



# the HERD

NUMBER FIFTY THREE \* SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF '57 & '58 \* AUGUST 2008

## Glen Waggoner Remembers Sunset Teachers

We barely remembered each other's names at the Class of 1958 blow-out in June, and we certainly couldn't recognize each other at first glance. No wonder. Fifty years has taken a mighty toll on the lithe, supple young bodies and taut, unlined faces we once possessed. Plus we've all gone in all sorts of different directions—geographically, politically, professionally, every which way—since the last time we sang "O, Sunset High School Glorious ..." together in the auditorium.

But one thing still unites us—and this became abundantly clear in a scientific study I conducted on our Saturday morning bus tour of a largely unrecognizable Oak Cliff—is our remarkable consensus regarding the quality of the teachers we encountered in our three years on West Jefferson.

(At this point, I'd like to interrupt myself to salute the Reunion Committee for dreaming up the bus tour. Genius, pure genius. Had most of attempted that trip down memory lane individually, we might still be down there, wandering around unfamiliar (yet vaguely familiar turf), trying to locate Sivils so we could buy a six-pack of Lone Star to settle our nerves. Just one caveat: I really think the tour should have included Lower Keist Park as well.)

Fuzzy as our memories are—okay, my memory—about names, faces, and football games from that era, we all seem to have retained vivid recollections of the people charged with equipping us for life out in the cold, harsh, post-Bison Head world.

But before I list some of the great teachers whose names surfaced in the survey, I'd like to note briefly the answers to a survey question that drew blank stares on the bus—namely, Where did you first have sex? Go figure. I thought that question would draw a much more spirited debate than, say, the relative merits of Sarah Dinsmore vs. Edith St. Clair. (My brother, Sunset '32: "But Glen, they were old when I was there!") But no. Nothing but averted eyes, a couple of groans, and one "Oh, please!" A

few whispered to me that answering the First Sex question in a public forum would be compromising, should anyone recall who was going out with whom back then.

Afterwards, though, you were more forthcoming. A lot of people stepped forward to answer it later under the cloak of anonymity. Here are the Class of 1958's Top 5 Hot Spots:

1. Mountain Creek Lake
2. Lower Keist Park
3. Hampton Road Drive-In Theater
4. Jefferson Drive-In Theater
5. Other

(It's not too late to fess up to the locale of your First. An historical marker will be placed at the weirdest site.)

Okay, where was I? Oh, yes—our teachers. Here, in no particular order, are the names that surfaced most often. A few have stories attached. Others don't. Please send along your stories for the second group—and more stories for the first—to The Herd. Additional nominees, too. If enough stuff comes in, and it's a slow news quarter, there just might be a follow-up piece.

1. Juanita Presson. High on a lot of lists, even though her son, Wynn, was the starting QB at Adamson.
2. Mae Venable. She taught Spanish, right? I was a Jenkins/ Johns product.
3. George Strickland. Tall, stern-looking. One look and you say to yourself: Biology Teacher. Living proof of the Theory of Natural Selection.
4. Agnes Edwards. Is that her first name? Obviously, I didn't have her. She taught Latin
5. Oma Ford. I'd give her a 93.
6. H.H. Johns, Jr. Besides being the Spirit of Sunset, he was one of the great all-time teachers anywhere at any level. In third- and fourth-year Spanish, we all had to give ourselves Spanish names (Gonzalez Gonzalez, á sus ordenes), we spoke only Spanish in class, and we had to promise to speak Spanish to each other outside the classroom. And we did.
7. Mr. Conger. Early in the term of his

senior history course (I think I have this right), he gave out a list of really obscure, often wacky facts about American history, such as "The Person Who Carved Abe Lincoln's Wooden False Teeth." Everybody picked a topic and wrote an original essay. If he found your essay was good enough, you could skip class at will the rest of the term. Brilliant. What he was doing was stimulating creative, original research—in high school! Never took any of his classes but wish I had; might have helped out when I was pretending to teach European history at the University of Michigan 10 years later.

8. Hattie Lee Hornbeak. Our consensus choice as Sunset's No. 1 Teacher circa 1958. She was, what, about 4'10"? Small in stature, yes, but everybody who took her says she was a giant in the classroom. One Friday afternoon, a couple of our classmates sneaked into her classroom and slipped volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica under the four corners of her desk. The following Monday morning, when she sat down at her desk ... well, you get the picture.

She also had a gift for the perfect gesture, as when she took Brenda (Baker) Moseley and Ann (Hodges) Morgan to the Tea Room at Neiman Marcus to celebrate their graduation. (I don't know about you, but no teacher ever took me to lunch.)

My favorite Hattie Lee story is her response to a report in the Dallas Morning News that the Dallas Independent School System, in its infinite wisdom, had decided to ban the works of that filthy subversive, John Steinbeck, lest they contaminate the minds of tender young Texans like us. The morning the story broke, Hattie Lee drew herself up to her full height in front of the class, waited until the usual murmuring died down, and, after summarizing the Morning News piece said something like this: "Please look at the assigned reading for this class. We will be reading *The Grapes of Wrath*." The little lady had balls.

See *Teachers* on page 3

*Letters and e-mail*

Jimmie Rushing ('57), 2117 Kimberly Dr., Arlington, TX 76010

My being so late responding to the Herd, tells a great deal about me being a late bloomer. It took me five years to graduate from Sunset in 1957, (I am one of the special 8<sup>th</sup> graders). I joined the Navy in August of 1961 at the age of 22. I was in the Navy for 4 years and ten months. My four year tour of duty was extended by ten months because I went to the Univac Computer school in Norfolk, Virginia. During the extended 10 months in Virginia, I met and fell in love with Ella Goode. We were married on my birthday, March 4, 1966 in Norfolk. I left the Navy on July 1, 1966 and brought my sweet bride to Texas. I started to work for IBM as a Customer Engineer servicing large computer mainframes. I retired from IBM after 28 years and hired on with the Arlington Independent School District as a Campus Technology Manager for an elementary school. I worked with the district for 14 years and retired again, this time because of my physical health. Ella and I have been married for 42 years, (it looks like it might work). We have a son Jimmie Jr., who lives in a group home in Arlington, and a daughter Nancy who teaches American History at Ferguson Junior High School in Arlington.

The Herd is very special to me. I am sending you ,finally, a check by mail to help with the expenses of preparing and sending the Herd to us all. I can save you a little by having you to send me the Herd over the Internet. My email address is [jimmie.r@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimmie.r@sbcglobal.net). Thanks again for all you have done for so long,

## Marilyn Harper Bowling

I want to thank you again for including us in your very special reunion. I had a marvelous time both Friday night and Saturday evening. The hotel you selected was exceptionally nice and the food was delicious. I thought the goodie bags and glass plates were very nice and fun. It made for special memories and keepsakes of your 50th. You had a nice crowd in attendance and everyone looks so YOUNG!!!!

Having been on the Class of '57 reunion committee for over 25 years, I can appreciate how much effort your committee put forth to make the weekend special for your whole class. Please share this with them and let them know how well you all did. It was a huge success and everyone had a wonderful time.

Thanks again for including us at your reunion and with The Herd. We are the best Sunset has produced and the great part is we never forget it or each other.

**EDDIETor's note:** Of course there were spouses from several classes but I remember quite a few faces from the '57 class. Don Burden, Stanley Scott, Frank Nance, Maran Doggett, Linda Baker Stubblefield, David Stubblefield, Sonja Rierson Arnold, Nancy Pierce Barber and you. Were there others? It almost seems like a mini reunion for the '57 class.

I am glad all of you were there to help us celebrate this milestone that you had so recently reached.

## Byron Boucher

Sorry to have missed out on the Reunion. Went back in the hospital with the infection in my blood. June 6. Hope to be able to go home next Tuesday. Just got back on the Internet today.

I really enjoyed the pictures from the reunion. Thank you for sending them. Sure a bunch of old folks that sort of resemble people that I used to know.

In addition to the infection , They tell me that I have had a small stroke. My memory of the past does not seem to be affected. What happened 5 minutes ago I may not remember. My wife says that in addition to selective hearing, I now have selective memory. Those are two things that are not bad to have if you don't want to do something.

After the first week I have felt relatively good. I have not been out of the Hospital very much since Dec. 6 last year. Sure am getting anxious to be out of here. Been in six different hospitals a couple of them more than once.

I told one of my Doctors that they have learned the Auto Mechanics secret of job security which is to fix one thing and break two more. The mechanic can impound the vehicle but I don't think the Doctor wants to keep me. I have been in Cornerston hospital since leaving Seaton. This is the best one I have experienced. Sure would have hated to have done this much time in some of the others.

Again thank you for the information and the pictures.

## SUNSET 50th REUNION "TOAST"

by Bill Melton June 21, 2008

Tonight, we lift a glass to....Our Classmates and Teachers who have gone before us, or for whatever reason, are not with us tonight....

We raise Our glass to Our venerable Principal Mr. C.C. Miller, who lived to the age of 103 years....and to the afore mentioned Assistant Principal Frank Guzick, who governed with a wry grin and a broad paddle....and to Oma Ford and Martha Ferguson, who governed with love....

We raise Our glass to the Tradition of the Bison Head. Will you ever forget the first time you heard it speak when we were Sophomores? And have you ever been able to explain that your high school mascot was a Bison....that talked?

Tonight, we raise Our glass to the Best All Around High School in Dallas. We learned early that Sunset was not only "the best" in athletics, but in scholastic achievement as well, as we always won the Kiwanis, Everts and Linz Awards.

We raise Our glass to the Oak Cliff of the 1950's. If you didn't live it, you won't understand it. It can only be explained today in a movie or on television, but it was a wonderful time and place to grow up.

We raise Our glass tonight to Red Bryan's Smokehouse....Sivil's Drive In...Polar Bear Ice Cream...the Root Beer Stand on Clarendon....the Dairy Queen. And we raise it to Kiest Park....and for some of you....to Lower Kiest!

We raise Our glass to the Sundial

and Stampede and the ways that we communicated about our School and our fellow Classmates....and today to the Herd and our new, enhanced web site.

We raise Our glass to the number seven ranked football team in the State of Texas, to a basketball team that upset eventual State finalist Woodrow Wilson in the annual Dr. Pepper Tournament and to a District Championship baseball team ..... by Our man Stonestreet.

We raise Our glass to the Purple and White Bison Band...to the Majorettes....to the Bisonettes...and to the Cheerleaders.

To ROTC...the many Clubs that we enjoyed...and the Fine Arts....our Senior Plays, the Choir and more.

We raise Our glass to our three years at dear 'ole Sunset, but in particular to our Senior year of 1957-58!

We raise Our glass, as we look around this room to the 270 in attendance, to life long friendships established in the hallowed halls of Sunset...and the "life lessons" learned there.

We raise Our glass to our memories and, most of all, to Our future!

Tonight, we raise Our glass, at this 50th Anniversary Reunion.....to the Best Class ever...in the Best High School ever in Dallas, Texas....the Sunset Class of 1958!

So say we all? Cheers!

## Teachers

*Continued from page one*

9. Martha Ferguson. A close second to Ms. Hornbeak in number of votes for Top Teacher, Ms. Ferguson was a take-no-prisoners dynamo with a withering sense of humor.

My favorite Martha Ferguson story comes from our senior year. After making straight A's in the first term, her favorite student—I know, I know: she made a lot folks feel like they were No. 1—went a little rogue. She would say write something about X; he figured it would be more fun to write about Y. For the first six weeks, she gave him a B on his report card, a little warning shot over the bow. He didn't hear it. The second six weeks, more of the same. Result: a D, to suggest a little self-discipline and humility might be in order. Okay, surely that would reign him in, have him do the work that she assigned in final third of the term, not whatever popped into his mind. Uh-uh. The third six-weeks period, he left the reservation altogether. The work he did was good—even she admitted that—but he still hadn't gotten her message. And so, on his report card for the third six weeks, she gave him a big, red F.

Thank you, Miss Ferguson. That F was the best lesson any teacher has ever taught me.

Postscript: Got any more teachers you want to single out, any more stories you want to share? Send 'em to The Herd.

EDDIETor's Note: OK you math types, we cannot stand for this. I do not see the names of Wesley Mead or Elizabeth Cozby. These two teachers changed my life. Let's get something going for the math dept.



Chairman Gene Autrey and Sunset Principal Tony Tovar

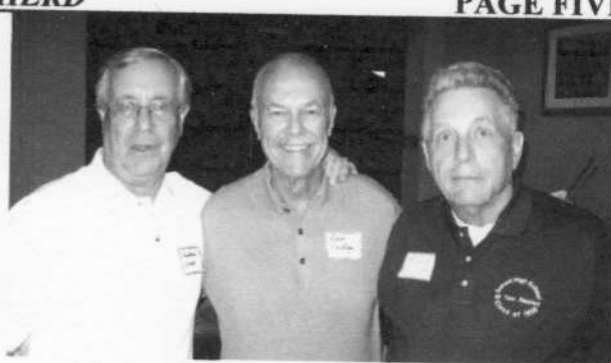


Bill Melton revives the Spirit Jug





More faces in the crowd



Richard Webb, Dave Phillips and the EDDIEtor



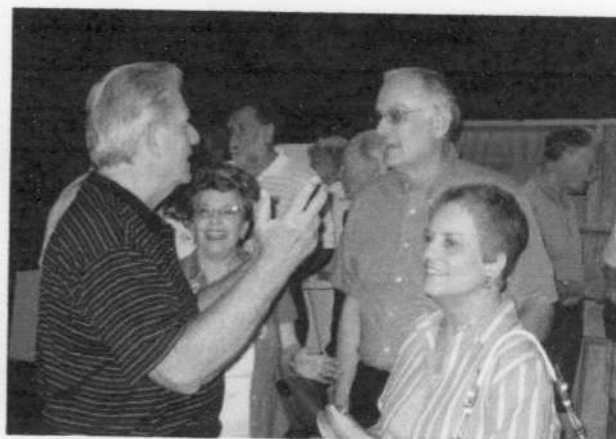
Judy Abelson West and Linda Abelson Feather



Lunch Room at Sunset



G R Culpepper (Mr. Judy Shugart), Ed (E.T.) Harrison and Richard Norton prepare to re-landscape the golf course.



Larry Rice, Faye Lynn King Dodge, Nathan Dodge and Kay Cameron Bradfute



Waiting for the doors to open



Sunday Morning Brunch

## *The Week-end in Review*

By Eddie Cullum

Melton's toast said it all – all the things we remember – all the things that made us what we are. And so the week-end of June 20-22 was a time of reflection for us all. I regret that I was not able to include a picture of all who attended and all the notes I received.

It began on Friday morning at Stevens Park Golf Course. We spent the day visiting, yelling back and forth across the course, and hitting an occasional golf shot. Mainly, visiting! And, there was time for a nap before the social.

Friday evening, an expected crowd of 150 swelled to over 200 as we visited, snacked, visited, had an occasional liquid refreshment, and visited. People I see regularly – people I see occasionally – people I see at reunions – people I hadn't seen for 50 years. I have no idea how late the party lasted – much longer than I did, that's for sure. And of course, there were smaller parties after that in some of the suites and rooms.

Saturday morning, two large buses rolled up to the hotel and transported nearly 100 of us to Sunset, where we walked the hallowed halls, saw parts of the school that have been built recently, got a report from Principal Tovar on the great things that are happening at Sunset, in academics and athletics.

We had sandwiches, then re-boarded the buses for a tour of Oak Cliff. We passed places like Red

Bryan's, Texas Theatre, Lake Cliff, Polar Bear, Keist Park, Marsalis Zoo, and so many more.

Saturday evening, it was time for the grand celebration. The banquet hall was beautiful decorated by a hard-working team of volunteers from the reunion committee.

Following a cocktail hour and a delicious dinner, Chairman Gene Autrey greeted us, Bill Melton shared his thoughts (including the toast), our cheerleaders led us in a yell, Glen Waggoner gave his reflections on the teachers (which developed the idea for our page one article), Scam Man Jim Climer awarded the golf trophies, Richard Norton recognized the contribution of Max & Eddie, Jack Schell had a continuous slide presentation.

But the much anticipated event was the mixing and mingling of the entire 260+ attendees. All spent the next two or three hours circulating around the room, speaking to as many as possible.

And as always, there just wasn't enough time to spend with each treasured person from our past. Entertainer Nelson Blanchard's a back-drop of fifties music to provide the ideal atmosphere. That led several couples to the dance floor for yet another addition to our memory lane. But all too soon it was done.

Sunday morning was our last scheduled event, brunch at the hotel. For the last time, we had an opportunity to visit briefly as people came and went. Then, the very sad time of leaving to return to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I didn't want to go.



**Doyce M. (Bill) Williams, Jr.**  
October 1, 1938 - June 1, 2008

Margie Diersing wrote "to let you know that Doyce (Bill) Williams, Class of 57, passed away on June 1, 2008. Bill had been having heart problems and also complications with diabetes.

Bill had not been feeling well since April but had kept going doing his volunteer work at Methodist Charlton Medical Center on Wheatland Road. He enjoyed his volunteer work and had achieved the President's Award for volunteers of 4,000 hours.

Bill was a wonderful man. He left a legacy that will live on forever. His life was enriched by the presence of so many great friends. Friends he left behind to help through this very difficult time. Each of you had such a special place in his heart and now he lives on in all of our hearts.

I wanted to share this information with you so that you could put it in your next publication of The Herd. Bill so loved to read about other classmates and of the whereabouts and happenings in their lives."

## *Lida Hooe* *Mid-term class*

By Kay Murphree

I'm going to preface this by explaining that we do not want to bar anyone, but because we started out as a group of about 17 students in Lida Hooe Elementary School as one of those mid-term classes, and then we continued through Greiner and finally Sunset, we were extremely close.

But like most, we got on with our lives, lost each other and became found again by the wonderful efforts of Ed Cullum and Max Maris. So when "we" got together again, it really became a magically, wonderful thing. Some of "us" went to summer school and jumped up to the June graduating class of 1958 and joined ya'll, some did not and graduated in Spring of 1959 (I think the last spring graduating class), some graduated in June 1959 and some....for what ever reason didn't finish (but remained in our hearts as 1958 Bisons).

For the 45th reunion in 2003, I think there was only three of "us" there. We knew most of you; golly, you were the popular, cool people that we tried to emulate. Many of you knew of us and were sweet, warmly receptive and accepting of us, and we enjoyed being with you but to "us"....there were only three.

At the mini get-togethers at El Fenix, there have been three to four of "us" attending at various times and occasions.

Max and Ed's success have spurred us on to find more of our original group and we have turbo geared our

efforts with some great results. One of the first results was to renew some old acquaintances from the Lida Hooe group in general. But finally after some hard pushing by our whole group, we found Kendelyn Jane Walker, Ruth Bridges and Christine Sumrow. None of these were found in time for them to attend the 50th reunion. But, I think it was the excitement of expectations of reuniting with our other classmates at the 50th that we really got our groove on.

At the spectacular 50th reunion, there were nine classmates from the original mid-term class group: Charlie Atkins, Frances Benson (from Washington state now), Tommy Blanton, James Garland, Nancy Harris, Beverly Royston Durham, Kay Murphree, Mike Routt and Jimmie Joyce Whitsitt Anderson.

Other Lida Hooe alumni joined our tables and really made the whole evening great fun.

On Sunday, 27 July 2008 as many of "us" as we could muster met at Tejano's Restaurant on Davis. It was on our Saturday bus tour, remember? We had our own mini-reunion because a new found classmate - Ruth Bridges - was visiting in Dallas. This gathering was Charles, James, Nancy, Beverly, and Kay; five classmates and two spouses.

Ruth brought some photos, old photos. I didn't realize back then just how cute we were. She had a good photo of Christine Sumrow...and Nancy and Bev, but none of me. She had one group photo that included Ruth, Bev, Nancy and Frances plus a couple of other peo-

ple. She had a couple of Joyce Thompson, too. Oh, the joyous memories, how quickly the years just melted away. An spellbinding moment in time, then and now.

Christine, our newest discovery just this past Wednesday, and her spouse didn't make it. I guess I should be saying Chris, I think that is what she likes to be called now. She wasn't feeling well for some reason. I called her and passed the phone around, Bev and Ruth talked to her, too. So another gathering will be planned for her and Christine....maybe with the El Fenix assembly; have to check with Ed on that one.

Bev, Ruth, Nancy and I talked non-stop. We let Charlie and Jimmy in the conversation a few times, and poor Don (Bev's husband) and Shirley (Charles' wife) hardly got a word in edgewise. Ruth was asking about a few people that I didn't recognize (and don't remember) but, Nancy said she remembered some.

Ruth hasn't changed hardly at all. You knew it was Ruth the minute you saw her.

The waitress came around several times efficiently trying to take our meal order and we kept telling her to come back later because we wanted to just talk some more. We finally did eat (and the food was good) but we never stopped talking.

We finally broke up a little after three. I didn't want this enchanted time to end.

We are still looking for Joyce Thompson. And want to reconnect with Alice Coates.

Post Office Box 941151  
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The Fourth Annual Sunset Lettermen & Friends Golf Tournament, will be held again this year at the Thorntree Country Club in DeSoto. Net proceeds will go to the Sunset Foundation to assist with college scholarships for graduating Sunset seniors. Carl Warwick, celebrated Sunset athlete, will again serve as Tournament Director. As the date draws nearer, check [www.sunsetfoundation.org](http://www.sunsetfoundation.org) for entry information.

The information I have is that Sunset's homecoming football game will be on Friday, October 31 against Moises Molina High School. It will be at the new Kincaid Stadium at I-20 and Polk.

Since Sunset is one of only four DISD schools competing at the 5A level, their district will now include Richardson schools

## Bison '08 Fall Roundup

OK, OK.....no sweaters and bonfires yet.... but it is Roundup time again! On **Thursday, September 18th** we will convene for an evening of visiting and Tex-Mex dining. Same place and time: The original **El Fenix** on McKinney at about **6:00**.

All Bison and friends are invited to attend this festive time together. Come early, enjoy your favorite drink from the bar, visit a spell, and later we'll order dinner from a special menu. We typically have 50-60 at these Round-ups. There is no program or agenda, just lots of fun and stories to be shared. Mark your calendars now and join us for a most memorable evening with your Sunset friends.



### Reunion Items for Sale

We are still taking orders for polo shirts and baseball caps that commemorate the 1958 class reunion. The items pictured above are among the styles being considered and may not be exactly the items you receive.

Prices are \$15 for the caps and \$20 for the shirts in sizes S, M, L and XL (XXL and XXXL add \$5). There is a \$5 fee for postage and handling. Order more than one item and we will pay the postage.