

GRAPEVINE HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS of 1966

JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER

Greetings Classmates & Friends of the GHS Class of 1966!

It is hard to believe that our 40th Year Reunion was a year ago....time continues to increase in velocity! Can we really be circling 60 years of age??? Just does not seem as though some of you can be that old! I hope you continue to take note of how fortunate we were to have been born at a time that allowed us to be a part of that time at Grapevine Public Schools in the 50s & 60s. What a great time to be in Grapevine, Texas. What a great time to have crossed paths with some exceptional teachers, some exceptional citizens, some exceptional parents of our friends, and exceptional classmates. I continually find ex-GHS students and others who are amazed that we can locate and still have communication with some many of our high school class. I suspect that the rest of you have had similar comments and experiences. Out of some 120 individuals we are attempting to have knowledge of, we have email addresses for about 70 and mailing addresses (good ones) for about twenty-seven....so we have only about 14 that we are still trying to find or locate...not many classes can say that for being out of high school for over 40 years.

As with most of these Newsletters, this one is no exception in terms of loss for our GHS family. In late March David & Darlene Tillery Florence lost their five-month old grandson Holton due to SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). What a tragic loss. I know David and Darlene, as well as their daughter Kathy Florence Spradley and her husband Shawn, appreciated the support and prayers from everyone during this difficult time. I don't have the words to express to David, Darlene, Kathy, Shawn and the other family members the sorrow we all felt during this time of loss. I just know that so many of you sent cards, flowers, emails, letters, cards and I know from my own experience from losing a child just how much it means to have your friends and family be there. Please continue to keep this family in your prayers, they will need them and treasure them for a long time.

I also hope that you have knowledge of a golf tournament that is being held to honor the memory of Holton. It will be on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at Sky Creek Ranch. Please check out their website at www.holtonsdriveforsids.com to get more information. If you would like to participate in this tournament, we are also attempting to put together some teams to play and have about 10 class members already responding. If you would like to join us, please email me and sign up.

Most of you have heard via email or other method that we lost another classmate in April. Kenneth Hughes passed away in April from Huntington's disease. Ken's mom passed away from Huntington's disease years ago. I know that the last months for Ken were very very difficult. Huntington's attacks the brain and nervous system. Ken's last several years were spent in the care of his cousin Marilyn and in an assisted living center in North Carolina. Ken only had his cousin Marilyn and her mother remaining in his family. The Hughes' neighbor, Roy Dulworth, contacted me a few weeks back to let me know about Ken's death. On May 19th, there was a graveside service for Ken at Bluebonnet in Colleyville where his parents are buried. Ken was a close friend to Rick Vaughn, Van Morrison and me during those high school years. Ken came to GHS as we entered high school and just at the departure of Bobby Lawrence to Deerfield Academy. Bob was the key GHS Band drummer and Ken was a drummer. Ken arrived just in time to fill that void. Ken became the main drummer for marching, concert and the Stage Band. . Rick, Van, and I were at the service for Ken and were joined at the service by Chris and Mary Ann Ashton. Rick, Van and I had met Ken's cousin, Marilyn during our high school days and had

not seen her since that time. Her mom was there and said she remembered Rick and me (I can only say that her memory is a lot better than ours). It was good to visit with Marilyn, her mom, and some of Ken's friends from his time in Houston. We had a nice time remembering our times with Ken...it seems we are all attending too many funerals these days.

By the way, Ken's friends from Houston were really amused about our nickname for Ken. When he arrived in Grapevine, we (in the band) referred to Ken as "Baby Hughie" which was quickly transformed in to "Duck". I guess we never called Ken anything but "Duck" during our high school days, and I must say that carried on through his adult life for us. I guess he decided not to share that with his friends in Houston! I know that Rick, Van and I will always have great memories of our good friend Ken "Duck" Hughes – we will truly miss him.

I received an email at the end of May from Sharon Cooper Scott informing me that her son Michael was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. Please continue to keep Michael and Sharon's family in your prayers as well.

For those who have not heard, our own, Darrell & Donna Faglie are slowly moving into a new vocational era. Darrell is opening a new division of Wright Construction (where he has worked for well over 30 years). Darrell will head up this new division that will specialize in underground utility work for Municipalities and work with residential sub-division utility construction projects. This division will be Darrell's and he will have his best partner, Donna Young Faglie (she keeps after me to include "young" in her name) working with him as the business gets started this summer. And, who knows, now that Donna is eligible for retirement from school, she might even like it enough to retire one of these days in the near future to work full time with Darrell. Donna would be in charge of the office, doing everything involved, including performing the "take-offs" for prospective work. That will give Darrell a dependable and important partner.

On Wall Street, adjacent to the Wright Construction and Wright Development offices was a church that Mr. Wright has purchased. Darrell is working on converting it into his offices. He has been working for a few weeks by the time you read this and may be ready to move by July. So, as the Faglies move into this new phase of vocational effort in the coming months, I know you join me in wishing them well, and keep them in your prayers for a great success.

As you are reading this, the Olivers are or will soon be moving into their recently purchased home in Grapevine. Our new address is 2301 Brookcrest Lane, Grapevine, Texas. This, for those of you who live in the area, is in the Reed Addition, north of Dove Elementary School and near Grapevine Lake. This would be near the location of Gay Reed Johnson's home while she was in high school. At any rate it is north on Kimball Road from Highway 114 to Lakeview, left on Lakeview to first street to the right (which is Brookcrest Lane) and we are near the end of that street on the right. We are very excited about getting back to being a home owner and are ready to depart the duplex we've been in since May 2006 when we sold our home.

Another update...the Faglies and the Olivers still own land in Forestburg, Texas (Shooting Star Ranch) and we both still plan to have a building with living quarters in it within the next year or so. When and if either family will build a retirement home remains to be seen. But, we both hope to get to spend some more time there soon – if we get moved and the Faglies get the business going.

Linda and I were fortunate to join with the many friends and family of Bobbie Cherry (Diane Cherry Stacy's Mom) recently at a surprised birthday party. Diane and Rick (I'm sure it was mostly Diane) did an excellent job in setting her up for the surprise (it was a surprise). And the slide show and food and fellowship were great. It was good to see all of the Stacy family and Cherry family again!

Since we talked about the Faglies, I need to tell you that my wife, Linda, has also changed jobs. After spending over thirty years at one location she has moved around a little for the past few years, but I think she may have found a final place to stay until retirement time. She is now a Vice President for Bank of the West in Grapevine. Bank of the West is building their new corporate headquarters in Grapevine. They will have two branches in Grapevine and a number of others in the North Texas area.

In early April, I received an email from a member of the GHS Class of 1967 – Drucie French. I have not seen nor heard from Drucie in longer than any of us want to think. Her email thanked me for the GHS Class of 1966 Website. She said that she had wandered into our website and had spent a grand time exploring, reading Newsletters, looking at the photos, etc. She also complained how we had “laid dubious claim to Darlene Tillery Florence and Penny Parker Mayfield, who were actually in the class of 1967. I quickly responded that I remembered them as making the choice to graduate early and that we welcome them to be a part of our class always! It was good to hear from Drucie, maybe I’ll hear from her again in thirty or forty years!

Linda (Ethridge – Oliver) is attempting to get some help in putting together a reunion for the Class of 1967 this August. So, if you run across any of that group, please send me addresses, email address, phone numbers, etc. to help them do their best to contact their classmates! I know Linda would be most appreciative.

Don’t forget to check out the Website and the birthdays listed for our class by months – send an OLD friend an email or card with a birthday wish over the year. Even though we don’t like to be reminded about our age, I believe we like hearing from our old classmates!

I want to again “print” my sincerest thanks to Shelley McDade Debnam, who does all the hard work on the GHS Class of 1966 Website. I was fortunate enough to discover Shelley and hire her to work for the Grapevine-Colleyville Schools when she was fresh out of high school (sorry, she didn’t go to Grapevine). She has been with the GCISD now for more than 15 years and I promise that they are lucky to have her! She is the major reason we have such a great website. I won’t give out her personal email address, but you can contact her at webmaster@ghsclassof1966.com and I am sure she would appreciate your thanks and compliments to her work in putting the website together! Please take a moment to do so if you would.

I have an opportunity to see and visit with Tom Walker and Harlan Jewett ever so often and they ask about many from our class and still see a number of you as they still get around town. I just want to make sure you all know that they often speak kindly of our class! I also know that they would love to hear from you, so if you are interested in taking time to send a post card or letter, I know that they would be pleased and surprised. Harlan & Inez Jewett were honored at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet as this year’s “Ted Willhoite Legacy Award” winners for their many years of contributions to the City and citizens of Grapevine.

Tom Walker, 1145 Butterfield, Grapevine, Texas 76051
Harlan & Inez Jewett, 721 W. College, Grapevine, Texas 76051

This Quarterly Newsletter is being put together in the early days of June so that I can get packing.

God Bless the GHS Class of 1966!

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Oliver