

Grapevine High School
Class of 1966
September 2007 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Classmates and Friends of the GHS Class of 1966!

Here we are entering the last quarter of 2007, it doesn't seem possible. Hard to believe that we've been out of Grapevine High School for 41 years...how can we even be 41 years old? Hang in there and enjoy these years to come – stop and “smell the roses”, find out more about your roots, contact an old friend you haven't seen in a long time, check on your neighbors, go barefoot in the grass, buy a new hat or cap, go to the country and smell the air, hug someone who needs it (but be careful on this one), thank the lady who checks you out at the grocery store (I am talking about checking out your groceries not your beautiful eyes or clothes), drive friendly (and stay off your cell phone while driving), plan a vacation to somewhere you've always wanted to go, prepare to avoid being cynical during the next year of presidential campaigning, and don't forget to thank God for your family, your friends - all that you have.

This past month, I received an email from Sandra Bible. Sandra has caught up checking out our website during June and July. She wanted to express her sincere appreciation to those in our class who sent her personal messages when her late husband passed away in 2003. She said that those words of sympathy and encouragement meant so much. She also appreciated seeing so many when she lost her dad.

Sandra has recently remarried, and they have built a new log home on the same property in the Piney Woods where she was living. They are using their “little cabin” as a guest house. They may even turn the “little cabin” into a bed and breakfast in the future (unless one of her boys moves into the cabin). Her new email address (she said to share it) is lazypines@etex.net if you wanted to contact her. If you do, please say something in the “subject” to let her know it is not some spam or something with a virus – so she will open it. It is good to have Sandra back with email and access to the website. I know all of you join me in wishing her the best. Send her an email and say “hi”!

I was recently invited to a small get-together by the class of 1978 and had an opportunity to visit with Sandra's sister Christi (an ex-student of mine) and it was good to see her and to catch up a little on Sandra during our visit.

For those of you have not yet heard, during the week of August 13, Diane Cherry Stacy was called back and sent to a doctor at the Southwestern Medical Center, in Dallas, where she thought she would be meeting with a doctor. She actually had a biopsy that day and received word on Friday afternoon of that week that the biopsy showed that there was a malignancy. Surgery has now been tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2007. Rick has been scheduled for some intestinal surgery on September 13, but Diane indicated that they were not sure he would be up to it the day after hers. So, they do hope things go well and he can have his surgery soon after Diane's so that their daughter Ashley can “nurse us both at once” according to Diane.

There has been some good news, Diane told me that the week of August 20th, she had an MRI and the test did not show anything else. The test indicated that just the one breast showed cancer cells, and that means there is a good chance that the cancer has not spread to the lymph nodes. So please, please keep Diane, Rick and their family in your thoughts and especially your prayers as they face a most difficult time over the next several weeks.

I want to take a moment to thank Rick's mom for helping keep me informed. I know that with so much going on and the stress of all this, that having a “mom” like Rick's is a true blessing. Thanks Merrill.

In July, I attended the funeral service of one of the most important ladies in my life – Annie B. Watters – my and (in some cases) your first grade teacher. Annie started taking care of me in 1954 and didn't stop until just about six months ago. Not many days would pass, since 1954 that I didn't see or get a telephone call from Annie Watters. She was always there, checking on me, encouraging me, and offering excellent counsel if I had issues I was dealing with. How lucky to have been a part of her first class with the Grapevine Public Schools. How fortunate it was to have your first grade teacher never stop being your teacher. There is little doubt that Annie was a part of the reason I chose education as my career – “be a life-long learner” she always told me...”never stop learning, never stop discovering new things, you're never too old to learn.” Thank you Annie B. Watters for making the quality of my life better than it might have ever been, thank you for being such a great friend and mentor, and thank you for being my first grade teacher for over fifty years.

The GHS Class of 1967 had their 40th reunion August 19th. My wife, Linda, worked many hours putting her class' reunion together these past several months. It was a struggle, but they had a pretty good turnout and I got to see some GHS classmates I have not seen for some time. Good to see some of our OLD high school classmates like Buzz Briscoe, Ulys Lane, Joe McMeans, Drucie French, Penny Parker-Mayfield, Jeannie Dalton-Cheatham, Karen Williams Germany (Brent too), James Baber, Buddy Davis, Penny Kerns Davis, Robert Pewitt, Billy Moore, Linda Ransdell, John Reagor, Beverly Straley Kennedy (Kent too), Terry Tillman, and others.

I did seem to notice a few subtle differences between our reunion (last year) and their reunion (this year). They really didn't have anyone dance – I guess they needed Wylie and Rick to participate (Rick and Diane were there, but Rick spent time visiting). I also noticed that the Class of '67 didn't seem to make as many trips to the bar...guess that could explain the lack of dance participants as well. They did honor Edith Pewitt, Harlan Jewett, Bob England, Tom Walker, and Gaylan DuBose – all were in attendance.

For those of you who don't follow the “job hopping” of Gary Cumbie, he has been employed by Tarrant County Community College for the past months. Gary has been a tremendous asset to TCCC as they have been battling various political groups and individuals in getting details and support for the new facility that is going to be built downtown. It is going to be a great addition to the downtown area and a lot of the success of this effort to work out the details goes to Gary. Thanks Gary for helping make things better for all of us in Tarrant County, Texas.

In our last newsletter, I informed you of Darrell Faglie's new direction...things have gone a little slow and the work on the new offices are still ongoing, but getting a lot closer. Hopefully by the December Newsletter, Darrell will be in his new office space and well underway in his new vocational direction...and, who knows, maybe Donna will have decided to retire from public school work and will have joined Darrell at his new office. Keep them in your prayers as they move into a new arena.

Carolyn Cody Niblett and her husband, J.R., have purchased some acreage in Colorado. Their house in Grapevine is up for sale and they are hoping to get started on building a new house in Colorado before the start of the freezing season in Colorado. We wish them well and hope that they will invite us all up to Colorado!

Linda and I have just about settled in at our new (new to us) home in Grapevine. We are so very pleased thus far (hope that continues). We are having trouble feeling like it belongs to us, it seems like we are just borrowing it for a time. We have gotten most of the inside settled in, with only a couple of things to complete. We still have some more work outside – a whole lot more landscaping than we are used to caring for. Hopefully within a couple of more months we will feel like it truly belongs to us, and we will have a little better handle on everything.

REMINDER - OLE WHISKERS at 6 p.m., Saturday, September 15th – BE THERE!

During the meetings for Linda's Class reunion I couldn't help but overhear a number of things, and of course could not refrain from offering suggestions. One suggestion that I made was to honor the teachers who attended (since they had some money left) by putting a brick on Grapevine Main Street (a fund-raiser as a part of the Palace Theater renovation) in their honor from the GHS Class of 1967. After I said it, I was disappointed that we had not attempted to do something similar. So, you now have a chance. I am listing teachers/staff at GHS who were there at least two years during our high school days. I am asking each of you to email me with the names of those teachers you felt had an impact on you, your life, your future, or even your time at GHS. **Please send me the names, from this list only, with "why" you selected each on your list before September 20, 2007.** Once we have a number with multiple selections, I believe we will have a "natural" line to select from. Once that is complete, we will start our fund-raiser to get the money to place a brick on Main Street from the GHS Class of 1966. Below is that list, pick from this list only and please email me at LAR001@aol.com (be sure that you use zeros and not the letter "O" after the LAR). And again, only select from this list (I have confirmed their tenure) and provide a "reason" why you selected the ones you picked. I will provide more info as your responses come in and keep you posted. For those class members without email and who have received this Newsletter via U.S. Postal Service, please mail me your selections – mail to: Larry Oliver, 2301 Brookcrest Lane, Grapevine, Texas 76051. I think this is a great opportunity to pay tribute to our teachers and mentors during our high school days...please take the time to respond.

Isla Bickers (English, Drama, Speech)
Buster Copp (Mathematics)
Carolyn Frank (Secretary)
Madeline Hemley (Choral Music)
Pat Hudson (Coach, PE)
Harlan Jewett (Industrial Arts / Shop)
Vera Looper (English – Counselor)
Edith Pewitt (Science)
Delbert Rowland (Coach, Government)
Jess Stockton (Band)
Don Witt (Vocational Ag, FFA)

Anna Belle Cook (Homemaking)
Gaylan Dubose (Latin, English)
Lance Graham (Principal)
Max Hibitts (Coach, Science)
Mavis Huffman (Typing, Bookkeeping)
Mickey Koonce (Principal)
Tom Jane Nowlin (Typing, Annual, Shorthand)
Frank Prindle (Mathematics)
Gayle Shumate (English, Spanish)
Darlene Svehlak (Homemaking, FHA)
Woody Woodson (Coach, History)

Of course if you find that I missed someone or if you want to consider those that didn't fit the two year high school teacher of our class criteria, please do not hesitate to add them to your response list – and we will see. I think while we can still remember we ought to see if we can show our appreciation to some great teachers, mentors, and friends.

I am also still in belief that I will be going part-time this month (September 2007) and will be working two or three days a week for Dallas ISD as they are winding down on their 2002 Bond Program – should be completed by sometime next summer (2008). I am also working with DISD Administration in preparing for another bond package to go to the voters (most likely) in May 2008 for around \$2 billion dollars. If that happens, I might continue to work on a part time basis for a few years beyond 2008... only time will tell.

This Newsletter has a lot to digest, so please do so slowly...I am trying to get it posted a little early to get this information out in a timely manner. We have so much to be thankful for, but we also have those in our group having difficult times...that provides us a great opportunity to be there for them, and to be praying for these in need. Of course we can all use all the prayers we can gather up these days.

Thanks to each of you for your part in my life and the life of those in our class. Please respond on the "teacher thing" and may God Bless the GHS Class of 1966 and their families!

Respectfully,
Larry Oliver