

April, 1997

Dear Phillips Exes,

Well, it's that time of the year again.....spring!.....when a young man's fancy turns to passion, a young woman's fancy turns to fashion, and an old Blackhawk's fancy turns to hash'in....over old memories and old friends. If you're going just to sit there and fantasize about the past, you best come back here and do it in like company, because it just so happens that we're fixing to have another PHS homecoming this summer on the weekend of July 11 and 12! This time around we are recognizing and honoring all former **CHOIR MEMBERS** and **MUSIC TEACHERS**. This would include all the "ungifted and untalented" (who were politely asked to lip-sync) and of course the ones who could carry a tune (and the rest of us) and usually made all-state and had lots of neat-looking patches. So please come and help us celebrate a time to remember (remembering that if we hadn't participated in choir, then it would have been study hall)! Seriously though, those were good times, and we're going to have a bunch more fun....in unison and acapulco, of course. So mark those dates down on your calendars...July 11 and 12...and do try real, real hard to attend HC 1997!

Last year our theme was the "Year of the Basketball Girls", but we told you about all about that and the great success it was in our newsletter last fall (more on the PHS Newsletter in just a moment). One thing the association committee has decided to do from now on is to choose and announce the group we will be honoring two HC's in advance, so that you will have plenty of advance notice! In July, 1998 it's going to be the former girls volleyball teams and coaches, who are long overdue their well-deserved recognition. For a program that captured at least 7 State Championship titles, we sadly admit that these group of women were vastly under-publicized, often playing "3th fiddle" to the football and basketball players. So volleyball girls, your time is drawing nigh when you all will share the limelight with no others. Most of these girls' win/loss records will astound you!!!

Our former music teachers that we will honor this HC include: Colonel Crites(deceased), Ruth Strain, Violette Mills (address unknown), Hart Soloman(address unknown), Virginia Fessler(deceased), Helen Bisbee, Evelyn Hubbard, Dora Roe, Jim Ramsey, Henry Lay, Jerry Arrington, Randy Talley, Rose Marie Scott, Kim Broadstreet, and Perry Cotton. Any of these strike a familiar note??? (Bad pun, feel free to go ahead and place finger on back of tongue and gag!...careful though, no hairballs on form on backside).

We have several neat things planned that we may do during our program Saturday morning. A couple are still in the brain-storming stage and aren't announcable yet. However, one thing that's on tap, just for old time sake, is to have all former choir members, who wish to do so, assemble together and sing a couple of old, perennial favorites that were sung by most of the choirs at PHS, such as "This Is My Country" and "My God And I". All former choir members will receive a souvenir ribbon commemorating this homecoming, and an orange-and-black treble clef with a 3/6 time signature, stamped on their foreheads, the mark of the beast.

Here is the schedule of events for Friday, July 11th and Saturday, July 12th, all to be held at the modern, air-conditioned West Texas High School cafeteria, except where otherwise noted (underlined) below: Road signs to the cafeteria will be posted in Stinnett to help first-time attendees find the school cafeteria, and there will be some first-timers at HC, as usual.

Fri 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Golf Tournament at Huber Golf Course (west of Borger by the Country Club)
Fri 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Early Bird Mixer at Local 351 Union Hall at 111 E. Coolidge, Borger (refreshments served)
Sat 9:00 am - 10:30 am - Registration and Visiting
Sat 10:30 am - 12:00 pm - Meeting and Program
Sat 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch Catered by Sutphens (catfish, chicken strips, etc.)
Sat 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm - Browsing Through Heritage Center (this is a must and a real treat if you've never seen it)
Sat 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm - BBQ Dinner Catered by Sutphens (and continued visiting)

Regarding the first event above, all interested Hawks, Hawkettes, Spouses/Dates are invited to play at the Big Blackhawk Golf Scramble, tee-off time at 1:00 pm, Friday. The entry fee is \$45 each, which includes green fee and golf cart. (The first 64 entries will be assured a cart). Prizes for winning foursomes will depend on the number of entries. Richard Hale, Huber golf pro, will determine the foursomes according to handicap or average score. So golfers, go-fers, and/or goofers, complete the enclosed entry form, and let's have an afternoon of fun and competition....and no cheat'in, because there's been reported as of late out at the golf course a few little birdies (who see all and tell all???) . Feel that gagging sensation coming on again?

Just because you didn't take choir doesn't exclude you one bit! We want to make a special appeal to all you exes who were part of these same classes to turn out for this year's Homecoming, not only to support and help honor these melodious peers of yours, but also to have a very fulfilling and enjoyable time of reunion with your former classmates and friends. So dang it, get out of your easy chairs to which your bottoms seemed to have grown to, and come to Homecoming! You've been out of school now long enough to come, and there couldn't be a better time to start, if it's been a while since you've come. A lot of you exes haven't been back for a HC since that grand-daddy of them all in 1986. And that means you still haven't seen the pride and joy of the whole school, the Heritage Center. We've said this before, but you can't begin to imagine how nice a place it is! Let's put it this way....it's the closest you'll ever get to "Never-Never-Land" (that is, the old town of Phillips, which is NEVER goin' to be again and, LANDS, you're NEVER goin' to see again). Hope you're not down to the dry heaves yet...hang with me a little longer.

In conjunction with Homecoming, our feature class is the '47 Class who are having their 50-Year Reunion. If there's one reunion you ought to come to in your lifetime, then this is it...the "Big Goldie"! We don't want to unduly alarm you members of the Class of '47 with the mortuary statistics of one's odds for even being around for a 51st Reunion, so we'll just urge you to come in the strongest, possible way. Someone in the '47 Class will win a customized Blackhawk blanket (must be present to win). If you are interested in more details, contact Stu Gillispie at (806)273-5055. Several other classes are also having reunions here during HC weekend. They are listed below along with the class rep(s) heading up the effort, and his/her phone number:

- '52 Jane Plummer Lane (806)878-3155
- '62 Ray L. Robbins (314)434-9992
- '57 Jim Berry (512)754-7814
- '72 Steve Williams (806)274-5115 and Sherry Bugg Hopkins (806)274-3317

The '72 Class is also inviting the combined Classes of '71, '73, and '74 to attend their functions. So, what about you Classes of '37, '42, '67, '77, '82, and '87??? It's not too late for you all to get something going for a 5-year-interval reunion also.

We have decided to send out a second mailout each year in the fall in the form of a newsletter. The newsletter will fill you in on the details about the previous HC, pass along any news that has come our way over the past year about fellow exes and former teachers, apprise you of any Heritage Center additions and plans, and keep you updated on the exes and ex-teachers who have died during the past year, etc. The only CATCH is that in order to receive this extra mailout, you must have paid your dues earlier in the year for the July HC. So in order to receive a newletter in the fall of 1998, you will have had to pay your dues again prior to the 1998 July HC....and so on for each succeeding year. In other words, it will be on a year-to-year basis. We sent out our first newsletter last November to those who paid their dues for the last HC. A lot of you missed out on some good poop.

The same as before, the dues are \$7.00, (\$10.00 covers both you and your spouse if he/she is also a Phillips ex). The catered lunch and dinner costs you will pay at homecoming just prior to each meal, if you do wish to participate. Your dues are what allow us, your Alumni Association, to continue to exist and to be of service to you, and we want you to know they are deeply appreciated. They, along with any contributions and other money we receive from you, go to help pay for the expenses incurred for homecoming, letter mailouts and necessary phone calls, upkeep and updates to the Heritage Center, computer printer supplies, and services rendered such as below. Your dues also buy you a chance to win a coveted, \$140 Blackhawk blanket at HC (don't have to be present). And as we said earlier, paying your dues puts you on our mailout distribution list for this fall's newsletter.

If you want an address listing for your class, please send \$1.50 with your request to the PHS Alumni Association. If you want address labels in addition, send \$6.00 for the two (we had to go up a buck because of the more expensive, clear laser printer labels). As is typically the case, we won't have a current address and phone number for every member of your class. However, call us and we may be able to furnish you with an address of a sibling (who was in another class) of those missing classmates. If you would like a current list of all the deceased PHS exes by class, then that will be \$1.50 also.

At the bottom is that damnable, but nevertheless necessary form we want you to fill out (even if you do not plan to come this July or can't send any dues), detach, and mail back to us along with the money for your dues, any address listings/labels and/or deceased listings you request, and golf fee (if applicable). It's very important that we hear back from each one of you, so that we have a current address and other information on you. Every year we lose track of more and more exes who either move, remarry, are kidnapped, or are gobbled up by the witness relocation/protection program, despite our once-a-year HC mailouts and our dire reliance on letter forwarding/address correction services by the Post Office. If we didn't have a Homecoming every year, we'd eventually lose track of half you exes in a matter of a few years. So please complete the form and send ASAP to the following address: Please, don't be lazy or indifferent; we really depend on this form more than you'll ever realize. Thank you.

--> Phillips Alumni Association, P.O. Box 1710, Borger TX 79008 <-- Come on and take a sentimental journey, Your sing'in, swing'in Alumni Committee

Class: _____ Amount Money Enclosed: Dues _____ + Other _____ + Golf Fee _____ = Total _____ Date: _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Spouse's First Name: _____

Mailing Address _____ Phone No. _____ Spouse's Class (If PHS Ex) _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Plan to attend the July homecoming? NO ___ MAYBE ___ YES ___ If YES, how many of you? _____ Do you plan to eat with us at: Noon? ___ Evening? ___

Name of someone who will always know your address _____ Relation To You _____

Their Mailing Address _____ Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone No. _____

Do you plan to move within the next year? _____ Where (if known) _____