



the HERD

NUMBER FIFTY SIX * SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF '57 & '58 * DECEMBER 2009

Texas Electric Railway The Interurban

The electric interurban industry in North Texas totaled about 350 miles. Most of this mileage was in place by 1913, as the industry grew rapidly during the early 1900s to fill the need for frequent passenger service between urban centers that could not be met by existing steam railroad service. Lines from Dallas ran to Fort Worth, Denison, Corsicana and Waco.

In 1902 the Northern Texas Traction Company opened thirty-five miles between Dallas and Fort Worth. The tracks ran through Oak Cliff and passed in front of Sunset. Other lines opened until 1917. But improved highways and the growth of private car ownership combined to siphon off most of the interurban ridership. The line in front of Sunset ceased operation in 1934. By the end of 1941 only the Texas Electric to Denison and Waco remained. It was discontinued in 1948.

In 1977, A C Green wrote in D Magazine that "These lordly electrics weren't just overgrown trolley



cars. They didn't rattle along the rails. They rumbled. Even their whistle and bell had a deeper, imperative tone. On the city streets they looked impatient to be out where they could fly.

And talk about class: some lines pulled parlor cars with individual upholstered or (in summer) wicker armchairs, with leaded pane, stained glass arch windows, rear observation sections with picture windows all around, and refreshments aboard. The Texas Electric Railway even tried diners for a while.

"In addition to the deluxe splendors, even the humble local cars had smoking compartments forward, had padded leather bucket seats, and sported toilets (an indoor comfort a good many of their rural passengers had not seen before). The Texas Electric - longest interurban line in Texas - also had cars with railway post office sections with outside mail slots so that you could post a letter and have it delivered up and down the line that same day."



Waco, TX, Sept 1948, by Dick Rumbolz

Don Ross

See INTERURBAN on page 5

Vamos a Cuba!

By Faye Lynn King Dodge

In July 2007 and 2008 I had the privilege of going with a licensed non-profit group to Cuba through Cancun to work in some churches on the island. Officials at Customs (aduana) confiscated our medical supplies (sterile syringes) and much of the handwork supplies designated for children in local Bible schools. In spite of the harrassment, we had over 600 children a day in the local church! Immediately I saw how the infrastructure in Cuba is in stark contrast to how it's reported in our press. For example, the Cubans' on-line computer time is limited every month; even owning a boat in Cuba is illegal and freedom of speech is not common. Last summer a man in central Cuba had made some bread to sell on the streets after Hurricane Ike pounded the island. He was arrested & given a 6-month prison sentence, and the man who bought bread for his family was imprisoned for 3 months.

Some of the hotels have computer terminals in the lobby, giving the impression that communication is available. The truth is that many of those computers are not working and are just there to give the appearance of having the technology. Only in recent weeks have Cubans been allowed to enter the hotels or be a guest in one. While the purchase of cell-phones has just become allowed to Cubans, few can afford to purchase one due to the high cost (the equivalent of 2-3 months' salary for many.)

Travel from city to city in Cuba is mostly done on foot or

crowded buses and in the back of vegetable trucks (standing room only). Few Cubans have the means to purchase a vehicle, and almost every car in Cuba is a 1950's model. The few new cars I saw were the Russian-made Ladas. On the tour bus we used in Havana, there was a state-approved driver and guide who have never been off the island. Each day they were required to write a report of everywhere we had been. The guide told only the positive side of life in Cuba so our conversations were always carefully worded. Last year one Cuban was put in jail for 2 days with no sanitation nor clean drinking water because he had bought some printing equipment for his church. Officials of the government claimed he had not filled out the proper paperwork although he had carefully done so to avoid prosecution. Last year one church leader had his home condemned by the government because officials said the house was infested with termites (there were none). He is under increasing pressure to leave Cuba and close his faith-based ministry.

Background: Before I went to Cuba, I had known about life there from some Dallas-area Cubans who fled to the US during the 1960's. One of the customs I experienced was some of the Cuban food: moros y cristianos (black beans and white rice) as well as fried plantains & mangos. Every day we were served those items because food supplies are not plentiful. Even the hotel restaurants have shortages on a regular basis. The menus are presented to guests but many times food items were limited to 3-4 items out of all those listed.

Communicating: Of the 12 people in our travel group, only one was a native speaker of Spanish, so I was asked to use the Spanish skills I had gained from H. H. Johns' classes at Sunset. Being able to converse in Spanish was a real asset in that it made relating to the Cubans much easier. They were always willing to teach me new words, and I was able to help some of them practice their English language skills. When communication became complicated, we could always use non-verbal gestures to help explain what we meant. The only 2 English-language channels on TV were "Dallas SWAT" and "Intervention" which show the gritty side of life in the USA.

The difficult living conditions in Cuba are sad. I saw a maternity hospital which had no screens on the windows and the waiting room which was outdoors under the trees. Many hospitals suffer from insufficient supplies of antibiotics and anesthesia. The almost-empty store shelves and lack of basic items such as aspirin and vitamins were in sharp contrast to our way of life in America. One young engaged couple I met had to receive government permission before they could purchase a refrigerator for their apartment after they were married. That process took months to complete. Our local driver needs hip replacement and is waiting on government permission to go to Brazil to have the surgery. He has been waiting two years for relief from his constant pain. We toured a kindergarten classroom and saw the dominant posters around the school said, "Socialismo."

And no, I did NOT smuggle any Cuban cigars home!

Class of 1959 50 year Reunion

By Nuel Willingham Ledford

The 1959 50th Reunion was held on September 25th and September 26th.

The Friday golf tournament had 40 players. Dixie Sechrist Haddox impressed the group with a handicap of 6. Bart Williams was the best dressed with his Payne Stewart style. All the participants had a great time and enjoyed traipsing around Stevens Park Golf Course.

The "Juke Box Friday Night" party at the Hilton Garden Inn in Duncanville was a smash hit. The turn-out was larger than anticipated. The people were elbow to elbow and even tumbled into the hall. The noise from the exclamations and excitement of seeing long lost friends was short of deafening. There were hors d'oeuvres and a delicious cake with the appropriate purple and white icing. This event was underwritten by Ned Edwards.

Saturday morning, there were two buses for a tour of Oak Cliff. The tour included driving by elementary and junior high schools and going into Sunset. It also included a tour of the Texas Theatre and a drive through Lake Cliff Park, Weiss Park and the passion pit, Kiest Park. There were no drive ins still standing to tour. Everyone had a poignant moment as the buses went by their old neighborhoods and stomping grounds.

The reunion weekend was topped off with a buffet dinner party at The Golf Club of Dallas. Again,

another great turn-out of a jubilant alumni and guests appeared. They came from both coast and all regions of the United States. This time the classmates filled the club and the covered patio.

After a short program welcoming everyone, recognizing contributors and unusual accomplishments of some of our classmates, there was a special message from The Bison. Yes, The Bison Head was present and it did speak. The evening was spent renewing acquaintances and visiting with old friends. There was some dancing to wonderful 50's music provided by Nelson Blanchard of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mostly, it was just joy in seeing each other.

There was a breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn on Sunday for those who wanted one more chance to visit before hitting the road for home.

This was the largest number of participants of any of the previous reunions. Also, it was the first reunion that many had attended. Pictures from the reunion can now be seen on

www.sunsetbisons59.com

Thank you to all that contributed financially and/or with their time.

Thank you to the members of the Class of 58 Reunion Committee for sharing information on their 50th reunion. Thank you especially to Eddie Cullum for help in locating missing members of the 1959 class.

The reunion committee had a great time this past year planning the events. We met on an average of once a month discussing what to do, who was found, who

had responded, putting names with faces and catching up on each others' lives. The committee members are Peggy Clements Firestone, Becky Burden Kauffman, Nuel Willingham Ledford, Danell Gaylor Lichtenwalter, Honey Altman Minschew, Sandra Rawlings Muzyka, Kay Helm Preddy, Maureen O'Sullivan Richardson, Elaine Wedemeyer Rogers, Jimmie Burdett Shepperd.

Changes to the HERD

Sometime in the near future, we will send an e-mail to all addresses on file. The attachment to this e-mail will be this same issue of the HERD in .pdf file format. Look it over carefully and see if it will satisfy your needs for future editions of the HERD. If we DO NOT hear from you, we will assume that this will be your preferred way of receiving future editions.

If it is not satisfactory, e-mail us at theherd@theherd.net and we will put you back on the list for USPS mailing.

We know there are several Jurassic types out there who do not have e-mail. Some may not have telephones. Do not be concerned. If we do not have an e-mail address, we will continue to mail via USPS. That means that if you do not receive an e-mail copy of this HERD by January 1, we do not have a correct e-mail address on file for you. You may then e-mail the addresses above if you want the e-HERD in the future.

My thanks to those of you who have your bank automatically send a small check to the HERD each month. the Herd each month. It would be nice if a few others would join you.

Patsy Towner-Bailey ('58)

Hello People,

It has been years since I have written to the HERD. I enjoy the HERD and I thank everyone for continuing to be involved with each other. I especially enjoy the write ups about our old stomping grounds. Eddie, you do a great job. Your love for the days of our youth shows in your articles. I was inspired to write a little ditty for the newsletter but it doesn't really give any insight except that it is something I think we can all relate to.

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW

Sixty-nine? Am I really that old? I was asked one day if I could live any ten years of my life, which would it be? I have to say the next ten. I don't ever want to look back. Things are never the same nor would I want them to be.

I started thinking about little things that are different now than what they use to be. For instance: Instead of shaving my legs and plucking my lip, I pluck my legs and shave my lip.

My bedtime attire use to be a flimsy nightie, now it is an oversized tee-shirt and pajama bottoms. Instead of spending an hour doing make-up and my hair, I get ready in 10 minutes now.

My hair is a spikey, butch cut and I wear very little make-up. High heels are a thing of the past.

After 3 operations on my feet, I only wear sandels or New

Balance. My wardrobe consists of mostly slacks and tops. My closet has two dresses, neither of which I have worn in 10 years but you never know..... Now, when I bend over to pick something up,

I look around to see what else I can do while I am down there. Everything sags now, the knees, the chin, the eyes, and don't forget the belly. It takes me longer to get up than it use to. As I was rising slowly to a standing position, my husband said" And we have lift off!"

I use to brush my teeth before I went to bed. Now I just take them out and soak them in a cleaning solution. Nothing prepared me for children. Nor did it prepare me for taking care of the elderly, which is what I am doing now. But there are a lot of similarities." Don't throw that cup out the window! Why? Because I SAID SO! That's why."

I used to swim a lot and had a reasonably good figure to go in a suit. Now, if you needed to borrow my swimsuit I would have to tell you that it has a hole in the knee.

I read a story once where an elderly woman wanted to be buried with a fork in her hand. When asked why, she said that her mother, after supper, told her to keep her fork because the best was yet to come. God has been good to me and I am holding tightly to my fork for HE is holding on to me.

Well, That is my story and I'm sticking to it. I have a 50th wedding anniversary coming up next year and that makes me smile.

Announcement

From Linda Abelson Feather ('58)

My twin, Judy (also '58), has produced her first CD, and it is beautifully and professionally done. She is a piano teacher in Houston and has played/performed in various venues there and other places throughout her life. Judy has a piano performance degree from Baylor University, and is exceptionally gifted. Her improvisations are among the best you will ever hear, and her original compositions are creative and inspired. Judy energetically covers the entire keyboard, and at times it sounds like surely several pianos are playing! This CD was recorded on her Hamburg Steinway Grand Piano. Each piece is her own wonderful arrangement.

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS:

5 of them, including "Cats Frolicking," which is a tribute to my present and previous feline loves. She's had encouragement to send this to Purina or other companies to use for their commercials.

SACRED ARRANGEMENTS:

Jesus Loves Me; My Jesus, I Love Thee; All Creatures of Our God and King; Peace Medley; Battle Hymn of the Republic; When They Ring Those Golden Bells; Holy Spirit, Breathe On Me; He Hideth My Soul; How Great Thou Art; Great Is Thy Faithfulness; Do Lord; He Was There All The Time; Special Delivery and Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

CLASSICAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Canon In D, Pachelbel; 2nd Menuet From L'Arlesienne, Bizet; Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring, Bach; Largo, Handel; Panis Angelicus, Franck; The Swan, Saint Saens; Meditation, Massenet; and Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Beethoven

MISCELLANEOUS:

Somewhere in Time; Oh, Danny Boy

This CD would be great for your own personal collection, or to give as a gift for Christmas, or other occasions.

Each CD is \$12.35, including shipping. Contact Judy at

hjwest40@sbcglobal.net

or 281-482-7610. Her mailing address is 5107 Tashkent, Friendswood, TX 77546-3023.

Doo Wop Quiz

- When did 'Little Suzie' finally wake up? (a) The movie's over, it's 2 o'clock (b) it's 3 o'clock (c) it's 4 o'clock
- 'Rock Around The Clock' was used in what movie? (a) Rebel Without A Cause (b) Blackboard Jungle (c) The Wild Ones
- What's missing from a Rock & Roll standpoint? Earth _____ (a) Angel (b) Mother (c) Worm
- 'I found my thrill .. .' where? (a) Kansas City (b) Heartbreak Hotel (c) Blueberry Hill
- 'Please turn on your magic beam, _____ bring me a dream,': (a) Mr.Sandman (b) Earth Angel, © Dream Lover
- For which label did Elvis Presley first record? (a) Atlantic (b) RCA (c) Sun
- He asked, 'Why's everybody always pickin' on me?' Who was he? (a) Bad, Bad Leroy Brown (b) Charlie Brown (c) Buster Brown
- Bobby Darin's 'Mack The Knife,' the one with the knife, was named: (a) MacHeath (b) MacCloud (c) MacNamara
- Name the song with "A-wop bop a-loo bop a-lop bam boom.' (a) Good Golly, Miss Molly (b) Be-Bop-A-Lula (c) Tutti Frutti
- Who is generally given credit for originating the term 'Rock And Roll'? (a) Dick Clark (b) Wolfman Jack (c) Alan Freed
- In 1957, he left the music business to become a preacher: (a) Little Richard (b) Frankie Lymon (c) Tony Orlando
- Paul Anka's 'Puppy Love' is written to what star? (a) Brenda Lee (b) Connie Francis (c) Annette Funicello
- The Everly Brothers are . . . (a) Pete and Dick (b) Don and Phil (c)

Bob and Bill

- The Big Bopper's real name was: (a) Jiles P. Richardson (b) Roy Harold Scherer Jr. (c) Marion Michael Morrison
- In 1959, Berry Gordy, Jr., started a small record company called... (a) Decca (b) Cameo (c) Motown
- Edd Brynes had a hit with 'Kookie, Kookie, Lend Me Your Comb'. 'What TV show was he on? (a) 77 Sunset Strip (b) Hawaiian Eye (c) Surfside Six
- In 1960 Bobby Darin married: (a) Carol Lynley (b) Sandra Dee (c) Natalie Wood
- They were a one hit wonder with 'Book Of Love': (a) The Penguins (b) The Monotones (c) The Moonglows
- The Everly Brothers sang a song called 'Till I _____ You.' (a) Loved (b) Kissed (c) Met
- Chuck Berry sang 'Oh, _____, why can't you be true?' (a) Suzie Q (b) Peggy Sue (c) Maybelline

INTERURBAN (cont'd)

You EDDIEtor remembers that the hot air from open windows was brutal, but there was something wonderful about these giants that made it exciting.

I recently visited the Interurban Museum in Plano. They have an outstanding history of the rise and fall of the service in Plano housed in the original terminal building. Next to it sits one of the cars that was modified to handle U S mail.

The hub of all the Dallas lines was the Interurban building located on Jackson Street in Downtown Dallas. It was quite a busy place. Interurban cars were arriving and leaving every few minutes, coming from the west on Wood Street into one of the three tracks and departing by making a loop back the way they came. The building later served as the Dallas terminal for Continental Trailways Bus Lines. When Trailways quit operating it sat idle for many years, but in the past few years it has returned to life. It is now an apartment building with a grocery store on the ground floor.

If you have any unique knowledge of any part of the electric railway history, please send it to theherd@theherd.net so I can submit it to the museum.

Bison

New Year's Roundup 2010

What fun!....

Guaranteed laughs and stories from the good 'ole days in the Purple and White. Don't miss this most enjoyable way to celebrate beginning the New Year with your Bison friends.

It's BISON ROUNDUP time again!

On **Thursday, January 21st** we will convene for an evening of visiting and Tex-Mex dining. Same place and time: The original **El Fenix** on McKinney at about **6:00**. All Bison and friends are cordially invited to attend this festive time. Come early, enjoy your favorite drink from the bar, visit a spell, and then we'll order dinner from a special menu. We typically have 50-60 class members and guests attending these get togethers. There is no program or agenda, just lots of fun and memories to be shared. Mark your calendars **NOW**....

then join us for a delightful and memorable evening.

the HERD #56

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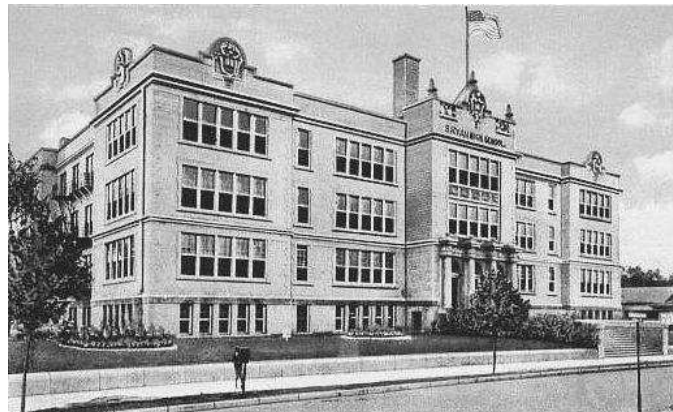
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Doo Wop Answers

1. (c) it's 4 o'clock
2. (b) Blackboard Jungle
3. (a) Angel
4. (c) Blueberry Hill
5. (a) Mr. Sandman
6. (c) Sun
7. (b) Charlie Brown
8. (a) Mac Heath
9. (c) Tutti Frutti
10. (c) Alan Freed
11. (a) Little Richard
12. (c) Annette Funicello
13. (b) Don and Phil
14. (a) Jiles P. Richardson
15. (c) Motown
16. (a) 77 Sunset Strip
17. (b) Sandra Dee
18. (b) The Monotones
19. (b) Kissed
20. (c) Maybelline



At left is Tech as it appeared in 1919. It was originally known as Bryan High, later Dallas High, N R Crozier Tech, Dallas Business and Management Magnet Center. It opened in 1907 and closed in 1995.

The building is now vacant. All the windows and doors are boarded up. It is sad to see the building in such a state. Its fate remains unknown we shall continue to view it simply as a shell of our city.

