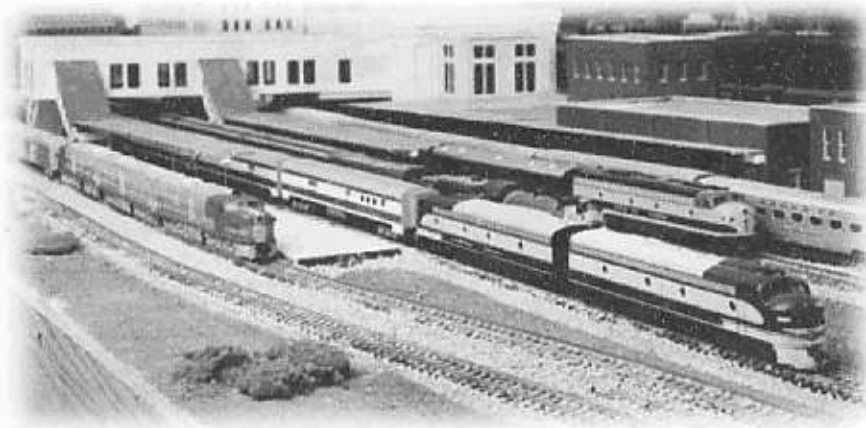




the HERD

NUMBER FORTY * SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF '57 & '58 * MARCH 2004

Oh, the Trains! The Magical, Mystical Trains



By Eddie Cullum

I think if I had to pick the one thing about my early years I miss the most, I would say "the trains". Especially the steam locomotives. Oh, I was interested in the street cars and the interurbans, but the big locomotives were mesmerizing. Not only that, they were the main means of transportation in and out of the city. Of course, some people came by air out at Love Field, and I loved to watch the planes but that is another story.

In the early 20th century, several railroads came to Dallas. Each had it's own tracks and depot. Soon trains were creating traffic problems because they often had to wait on each other, blocking streets and highways. Finally, a man named George Kessler (See page three) developed a plan that limited the number of freight depots and required all passenger trains to use

one depot, which soon became known as Union Station. It was owned by the eight railroads serving Dallas at the time. Small railroads were the target of mergers and bankruptcies, so their names changed a lot but we all recognize names like Rock Island, Burlington, Katy, T&P, Cotton Belt, Fort Worth & Denver and Santa Fe that served Dallas.

I well remember the hustle and bustle of Union Station as some 100 trains per day came through., trains with beautiful names like The Texas Chief, The Texas Zephyr, The Lone Star Limited, The Bluebonnet, The Texas Eagle and many more. There were picturesque names like The Owl, The Antelope, The Texas Eagle, The Morning Star, the Evening Star, Black Gold and The Firefly.

Inside the depot, there were ticket counters on two walls and many wooden benches like church pews in the middle. There were two or three shoe shine stands. A taxi stand was right outside and

cabs moved in and out during all hours of the day and night. They were always busy. Porters (called red caps) scurried around assisting travelers with their luggage. There was a walkway connected to the second level of the station that extended out over the tracks, then staircases led down to train level. From the walkway a small boy could look out the window and watch the trains come in right under his feet. With a little imagination, you could travel all over America from right there. In later years this was replaced by an underground tunnel that also led to parking lots where the reunion tower now stands.

The steam engines gave way to the diesels, the lonesome sounds of steam whistles were replaced by horrible sounding air horns. The railroads fought to compete with the ballooning airline business but it was not to be.

All the passenger trains are gone now except for Dart, Amtrak and The Trinity Railway Express. But thanks to my special time tunnel vision, I still see the mighty steam engines roll into Union Station whenever I pass through there.

We still have many reminders of the great days of passenger rail service. Central Expressway was built where the Houston & Texas Central once ran, Dallas North Tollway follows the Cotton Belt right of way. Dart has used portions of the Southern Pacific (Red Line along North Central), Katy (Blue Line from Mockingbird to Garland) and Santa Fe (Red Line from the river to Westmoreland). Trinity Railway Express follows the Rock Island route that goes through Irving. When you are in these areas, listen carefully. You can sometimes hear the eerie sound of steam whistles blowing. At least, I can.

Teens with Dreams Presents \$25,000 check to Sunset High

Re-printed from the Oak Cliff Tribune of Thursday, November 28th, 2003

**By Kathie Magers
Tribune Editor**

A \$25,000 check presented to Sunset High School by the Teens with Dreams program will help fund several projects at the North Oak Cliff high school.

The check was presented to Sunset Principal Sylvia Lopez at a luncheon Tuesday, November 18th, 2003, at Top O' the Cliff club by Alex Reyes, a supervisor with Teens with Dreams, who started with the program selling candy as a student at Sunset.

This year marks the second full year that Teens with Dreams had had a full partnership with Sunset as part of its Adopt A School program.

The program head, Eric Ulloa, said students involved are out there after school every day selling products like candy, to raise funds, an effort that makes them stronger, and teaches not to give up and that there's hope out there if they don't give up.

Supervisors, he said, many of whom came through the program while in school, serve as role models and someone for students to lean on.

Ulloa said this luncheon also serves as a message to those who buy from the teens to assure them that the money goes where they have been told it goes.

Part of the money raised by Teens with Dreams, said John Parker, marketing teacher at Sunset, goes to

support the school's New York Field Studies program, which began in 1989.

Next spring's trip will include the first session at Latina Magazine, a workshop at Bride Magazine, and another trip to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Sunset teacher Dan Madden is in charge of Sunset's new Leadership Program, which also will receive some of the money.

That program, he said, includes sending eight DECA students to a San Antonio Workshop, helping the leadership class go to a two-day ropes course at the Dallas Environmental Center, with funds from the grant paying for the bus transportation, and also providing them with Sunset High School leadership shirts.

Madden said there also will be funds to send Student Council members and other students to summer camps, such as sending the 10th grade class president to a Hugh O'Brien seminar.

There also will be funds to send Sunset and Adamson students to the Southern Dallas Leadership Forum sponsored every year by School Trustee Rafael Anchia.

Finally, said Madden, he hopes to use some of the money for a leadership seminar to bring high school officers together with leaders from the community.

Finally, Diana Flores, chair of Sunset's Site Based Decision Making Committee, wants to use some of the Teens with Dreams money to help with a project of that group to build school spirit by creating a place for the students to congregate during their lunch hour. It will create a Bison Plaza/Plaza del Sol outside at the rear of the school where only blackout now exists.

Trivia Questions

1. What was the first Elvis song played on the radio? [a] Good Rockin' Tonight; [b] That's Alright Mama; [c] Mystery Train; or [d] Love Me Tender
2. Which of these 1953 season TV shows lasted the longest? [a] Red Skelton Show; [b] The Life of Riley; [c] Life with Father; or [d] Make Room for Daddy
3. All but one of these pictures won a best picture Academy Award during the 1950's except [a] Ben Hur; [b] Bridge over the River Kwai; [c] Around the World in 80 Days; or [d] The Greatest Show on Earth
4. Which of these top 10 singles of 1958 did Conway Twitty sing? [a] All I have to do is Dream; [b] It's Only Make Believe; [c] It's all in the Game; or [d] April Love
5. Three of these shows started in 1957. Name the one that started in 1959. [a] Dennis the Menace; [b] Leave it to Beaver; [c] The Real McCoys; [d] Bachelor Father
6. Which one of these was not a hit in the 1950's? [a] Heat Wave; Stag-ger Lee; [c] Maybelliene; or [d]

Bison Spring Roundup!

YEE HA! Git on down to El Fenix on McKinney, **Thursday, March 25th at 6:30 P.M.** We're havin' a meetin' and you're sure invited. Come early and stay late to enjoy good grub and visitin' with some of your favorite folks from the good ol' days. If you haven't been to one of these shindigs, you're missing out on a really good time. We welcome all, but check your shootin' irons inside... and wipe yer boots outside the door. A special menu and separate checks will be provided. Please mark your calendar and join us.... Y'all come!

Kessler Park

It is the opinion of your EDDIEtor and, indeed, thousands of other informed people that there is no more beautiful residential area in Dallas (if not the world) than Kessler Park. I still love to drive the shaded streets and marvel at the homes, still grand and magnificent after all these years. But the history goes back farther than we do (yes, we only feel that old). So how did the neighborhood come about and who gave us the names of the area, the street and the theatre? Lisa C. Maxwell wrote;

"George E. Kessler (1862-1923), pioneer city planner and landscape architect, was born in Frankenhausen, Germany and in 1865 was taken to Dallas, Texas. His father soon died and his widowed mother, who taught French and art to support them. Later he worked as a cashboy at Sanger Harris Dry Goods. He moved to Europe and studied civic design in Germany, France, and Russia. By 1882 he moved to Kansas City and designed a railroad-owned amusement park. In 1893 he drew up a plan for the development of the city's park-boulevard system. He designed and landscaped the St. Louis World's Fair grounds in 1904. The same year he redesigned the grounds of Fair Park in Dallas, but his biggest contribution in Dallas, the "famous" Kessler Plan, came five years later.

"In 1909 the Chamber of Commerce established the City Plan and Improvement League and hired Kessler to draft a design for a long-range plan of civic improvements. Kessler drew up his plan to solve many of the city's problems, including the uncontrollable flooding of the Trinity River, the dangerous railroad crossings, and narrow, crooked downtown streets. The plan was not implemented at the time because it was not believed to be

practical, but it became increasingly clear that changes were needed. Kessler returned in 1918 to act as consulting engineer for the Dallas Property Owners' Association and in 1919 began working for the Metropolitan Development Association of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. He remained in Dallas until January 3, 1922, when he returned to St. Louis. The Trinity River was improved and the levee system was completed in the 1930s. In addition to a plan for Dallas, Kessler drafted city plans for Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Cleveland, El Paso, Denver, and Syracuse. He designed Camp Wilson, the national army cantonment near San Antonio. On March 20, 1923, he died in Indianapolis, Indiana."

The Kessler Park web site provided the following information: In 1908 a devastating flood severed Dallas from recently annexed Oak Cliff across the Trinity River. This led the Dallas City Plan and Improvement League to hire George E. Kessler to replan Dallas. In his plan were "sweeping portrayals of boulevards, greenbelts and parks," and a levee system and Town Lake for the Trinity, visions that are still being implemented. Kessler later became involved in planning a beautiful Oak Cliff Neighborhood that bears his name.

The original sections of Kessler Park straddle Edgefield Avenue north of Colorado Boulevard and were developed in 1924 by a father and son team, George Owens Senior and Junior. Kessler carefully looped two streets around the edge of wooded hilltops. These, originally called Canterbury Court and Marsalis Court (now Windomere Avenue and Lausanne Drive), contain the most homogenous groups of large and well detailed houses of the pre-Depression period in Kessler Park.

Coombs Creek and Kidd Springs Branch, winding their way

to the Trinity River, carved canyons through this uplifted edge of the Austin Chalk. The edges have softened with development and now form the spectacular homesites of "East Kessler." The oldest structure in the area is the "Old Rock Lodge" on the east side of the 1600 block of Cedar Hill Avenue. It was probably built in the third quarter of the 19th Century. Roy Eastus, an East Kessler Park real estate pioneer, thought it dated from 1851. Reportedly, it served as the first stop out of Dallas for travelers going to Ft. Worth and beyond by stagecoach. Still visible are wagon ruts worn into the limestone between the Rock Lodge and Kessler Parkway. Sometime around the turn of the 20th Century it was a (fried chicken?) restaurant and featured a cupola which probably added to its visibility. Except for the cover of huge trees, some of which still exist, it was likely that it was easy to see from a distance.

At least one masonry home, 305 W. Greenbriar, dates from the early 1920's as do several frame homes (Sylvan, Eastus and Shady Lane). Development by Hugh January and Roy Eastus began in earnest in the mid-1930's east of Sylvan, haphazardly yet picturesquely cutting narrow streets through the trees. In one block of Cedar Hill Avenue just south of Kessler Parkway, the street is literally carved out of limestone, which towers fifteen to twenty feet above the roadway. Old timers still recall when the test of a new car (Model T?) was to see if it could make it up Cedar Hill. Some may have heard of Don January, a pro golfer. A member of his family died while working on what became Junior Drive. East Kessler lots were offered at prices ranging from \$1150 to \$7000 and nice homes could be built for \$6000 to \$8000..

Others carried on George Kessler's tradition in this part of the City. The L. A. Stemmons family land around what is now Methodist

Letters and e-mail to the EDDIETor

Jim Climer ('58)

Saturday afternoon (Jan. 17) Al Yeagan and I visited Max Maris at Dallas VA hospital. We were delighted to find him sitting up in a motorized wheel chair fully clothed. Usually he's lying on his back and is covered with a bedsheet....sort of a grim picture. He was his usual pleasant self..... uncomplaining, smiling, and most appreciative of our being there. In short, he appeared better than he has in some time.

We reminisced about Oak Cliff, Sunset High School, his military service, and classmates. These are Max's favorite topics of interest. Then the subject of Jack Daniels whiskey and Coca-Cola came up. Max said he used to like that stuff. By *sheer* coincidence Al and I had both of those ingredients in our pockets. We mixed Max a drink. He tried it.

We are pleased to report that Max still likes Jack and coke.

We love Max.

The Eddietor ('58)

It is quite interesting to me that Jim Climer made no mention of Christmas and Max and egg nog and Crown Royal. Also I note that there was no mention of a bottle of wine. Seems like Climer is always around when there is booze.

Charles L. (Charlie) Brown ('50)
Donna J. Ussery Brown ('57)
3114 S. Fm 131
Denison TX 75020-0724

We were very sorry to hear that Max has gotten worse. He has been great at keeping info coming about Sunset

and the classes of 57 and 58. We will carry him in our hearts.

We are sending another little token to keep the HERD in publication.

Donna, class of 57, is doing well. She has been working with the Seniors council and checking on homebound by phone. Since she is blind, that is the one thing she can do to help. She is visiting with the local Red Hat club and is a member of the Texoma Iris Society.

We have one grandson who lives in Oregon and she enjoys his visit during the Summer. Our two sons are living here in Denison now, so she has them to fall back on for help in case something happens to me.

Our class of 1950 had a Christmas Party the 13th of December, but we were hosting the Texoma Iris Society's party that same day. Seems everything goes on at the same time.

You might want to know that I was asked to represent the U.S. veterans of the Korean War to return to Korea in July for the Commemoration of the signing of the armistice on 27 July 1953. It was a week program with several ceremonies and everything was sponsored by the Korean government.

Jimmy Lawrence ('58)

I just identified that you have an old address for me. Please note my present e-mail address as Jim@troylawrence.com.

Maybe many of you know about this but I just stumbled on it last Fall. While taking one of my excursions just roaming around back roads to see what is there, I spotted a herd of really odd looking animals. They just did not look quite right. As I got closer I was pleasantly surprised to see a herd of about 50+ bison. I have since been back by there and they really do exist.

This is a great place to just look for and to show off to your kids and grandkids that bison are for real.

Take highway 67 south from Cedar Hill. Go past Midlothian and look quickly for Venus. You all remember that Venus is there but may not have ever been there. Turn left at the stop light (hwy 157) and proceed through the town, staying on the main road as it takes a couple of wiggles. Proceed south about 2-3 miles and look on both sides of the road. There are several large pastures here. Check out the big sign at the ranch entrance with the big diagram of a bison. It is a fun drive.

If you don't just get out and drive a few back roads regularly then you are missing a lot. There are many, many small towns, crossroads and such real close. Get off your backside, buy a tank of gas and just follow your nose.

Sharon (Mrs. Jerry ('57)) Cobb

As of Friday, January 9th, I had to resign to stay home with Jerry until he can stay two days at home by himself and I can go back to work. I do not have access to a computer at home so until further notice, please hold your e-mail. Everyone have a "Happy New Year" and stay well and prosper. If you want to inquire about Jerry our phone number is: 512-446-6534.

Gerald Langle ('57 almost)
gdlangle@psyber.com

Just finished reading the October 2003 issue of The Herd. It is always interesting to me to hear from the Bisons of the 1950's. One theme that appears often in the letters and e-mails is that just now are we able to fully appreciate how special and somewhat unique the 1950's were. We were all too young for the Korean War. Most of us that were inclined to do so did our tour of military duty and got out of the military just before the war in Vietnam be-

gan. I remember in my last year aboard ship over in the Far East we began to receive jungle survival courses. We thought that was pretty well off the wall but later realized they were doing that in case our ship sank and we had to make our way through the jungles over there.

Luckily that didn't happen. So, we had it good in civilian life and in military life. Our generation seems to be the first in history where so many of us, as teenagers, were able to get our own set of wheels. Of course we were all too young and inexperienced to have a good perspective on all that. In any event I for one feel it was a special time, that we had a lot earlier generations did not have and that later generations couldn't duplicate or recreate.

I enjoy hearing from all of you who shared those times. You guys keep up the good work.

Maran Doggett ('57) &
Carolyn Jo Carroll Doggett ('58)

We have a new email address. It is mdoggett@earthlink.net Please take note of this change.

Sue Coates ('57)
sue_coates@innetix.com>

Yesterday, at long last, the sewer man and the movers both arrived, so I am moved into my new house. We close with the title company next week. Here are my new vitals:

1003 East Mill Street
Malvern, Arkansas 72104
Phone 501/337-4472

I will have a new e-mail address after Cox Communications comes out to hook up the cable next week, but this old one still works and I'll keep it for a couple more months during transition. No television through Thanksgiving, what a tragedy!

The house is brand new, but was on the market for a while so there's a lot of dust to clean up. The builder thinks the house was waiting for me.

He's been building houses for 35 years and said sometimes he gets the feeling the house is being built for someone in particular, and this was one of those. I made the offer two days after I arrived in Arkansas, never daring to dream it could actually work out. But I'm in now! The move in was so much easier than the previous one that I don't think it will take long to get settled.

It turned cold here yesterday and froze the past two nights. The house is well insulated and has both a furnace and a heat pump. The car I bought in Alaska came off the moving van on Friday afternoon and it really likes cold weather. I finally got my winter clothes out, having brought only summer clothes to Arkansas in mid-October. Some of you in northern climes will think 45 degrees is a heat wave but I like it. The beautiful leaves finally fell off, but they were just as nice as the earlier ones in Anchorage, although I didn't go blueberry-picking on a mountain here as I did there. Now that I have my car, I can get out on some excursions to see the wonders of Arkansas. I've been driving the motor pool car, a clunky sedan that is intended for official business only so I didn't take it out on personal jaunts. My job is going well. We're working on getting some procedures and instructions written

I attended the annual fall training conference for my profession and spent a delightful couple of days with my brother and his family. While I was there, my cousin Bill came to visit, which was a pleasant surprise and I really enjoyed that. Now people can come and visit me in Arkansas.

Trivia Answers

1. [b] That's Alright Mama
2. [a] Red Skelton Show
3. [a] Ben Hur
4. [b] It's Only Make Believe
5. [c] The Real McCoys
6. [a] Heat Wave

**JUANITA MORGAN
PRESSON-NAYLOR**

Juanita Morgan Presson-Naylor began teaching in Texas public schools as a teenager in Johnson County. But it was 30 years into her career that she discovered her passion as a Dallas high school counselor, helping students discover their dreams.

Mrs. Presson-Naylor, 93, died last October at Nacogdoches Medical Center from complications suffered in a fall.

Mrs. Presson-Naylor worked to keep Sunset High School's academic achievements on par with its standing as an athletic powerhouse at the time, said Bill Melton, former Dallas County treasurer, who is a longtime family friend and member of the class of 1958.

"She had a way of convincing people that they could do things that they hadn't even thought about," Mr. Melton said.

"She had this presence about her ... she really did a lot for Sunset and the [Oak Cliff United Methodist] church as well."

Mrs. Presson-Naylor would motivate students and help them find scholarships to attend college to make their newly discovered goals possible, said her son, Wynn Presson of Stanley, Kan.

"Her biggest thrill was taking people who didn't have the dream, didn't have the motivation maybe, or didn't feel like they had the ability" and helping them succeed, he said.

Born in Burleson, Mrs. Presson-Naylor earned a bachelor's degree from North Texas State Normal School, now UNT, and later earned a master's degree from SMU.

Memorials may be made to the American Stroke Foundation, 8700 Lamar Ave., Overland Park, Kan. 66207; Hospice in the Pines, 116 S.

The Sunset Foundation

The Sunset Foundation, Inc. was started in 1996 with an initial donation from Joe Brook, Class of 1953, his class matched his gift and the scholarship foundation was off and running. Scholarships are granted annually to new graduates who have shown interest in continuing their education in college and university and do not have the funds to continue on their own. We now have been able to assist over 25 graduates in this program. All funds donated are placed in the trust and interest and dividends are used for the scholarships. Several classes have donated over \$10,000.00 and we have received contributions from over 150 individuals and 2 private foundations. A group of Sunset graduates select the winners in the spring and former recipients can also apply for additional funds.

The Board Members are: Gordon Hobgood (1949), Nita Ford (1950), Jerry Wilson (1954), James Rutledge (1955), Tom Rutledge (1982), Jorge Lopez (1983), John Kenner (1983) and Laura Schuller (1985).

If you would like to be involved with the Foundation, please contact us at The Sunset Foundation, Inc., 2501 Oak Lawn, Suite 305, Dallas, TX 75219. All donations are tax deductible.

The Sunset Alumni Association

The Sunset High School Alumni Association was formed to advance continuing interest in Sunset High School as one of Dallas' important institutions and to champion its historic significance through its, graduates, its physical facilities, and its students.

There are currently 558 members on the rolls of the association. Classes represented range from 1932 to 1992. Some of the projects that have been partially funded by the Alumni are:

- Restoration of National Honor Society Pictures
- Cleaning of trophies and trophy cases
- Purchase of a drying rack for the Art Department
- Purchase of Bisonette uniforms
- New York Leadership Program field trips
- Peer Mediation Program to reduce violence
- Science Department projects
- Computer software for Career Connections
- Theater Department Projects

Membership dues are \$15 or \$100 for Century Club level. Write to Sunset Alumni Association, P.O. Box 225050, Dallas, Texas 75222 or go to the web site at:
<http://www.sunsetalumni.com>

the HERD #40

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