



the HERD

NUMBER THIRTY * SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF '57 & '58 * SEPTEMBER 2000

Another EDDIETorial

By Eddie Cullum

EDDIETor's Note: *On Saturday, March 18 of this year, Dallas Morning News staff writer Kim Horner wrote an article about the HERD (Section A page 31). It included a picture of Max and me. The article was great and we received so many comments, we could not print them. Despite this and the fact that both Max and I worked at the Dallas News in our Sunset and ASC days, I have a bone to pick with the News.*

On the front page of the Dallas Morning News' Sunday, August 20 edition was a story about a police officer tragically killed in a car wreck while rushing to assist other officers. There is an old expression about a car being wrapped around a telephone pole. And that is exactly what happened. A large picture on the front page was very graphic. Underneath the picture was a line that read "Dallas Police Department traffic investigators look at the police car involved in an Oak Cliff accident." This line was also used in the story written by Nancy Calaway that was printed beneath the picture. Clearly visible in the picture is a street sign that reads Pennsylvania and Lamar.

For those of you who don't know where in East Oak Cliff that intersection is located, welcome to the club. The intersection of Pennsylvania and Lamar is in South Dallas.

Well, maybe this isn't such a big deal to some people, but it is to me. I can forgive people who pronounce Ervay Street "Er-vay" instead of Er'-vy. I can forgive people who don't know the difference between "Cor'-inth" Street and "Cor-inth" Street Road. But what does the media consider Oak Cliff? It seems to

me that if something bad happens, they call it Oak Cliff. A couple of years ago I was going to watch the 10 O'clock news. The lead-in was about a shooting in an Oak Cliff bar. After commercial, the reporter gave the address of the bar on South Industrial.

If you don't know the geography of Oak Cliff, you don't know the history of Oak Cliff, you don't know the personality of Oak Cliff and you don't know of the beauty of Oak Cliff.

I contacted the Dallas News and was told that Nancy Calaway worked out of the Fort Worth Bureau and was not available at the present time and there was a CORRECTION printed on page two of the next day's paper. I am not satisfied. Max Maris has written many time of the bias against Oak Cliff. Here is another example.

Does Oak Cliff have its problems? Sure it does. What city doesn't. Plano has had many drug-related teen-agers deaths in recent years. We could list several such examples. Is Oak Cliff the same wonderful place where we grew up? No, of course not. Oak Cliff has changed, just like every other community in America. Those times are gone and will not return (except for those of us who are still "lost in the fifties").

However, if you are a regular reader of Max's *Oak Cliff Today and Yesterday* articles, you know that it is still a great neighborhood. Many of us still call it home or have family there. I believe it has a unique personality. I consider myself fortunate to have renewed a few ties with Sunset and the surrounding neighborhoods.

I wish the people of Dallas (beginning with the media) knew Oak Cliff. The first thing would be to learn where it is. Then learn what it is and what it isn't. There are a lot of good things to be said about Oak Cliff. I just don't hear very many people in the media saying them. I don't hear

politicians talking much about Oak Cliff when it comes time to allocate money.

At least some in the media agree with me. A couple of days after I wrote the first two columns of this story, Jacquelyn Floyd wrote an article titled *Perceptions and progress in Oak Cliff* that appeared on the front page of the Metropolitan section of the Dallas Morning News on August 24th.

She mentioned a man that paid \$100 for a round trip cab fare to a party in Oak Cliff because he was afraid to leave his car parked on the street there.

Ms. Floyd says Oak Cliff is home to one third of the population of Dallas. She defines it as that part of Dallas west of the Trinity and south of Interstate 30. Well, that is closer, but it leaves out West Commerce and some of Ft. Worth Ave. When we were kids in Oak Cliff there was no Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike, which became I-30.

She says that Oak Cliff is "too huge to meet a uniform description. Its component neighborhoods are rich, poor, black, white, Hispanic, beautiful, blighted and endlessly interesting.

"There are blocks of run-down rent houses, there are elegant boulevards of historic, eye-popping mansions. There's pretty much everything in between".

The article quotes former Dallas City Council member Bob Stimson as saying "Oak Cliff is, at least from my perspective, a whole series of small towns. The sections are different but they share a lot of history and tradition of neighborliness that other parts of Dallas have yet to develop".

Mr. Stimson said that negative media coverage is still a problem and says that it will take a long time for scars to go away.

Perhaps having to endure these inequities is part of the character of Oak Cliff and its people.

Oak Cliff Today and Yesterday

by Max Maris



Austin's barbecue at Hampton and Illinois was to be torn down some time in late July after an auction was held to sell off all the furnishings and equipment of the 50+ year-old restaurant. Originally everyone thought the story was just a rumor, but an auction was held July 14 and the legendary restaurant is now closed for good. The bank building next door will also be demolished in order to make room for a new Eckerds drug store. Also, rumor has it that the Windjammer Restaurant, originally Youngbloods Fried Chicken on Colorado, is now closed and will soon reopen under a new name.

The Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in far west Oak Cliff was officially opened on May 12, 2000. The opening ceremony featured a keynote address by Veteran Affairs Secretary Togo West. The first phase will encompass 14,600 gravesites over 110 acres. The cemetery will ultimately spread over 638 acres with more than 100,000 gravesites.

Cedar Crest Golf Course will get a new \$2.1 million clubhouse. The 14,786 square-foot 2-story building will have a lobby, pro shop and restaurant with a tournament room on the first floor. The reservation facility on the second floor will have a 300 person capacity banquet room and a covered balcony overlooking downtown Dallas. The new clubhouse design will resemble the original clubhouse that was built in 1917 and destroyed by a fire in the 1960s. A golfing legacy, Cedar Crest, originally the Oak Cliff Country Club, is one of four courses in Texas designed by the renowned A. W. Tillinghast. Cedar

Crest hosted the 1927 PGA Championship and the 1968 Public Links Championship.

In the last issue of the HERD I told you about driving around Oak Cliff on Zangs, Illinois, Hampton and Jefferson. Several photos were taken but were not ready in time for the last issue of the HERD. The three photos on this page were taken on that drive.



This is a picture of the old Polar Bear Ice Cream shop on Zangs. Its now called Casita Lupe Cafe, but the old building still looks the same with its white swirly exterior.



This picture is of beautiful Lake Cliff Park. Although it was taken in March, the trees were budding and the grass was green. It's easy to see why Lake Cliff is truly Dallas' most beautiful city park. The picture was shot looking northwest across the lake with Methodist Hospital in the background.

Oak Cliff has many exciting projects in the works proving that the city south of the Trinity is alive and well. Some of the major things going on include:

* The University of North Texas now has a center in Oak Cliff. UNT at Dallas officially opened its doors to the public on March 29 at 8915 S. Hampton, just south of Hwy 67. It opened to the first 204 students in early January.

* Some \$20 million in economic development projects in Oak Cliff were briefed to the Dallas City Council June 7, 2000. Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk said that investment could bring up to 5,000 new jobs to Oak Cliff – with 3,000 of them a sure thing. He pointed to the moves by Neiman Marcus, Tandy Brands, and Southwestern Bell corporate offices to the Pinnacle Park area near Cockrell Hill Rd. between Ft. Worth Ave. and Interstate 30 as examples.

* A new Design 2000 Luby's restaurant at Hampton Rd. at Hwy. 67 officially opened for business March 28. It replaces the Wyatt's Cafeteria that Luby's bought several years ago. The new concept design of restaurant includes a hearth oven, allowing them to served grilled steaks and fresh seafood as well as offering fresh pizza for the first time, with the "best steak deal in town" for \$9.99 every day.

* A new \$2.1 million clubhouse for Cedar Crest Golf Course

* A new 10,000 square foot restaurant at the Marsalis Zoo. The facility will be built behind the flamingo exhibit in Zoo North and will seat up to 300 people for special events.

Several other possible major projects that are in the works but not yet finalized include:

* A \$1.7 million renovation of the Texas Theatre, with management by the Dallas Summer Musicals.

* Major improvements at Redbird Airport including a new terminal, tower, longer runways, new hotel/restaurant, and 18-hole golf course.

* A new mall to be constructed at the old Westcliff Mall site at Hampton and Ledbetter.

* Construction of the Gateway to Oak Cliff improvements located in the area between Jefferson and Beckley and north of Colorado Blvd.

Trivia Questions

1. When did Austin's Barbecue open?
2. Who was the founder of Austin's Barbecue?
3. What was the original name of Austin's Barbecue?
4. What was Austin's Barbecue's motto?
5. Original price of a pound of ribs to go?

Bison News

By Max Maris

Jim Lowe, the deejay of our beloved Kats Karavan radio show and the voice of Big Tex at the State Fair of Texas for nearly four decades, passed away on May 28, 2000. Mr. Lowe, 73, died of cancer at his home in Dallas. He was buried at Restland Memorial Park. Legendary Dallas Mayor R.L. Thornton gave Jim Lowe the initial concept for Big Tex's slow speech, which he called a cross between Gary Cooper and Santa Claus. He was the voice of Big Tex from 1953 to 1982 and 1988 to 1998. Remember "Howdy Folks, this is Big Tex. Welcome to the State Fair of Texas"? But what we Bisons of the '50s remember most was Jim Lowe's Kats Caravan, a radio show started in 1950 that played rock-n-roll music from either 11pm to 12 midnight every Monday through Friday on WRR-AM, Dallas city-owned radio station. He was known as the "Kool Fool" and played great music to listen to while you parked with your sweetheart. He also introduced to the station the "Library of Laffs", which played cuts from comedy albums throughout the day. He is survived by two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren. Gone, but not forgotten.

Several of our fellow Bisons have passed away since our last issue of the HERD. Some were not in the '58 or '57 classes but, as we receive word of any Bison deaths, teacher or alumni, we will let you know. They include:



Jerry Sandlin, class of '59, of Duncanville passed away from cancer on May 18, 2000. Jerry worked for LTV for over 34 years. He was a longtime member

of 1st Baptist Church of Oak Cliff and was an avid golfer. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Dorothy, son David, daughter Robin, mother Lola, brother Bill, sister Joan, and several grandchildren.



Jack Ahlfinger, class of '57, passed away from cancer on July 19, 2000. Jack was a cheerleader and President of the Student Body at Sunset. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Julia Vaughn Ahlfinger, also class of '57, daughters Jana, Jennifer and Jacqueline, sister Wanda, brother Rocky, and three grandchildren. Jack graduated from SMU in 1962 was a successful community and business leader.



Patricia Phelps Allen, class of '57. Wife of Garland Allen, class of '58. Patricia died in her sleep.



James Nabors, class of '57, died June 24, 2000 after suffering from Hodgkin's Lymphoma for 31 years.



Marilyn Miller Prud'homme, class of '56. Survived by father C. C. Miller. Marilyn was very active in church and civic affairs in Austin.

Michael Boynton ('59) passed away on February 5, 1998. He was hit by a 14 year old girl driving a stolen car in a police chase in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He graduated in January 1959, therefore no pictures in the Sundial. Michael lived the life that movies are made of. He also wrote a book entitled "Hunters and Shooters" about the Vietnam war. He a was highly decorated Navy Seal. His

Navy career spanned over 30 years and he is buried in Arlington Cemetery in Washington with honors.

I hope everyone who ordered the Smokin' Oldies music have received all 5 CD's by now. I have been in and out of the hospital the last 3 months so its all my fault for the delay. This is a project I have been working on the last 2 years and, thanks to my son Mark, good buddies Al Yeorgan, Jack Schell and Eddie Cullum, its finished and I hope everyone enjoys those great songs of the50s. If we left anyone out who ordered a set, or if anyone wants a set, please let us know.

I recently got a picture of Juanita Presson at age 90 and couldn't believe how little she had changed as compared to her picture in the '58 Sundial. She is now living at The Forum Retirement Home in Dallas but will soon move to Lufkin, Texas to live with her daughter. Mrs. Presson taught Business and was our Senior Counselor at Sunset.



1958



2000

Tupinamba Time

Are you ready? It is time for the irregularly scheduled mini reunion at Tupinamba Restaurant. Let's do it on September 28th at 6:30, give or take.

If you haven't ever attended, come on. It is always a lot of fun. Tupinamba's is located at 12270 Inwood Road. That is north of Forest Lane on the East side of the street. It sits back off the road a bit, but you can find it.

Check this Out

<http://www.softcom.net/users/utahcowboy/fifties.htm>

Be prepared to stay a while. It gives new meaning to getting lost in the 50's.

Memories

by Max Maris



Daniel Menchaka, principal of Sunset, Max Maris, and Bill Melton.

Looking back over the past 60 years, some of my fondest memories are those while growing up in dear 'ol Oak Cliff in the '50s. This is not to say that all of my life has not been truly blessed up to this point, but, oh, those wonderful days of innocence when life was so much simpler. And speaking of age, can you believe that most of our teachers were in their 20's and 30's and our principal, C. C. Miller was 55 years old in 1958.

I recently attended the 75 year anniversary of Sunset and thought you might enjoy reading about something very positive about our Alma Mater and also to let you know the spirit of Sunset is alive and well. On March 16, 2000, beginning around 10AM, I was privileged to be part of a parade and program honoring Sunset's 75th years of excellence. Thanks to my dear friend and brother-in-law Barry Strelsky ('63), I was able to be part of this event and report to you how it went.

Sunset officially opened its doors in the fall of 1925. The next 75 years have had so many wonderful and challenging times but I firmly believe the '50s were the best of all times. So, getting back to the celebration, when Barry and I headed for Oak Cliff on that cool and rainy Saturday in March, we wondered if the weather might turn to snow and ice and if anyone would show up. We arrived at the back parking lot about 9:45AM and, 'lo and behold, the lot was full of floats, Sunset's band and drill team, antique cars, plus more. What

a sight! Just like the old days when we would parade down Jefferson or downtown Dallas. Once the parade got underway, I've got to tell you, fellow Bisons, the tears of pride welled in my eyes as we headed east on 10th Street with the Bison marching band playing our fight song and the Bisonette drill team and majorettes stepping high. It was like going back in time seeing all those beautiful old homes and the people lining the street cheering the parade as we passed by.

At 10th and Jefferson we made a U-turn and headed back west on Jefferson towards Sunset. Then all of a sudden, the mist that was falling stopped and the sky began to clear. Also, the crowds lining the street were getting more dense and waving and cheering as we passed. At the Boundary as we crossed Marlborough, we could see the crowd gathered in front of Sunset. What a trip! We then made another U-turn directly in front of the school and headed back to the parking lot where we began.

The ceremony then moved to the front steps of Sunset where 500 or so alumni, teachers and students had gathered. I was located in the hall in front of the trophy case with several alumni and teachers.

The program opened with speeches by Dan Madden, Sunset teacher and senior advisor, and Daniel Menchaka, the Principal of Sunset. The Alumni in attendance from the 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, and 90s were then asked to cheer when their decade was called out. And cheer they did, as each decade tried to out-do the last. Oh yes, fellow Bisons, that spirit is still alive! The next part of the program was inspirational speeches by Dallas County Treasurer Bill Melton ('58) and former Farmers Branch Mayor and DISD member John Dodd ('58).

Bill presented a history of Sunset's glorious past from the first graduation class in 1926 that included Dallas developer John Stemmons, to the 1942 class that included Dallas Mayor Robert Folsom, and to the many athletic stars of the '50s that included track star Eddie Southern, football greats Jerry Mays and Jerry Rhome, plus many others. He also mentioned the Live Oak tree in front of Sunset and the chemistry lab that are both dedicated to the

memory of legendary baseball coach J. C. "Abe" Barnett, "Mr. Sunset". John Dodd then spoke of how Sunset had taught him not only academics but also the skills to succeed in life. He also spoke about how Coach Barnett had been an inspiration not only to him but also to so many other Bisons whose lives he touched. And finally, the dedication of the time capsule was made that will be opened in 2025, Sunset's 100 year anniversary. Items that will be buried will include a copy of the 1958 Sundial, Eddie Cullum's Post Versalog sliderule, several issues of the HERD, and a copy of Sivils, Kips and Red Bryans menus.

Letters To the EDDIETor

Penny Mote Collier ('58)
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I was surprised to find my little note in the second newsletter but now I know what to expect and I will be sure to run the spell check. I have relished every word in each edition and I can't believe there have been 29 so far,

I am wondering where I spent my high school years. I know I went to Sunset but have no idea where I really was. There are so very many alumni that I read about in *The HERD* that I didn't know. I must have been one of "those" people that passed through the halls with my head down and sat in the back of the room unseen and unheard but that doesn't hinder me from the enjoyment of reminiscing with everyone else's memories. Seems I don't have any memories of my own. Keep *The HERD* coming.

Linda Denny Wilson ('58)
5415 Kingston Dr.
Richardson, TX 75082

Each time I receive a new *HERD* I feel a rush of excitement. Seeing all of the hard work and effort Eddie and Max put into

this reminds me how special you guys are. Thanks for all of your time.

Each time we take a trip down memory lane into Oak Cliff I am reminded of how blessed I was to grow up there. Both of my parents are gone now, however, I still have a few friends in the area. I try to get over there at least once a year just to see how the place is changing.

I try to share some of the wonder of the times and place I grew up with my grandchildren. I pray often that they will have a positive role model, the moral environment and the great teachers that I had. I think it is up to us to see that change happens. We need to take this city and country back to when we had respect for our elders. We understood responsibility and had good work ethics. We honored our parents (even during the phase when we thought they didn't know anything). We stood up for and were willing to fight for our beliefs in God and the USA. Finally, we believed in the family units.

Some of us had better times than others, however, overall I feel that those of us who lived during that special time of the 50's in Oak Cliff were truly blessed.

Reading about Hattie Lee Hornbeak and Mr. Guzick reminded me that being pushed by a very hard teacher who was not trying to be our best friend or being disciplined with a paddle by the assistant principal did not warp us or ruin us. However, I do think they helped make us what we are today.

Tim Hollingsworth ('58)
8415 Hatton
Houston, TX 77025

Did you read that piece from Paul Reddy about he and I putting Miss Hornbeak's desk up on books? He was always trying to get me in trouble and now he is doing it again.

She has fostered more stories because she was so funny. For years, the mention of her name would throw me to the floor clutching my ribs in spasms of hysterical laughter. Remember the morning Paul and I (mostly Paul) put a grass snake in

her pencil tray, and she just tossed it out as if it were another pencil! Maybe it was Cullum that did that, now that I think of it.

Peggy Jeanette Starling West
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It is always a pleasant break in a busy schedule when *The HERD* arrives! And I really get a kick out of the e-mail updates from time to time. My wonderful, sweet husband, Chick West, even gets a chuckle out of some of the stories, particularly the "super spit wad" story by Paul Reddy. Must have reminded him of similar antics.

Thanks for including the pictures in the last *HERD*; it is easier putting names with faces you haven't seen in 40 some-odd years. Also a very special thanks to you for publishing a note from my long lost cousin, Carol Sue Funk Cox ('58). (She probably thinks I am the one who is lost). Her address had disappeared in a computer crash several years ago. With all of our family ties now gone, I kept hoping I would spot her in your publication.

David Loupot
1072 Thornridge Circle
Argyle, TX 76226

Thanks for *The HERD*. It has brought back many wonderful memories of my high school classmates and activities and also the 40 years that I lived in the Oak Cliff area. I moved to Argyle, just southwest of Denton in 1979.

At Sunset I spent most of my time in school or at Stevens Park Golf Course playing for the golf team with John Gregg, Warren McFarland, Bob Ballard, Johnny Nash, LeRoy Ockles, etc. After Sunset I attended Texas A&M and graduated in 1961. Then I went right into the Air Force and flew in the continental U. S. , Alaska, all through the Pacific, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea and other exotic and interesting places.

After five years of active duty, I left the service and became a pilot for Braniff

International. In 1968 I married an American Airlines flight attendant and we are still together. We have one son who is also a pilot. After Braniff ceased operations I was hired by Republic Airlines which was bought out by Northwest Airlines and I was based in Memphis, Detroit and Minneapolis, but continued to live in Argyle. After 40 years and 23,000 hours in the air, I retired in September of 1999 and now I play golf, relax and still travel; just back from Peru and on my way to Portugal. I haven't made a reunion, but I will try to be there the next time.

Thanks, again for your time and effort on *The HERD*. It has been fun going down memory lane.

Betty Holt Keese
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I have enjoyed so much the web site and the newsletter. In the last newsletter you wrote the article about your drive around Oak Cliff and it was wonderful. As I read it the memories of my days on Jefferson and Hampton, Kiest Park and all the area were just so clear. But it has been many years since I was there. I keep my Sundial ('56 & '57) close at hand and go over it quite often. It has been wonderful to review the faces of friends and recall all those good days of high school. Sorry to say, some of my best friends have already gone.

Another reason prompted me to write is Max's MS. My husband and I have three children, a boy in the middle of two girls. Thomas is 36 and has had MS for about 5 years. He can still walk but it is very difficult for him. He is a senior computer analyst for Excel Corp. in Wichita, Kansas. I am sorry that people have to suffer such diseases. I pray that there will soon be a cure. May God bless you and we hope you will soon be back in front of that computer.

Charlotte Dutton Bowen
4914 Willowhaven Circle
Garland, TX 75043

I graduated from Sunset High School in January, 1954. I was so excited to find

out about the newsletter and also about the website. I love catching up on all the news, however I have never sent any message through the website. I plan to do so in the near future.

Please add me to the mailing list and if there is a fee or charge, please let me know and I will be happy to send it to you.

Robert Richards ('58)
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Just a short note to give you a change of address down here in San Antonio. So please send my next long-anticipated copy of *The HERD* to the address above. And we have been given new computer software programs at work which gives me e-mail capability. I want to thank everyone who paid their taxes so I could now be "on-line".

Donna and Charlie Brown ('58 and '50)
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Denison, TX 75020

Just a short note to say hello again and send a contribution. We received *The HERD* last week and really enjoy it. I was down driving the old area a few months ago and went down Ravenia drive. In 1949 there was a big ice storm that damaged or destroyed many trees in that area. I have pictures taken from the 3rd floor at Sunset showing the whole campus covered with ice.

How many remember the Page Drug on Westmoreland? I (Charlie) was the soda jerk there in 1955.

e-mail To the **EDDIETor**

Your EDDIETor regrets that this letter was omitted from the last issue.

Weldon "Cotton" Chapman
Weldon.chapman@lmco.com

I came home early this afternoon because I was suffering eye strain from

staring at the damned computer in my office. Mondays do that to you. I planned on taking a walk, but it had turned cool after a glorious Colorado weekend. Checked the mailbox on my way in and found a pile of credit card applications, bills, and circulars, but underneath was buried "the HERD", and I headed immediately for my easy chair to read it - cover to cover.

The article on Mickey Bickers first caught my eye. He and I used to try to get into trouble together, but we rarely succeeded. We just weren't that good at it (fortunately). Would love to hear from you, Mickey.

Then I noticed an article advertising a video about Texas high school football featuring Sunset in some games, most notable to me the Bison 1955 state semifinals game with Abilene, a team which won about 48 straight games, as I recall. (I think they had about 5000 students.) We were about No. 40, losing 34 to 7 after having won eleven straight. And I was a scrub on that team, being the 33rd and last player selected to make the trip to Abilene, but I am still very proud of the effort I exerted in workouts prior to that trip that allowed me to make the trip, even though I only got cold feet standing on the sidelines watching us lose.

I believe that every starter on that team got college scholarships, so I don't feel like such a scrub anymore. And, alas, they found I had cracked some vertebrae during those scrimmages, and I ended up in a back brace and didn't even get to play my senior year, much less make it to the NFL.

You may find that NFL comment amusing, but (1) my father was a coach who was earlier coached by Byron Rhome (at Weatherford College in the 20's) and played with Jack Roten, my favorite coach (along with Herman Scruggs, two opposites in their approaches - Coach Scruggs always saw my successes [no offense meant, Randy]); (2) my uncle was the coach of a 1939 Lubbock team that won the state championship shortly after his death (posthumous glory - it was even written up in a book by a Texas sportswriter);

and (3) I had 200-pound aunts who would have loved to play - and coached unmercifully! And, subsequently, my best friend was a scholastic All-American and captain of a Super Bowl team (you all know who). I really wanted to play that one more year.

But I am drifting away from my purpose. What I wanted to tell you about was my former wife, nee Jo Ann Spillyards ('57, like me). Jo Ann and I were married right out of Sunset, shortly after our 18th birthdays. We were divorced about six years later, the best thing coming from our union being two good kids who have done well. The last time I saw Jo Ann was at our daughter Lori's wedding, and Lori has three daughters now, the oldest of which is eighteen (make ya feel old?).

Only after Jo Ann's death did I hear the following story from my daughter:

In 1989 Jo Ann was in Russia, of all places, as I recall working as a film agent - this part is somewhat vague to me (I'm sure my daughter will provide me the truth) - but, in a chance conversation with a Russian woman she was working with, Jo Ann found the woman had a daughter who was destined to die at an early age because of a heart defect which, in America, was readily repaired by surgery. Jo Ann preceded not only to get an American surgical team to go over to Russia to operate on this girl, thus saving her from an untimely death, but set up a charitable organization, enlisting contributions and, more importantly, surgeons and the necessary medical equipment to go to Russia and, not simply do operations, but to train their Russian counterparts to do the procedures, thereby saving no doubt thousands of lives already, and no telling how many in the future.

Jo Ann was honored for this effort a few years ago by appearing on "Sixty Minutes". Sadly, I recall flipping through the channels and seeing a brief discussion of what was coming on the show, about this American woman's efforts in Russia, but I was looking for something more "entertaining", and flipped on! In 1996, on another trip to Russia, Jo Ann forgot her blood pressure medication. Unable to fill it there, she

suffered a stroke on a plane and did not survive.

She has been venerated in Russia. I have pictures of her with Russian President Shevardnadze, and there are major memorials to her there. Shevardnadze dedicated the Georgian American Medical Center to her and renamed the facility as the Jo Ann Medical Center in her memory in 1997. I doubt there are any of us Sunsetters who have had such a far-reaching impact.

Jo Ann and I couldn't live happily together. She had this annoying forwardness that repelled the studious and contemplative likes of a scientist like me, but she could probably never have solicited funds (from the likes of Joanne Woodward, according to my daughter, for another \$10k or 20k or so) to support another Russian trip for a surgeon and the necessary equipment if she had not had that gol-dam audacity.

My daughter has been asked to take her position, but she has three daughters of her own and can't afford to, although she'd love to (and would be good at it). But the charity is still going. If you would like to honor her memory for an obviously excellent cause, offer a contribution to Global Healing, P. O. Box 555, Montara, CA 94037-0555.

As for me, I'm not as shy as I once was, still a bit tongue-tied but happy both with and without people around. I have those terrible "wonder whatever happened to so-and-so" thoughts now, terrible in that I fear that I will never know, having been away for so long. Names keep coming back, like old songs - John Tarver, Doug Clark, Jackie Fisk, Lenora Reeves, Frank Nance,... I kept up with a few for a while - John Niendorff, Jerry Mays, Cynthia Mayne, Beth Knoerzer, Randy Roten, Don Kirkham. I saw a few by chance in passing.

It's too bad we can't go home again. Oak Cliff, and Sunset, still beckon.

My 'the HERD' is addressed to "Charles Chapman", but the only people that ever called me Charles were telephone solicitors. My teachers called me Weldon, my second name. But those of

you that knew me knew me as "Cotton". I'd love to hear from you.

My eye strain has gone away, in spite of staring at this damned machine. I wonder why?

Fred E. Nelson Class of 1953

You folks have done a remarkable job with this web page. I knew a few of the people in the class of '56 but not many. I hope you don't mind me nosing around and reading your news letters, etc. I get a kick out of looking in from time to time.

Keep up the good maintenance work. I especially enjoyed looking over the Photos of the Faculty that you recently inserted. My Sundials were lost in a fire many years ago and this was the first time I had a chance to see photos of the Faculty in a long long time. Was even surprised to see one of my old Football buddies was on the Coaching Staff. (Billy Wayne Kidd)

Thanks for allowing me to snoop and leave this message.

Johnny Upton ('59)
jwsaupton@cs.com

Found the webpage today and thought I would send you my e-mail address. I believe you were discussing the possibility of distributing "The Herd" in this manner. Sandra, my wife of 32 years and I are still living in Longview, Tx. I retired from the Longview P.D. after serving 6 1/2 years as chief. Putting lots of miles on my motorcycle working with the Christian Motorcyclist Association. If you ever get to Longview, look us up. I'm listed in the phone book. Blessings, -

Juanita Hargis Wagener
wageners@airmail.net

To The Herd: I enjoyed reading the article in the 3/18/00 issue of the DMN. I am a graduate of the class of '60, so I was a sophomore in '57-'58. I remember many of the names and faces shown in your website. To Ed (Eddie) Cullum... how dearlie I remember your mother and dad. Your dad, was my 6th grade Sunday

School teacher at Tyler Street. I don't know if you remember me but I remember you. [Yes, Juanita, I remember your whole family - Eddie] I am one of the Hargis kids...Juanita, Joan, Jack, Roy, and Ruby all graduated from Sunset. Youngest sister, Mary, got caught in the bussing and had to graduate at Adamson. I am looking forward to our 40th reunion in June. Thanks for a great Bison experience.

Don Kirkham ('57).
kirkham@peoplescom.net

At the ripe old age of 61, I have entered the computer age. My wife Judy, is taking this dictation as I failed Mr. Rufus Moore's typing class.(That was hard to do, since he was my basketball coach.) Who says teachers play favorites to athletes? Just kidding. On a serious note, I have thoroughly enjoyed the HERD since the first publication, and wait eagerly for the next edition. While serfing the HERD Website, I started thinking of some of the people with whom I have lost contact. I continue to try to locate Jerry Cobb, but have had no luck. If you can help, please email me at the address below. Would love to hear from any of you.

Leanne Barton Todd ('58)
Ltodd@pisd.edu

Love "The Herd" seems too long since the reunion. I miss you guys. Loved the note about Mrs. Presson. She was my hero!! And, my career has mirrored hers!! I have my Sunset diploma framed above my desk. Next to it is my dad's diploma from Oak Cliff High School (now Adamson), from 1924! It is the same form . . . they just have ordered a bunch!! If you remember, our diplomas were signed by each of our teachers. The diploma is so much more significant than the college ones!! It is signed by CC Miller, Mrs. Presson, Lucille Simipson, Byron Rhome, Ora Lee, Otto Michel, K. L. Strickland, someone unreadable, Oma Ford, and bless her heart, Hattie Lee Hornbeak! Eddie & Max - you are my heros, too. Keep us grounded!! Money coming!!

<http://theherd.net/>

Have you visited the web site? Have you been there lately? We continue to get rave reviews. Max, with the assistance of his son, Mark, has created an outstanding place on the Internet.

You can find all back issues of *the HERD* posted there. Sundial pictures of Sunset, Mr. Miller and the entire faculty. There are pictures of Oak Cliff, school songs, Missing Bison lists, Deceased lists, e-mail addresses and more

There are two places to go to read what our previous visitors have said. One is the Guest Log and the other is the Bison Message Board. Both make for interesting reading.

There are links to other great web sites. Some are specifically for Sunset, some are for all kinds of

fifties stuff, including the one mentioned earlier in this issue.

Trivia Answers

1. August, 1949
2. Austin Cook (now 80, also graduated from Sunset in 1938)
3. Bull Pen Barbecue
4. "Our Service May Be Poor But We Are Friendly" (Later changed to, "As Tender As Ole Austin's Heart" in 50s when Oak Cliff went dry)
5. \$1.50/lb (now \$8.59/lb)

The HERD is a publication for all members of the Sunset High School classes of 1957 and 1958 and friends of out classes. It is published about three times a year by Max Maris and Eddie Cullum. It is financed by voluntary contributions, mostly from members of these two classes. We thank you for your support.

Periodically we receive inquiries about including the 1959 class. Here is our position.

Eddie will retire in the next few months and should have a little more time to devote to the HERD. He is now willing to entertain the idea of including the entire '59 class if that class is willing to commit to providing financial support (about \$1500 per year), a person to maintain a mailing list in an Excel database that is updated each issue, a person to write a brief article targeted to the '59 class and a person in the Plano area to help prepare for mailing. In 2001 we plan to return to using a bulk mail permit.

If someone wants to grab this Bison by the horns, please contact Eddie Cullum at 972 881-9169 or cullum@swbell.net

The HERD

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