda (ship’s cruise director) and Sue Moody. This was a very interesting tour to see the massive kitchen and to understand how everything worked to prepare over 9000 meals a day.

Most of our group received an invitation to attend a wine mixing and tasting seminar onboard. I think they drank more than they listened!

Please note the three photos of the group. The last formal evening, we met before dinner to have our photos taken as couples and as a group. The group photo was really impressive – you could hardly recognize us all dressed up. Then we took a photo of all of us dressed up with our class caps! Then we had a sort of “crazy” shot which only took a second for us to covert to “crazy” for that photo.

After the photo shoot, our Cruise / Travel Agent, Sue Moody and her friend Kay Rutledge invited all of us to a cocktail party in our honor. It was a very nice time, and during that event, we also presented an honorary diploma to Sue for all of her efforts in

making things happen under not the best of circumstances. Thanks to Sue for all she went through during the SUMMIT HELL TWIGHLIGHT ZONE DAYS.

The next morning it was already Thursday....we were at sea all day, but sailing through the inside passage...no ruff waters there. We spent the day relaxing, resting, eating breakfast, looking outside, in the casino, bingo, lunch, final show with the performers coming back for encore performances, dinner, shopping, movie of events and hidden cameras showing ladies going into the men's room by mistake (or so it seemed), people being locked out of their staterooms in various states of undress, etc.

On Friday morning, we slowly made our way into Port Seattle. And after a leisurely breakfast, we disembarked in groups and then waited for SUVs to take us to the airport (see photos). Everyone was tired and ready to go home to children and dogs....but, the time we had together was really special and all want to do more traveling as a group.

We discovered that all of the great things we remembered about being such good friends and buds was true. We picked up just like we were still in high school, except for the aching and memory loss and enjoyed being with each other so very much.

I want to thank everyone who participated and helped to make this trip and time spent together a fond memory that none of us will forget...Thanks to the friends of our class who became a part of our group and made the trip special for us all:

Don and Renee Brackeen (neighbors of the Faglies and Olivers in future home of Forestburg, Texas). Don & Renee will always be welcome to join any class event.

Glin and Betty Hansard (Renee Brackeen's Mother and Father – they were great and hopefully enjoyed the trip).

Fred and Martha Raven – they are long time friends of Jerry and Linda Bowden Cox from Spring, Texas - They fit in just like they had always been a part of our class and Fred even got Linda Oliver to eat Sushi. They are welcome to join any of our events!

Jim and Toni Rinehart (they lived in Grapevine a number of years back, sons graduated from GHS; they were a great addition to our group. They used to live next door to Bill and Glenda Cherry and had hoped to travel with them, but SUMMIT HELL TWILIGHT ZONE week did that in. Jim and Toni were great fun and we always welcome them to join us anytime for any of our events, parties or travel).

I want to offer a very special thanks to everyone....it was a great time (see the photos) and I believe that in spite of all of the problems encountered we managed to enjoy ourselves. I also have no doubt that the scenery and weather and ship were GRAND.

As I said, it only makes me want to do more of this, I am sure we will....so –
CLASSMATES, STAY TUNED FOR OTHER UPCOMING TRAVEL
OPPORTUNITIES!

Well...I am sure we will have reports from the Stacy Group when they get to make their trek northward later this month....they will do anything to have an excuse not to make the Ole Whiskers Get Togethers! (just kidding Rick – I did say something to your mother though). They sail June 24th....We all wish them well and a great time in Alaska!

And, we expect great info from David & Darlene when they travel in August! Especially about their trek from Anchorage to Fairbanks!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Grapevine High School turns 100 years old in 2005-2006

Our class turns only 40 (in a manner of speaking) next year.

Ole Whiskers Saturday, June 25th at 6:00 p.m. / Custer Rd. in Plano, Texas BE THERE.

Start working on 40th reunion scheduled for two possible times...we will consider Homecoming opportunities this fall and will certainly have plans for late spring of 2006 for a Party Weekend. Also we will be considering a committee to seek out other travel opportunities all the time for those who can cut loose and go...stay tuned for more about that group's work!

We still have classmates we can not locate....so, if you have a lead on how to contact the following, please email me or send me information soon:

Pat Bates	Jerry Bates	Jill Carlson Williams
Gail Defibaugh	Randy Doty	Dobie (Evelyn) Gill Lindsey
Quentin Hix	Kenneth Hughes	Doris Jean Jones
Betty McQuade	Jackie Morgan	Janice Jordan McElroy
Jim Stockton	Bill Tutt	

We also want everyone to join me in adding some new honorary classmates from the Alaskan Cruise that we will include in our newsletters and invite them to attend any of our events!

WELCOME Honorary Class Members:

Toni Rinehart
Jim Rinehart
Martha Raven
Fred Raven
Renee Brackeen
Don Brackeen

In closing....thanks to all for everything you do to keep us together.

GOD BLESS THE GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS of 1966!

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Oliver