



the HERD

NUMBER SIXTEEN * SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1958 * SEPTEMBER 1995

Oak Cliff Today and Yesterday

by Max Maris

The Southern Dallas Development Corporation is looking at the feasibility of renovating the now vacant Jefferson Towers high rise building located on the north side of Jefferson between Madison and Bishop. When completed, it would be used as a business "incubator" for Oak Cliff.

The Dallas Reunion Pro-Am senior PGA golf tournament was held again at the Oak Cliff Country Club and won by Tom Wargo with a 13 under par, three-round score of 197. Participants included Bisons Don January and Jimmy Powell. Lee Trevino and Chi Chi Rodriguez were also part of the star-studded field. The six-day tournament in June drew over 104,000 spectators and will be played at OCCC for three more years.

Miss Oak Cliff, 19 year old Carly Jarman, won the Miss Texas Pageant in July and will represent Texas at the Miss America contest in Atlantic City in September.

In the last issue of The Herd, I asked the question "What was the name of the area of Oak Cliff at Hampton and Clarendon originally called?". The answer was Jim Town. I have since received more information on this area and thought you would like to know about it's history. In the early 1870s, James Bumpas, an early settler in the area, built a store at what is now the intersection of South Hampton Road and West Clarendon Drive. In 1878, a post office was established in the store and named Jim Town after Bumpas. The road coming from Oak Cliff was called Jim Town Road, and it retained that name until 1932 when it was renamed Clarendon

Drive. Jim Town School was built in the early 1880s and located just a short distance east of Hampton Road at Montreal Ave and Clarendon on the northeast corner. Dallas County School District records show that the Jim Town Independent School District No. 47 had an area of approximately eight square miles. It was two miles wide, east to west, and four miles long, north to south. Its boundaries were Davis Street on the north, Westmoreland Road on the west, Ledbetter Drive on the south, and Polk Street on the east.

For the year 1897-98, the school had only one teacher who was paid \$60 a month. For the year 1905-06, the school had two teachers. For the year of 1917-1918, the school had an enrollment of 108 students. As development continued to expand in the Oak Cliff area, the need for more and larger schools became a necessity. Oak Cliff High School (now Adamson) began classes in 1901. Winnetka Elementary School began classes in 1914 at the site of Greiner Jr High School. By 1920, the population had grown to the point that the children went to school in two shifts at Winnetka.

In 1923, a new elementary school was erected at Hampton Road and 12th Street and named Sunset for the residential district in which it was located. With the opening of the Sunset Elementary School, the old Jim Town School closed its doors and ceased operations. A short time later, plans were underway to construct a new high school on Jefferson Blvd. It was suggested the new high school be named in honor of

See OAK CLIFF on page four.

Another EDDIEtorial

by Eddie Cullum

In 1993 a member of the 1953 class offered to make an anonymous contribution to a Sunset Scholarship fund if the class would match it. That was done and the fund was started. Lee Smith ('53), Jerry Wilson ('54), James Rutledge ('55) and others are now heading this project.

An umbrella organization, National High Schools Scholarship Foundation, was created so that it does not have to be limited to Sunset. As a corporation, the organization is perpetual so that it will continue when the classes of the fifties are gone. The IRS has certified the organization as tax exempt and contributions are tax deductible. The project is endorsed by Chad Woolery, General Superintendent of the Dallas Public School System.

Bisons from at least fifteen different classes have agreed to take part in promoting this great cause. Anyone willing to help can contact Lee Smith at 2300 Grayson Drive #212, Grapevine, TX 76051 - (817 481-7904).

Checks should be made payable to Sunset High School Scholarship Fund and noted National High School Scholarship Foundation, Inc. for your tax records. Indicate your class year and mail to the above address.

As you know, the HERD has frequently urged our class to support Sunset in any way possible. Your EDDIEtor offered to work on this several months ago, but I have done very little because of ongoing school commitments. I hope that the classes of the mid-to-late 50s will join in with these other classes and support Sunset any way we can.

Letters to the EDDIEtor

Dear Eddie and Max,

I wanted to let you know how much I appreciated THE HERD. Receiving the newsletter just enhances all the old Sunset "kids" I am still in touch with. David Dunnigan ('59), Connie Mitchell ('58), and Mike Lott ('58) and I still live in Oak Cliff- A stone's throw from the old school. We see each other regularly. I also see many other grads often - Dick Webb ('58) and JoAnn Terry ('59) of Dallas and Grand Prairie. My life long friend Carol Paullus ('59) called today and I was happy to congratulate her on her receiving her Master's degree in counseling psychology in Oklahoma City. She's been working with people traumatized in the April bombing.

How fortunate we all were to be in that special school at that certain time. Most of my dearest friends were made in Sunset. Thanks!

Karen Martin Parks ('58) 1220 Lausanne, Dallas, TX 75208

Hi, Guys:

Enclosed you will find my contribution. I love reading THE HERD. The people who are not going to Tupinambas get together are really missing out on a great time. I have so much fun it is like having a reunion every three months or so. I have made friends that I never knew in school. Eddie, I have missed you at some of those get togethers. I wouldn't take for the time I spent on the committee planning the last reunion, and all the times I have gone to Tupinambas. My husband B.C. likes my classmates better than he ever did his own. He says that they have made him feel like a "Sunset Bison". Got to go - Thanks for THE HERD.

Gerri (Horton) Cooley ('58)

1219 Academy Drive, Arlington, TX 76013

Dear Eddie & Max:

Just finished reading the latest issue of THE HERD. Couldn't seem to put it down until I had read it from "kiver to kiver". What great letters. What great memories. What a great bunch of people, better yet, FRIENDS, who made up an important part of our lives. My kids wonder what was so great about the 50's. Well, it's difficult to put an exact word or phrase to explain. To me personally it was a time when VALUES were important, TRUTHFULNESS was key, and HONESTY created bonds of friendship and awareness of each other's PERSONHOOD. When you tell your children or grandchildren that you walked a mile to school each day, and back, they can't seem to fathom the pure courage and self denial it must have taken to accomplish such a task. Well, we did, we did, we did it again. In those days of one car families, walking was a way of life for most of us. I can remember starting out with Morris Odom, Albert Bradley, and various others (Howard Bright) on the long walk up Clarendon to the Sunset Theater at Hampton and Clarendon. (Max, that's Jim Town). Jimmy Climer may have joined us on the way west, and probably others. We passed several "Beer Joints" as my mom would call them, the chicken place and various business and stores. Across from the Sunset was a dime store where we managed to spend a few hours just milling around. As we passed the snocone stand on the way home, we may have had a dime or two for some cool refreshment. Lot's of talk, making fun of each other and in general having a good time, no mischief either.

There was also another rarity of the 50's. How many of us go off and leave our homes unlocked now a days? NONE! Back then, we simply told our next door neighbors or the Hall's across the street we were going "down on Jefferson" and would be back later. The front screen was locked, and the back screen was left open. We did that so if anyone needed to borrow some sugar or something they could. We always got paid back. Friends, neighbors, acquaintances, whatever or whomever... the door was always

open to everyone.

Those cool summer evenings in the back yard, making ice cream, eating watermelon or whatever, were just daily events we enjoyed, took for granted and remember fondly. When Janet and I read THE HERD, we are reminded of all the events that helped to shape our lives today. The honesty, truthfulness, friendships of those years past are still evident in our lives today. By the way, Janet has become a real "adopted" Bison. She may be from Gainsville, but she's become a real Bison in her heart.

If we can do one thing with our lives for the future, it would be to endeavor to instill in those around us the sense of values and honesty that we obtained from living in an era when life was simpler and less complicated. Was it really "less complicated" or were we living in another world? Whatever the case, we are who we are because we are from a period that impressed on us the importance of working hard, paying our debts and doing what we said we were going to do. I suppose that would be good advice for some of our elected representatives in Washington. Be that as it may, stay away from politics. Here we are today living with the same values we had then, and I believe we are making it a better place because of who we are and what we know and feel in our hearts are the values of the '50s.

Thanks to both of you for an outstanding job on keeping us all informed. Thanks to all the BISONs who keep writing and living what we learned, love and remember about Sunset, Oak Cliff, our friends and families. As to UNKNOWN. Some secrets aren't all bad, are they? Here's some funds to help the cause, "cause I want to help!" Health, happiness, and rich blessings to all.

Janet and Gene Autrey ('58)

552 Bell Drive, Allen, TX 75002

Dear Eddie:

Thank you! For THE HERD. When THE HERD arrives everything else stops until I have read it. I wish that I could stay that focused on a few other things. My EX #2 tells me that

the things that I really want to do, I do. I guess that says it. Really enjoy and look forward to THE HERD.

Sincerely,

Byron Boucher ('58)

Rt 1 Box 108A, Burnet, TX 78611

Dear Eddie & Max,

First, I would like to thank you and the others who help put THE HERD together. I have enjoyed reading it and finding out what our classmates are doing. Enclosed is my contribution which I hope will pay for past and future copies. Currently, I am retired and living in East Texas just west of Canton. My wife, unfortunately, still works and lives in Duncanville, and is with me on the weekends.

We own the Gemstone Emu Farm and are looking forward to our first hatching season. Anyone is welcome to visit and take a close look at a very remarkable bird which will be a part of your future. Call us at (903) 848-1312 to get directions. Thank you for THE HERD.

Albert Davis ('58)

New address: Route 7, Box 93B,
Canton, TX 75104

Dear Eddie & Max,

Received the December copy of THE HERD several months ago and have been meaning to write and say how much I appreciate getting them. But when things get on that desk and fail to get immediate attention somehow they get lost. So today is stop all else and get caught up.

I especially like the article "Rock On" by Max. I have a night distribution job and there are two "Golden Oldies" stations in this area and I am tuned to one or the other all the time. Those songs sure bring back memories. Usually there is no one else around to bother with a loud radio, but those coyotes and other critters sure get an earful.

I still have a lot of 45's from the 50's and 60's. Somewhere around four to six hours worth. I don't know how many hours of LP's there

are. Guess I'll have to find a home for them one of these days because when I'm gone the family will probably throw them in the trash. Thanks again.

Lloyd R. Merritt ('58)

432 W 1st St., Burkburnett, TX
76354

Dear Eddie & Max,

The most delightful thing happened to me a few months ago - in the course of my daily routine I was called to see a lady on N. Edgefield. When she asked if I knew the area, I said yes - "I grew up in the area". Upon arrival at her home I realized that I knew her and her daughters - they had been classmates at Sunset high school. With each visit she would tell me current news of others whom I had long ago lost track of.

On my last visit she gave me a copy of THE HERD and in it was a letter from one of my close friends in high school. It really made my day. I also found out that there is a meeting at a local restaurant for dinner one night a month. I can hardly wait to attend and renew all friendships from so long ago. Do you have an on going list of graduates from 1957-1958 and their addresses? If you do, I'd love to have one. I am enclosing a donation to your effort and a request to receive your monthly publication. Thank you for keeping in touch. As Ever

Patricia "Pat" Levelsmier Mekker ('58)

19019 Preston Road # 407 Dallas,
Texas 75252

Dear Eddie and Max,

I think it is once again time for me to send you a check to cover my subscription to THE HERD. I don't believe I got the copy prior to the last one, April 1995, And I don't want to miss any. I particularly enjoy them now that I am living away from home in Kansas City for the next year or so.

My job with EDS has taken me to Kansas City to assist in opening a mega travel reservation office for a

new customer. We are in the process of staffing around 400 by the end of the year and getting the operation up and running. We took our first calls last week but still have many more to hire. I can interview in my sleep.

I don't know whether or not you have heard this story, but I think others would be interested in it. Periodically Nancy (Pierce) Barber, Jan (Goodnight) Owen, Susie Duvall and I get together for dinner. One night about two years ago we started talking about our 7th grade teacher at Rosemont, Thomas E. Carrell. It was his first year to teach, he was 21 years old, very handsome and we all loved him, even the boys. He was a marvelous teacher and none of us have ever forgotten the impact he made on our lives.

We decided we would locate him for a reunion. After making several unsuccessful calls to his home town, Nancy took on the project of being detective. About a year later, after we had given up and almost forgotten about it Nancy stumbled on information that led her to find him. She called him in Pearland, TX and he remembered all of us after all these years.

We arranged for Tom (now it's Tom - we are grown up) and his wife Jean to come to Dallas for a reunion over a weekend last October. Not only did he remember us, but he had kept a scrapbook for that school year and brought it with him. We had such a wonderful time going through it and reminiscing about the good times and our friends.

If anyone in Mr. Carrell's Rosemont class would like to write to him, I'm sure he would be delighted to here from them. He remembers all of us. His address is: Tom Carrell 2734 N. Larkspur Circle, Pearland, TX 77584 - (713) 436-1362

My hat's off to Nancy for being a super-sleuth and bringing this adventure to a happy ending.

Sincerely,

Marilyn (Pee Wee Harper) Bowling ('57)

110 Lexington Drive Terrell, TX
75160

Dear Bisons,

Thanks to THE HERD, I have been reunited with two of my best friends from elementary school. Sandy Godley Emerson and I have been reminiscing about the years in the 50's. Do you remember the Lake Cliff swimming pool? In the early 50's I thought it was the greatest thing to get to go to Lake Cliff. I wasn't allowed to go by myself so my trips there were always accompanied by my parents or at least my father. I remember how my heart would flutter as we drove around the lake adjacent to the pool. The grounds were always manicured and it seemed so relaxing and cool. At twelve years old I thought I was quite grown up ...almost a teenager! After paying a minimal fee of 35 cents for adults and 15 cents for children, we went into the bathhouse. The girls went to the left and the boys went to the right. The bath house was very large. The small cubicles to change in were on the left and the toilet stalls were on the right.

Once in a while I have nightmare about those stalls even now. They were not clean and smelled really rank. I tried very hard not to have to go. Coming out of the house into the sunlight was thrilling to say the least. In my mind I thought "I am HERE! FINALLY!"

The expanse of the pool was incredible. It was never crowded. Most of the people were lying on the soft green grass sunning themselves. I never could understand why people would pay to come here and sit in the sun. The shallow end was to the left and the deep end was to the right and a wall separated the two. I was never sure how deep it was because I was too scared to go to the bottom. There was no filtering system and the water was murky and by today's standards would be considered contaminated. There was a gravel bottom I think.

The shallow end graduated up to only about two inches deep. Mothers could feel safe with their small children. There was a concession stand and one could eat hot dogs and sandwiches and fries. Also you could rent large innertubes to play on. Looking back on it today I shudder

because it was not a clean place to swim. The water was so dirty that it was difficult to see your hand in front of your face but in those days, to a 12 year old, it was heavenly. It didn't bother me that the water was dirty and the bathrooms stunk. All I knew was I could swim and dive and have plenty of room. It is a wonder we didn't all get sick with some terrible disease.

Another fond memory of Dallas in the fifties is riding the streetcar to the State Fair. Children today don't even know what a streetcar is. Going down the tracks swaying back and forth, sort of like a little dance, gave me such a thrill. I wish I could share that experience with by grandchildren. Remember crossing the viaduct and looking straight down to the Trinity River Basin? There were no rails on the sides.

The seats of the streetcar were made so that when the car came to the end of the line all the conductor would have to do was flip the backs to the other side of the seat and the seats would be facing the other direction. Then the conductor would walk to the other end of the car and it was ready to go in the opposite direction. Usually there was a group of us going to the fair and we could flip one of the seats back so that we could sit facing each other instead of one in back of the other. When we started over the river my breath would catch in my throat but I wasn't scared I felt perfectly safe. Well, those are some of my memories. I just wanted to share them with you-all. Hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. Be careful and God bless you all.

Patsy Towner Bailey ('58) Rt1 Box 252, Sumner, TX 75486

 EDDIEtor's Note: How well I remember Lake Cliff Park. I got my Red Cross life saving certification there. I had three instructors. Two of them were good friends, Ms. Sparks and Ms. Bangs (whom we called Sparky and Bang-Bang). They also worked at Cedar Brook Ranch in the summer.

The pool may have had a gravel bottom, but there was concrete under the gravel. I believe there were three

high boards and four low boards across the deep end. It was an awesome sight.

You forgot one small step in turning the streetcars around. The conductor had to lower the trolley on one end and raise it on the other.

I remember one time when the streetcar I was riding jumped the trolley on that Trinity River bridge. The conductor had to get off and walk behind the car to replace it on the trolley wire. With the door open, you could see more of the trestle and it was not nearly so scary as it was looking out the windows.

I also remember studying the physical properties of streetcars. I remember placing pennies on the tracks to see what they would look like after being run over. I discovered that they came out very thin.

Once I poured oil on the curve at Bishop and Seventh to see if the car would slide around the corner. To my dismay, I found out that the cars had sand under the sideways seat and the motorman had merely to flip a finger to sand the tracks and regain traction.

Oak Cliff

Continued from page one.

Miss Lida Hooe, an elementary school supervisor who had recently died. The school board decided it would be more appropriate to name an elementary school after Miss Hooe and elected to change the name of the recently constructed Sunset Elementary School to Lida Hooe School and the new high school then was given the name Sunset. Sunset opened its doors on September 21, 1925 with an enrollment of approximately 1,400 students.

During the '50s, the intersection of Hampton and Clarendon had a Skil-lerns Drug Store, A & P Grocery Store and a Five and Dime Variety Store at the southwest corner, an Army surplus store at the northeast corner, and a Fina Gas Station (remember their promise of "pink air"?) and the Sunset movie theater (the building is still there!) on the southeast corner.

Memories

by Max Maris

It seems whenever the subject of Oak Cliff comes up with anyone who is near our age and is from Sunset or Oak Cliff, we all tend to drift into a nostalgia mode and can recall every detail of those wonderful days in the 50's. What a trip!! It truly makes writing this section of our newsletter so easy.

Our last get-together at Tupinambas was great. One of our teachers, Martha Ferguson, was there. Bless her heart, she travels in from Gainsville on the day of our dinner and spends the night in Dallas just to be with her Bison family. I was lucky enough to be able to sit next to her and listen to some of the stories she loves to tell. I will try to recall some of them with, of course, her permission.

The first story recalls how Ms Ferguson, whose class was on the 3rd floor on the west side of the building, was going to class and noticed two students standing by the hall window holding on to something outside. When she saw what it was, she immediately sent for Mr Guzick. It turns out that the two students were holding on to another student's arms who was hanging out the window and showing off for the Bisonettes on the practice field. Needless to say, when Mr Guzick and Mr Miller arrived, all were ordered back in the building and promptly sent home. Lord only knows what punishment they faced the following day.

The next stories told how Ms Ferguson, who was chairman of the English Department, was occasionally called upon by other English teachers to help discipline their classes. Ms Hornbeak, if you can imagine, once asked for help because someone was rolling marbles down the row-desk aisles and disrupting her class. Ms Ferguson immediately left her class and went to Ms Hornbeak's room on the first floor and picked up the marbles. She let it be known that she better not hear about any more marble rolling or Mr Guzick, shudder, would pay them a visit! Ms Dins-

more called on Ms Ferguson several times for help also. Once, a student was climbing out the classroom window, saying he had accidentally dropped his pencil. Well, he did this more than once, so Ms Ferguson was notified to come help. Lo and behold, she caught him in the act as he was doing it again and, guess what? She made sure that was the End of That! Another time in Ms Dinsmore's class, someone was blowing up balloons and sticking them to the wall by rubbing the balloons on their clothes. Get Ms Ferguson! One of Ms Ferguson's punishments was to send the culprit(s) to her classroom and have them sit quietly and read the dictionary for the rest of the period. I'm sure they also got plenty of threats that they better straighten up or go to Mr Guzick's office.

Another duty of Ms Ferguson's was, after lunch, to keep the girls moving to the outside of the building in order to prevent them from congregating in the restrooms. For this duty she got the nickname "The Traffic Cop".

Thanks for the memories, Ms Ferguson.

And now for our trivia questions:

1. What was 10th street famous for in the 50's?
2. Name the stores at the four corners of Zangs and Jefferson in the 50's.
3. Name the men's shoe store on the north side of Jefferson just west of Zangs. Remember those wingtips, mexican sandals (colaches), and suede loafers with the wide edge soles and zippers in the front or side?
4. When those wonderful '55-'57 autos came out, Chevrolet and Pontiac both had sporty station wagons. Name them.
5. What was the name of the person who was Flash Gordon's dreaded enemy?
6. What was the name of Roy Rogers' dog?
7. What was the name of Gene Autry's horse?

ANSWERS ON PAGE SIX.

Bison News

by Max Maris

Congratulations to our Eddietor, Eddie Cullum, on graduating from LeTourneau University on June 13 with a Masters Degree in Business Administration (MBA).

He will begin work on his PHD in International Business in September at Nova Southeastern University. Eddie hopes to teach at the college level after he retires from Southwestern Bell in approximately 5 years.

Congratulations to Bill Melton on being selected as American City and County's 1995 County Leader of the Year. Appointed as Dallas County treasurer in 1977, Bill was elected to full four-year terms in 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, and 1994.

In his 18 years as county treasurer, he oversees an investment program that has earned some \$300 million for the taxpayers of Dallas County, more than twice as much interest as all other county treasurers in the previous 131-year history of Dallas County.

Congratulations to Evelyn Spencer Cramer on her retirement from the Grand Prairie Independent School District after teaching there for over 30 years.

Congratulations to Dr. Anne Hodges Morgan, who lives in Norman, Oklahoma, on receiving her Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of North Texas. Anne is a '62 graduate of UNT.

Congratulations to Alan Newberry ('53) on his plans to run in the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the Boston Marathon. Alan is married to the former Linda Harris ('59) and runs 30 miles a week to stay in shape for the race, which is by invitation only.

Continued on page six.

Bison News

continued

The tenth annual "Battle of the Bisons" was played at Sprague Field on Saturday, July 1. '50s football All-Stars were represented by Bob Bozman ('56), Bruce Land ('57), Bit Chase and Duane Fisher ('58), and Ken Krause ('59).

The All-Stars were quarterbacked by Jerry Rhome ('60) and were defeated for only the second time by the Class of '65. Captains of the All Stars were Bruce Land, Jerry Rhome, and Fess Miller ('60). The game was announced by Bill Melton.

Coach Jack Roten was at the game and is presently recovering from a kidney infection. If you want to wish him well his address is 1947 Shady Glen, Dallas 75232.

Phil Bursleson, long time resident of Oak Cliff and graduate of Sunset ('52), died May 29 in Dallas of heart failure. Following his tenure with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, he represented Jack Ruby. He was also co-lead council with Richard "Racehorse" Haynes in trials involving T. Cullen Davis.

Trivia Answers

1. 10th Street had more churches on it than any other street in the world.
2. Ford Furniture (SW), Zales Jewelers (SE), Western Auto (NW), and Gordons Jewelers (NE).
3. Hardys shoe store
4. Nomad and Safari
5. Emperor Ming
6. Bullet
7. Champion

The Herd is published three times each year by the Sunset High School class of 1958 for the classes of '57 and '58 and anyone else who is interested in reading about those wonderful days. It is edited by Max Maris and Eddie Cullum.

The HERD is financed by voluntary contributions. During our first three years of publication, you were very generous in your support and finances were never a problem. We are all indebted to those of you have supported this project with your money and your letters.

Recently, however, the financial situation has changed. While some donations continue to flow in on a regular basis, we are now operating in the red.

If you have been intending to make a donation to the HERD, now is a good time to do it. All contributions, large and small, are appreciated.

A Bison gathering is planned for the day before Thanksgiving - 6:30 at Tupinambas. Call Max or Eddie.

the HERD

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