

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1966

December 2010 Newsletter

Hopefully you are receiving this Newsletter just before Christmas! I want to again wish everyone a Most Wonderful and Joyous Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Prosperous, and Most Happy New Year!

I hope all of you have responded to “Happy Holidays” with a boisterous “MERRY CHRISTMAS” and make it a goal to bring back “Christmas” into the season’s vocabulary. I know just a few days ago, the GHS Class of 1966 had its annual Christmas Party – a second year of a luncheon event with our famous White Elephant Gift Exchange. I tried very hard to best Pat Flanagan this year for the most popular gift by coming up with a delightful photo of Darrell Faglie and me. We actually autographed it and everything. It was beautiful and large enough to make it suitable for hanging over the “lucky recipient’s mantle”. However, no one even attempted to steal it from the original recipient. I don’t know how Pat Flanagan managed to hide it from everyone and ended up able to take home this wonderful prize! However, Pat continued to have the “Present of Choice” again this year. Pat, this is getting to be a habit!

I do want to thank the thirty-something group (I am talking quantity of participants, not referring to a particular age group here) for showing up and enjoying some great food prepared by great people and spending a few hours of great fellowship and fun. It was also great to have Beverly Horton join us this season for the party! Due to some colds and flu-like symptoms we missed John & Caroline Wilkinson and Kent & Beverly Kennedy along with some others who sent emails and made phone calls indicating their inability to attend. We heard from Roger Hardin, Jean Giddiens Soderberg, Sharon Huffman Smith, Judy Logan, Pam Cooper and others who offered up their regrets in not being able to attend this year’s event.

Hard to believe it is almost 2011 and that our 45th Class Reunion is coming soon. Several discussions were held at the Christmas Event and we will soon send out plans and dates for the Reunion. We even talked of plans for our 50th Reunion - less than six years away! There continues to be discussions of a trip to Hawaii – a sort of “Hawaii 5 – 0” Reunion Event. I can only say that we may just pull this off – so start saving your money – you have five years to save up to join some OLD folks invading the islands as this continues to grow as a stronger and stronger consideration.

During Homecoming this year there was an unveiling of sort – the Grapevine High School Ex-Students Association worked at finding a way to more formally honor past GHS Distinguished Alumni and honored Teachers as they are a part of the Grapevine High School Hall of Fame. There were some grant funds

remaining from the 100 Anniversary of Grapevine High that was mostly controlled by the Ex-Student Association. Back over a year ago, I had met with the group and suggested that we come up with a TREE of HONOR that would allow the Ex-Students Association to provide for recognition of these students and teachers of the past at GHS. After what seemed like years and years (actually only many months) we came up with a design working with past GHS Art Teacher Janie Sanders Cavender. The Tree was finished only hours before the Friday morning Pep Rally at GHS, which was followed by the Homecoming Tea and Hall of Fame Recognition. At that event the Tree was presented to GHS Principal Dr. Jerry Hollingsworth from the GHS Ex-Student Association. Below are a couple of photos to give you an idea of the size and scope of work put into this piece of art that is GHS History. On the tree are leaves that hold individual brass plaques giving the name of the 50+ GHS Distinguished Alumni that have been recognized since this started the year our Class Graduated – 1966. On the blocks of wood, below the tree are the names and years taught at GHS of Teachers who have been inducted into the GHS Hall of Fame. I want to personally thank Mr. Russell Kidd (GHS Ex-Student Association President) and his willingness to put up with me and working with Janie in helping to put this together. Janie Sanders Cavender did a fantastic job coming up with a design that Russell and I envisioned and making it a reality.





I apologize for the photo above being one with me in it – it was the only close up Janie took.

On Monday, October 25th, at the Grapevine Historical Society Meeting, classmate Bobbie Jo Benson Mitchell as there to introduce Bob Ray Sanders who provided a program of the History of African-Americans in the North Texas / Tarrant County area. Linda and I were able to attend – great to see Bobbie Jo, and the program was excellent! Tommy Simmons (GHS 64) set up the program for the Historical Society – I would encourage classmate so consider joining this group of local citizens as they work to maintain the history of our community. If you are interested in joining, let me know and I will be sure to get a brochure mailed to you.

Returning to the days of yester-year, Saturday, November 13th we had a Sammie's Bar-B-Q Get-Together. We had 47 people show up for a great time of fellowship and food! We had five folks joining our Get Togethers for the first time. We had a number of graduates from the 60s classes and it was a great place to have the event – I feel sure we will want to try Sammies out again in the near future.

As most of you know, Sandra Bible Ringgenberg's mother, Lois Evelyn Vibrock, passed away on November 26th. The funeral service was held at West Lake Baptist Church in Chandler, Texas and interment was at Bluebonnet Hills in Colleyville. I was able to attend the graveside service and had the opportunity to visit with Sandra and her sisters. I also spoke with Nelda Jordan, mother of our classmate, Roger Jordan and saw Roger's sister as well. Please continue to keep Sandra, Connie, Lisa, Christi, and Mike in your prayers during this difficult and painful loss.

Betty Derby Vandiver had the terrible experience of a fire that damaged her home early December. Betty indicated that the fire damage was mostly to the rear of the home. Insurance people had been most helpful and they found a home nearby to rent while restoration efforts and repairs are completed. Betty indicated they expected the work to take about four months. It was great to see Betty at the Christmas Event and see that she was doing well considering the fire. Please be in prayer for Betty as they get their home back together over the coming months.

I know that our friend and teacher Tom Walker has been dealing with neck pain and that he has gone to see Mary Quinn Tobleman's husband (neurologist) who is making him an appointment with a specialist. I know that our friend Harlan Jewett has been down and in the hospital again recently. Please keep these two fine young men in your prayers these days.

As we are hours away from Christmas Day, I want to again wish each of you and your families a Joyous and Wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I wish for us all better economic times in the coming year, better health, and special times of enjoyment with family. I also hope the coming year brings more opportunities to visit with some of your life-long friends from GHS and especially the GHS Class of 1966. We have been so blessed over the years; God has indeed been so very good to us all in so many ways. Certainly we have all experienced difficulties and sadness, the loss of a family member or friend, but "Oh My" how the Lord has blessed us and continued to give us the strength to deal with those difficult times. I know that for Linda and me – our high school classmates and friends have been there like rocks when we needed them. Continue to see, talk to, visit with, and love one another in the coming year.

Merry Christmas and God Bless the GHS Class of 1966!

Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Oliver