

Yo, Ho, Ho, and a Bottle of.... Fun!

“If you missed the Blackhawk cruise this past April, start making plans for our next excursion, scheduled for this coming May. This last April some 86 exes and spouses strong got together for an unforgettable experience! Before the end of the cruise, the rest of the ship’s 2000 passengers knew all about Phillips, Texas.

H. F. Ritchie (‘57) bringing the ship house down with his rock-and-roll and upstaging the talent show emcee, **Lona Shield** (‘56) makeshift toga, **Joey Sutphen’s** (‘58) waddle in the “hairiest man” contest, **Ellen Quisenberry** (‘56) packing fiasco. **Billy Baker’s** (‘56) and **Joey Sutphen** (‘58) near maroonment on the island of Cozumel, repartees exchanged during evening dinner conversations.... you simply missed four days of nonstop, side-splitting laughter.

We had so much fun! Nothing is better than renewing and strengthening old friendships. Everyone was exactly as I remembered. I also relished the chance to get to know the spouses of our extended family. We had perfect weather, superb entertainment, too much fantastic food, and GREAT fellowship!

I am anxiously awaiting our next cruise. Many have already signed up. Please come on aboard and share in the fun. You’ll have to try extra hard NOT to have the time of your life!” **Rinky Chivers Sanders** (‘56)

The Class of ‘56, gearing up for its “Big 50th”, is planning a cruise next spring to Cozumel and Playa del Carmen, Mexico open once again to all exes, their relatives, and friends. The cruise ship will leave Galveston on Monday, May 6 and return on Saturday, May 11. Price per person, based on cabin double occupancy aboard the ship, Carnival’s “Ecstasy”, is as follows:

Category 6A	Ocean View	\$506.76	Riviera Deck
Category 6B	Ocean View	\$546.75	Main Deck
Category 6C	Ocean View	\$586.76	Upper Deck
Category 6D	Ocean View	\$606.76	Empress Deck
Category 4A	No View	\$506.76	Riveria Deck

You can sign up or find out further details by calling Sally Fisher of Navigant Vacations at 800-397-5713. Also you may contact **Gary Anderson** (‘56) for further information at 303-875-8133 or garya@eazy.net, **Anita Sparks Bednar** (‘57) at 405-364-9294 or anitabednar@att.net, or **Morris Creel** (‘55) at 512-931-1467 or mojosct@cox.net. Already, 54 have signed up for the cruise (which includes spouses and friends) from the Classes of ‘49, ‘52, ‘55’, ‘56, and ‘57.

Future Homecomings Set

Be sure and mark down on your 2006 calendar the dates July 14-15 for our HC next summer at which we will recognize and honor all our exes who are married or were formerly married (i.e., widows, widowers, divorcees) to another Phillips ex. Call it our “School Sweethearts Salute” celebration. These couples over the years generally have tended to be the alumni association’s biggest supporters and responders to Homecoming letters. We anticipate that the Classes of ‘46, ‘51, ‘56, ‘61, ‘66, ‘76, and ‘86 will be planning special reunions for that weekend. And as is customary, we also wish to announce, in advance, we will be honoring in July, 2006, all former exes who attended the lower level grades at Fritch and Sanford, prior to attending PHS in that era from 1938 to 1963. *Your Alumni Committee*



*Phillips exes on cruise at Cozumel
Left to right: Morris (‘55) and
Joy Creel, Lyle (‘52) and Glenda
Wallis Lacy (‘56), Judge (‘56)
and Joan Perry*

BLACKHAWK TRIVIA TIME

Last Year’s Question: Which father-daughter combination lays claim to have been together both the first and last Phillips High School athletes to have won all-state honors in each one’s respective sport? Answer: **Jim Williams** (‘50) in football and **Laura Williams** (‘83) in basketball. Since no one even has ventured a guess the past two years, we will not pose another trivia question, at least in this issue. If we resume the trivia question, it will be an easier type question... but something still short of “Who is buried in Grant’s tomb?”.

BLACKHAWK SPIRIT

Edition 11

phillipsblackhawks@yahoo.com

September 2006

53rd Homecoming Anniversary

Well, we were surprised and pleased as punch at the great Homecoming turnout with a full-capacity, SRO crowd. We say “surprised” because pre-registration response through the mail was way down this year. There were lots of faces that hadn’t been back in a long time...some for the very first time since they were in high school...four come to mind (although there surely were several more): **Elnita Ostrom** (‘40), **Robert Johnson** (‘54) (son of Lee Johnson, former superintendent), **Bennie Heston** (‘60), and **Bryan Hampton** (‘60). Our hats go off especially to an ex who was here for his 40-year reunion, **Mark Aker** (‘65), who really had to make a valiant effort to come here all the way from Norman, Oklahoma. Mark was critically injured in a bicycle/automobile accident several years ago, and now is confined to a special motorized wheel chair. There was an especially good representation of exes from the mid-to-latter 50’s classes, as there was last year. This year’s featured 50-year reunion bunch was the Class of ‘55 who had 35 members present (*see next page*)! **Lois Lopeman Gilbert** (‘55) of Amarillo was the winner of the special Blackhawk blanket, annually awarded to a Big 5 0 celebrant. The ‘55 Class had to be really worn out after the weekend. Besides the regularly scheduled activities at HC, that class had a lunch at Onion’s here in Borger, a dinner/dance at the Borger Country Club, and a farewell breakfast at **Arthur** and **Karla Bybee’s** house. The weekend was a culmination of carefully and thoroughly planned activities that began last April with a cruise (*see back page*).

Other awards that were meted out to some exes were: winner of the Blackhawk blanket, awarded to a dues-paying ex, was **Donald Beene** (‘54) of Borger, who was not in attendance. The 12th annual “Hawk of the Year” award went to **Lorraine Poulain Harvey** (‘46), who serves on the Committee and has been a very hard behind-the-scenes worker of the Alumni Association. She has been especially responsible the past few years for the time-demanding writing and sending out of all sympathy cards, thank-you and notification cards for donations received, class addresses listings, etc. **Carolyn Stevens** (‘36) was recognized as being the the only ex present from the first senior Class of 1936...two years in a row now. Of course, all the classes having special reunions (‘40, ‘45, ‘55, ‘65, and ‘85) were asked to stand and be recognized, as well as was the ‘65 Class 3A state semi-finalists basketball team, who had the only 30-game winning season (their only four losses prior to the semi-final game came at the hands of very good 4 A schools). Incidentally, the Class of ‘75 will celebrate its 30-year reunion

this October 8 at **Joel Epp’s** (‘75) home in Amarillo with a “fajita fiesta”.

Mike Webb (‘64) did another fine job of emceeing the program, and he announced his intentions of remaining the alumni president for the next year. The welcome speech was given by the Principal of WTHS, and the main speaker was retired Colonel **Joe Bob Newman** (‘49) who spoke about his interesting military career. All exes present, who had served at any time in the military, were recognized. And those who had served during wartime were introduced individually according to which war and military branch they had served in. It was also announced that **Richard Ingram** (‘48) had attained the rank of brigadier general during his military career. This is unconfirmed, but **Sam Hodges** (‘55), now deceased, is thought to have made a general, too.

In remembrance of those 18 Phillips exes who had given their lives in defense of this country, their names were read from a plaque that is usually displayed at the Heritage Center and used to be on display in the old PHS foyer entrance. These men are, in order by class: **Clifford Salters** (‘38), **Donald Umphreys** (‘38), **Harold Hope** (‘39), **Frank Thompson** (‘39), **Boyd Alexander** (‘40), **Stephen Ware** (‘40), **Bill Eldridge** (‘41), **Jack Tietz** (‘41), **Elmer Wilson** (‘41), **Dale Cannon** (‘42), **Dean Garland** (‘42), **Donald Harlow** (‘42), **Troyce Waldrep** (‘42), **Jerald Dozier** (‘51), **Gordon Warner** (‘56), **Eddie Pennington** (‘61), **James Warren** (‘61), and **David Reck** (‘63).

2005 Golf Tournament Results

This year we had another great, close golf scramble. A full contingent of 100 golfers participated this year. Again, a new blistering, record tournament low of 51 won the Golf Scramble, eclipsing the old score of 52 set last year. Members of the winning foursome were **Tommy Hale** (‘51), **Jerry McCormick** (**Barbara Groves’** husband), **Kay Caris Shannon** (‘56), and her husband **Ernie Shannon**. Each player received \$50 in golf merchandise of their choosing. The next two teams tied for second place with 53’s, a score that won the tournament two years ago. Kudos go out to **Don Meek** (‘55) who puts this together and really makes it a roaring success year after year! All the fun, fellowship, and exercise was topped off with pizza prior to tee-off time.

Who's Who List of Class Reunion Attendees

CLASS of '40 (65-Year Reunion)

Jean Brakebill	Gene Eller	Louise Glidewell
Elnita Ostrom	Lavon Ostrom	Renda Jean Sharp
Eugene Stephenson	Jane Reid	

CLASS of '45 (60-Year Reunion)

Paul Byrum	Hope Carter	Jack Carter
Bryant Clements	Billie Davis	Jo Anne Davis
Marion Groff	Mary Lou Hamil	Dick Jackson
Virginia Myers	Kenneth Reed	Phyllis Reno
Bob Ringo	Wilma Roediger	Penny Sable
Ruth Spearman	Nadine Stevens	Phillip Sweeney
Doris Veatch	Clinton Williams	Ruby Wright

CLASS of '55 (50-Year Reunion)

Philip Adamic	Sue Adams	Gale Ruel
Linda Kay Barbee	Bill Barton	Lillie Boyles
Buford Bullard	Juanita Burks	Vernon Burney
Arthur Bybee	Joyce Bybee	Bennie Counts
Tommy Covington	Morris Creel	Barbara Darrell
Jerry Fenley	Bill Fetter	Donna Haddock
Tracy Hogan	Burch Ingram	Patricia Jones
Stanton Koop	Norma Litchford	Lois Lopeman
Nancy McKee	Don Meek	Don Mercer
Melba Payne	David Reese	Pat Rouston
Zebby Sailors	Don Smith	Rueben Thompson
Ben White	Bobby Wyatt	



"Looking Iffy? at the Big Fifty"

Class of '65 (40-Year Reunion)

Mark Acker	Fred Banes	Karia Caviness
Joan Chandler	Janet Cook	Beverly Cooke
Carol Crabb	Mike Dixon	Gay Lynn
Mark Kay Elmore	Alfred Graves	Edmundson
Anita Griffith	Joe Bill Hayes	Marilyn Hughes
Kirk Hunter	Allen Jenkins	Lynn Johnson
Linda Jones	Rick Kimmins	Barbara Klepper
Mary Kube	Reiman Kucera	Larry Lewis
Patricia Marquis	Chuck Nichols	Diane Pennington
Richard Pirtle	Cloyce Purcell	Marsha Rawlings
Carl Reed	Gay Lynn Selman	Howard Smith
Judith Wendel	Gyron White	



Hey, anybody here in my age group?

Class of '85 (20-Year Reunion)

Kim Brown	Allen Calhoun	Tami Davenport
Trent Melton	Shanna Smith	Janna Stowers
Michelle Traylor	Roy Traylor	Lori Walsiak
Mark Watson	Lori Wessels	Rex Young

1965 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

(40-Year Reunion)

Larry Lewis	Carl Reed	Gyron White
Joe Hayes	Mike Kimmins	Cloyce Purcell
Bobby Banes	Richard Pirtle (mgr.)	



Exes (unidentified) board bus to tour Phillips.

New Chevron Phillips Plastics Plant to Be Built

Chevron Phillips Chemical Co. officially announced in mid-July its plans to build a new \$80 million Ryton plant which has Borger civic leaders all astir and elated as this plant expansion will be a huge economic boost for Borger. Borger (location wise, actually the former town of Phillips) was chosen over 13 other locations, 4 North American and 9 international, for the site of the new facility. The new facility will be built adjacent to Chevron Phillips' existing Philtex/Ryton Plant, the only place where the company manufactures polyphenylene sulfide, trademarked under the name Ryton, "a plastic that thinks it is steel", an over-simplified moniker that's been used to describe it. The addition of the new plant is estimated to double Ryton production from 22 to 44 million pounds per year. The high performance resin Ryton is known for its dimensional stability and resistance to corrosive and high temperature environments, and is sold to compounding companies which use it in making engine and automotive parts, as well as parts for electrical appliances, computer components, and medical instruments. New uses for Ryton continue to expand each day. Startup for the plant is anticipated for mid-2007.

On a related story, on August 16 this same plant had a big explosion and a fire that sent flames over 100 feet in the air. Fortunately no injuries occurred in the blast. Even residents living in the Beverly Hills Addition, located north of Borger overlooking the old Electric City area, were asked to evacuate their homes, more than likely because of the potential threat of noxious gases emitted. Ironically, for most of us who grew up in Phillips with the plants practically in our backyards, this was no "biggie"...maybe an F2 using the tornado classification analogy, as we usually didn't get *really* concerned until the flames reached 200 feet at which point we *might* evacuate our houses. Familiarity breeds contempt as the old saying goes.

Phillips Ex Evacuated in Hurricane Katrina Catastrophe

At least one Phillips ex, **Elaine Elliott Cox ('61)**, and her husband Mike, residents of Buras, Louisiana, were victims of Hurricane Katrina having suffered a direct hit, which probably demolished their home, but only after they were safely evacuated. We have not received word of any other Phillips exes directly affected by the hurricane. According to our alumni records, no Phillips ex resides in New Orleans. Below is reprinted an Email received by this writer from Elaine explaining her plight.

"Just wanted you to let everyone know that we no longer live in Buras, LA. As you may know, the eye of Katrina came over our house. We can't get back in for who knows how long to see what is left. My Mom is with us. We are in Denham Springs, LA (outside of Baton Rouge) with my son Chris and his wife and 9 month-old boy. My daughter and her new (Aug. 5 wedding) husband are with us, too. He has gone to Hammond to pick up his displaced from Buras. Grandparents, great grandmother, and cousin are to stay here as well. My son and his wife have graciously, generously invited them. Our temporary address is 9879 Destrehan Ave, Denham Springs, LA 70607, (225)664-4284.

We are blessed. We got out in plenty of time not to have to go through the chaos in New Orleans. Keep us in your prayers. Mike had just retired from teaching. I had just started the school year. We don't know about jobs. Our parish will not open for months. School will be a year probably opening. So we will try to get jobs here. Our church building in Port Sulphur was demolished as well, but we're trying to keep in touch with the body. God Bless.....Elaine"

"Memories of Phillips" VHS Cassettes and DVD's Available for Purchase

Ten years ago, the Class of '65 produced two very fine, highly recommended VHS Cassettes that show a combination of video camera and still pictures of Phillips, the 1986 50-Year PHS Homecoming, Phillips HS, etc., with musical background added. This summer they have made these available on DVD as well. If anyone wants to purchase one of these, the Class of '65 should request the special '65 Class version that includes the history of Phillips and extra footage of the 1965 senior year. All other exes will probably want to request the history of Phillips standard version. Regardless, you just might very well see yourself in both videos. Both VHS cassettes and DVD's cost **\$15 each**, which includes shipping and postage. No credit cards will be accepted...only cash or check. Contact the video photographer; Ricky Slatton at 4206 South Park, Amarillo TX 79109, (806)353-6655, rslatton@cox.net.



Sad, but True - PHS football field today...an unpaved parking lot. Old Fieldhouse, still intact, in background.



Tour bus at former Phillips Elementary School.

Closure on Missing Phillips Ex

The 12-year-old mystery of the disappearance of Phillips ex, **David Lewis** ('72), was finally solved this last October. It all began on Feb. 1, 1993 when David, who was a lawyer in Amarillo, was reported missing by his wife who had returned home from a weekend trip to Dallas only to have discovered him inexplicably gone. The initial investigation was halted some eleven months after David's disappearance. The bottom line is that, through the efforts of a Washington state detective, the case was finally reopened last year and solved as David was positively identified through DNA tests as a "John Doe" hit-and-run, car accident victim (although foul play is still strongly suspected, but probably never can be proved) who had been killed the same Feb. 1, 1993 in Yakima, Washington. The driver of the runaway vehicle was never found. David's brother, **Larry Lewis** ('65), went to Washington and brought back David's remains for reinterment in Borger, where the parents Hershel and Esther Lewis still reside.

David will be remembered for many things; two come to this writer's mind and bear mention here, although there are many more tributes that could be directed David's way. First, as the senior quarterback of the 1971 Blackhawk football team, David engineered one of the greatest, most thrilling, come-from-behind victories in Blackhawk history. Phillips was playing the undefeated and heavily favored Stinnett Rattlers, who earlier in the season had been ranked the number one team in the state in Class 2A, for the district title at Chesty Walker Stadium. The Rattlers were 9 and 0, and the Hawks were 8 and 1, going into the final game of the regular season. The stadium was packed. But Stinnett jumped out way ahead, and as the game wore on, things looked mighty bleak for Phillips, who as late as well into the fourth quarter was trailing 0 to 17, and was facing the almost-unthinkable and looming added embarrassment of being skunked in Chesty Walker Stadium...on top of the ignomy of defeat! Then the Hawks suddenly came to life! Call it the Blackhawk "mojo" mystique, the presence of Chesty's ghost pacing the sidelines, divine intervention, fate, or whatever, but there was an almost perceivable electrical charge that seemed to instantly have permeated the air. In the last 7 minutes of the game, David rose to the occasion, fired up his teammates, and threw three touchdown passes, the last in the waning seconds of the game, to lead the resurgent Hawks to a stunning 21-17 upset victory and the district title! It was truly one of the greatest moments ever witnessed at the stadium. David was named "Player of the Week" by the Amarillo Daily News for his outstanding performance, an award he won two other times that football season.

Second, David will always be remembered for his outstanding character, friendly nature and smile, and his wonderful Christian witness. His personal relationship with Christ and involvement in the church played an integral part in his life, which was evident to all who knew him. He was an inspiration to fellow believers, and either a magnet or enigma to non-Christians. He was an active Sunday school teacher and faithful choir member in the Baptist church, whatever local church he was a member of. It's difficult to imagine that he could have had even one enemy, though it's almost a given that it automatically comes with the job of being a prosecuting attorney. The fact that he is now in heaven is a supreme comfort to an otherwise tragic loss of a beautiful life.

Investment Payoff Lets Ex Honor Marriage Roots

Max Sherman ('53) had an article about him and his wife that appeared in the Austin newspaper this past June. He has pledged a very generous sum to fund a chair in sacred music at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (where he presently serves on the board) to honor his musician wife, Gene Alice, whom he credits with making possible the recognitions that he has received in his career. It's a gift that Max has long wanted to make to honor his wife of 44 years. Their roots go back a long way to music and public service, especially for Gene Alice who has an ardent interest in and love for sacred music. The sacred music chair will be part of the seminary's center for Proclamation and Worship, a liturgy and preaching resource for students, pastors, and choir directors. Max's dream to pay tribute to his wife became a possibility when some investments he'd made as a young man paid off recently.

New Pictorial Booklet on Phillips Available for Purchase

Bryan Hampton ('60) this summer put together a nostalgic booklet on a brief history, illustrated with over fifty old photos, about the early formative years and heyday of the town of Phillips with an aim to evoke memories about community life that centered around Phillips Petroleum Company, the schools, the churches, and the homes. The 100 copies that were initially printed quickly sold out at HC; however, more copies are now once again available for sale at **\$7 each** if you pick them up personally, or **\$8 each** if you wish to have it/them mailed to you...money well spent. Please send your order/money to **Phillips Alumni Assn., PO Box 1710, Borger TX 79008**. Bryan is to be commended for all his time, research, and labors in compiling all this information into book form. He is donating his profit made from the sale of the booklets to the Ray Robbins and J.I. Kimmins Scholarship Funds in memory of his parents Bryan and Frances Hampton, longtime residents of Phillips.

Heritage Center Upgrades and Donations

Class of '65 - Poem on town of Phillips composed by **Larry Talley** ('65)

Billie Veatch Gracey ('40) - Return-to-class permit issued and dated Dec. 13, 1937

Robert Johnson ('54) - Nine 8" X 10" pictures of PHS, stadium entrance gate, school board

Louise Glidewell Gunter ('40) - Phillips Blackhawks belt buckle

Fred Jones ('60) - 1956 Jr High Annual, senior trip picture of '60 Class seniors at Cave of the Winds, and commencement service programs

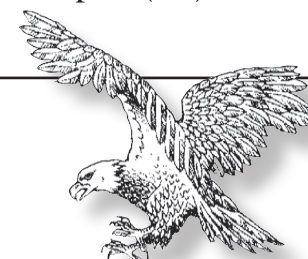
Jim Wade ('54) - 1954 Class senior key (pendant) with PHS seal

Ken Cook ('41) - Front page of 1939 Amarillo newspaper headlining start of WW II.

James Beaver ('50) - 1949 season football letter jacket

Ray Robbins Endowment Scholarship Donors (\$20 and over)

Class of 1954, **Carla Caviness Hayes** ('65) & **Joe Hayes** ('65) in memory of **Troy Salmon, Mike Burkett, Mark Hatley, and David Lewis, Sam and Mary Jean Gaines** ('57) in memory of **Daryl Sussdorf, Colleen Wilson Hooper** ('54) in memory of **Janice Alford Seay, Milton Hoff** ('58) and **Toni Truax Hoff** ('58), **Max Sherman** ('53), **Jack Gravitt** ('54), **Nelda Conklin Pearce** ('53), **Leon Glenn** ('56), **Ray Robbins** ('62), **Phyllis Reno Barr** ('45), **Marvin Morris** ('59), **Mike Kimmins** ('66), **Linda Evinger Williams** ('60), **Ed Johnson** (former teacher), **Bryan Hampton** ('60) in memory of his parents **Bryan Sr and Frances Hampton**.



PHS

Evelyn G. Hubbard Memorial Music Scholarship

Donna Haddock Forbes ('55), **Harvey Hilbert** ('62), **Jo Ann Hubbard Kuhrt** ('48), **Phyllis Reno Barr** ('45), **Jimmie** ('57) and **Jeanelle Tucker** ('58) **Dean, Vera Sledge Plunk** ('48), **Ruby Wright Smith** ('45), **Frank Williams** ('46), **Boyd White** ('59), **Marvin Neeley** ('56), **Joe** ('49) and **Nancy Board** ('51) **Newman, Max Sherman** ('53), **H.F. Ritchie** ('57), **Rinky Chivers Sanders** ('56), **Ray Robbins** ('62)

J. Irvin Kimmins Endowment Scholarship Donors (\$20 and Over)

A new donor plaque is now on display listing the names of those individuals who have contributed \$100 or more to the newly formed J. Irvin Kimmins Endowment Scholarship Fund. Their names appear among those listed below, who have contributed any amount *since last Homecoming*. The new plaque appears alongside the other Heritage Center Donor Plaques just inside the inside entrance doors.

Ray Robbins ('62), **Max Sherman** ('53), **Naomi Sweeney Godfrey** ('43), **2005 Blackhawk Golf Scramble participants, Richard Kelly** ('58), **Eugene Wright** ('41), **Bill Bickers** ('46), **Bryan Hampton** ('60) in memory of his parents, **Bryan, Sr and Frances Hampton, Joe Lacy** ('50), **Patsy Chivers Coleman** ('52), **Myrna Tietz Gamble** ('48), **Class of 1972, Janet Hatley Smith** (58), **Rinky Chivers Sanders** ('56), **Lois Winegar** (former secretary), **Jackie Gray** ('62), **Margaret Robbins, Lee Don Kness** ('58), **Kay Culver Wasson** ('60) and **Linda Culver Smith** ('67), **John and Margaret Kimmins** in memory of **Jerry Davis, and friends from the Class of '62**.



Blackhawk memorabilia for sale at Homecoming. Left to right: Jerry Jean Jones Patterson ('64), Bonnie (Mrs. John) Sellers, and Sue Alford Trumbly ('61)

Phillips Heritage Center Donors (\$20 and over)

Carla Caviness Hayes & Joe Hayes ('65), Joe Bob Newman ('49) and Nancy Board Newman ('51), Jimmie Dean ('57) and Janelle Tucker Dean ('58), Janet Cook Tanner ('56), Juanita Wilson Cagle ('52), Joyce Sweeney Prince ('47), Delmar Baldwin ('62), James Litchford ('42), Doug Tomlinson ('65) and Barbara Barbee Tomlinson ('67), Maben Hill ('42), Judge Perry ('56), Brian Carper ('59), Johnny Cook ('58), Erma Whittet (ex-teacher), Bill Baker ('56), Barbara Vaden Roach ('54), Carolyn Dixon Tims ('57), Alan Burke ('74), Rick Kimmins ('65), Clytee Armstrong ('43), Jim Bickers ('50), Fred Baner ('65) and Judith Wendel Baner ('65), Janan Stamps Collard ('53), Roy Lee White ('60), Robert Johnson ('54), Clint Hall ('43), Cozell Foster ('43), Bill Beaver ('49), Joyce Bybee Cross ('55), Elnita Ostrom Stanley ('40), Donald Beene ('54), Phyllis Spradlin Jones ('51), Peggy Louthan Kopecky ('66), Joyce Davis Sullivan ('47), Bill Coss ('68), Sharon Runyan Rethford ('69), Elizabeth Waldrop Apple ('74), Jo Carol Hickox Kimery ('61), and Jack Gray ('62)



Colleen Wilson Hooper ('54) and Barbara Wilson Richmond ('56), seated, register Fred Baner ('65) and Judith Wendel Baner ('65) (Foreground) at Homecoming

Morbidity Stats For The Classes

Since April, we have mailed out around 160 "deceased lists" to exes who requested and purchased them, a little over one-third of the total pre-registration responses received by mail. Acknowledging there is a definite interest in this subject, as a matter of summary, we've provided the following tabular (thought-provoking, interesting, grim...whatever your perspective) information. It is no secret that our active alumni membership is obviously dwindling each year. We apologize to, and certainly sympathize with, any of you who may be terminally ill and find the following information presented below disconcerting...that's certainly understandable. Our prayers go out for you, and feel free to skip to the next item. The following figures are based on the best information on hand, but are probably accurate enough for extrapolation purposes, if anyone chooses to go there:

PHS Class	No of Dec'd	% of Class Deceased	PHS Class	No of Dec'd	% of Class Deceased	PHS Class	No of Dec'd	% of Class Deceased
1936	23	60.5%	1954	25	25.5%	1971	6	6.6%
1937	14	37.8%	1955	23	20.7%	1972	8	10.7%
1938	29	56.9%	1956	22	20.4%	1973	9	10.6%
1939	28	50.0%	1957	22	17.7%	1974	4	6.7%
1940	28	45.9%	1958	19	16.5%	1975	3	6.3%
1941	30	46.9%	1959	20	14.2%	1976	5	9.3%
1942	38	43.2%	1960	14	10.3%	1977	2	4.3%
1943	29	33.3%	1961	25	14.0%	1978	2	4.3%
1944	26	34.7%	1962	11	9.6%	1979	2	4.3%
1945	23	34.8%	1963	10	7.9%	1980	2	5.3%
1946	24	36.9%	1964	8	10.4%	1981	2	5.9%
1947	29	30.9%	1965	14	12.1%	1982	0	0.0%
1948	20	24.1%	1966	4	4.3%	1983	1	2.7%
1949	23	31.9%	1967	10	11.4%	1984	1	3.6%
1950	19	21.6%	1968	8	9.9%	1985	0	0.0%
1951	17	26.6%	1969	8	9.5%	1986	0	0.0%
1952	21	27.3%	1970	7	8.6%	1987	2	6.9%
1953	24	23.1%						

Deceased Exes Over Past Year

Charlotte Cook ('40-heart attack)	Gwyn Ostrom ('42-cancer)	Venita Ritchie ('61-pancreatic cancer)
Gene Gillispie ('43-cancer)	Loraine Gulley ('43-extended illness)	Billy Miller ('42-?)
Mike Neasbitt ('71-?)	Tony Landers ('57-heart attack)	Jimmy Tomlinson ('52-pancreatic cancer)
Mary Jo Tatum ('54-?)	Jackie Henry ('58-heart attack)	Peggy Clack ('46-bladder cancer)
Ruth Marie Carroll ('38-?)	Tommy Redus ('39-stroke)	Dean Jennings ('39-cancer & infection)
Gene Sable ('51-diabetes)	Earl Smith ('48-lukemia)	Phil Reese ('47-cancer)
Virginia Grace ('61-brain tumor)	Daryl Sussdorf ('57- murder victim)	Gary Birdsong ('49-?)
Janice Alford ('65-bacterial infection)	Bob Grantham ('41-Parkinsons/cong. heart failure)	Pauline Hinkle ('39-cong. heart failure)
James Reddick ('51-heart disease)	Linda Parker ('70-breast cancer)	Algie Davis ('50-emphysema)
Calvin McKinnis ('55-?)	Darrell Cook ('52-heart/lung failure)	Lewis Beaver ('62-liver cancer)
Bobby Rinehart ('47-cancer)	Randall Bybee ('50-pneumonia)	Joyce Harvey ('46-general poor health)
Wayne Braden ('45-heart failure)	James Fiddler ('65-lung cancer)	Jack Carter ('45-cancer)
Richard Cathey ('48-diabetes)	Nadine Burrow ('59-lukemia)	

News on Ex-Teachers and Ex-Phillips Residents

Mr. J. I. Kimmins, who would have been age 93 this October 12, died on June 26, 2005 at The Veterans Hospital in Amarillo. Last fall he was moved from his home here in Borger to Craig Methodist Retirement Community in Amarillo, since his health had gradually deteriorated to the point where he needed special care. Congestive heart failure was the main problem he contended with. Mr. Kimmins was a teacher and principal for forty years at PHS from 1939 to 1978. Most of his students probably did not fully appreciate him back then until after we all grew up, became a little wiser about the world, and reflected back on our school days at Phillips. Now we nearly all, right down to a person, realize that he was truly a great man and one of the best educators and school administrators who ever lived. But you see, his ties with ole PHS didn't end in 1978 at his retirement; he also was an active member and benefactor of the Phillips Alumni Association until his health prevented him from doing so his last year. He was indeed the "Hawk of All Hawks"!



Dora "Peggy" Smith Thompson, who served as a librarian at PHS from 1950 - 1953, died this past June at age 82. She was living at Ware Memorial Care Center in Amarillo. She was preceded in death by her husband Fritz Thompson, who originally was married to the daughter of Ace Borger, the founder of Borger.

Pall Bearers at Mr. Kimmins' Funeral

*Left to right:
Burch Ingram ('55),
Don Meek ('55),
Tommy Birch ('61),
John Sellers ('51),
Mike Webb ('64),
and Joel Lynch.
Center: Mr. Kimmin's portrait*

