



LAS VEGAS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1953



60th Reunion / 'CAT' TRACKS

May 2013

Sharing Memories of Our Times Together and Remembering Those Who Have Passed On

OUR LEGACY



When all is said and done, the Class of "53 has left LVHS a lasting memorial to the "old" LVHS and our class. The brain child of Carl Stephens, this master piece of work now has a prominent place in the multipurpose room of the new LVHS. Those shown above: Larry Dawson, John Holland and Carl Stephens, along with Rex Bell and John Bearce put in countless hours in making the project become a reality. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

Memorandum

May 2013

To: LVHS Class of 1953

From: George Wilkinson

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of our classmates who over the years have participated in Cat Tracks by sending in memories and contributing funds to offset the cost of producing the publication since I started it way back in October 1993 as a follow up to our 40th. I thought it might be a way to generate interest among our classmates to attend our reunions and a way to keep us all informed what was going with our lives. I think it worked for the most part. Sadly, while it prompted classmates who had moved away from Vegas, it did little to garner the interest of many classmates who are still in or around Vegas. I still do not understand their disinterest. But it was their loss.

With the cancellation of our 60th Reunion that was scheduled for June 7th and 8th, for lack of interest, all future reunions will be now merged in every five years with the annual All Wildcat Reunion. **So come this September 7th, we will celebrate our 60th amongst all the other classes at The Orleans Hotel and Casino.** Tables marked for the Class of '53 will be reserved. I'm told that materials for this event will be mailed out the first week in July. If you do not receive them, let me know and I'll copy what I get and send them to you.

Also the evening before the All Wildcat Reunion (Sept. 6th) John and his committee have set up a dinner for our class at Ricardo's for all those who like to get together just for ourselves. Ricardo's is located at 4930 W. Flamingo Road (corner of S. Decatur and W. Flamingo). The cost will be \$25 payable at the door. A no host bar will be available at 5 pm and dinner at 6 pm. I'm told it is a great Mexican restaurant.

Just let John (newlife69@cox.net or 702-614-8654) know by **August 15th** if you'll be there so that he can have the room setup for the right number of attendees.

For those of you who are interesting in playing golf, Danny Lee will arrange tee times at The Legacy the morning of Sept 7th. It will cost \$50 and includes the cart, range balls and a drink ticket. Please let him know by **May 27th** if you want to play. His email is cdlee1935@cox.net or call him at 702-458-4434. Once he knows how many are interested he'll finalize the arrangements and let you know the details of tee times, location of the course and payment.

Growing up in Las Vegas in the late 40s and 50's was a great time. The memories shared herein and previous Cat Tracks are testaments to that fact. It is something our kids and grandkids will never quite understand and unfortunately never experience. Our time at John S. Park, 5th Street Grammar, North 9th, Westside along with LVHS molded us into a great class with friendships that have held true for more than 60 years. That is exceptional!

I hope you enjoy this issue and future Cat Tracks. Yes, I'm considering doing an electronic version periodically in the years to come for all of us who like to keep connected. So please keep me informed when you change email addresses or when you move to another location as I'll also keep our regular mailing address and phone numbers up to date. If you'd like the list, just email me and I'll send it along to you.

See you in September.

Classmates Report In

- Personal and Family Notes
- Best Memories
- Random Thoughts

•**Lois Durke:** My best memories of Las Vegas High School are my dear friends – both those I continue contact with and those who have departed this mortal life. Myrna McClanahan; Martha Graham; Marian Hall; Catherine Blackman and Shirley Chaffee are still among us. Barbara Jean Proffitt; Rena Pulliam; Sylvia Brickner; and June Ledbetter though gone are not forgotten and always in my thoughts. I feel very blessed to call them life long friends and will always be there for me.

My school attendance was not great and I was forever being reminded by Mr. Harris, and Mr. Long that LeRoy, “who was brilliant” could afford to miss school but I couldn’t.

LeRoy did not disappoint as he continued his higher education and became a “rocket scientist”. Many would be surprised, I know I was, when I accomplished so much in the “work world” at the Nevada Test Site, The local and state Association of Realtors, and several ventures in between. I officially retired after 32 years in the real estate business and was inducted in to the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors Hall of Fame in 2004.

I have fond memories of the Wildcat Lair. We were so fortunate to have a teen facility where we could dance, visit with friends, and often be entertained by those appearing on the strip such as Vic Damone, Frank Sinatra, Mel Torme. At the time we didn’t realize how lucky we were, but looking back I can honestly say “where else could this have happened?” Cell# [702-379-4326](tel:702-379-4326)

•**Hank Rilling:** We lived in “The Best of Times.” In our high school years we had the Wildcat Lair, which few teen-

agers in the world could duplicate. Dances there with live music after the basketball & football games, with entertainers from the Vegas Strip coming down between shows to entertain us. Other recreational activities all week long, and a radio show on Saturday. Shirley Temple drinks after the Proms at the midnight floor shows at the Strip hotels. Wonderful teachers who set a high standard and pushed us to dream.

Now we live in an electronic age with miracle technology devices that let us communicate so easily and enjoy our old high school friends (& families) who share their own photos and news, and forward to us some of the world’s best photo collections, cartoons, jokes, political commentary, and artistic videos. Your phone or mp3 player can play **your** music (mine is from the ‘40s & ‘50s--best lyrics ever written).

In between we had the greatest opportunities for employment and travel the free world has ever known. Sure, it was a rough time to raise teenagers, but what period in history wasn’t? And every 5 years we got to go to reunions and laugh about “the good old days,” and to read about them in over a dozen ‘Cat Tracks--thanks to GW.

Bob Beville coined the term “nostalgic weightlessness” which I quoted in a 1998 ‘Cat Tracks. It describes “that certain feeling that you get when you attend our reunions.” It is hard for me to believe that I shall miss out on this feeling for which I have become a junkie, or that it may be the last reunion & ‘Cat tracks. With lingering regret Carol & I have elected to do an alternate priority this summer & fall, striking items off our ‘bucket list.’ I do hope Cappadocia (June), Corsica (September) will substitute for nostalgic weightlessness on those dates. It was a difficult choice of priorities and running out of time, a problem many may be making at our age, as we come to face the “longevity cliff.”

Nothing focuses the mind like a brush with, or consideration of, death. Many start contemplating life expectancies at our age, at least those who have not done so before. It is a good way to set priorities. I was ‘lucky’ to experience how fragile & uncertain life is when I was younger in Vietnam. It got me to begin living every day to the max, and to be grateful. I have not regretted for one moment the accelerated life I have lived since then. Not trying to do it all, but to do the important things. And to be grateful.

A look at the faces of 2 pages of classmates (who have died) in this issue of ‘Cat Tracks brings it home. When we were 60 I did that health survey of the class of ’53, and I was amazed at how many did not want to think about it or its results. It could have changed their priorities.

Life is full of “should haves” and “could haves”, so it does no good to do anything but smile about it now. WHAT DID YOU DO ON 6 APRIL 1953? That was one of the days that a heavy dose of radioactive fallout descended on Las Vegas High School. It was heaviest around noontime, when we were socializing on the front steps. There were 11 nuclear test shots just 73 miles outside of town that year; 30 (of the 70) while we were in high school.

I followed the health survey of our class with a fallout study in ‘96. Having a military specialty in nuclear fallout, I had enough data for a book, but 2 books about “down winders” had already been published, and so I chose to write a fiction book that year. I did, however, write 4 pages (What did you do on 6 April 1953?) from my notes, which proved to be too long for any ‘Cat Tracks. It is available to you if you email me at rilling2@q.com. It covers a still secret government milk study, some bomb tests like ‘dirty’ Harry May 19 ’53, and observations about life at LVHS.

Also, I'll be glad to send you an e-book for your Kindle/laptop/PC/tablet that has some of my LVHS buddies (as fictional characters) involved in the actual (documented) Chinese hacking of our military & business computers. If you read "E-Spionage" on your online device, you can click on sites where the action takes place (like the indoor ski slope in Dubai). It is a new genre of books.

Carol & I sure hope everyone will have a great time and float around in "nostalgic weightlessness" at the reunion. I promise you will be in our thoughts on those dates.

•**Beverly Standfield:** A few years ago I wrote for Cat Tracks that I recalled Mrs. Riggs, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Gilmore and that I had a crush on Clark Hoffman. It is so considerate of you all to keep me on your list for the reunions, but as I have said, I was not part of any group and such a dork, I think, that no one even remembers me. Melina (Saponera Rissone) feels she was such a wallflower that she also would not feel comfortable although she had gone to school with many of you from the First Grade at Fifth Street School. I was only at LVHS for my freshman year through the first semester of our junior year. I seem to remember people better than she does though. Melina was one of my two best friends then and she made it through the many years to graduation. Money wise, I couldn't manage even if I could in other respects. I do appreciate the effort and the invitation. (bevanne@hotmail.com)

•**Louise Davis Ritter:** *Kindergarten at 5th Street Grammar School* - Miss Hancock was my teacher and I believe I went to the afternoon session. John Enomoto was in my class and also Lois Stewart. I won a first place ribbon for the best posture in my class. I attended 1st and 2nd grade at 5th St. school also.

I attended 3rd and 4th grade at the new North 9th Street School with Mary Frances Irwin, Martha Graham, Lois

Stewart, and Don Fabbi. Miss Fyfe was our teacher and principal in 3rd grade. Sandra Stewart rode her horse to school from the Old Ranch. Mrs. Olive taught 4th grade and always knew who was not paying attention. We all swore she had eyes in the back of her head when she was at the chalkboard.

Back to 5th Street for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th. We exchanged classroom and teachers for Art, Music, and Gym. We had to make a poster out of our initials in 6th grade art and mine was horrid, all black, orange, and green UG. We "dressed out" in gym class in these one piece blue things and just plain tennis shoes. No neat looking tennis for us and we only wore ours in gym class. I have a picture of Barbara Callaway and myself wearing these "lovely" outfits. We also learned to dance in gym class and I always chose George Ball for my partner because he was tall and could dance. There were school dances, sock hops and costume ones.

Mr. Reed taught us band. I started in the band playing the bass drum. We had a uniform, white pants, shirt and shoes and a nifty blue and white cape and band hat. I loved being in parades. Mr. Reed found me a used school flute and taught me how to play so I gave up being a drummer. Miss Thele taught us geography in the 7th grade and this opened the world to us with maps and information about other countries and people. Miss Thele bought special paper, Onion Skin, for tracing continents and countries and her own supply of colored pencils to put rivers, mountains and capitals on the maps. In 8th grade I discovered drama and was in a play with Ann Love, Bobby Beville, Jim Marshall and others. I have a newspaper picture of this first theatrical performance. I was also elected a Cheer Leader in 8th grade and felt so accepted. We lead cheers for the boys basketball team with all the gusto we could manage. My first kiss was at an 8th grade party. We played spin the bottle and Bruce Fabbi spun the bottle and it landed in front of me. I received my

kiss and was thrilled as some of us girls were "just Mad" about Bruce.

We had races in gym class and after school. I could really run fast and won most of the races. Then Andrew Ozuno enrolled and he could beat us all because he really had long legs. One really exciting thing happened when we were in 8th grade. It snowed a great deal one school day. A bunch of us had gone uptown for lunch and on the way back to school it really started to snow. The guys of course started to throw snow balls at us girls. We all got soaking wet and the principal closed school and sent us home before we got sick. What a GREAT time that was.

High School 1949 -1953 - This was the big scary but exciting change when all of us entered Vegas High in the fall of 1949. Now we had our own lockers for books and other things, changed classes for every subject and even changed buildings. We all learned the hard way of not going to our lockers between classes. There was no excuse for tardiness. After all we had 5 MINUTES to change!

All the boys in the Jr. and Sr. class were tall and bigger and all the girls were so stylish and both seemed so sure of themselves. I felt Hopeless!!

I was in the band all through high school - me and my flute. Mr. Cross was our teacher. He had come from the east coast and taught us how to do formation on the football field letters, animals, and other neat things. He got the school to order snappy new uniforms. Black pants with a red stripe, black and red western shirts, black tie and a really cool western cowboy hat for the Hell-dorado Parade; Eisenhower jackets and caps for games and concerts and put tall, lanky Ray Winn as our drum major who lead us fearlessly on the field and in the parades. Mr. Cross also took band to a higher level when at a state wide band contest, he raised his baton and the horns started the first notes and we all swing into the "William Tell

Overture” WOW!! Did we blow the other bands and judges away. Bands were suppose to play marches not semi classical music. It was GREAT!!

I was in Mr. Thiriot’s drama class starting in my Sophomore year. I had found my niche. We learned so much from this great teacher. Self confidence mostly. We could be someone else in a play. We had no special theater with a stage, so we did theater in the round in the gym. We learned stage sets with no walls, lighting and how to speak lines in that big space. What a wonderful time we had!!

Our Jr. year we were at last upper classmates. We had our prom in the gym. Our theme was “Garden in the Rain. Myrna McClanahan was Prom Queen and she swung out over the floor on a flower deck swing to the tune of “Garden in the Rain.” It was magical.

One spring day, Ann Love had her mother’s new T-Bird and she, Catherine Blackman and me decided to take the afternoon off from classes and drive to the lake and Boulder City. We stopped to get an ice cream cone and who should be in the store but our Mother Advisor from Rainbow girls. Who would have thought!! We made a hasty retreat and headed back to school as Catherine and I had band and Mr. Cross took no excuses. And if that wasn’t enough drama, my mother, Florence Schroeder, Who taught Home Economics at the high school had sent a note to Mr. Thiriot that I needed to see her before band. Needless to say “I never cut classes again!!

In my Senior year I finally made Rhythmettes. I had tried out for a position in this prestigious group every high school year and finally I made it. It was so exciting!! Doing the Rhythmette Review, marching in the Hollywood Bowl doing the “St. Louie Blues March.” We were spectacular!! I left this fabulous group at the end of the seamster. Camille Roberts took my place. I just could not do it all-band,

plays, school work and working. It was heartbreaking for me.

All of a sudden public school was over for us. The class of 1953 graduated. We marched on to the football field and received our diplomas. My mother presented me with mine and that was wonderful. We were ready to go forth to collage, work or marriage. My school years were at times, sad, good, and heartbreaking. But it was also thrilling, glorious and wonderful and I would not trade those years with classmates for anything!! **GO WILDCATS!!**

•**Bob Beville:** I have a lot of very fond memories of my days at Las Vegas High. I also remember a few things I did that were a little on the crazy side. I hung around with a few guys that had the same crazy mind I did, like Billy Barrett, Max Miller and Conrad Neagle and we loved to pull pranks at school. Like the time we took Pat O’Donnell’s horse out of his horse trailer (he brought the horse to school for some reason) and walked the horse up the school front steps and turned him loose inside the school. We didn’t realize how hard it would be to walk the horse down the same steps and had to get Pete White to do it because he knew how to handle horses. Pete began to ride the horse up and down the street in front of the school. About that time school let out for the day and to make it worse some one called the police. There were kids all over the place, plus parents trying to pick up their kids a, as well as a few cops. What a mess.

How about the time Billy Barrett had just gotten back from the eye doctor after learning that he didn’t need glasses any more. We cooked up a gag for the front steps crowd . I had an old Ukulele in my car that I was ready to throw away . I grabbed the Uke, took it up to the front steps and started to play. We had pre arranged it so that Billy would walk up to me and say “ I am sick of hearing you play your stupid Ukulele” , after which he would grab the Uke and smash it on the steps. He did both . I

in turn grabbed his glasses (the ones he didn’t need any more) and stomped on them until there was nothing but broken plastic and glass. Needless to say , everyone there was totally shocked. Girls were screaming “you broke his glasses !” Billy got yelled at for breaking my Uke. It took a while to convince everyone it was just a gag.

When you’re at the reunion this year, corner me and I will tell you about the fake gangland shooting we pulled off in front of the El Portal Theater.

•**Barbara (Callaway) Rawlins-Jones:** I don’t remember what we were being initiated into, but it was very messy! The seniors pored garbage and food coloring in our hair.

I was happy to just belong but when I walked home, (we walked every where in those days) and my mother saw me, it had dripped all over my clothes. I think she was more worried about them than she was about me. I got in the shower and had to wash my hair 5 times before it was clean and clean the drain out a couple of times so it could drain. What a mess, but it was a good time too.

Those really were the good old days.

I am now living in a senior residence with a lot of old people. I think they are a bad influence on me because I seem to be acting

like them a lot anymore. I do still drive though so keep busy taking ones that don’t around to doctor appointments, banks and grocery stores, etc.. I feel sorry for those who can’t get out and just spend day and night watching TV. How boring! Hope I never get to that stage. My best friend here is legally blind but often sees more than I do. She is young though, only 63. Amazing how much difference those years make. My husband who was 5 years younger than me died 3 years ago and since I couldn’t keep up the yards and house I moved into this Senior place. We have activities and I go on a lot of day trips with the church so actually my life is

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good. I love living in Colorado. Even enjoy the snow which we got more of in Spring than we did all Winter. My sister lives about an hour away from me and we visit back and forth or meet at Cracker Barrel often. Out of my 11 grandchildren I now have 34 great-grandsons and 5 great-greats. Thanks to email and face-book I manage to keep in touch with them all. Sure never expected to have so much family to keep track of. It was a little smaller 3 years ago when we had our family reunion in Las Vegas for my 75th birthday, but we pretty much took over what was then Fitzgerald's Hotel. I understand it is all new and different now. I imagine Las Vegas itself is pretty different too. I'm sure I could get lost easily there now. Maybe I'll find out in September.

•**Joe Free:** I remember my freshman year because I came from a four-room grade school in a small town, Panaca, NV. I didn't know a soul but some kind classmates soon made me feel welcome in the big LVHS. I was really impressed by the gang who gathered on the front steps. I remember some senior boys gave a chant that went something like this, "Rah Rah freshman girls and Senior boys." Since I was barely able to get courage to say hello to a girl, that chant seemed very audacious to me and was the beginning of getting acquainted with many nice people including girls.

Among many experiences, Boys State was a great adventure. Bobby Beville had his Uke and we were entertained long after lights out. In fact when the advisor came to see what was going on, he interrupted a full scale pillow fight. It was really a delightful youthfull time.

The solid english and math background from good teachers were a valuable base for the academic challenges of my profession. I was fortunate and I am very grateful to those dedicated teachers.

•**Isabel Worthen Free:** Most of my

memories of LVHS center around my 3 years in the Rhythmettes. I have re-read the newspaper clippings about our Rhythmette Revues and the accompanying photos and it is hard to believe we made such a splash in town. Wonderful friendships were formed and I learned so much about being committed and practicing and loving to performing. I shall never forget the Hell-dorado parade my first time, when the group went forward and I went backward down the street. Embarrassing! I wish my legs would let me do that kind of work again. The grandchildren love to watch me do the Charleston, but it is not in the same skill as in 1953. Wonderful, fun years shared with wonderful friends.

•**Catherine Blackman Hammelrath:** A memory ... I went to a football game one nite and when I went out and got in my father's Willy's Jeep Station Wagon, it would start but gasp, choke, leap, stall. I was clueless. I finally got a message to my dad somehow and he knew that someone had crossed the spark plug wires ... he got it fixed and we went on our way ... that was an interesting experience ... seems "after games" were just full of fun stuff.

I also remember there was a little café on the Boulder Hwy ... out toward Whitney ... a bunch of us stopped there one nite and danced away to the juke box ... I remember I danced with Hank R ... it was SO fun ... and not crowded. It was one of those fun fun occasions.

I loved my time in band, even though Loren Cross was bit of a nut case. Ray Winn was a great drum major and always nice, still is. Band trips were always fun ... the one to Ely was COLD ... and Mr. Cross had a policy of sticking the girls way out of town, no stores, no restaurants, nothing close. We were east of the cemetery in Ely and had to walk into town freezing to death in our LV clothing ... just to get something to eat if we were hungry other than his determined meal times. Same in Reno ... except Frosty Cahlan came by in his

car and we went off to town! The trip to Virginia City was great that time.

There was the time Frosty and Porky and a few others pulled up in front of the school at noon and got out of black cars wearing black top coats and hats carrying violin cases ... guess they had just visited a local bank ... it was a hoot ... very George Raft.

Ahhh, the Rhythmette Reviews ... I came home from UNR to attend ... they were great!!!

Prom with Bill Allen was lovely ... good memory.

Mr. Harris, Ulyess Newton, Mr. George ... always so nice, great folks. Ann Love and I took geometry from Miss Newton over the summer ... nice lady.

Lew Foremaster jumping out the window of the typing room to get away from Mr. Millhouse !!! Can you believe that Mr. M. was still substituting when I started teaching at LVHS in 1982??!! Long, scraggy hair and all.

Teaching Sylvia Brickner to drive on the street in front of my house. We were all of 15 years old ... can you just imagine what a great teacher I was!! Sylvia drove over the big rocks marking the edge of Tony Lucy's property. He owned the restaurant in the Golden Nugget ... all pretty new at that time. We laughed like the two crazy kids we were.

Serving as Grand Marshal for installation at Rainbow Girls ... I got my wires crossed and introduced the two Eastern Star leaders by each others' names and everyone was laughing like crazy. I was stumped until I mentally replayed my intro and realized I had called her Mr. and him Mrs. They were not a married couple.

The night we broke into the officers' swim pool at Nellis. Marian's dad had a talk with her about that ... Junior year graduation ... Richard Sharp was awarded Athlete of the Year at gradu-

ation. Afterwards, he, Marian, me ... and I do not remember who else, went to the Embassy Club in NLV ... I think Tempest Storm was performing. Not sure. As we were leaving we walked smack dab into Coach Bonner and Coach Collins. Not sure who was more chagrined, them or us. No one told on anyone, that's for sure!! That's the best

I got ... use what you will. Take care.

•**Yvonne (Sacksteder) Drakeley**: I have mentioned this before but want to try one more time. I came to LVHS in February of my Junior year and graduated from there. We lived in Henderson, so I was never able to go to the "Wildcat Lair" or after school events and did not get to make a lot of friends. The two I knew well were Joy Dell and Joan Mueller. Does anyone know where they are, or married names or any other means of contact? Just asking. ydrakeley@cox.net

•**Marilyn Sims McCluskey**: Well, piddly-poo! Was just going to get back to you and let you know why I can't attend. Maybe I'll be recovered by then, but here's my poem anyway....

Osteo-this and artri-that...Then, in my kitchen, I fell..KER-SPLATTT! Bruised many ribs...Heel and ankle broke. Those Advertisements are not a joke.

Doctors and tests..and recovery slow, pains and pills, not to mention the dough! Now getting around, with some help and a cane. Guess I don't have to explain.

Though hair gets thin and arteries thicken..I'm still alive...But just not kicken'!

Best to all I'd love to see..and Please.. somebody, dance for me.

P.S. Would like to hear from any and all of you, as I won't be getting out of the house much for a while. hdmcc@sbcglobal.net

•**Camille Roberts Ortiz**: So sorry to

hear that the class reunion has been canceled.

I haven't written because I didn't know if we were going to go. Rudy has COPD. Recently he was in the hospital with pneumonia. Then he was in rehab because he was so weak & had to build up his legs/thigh. He wanted to come home so we made arrangement for that. That made a world of difference. Rudy is making progress slowly but surely.

I can't put my finger on any one thing that was memorable. But I will say my senior year was just outstanding. Everything turned just the way I wanted. I had good friends & boyfriend, was Homecoming princess, Secretary of the Senior class, worked on the yearbook & last but not least I finally made Rhythmettes. But what more could I want.

So that is it. It seems a shame that we won't have our reunion. Those were good times, but all good things must come to an end.

•**Ralph Adams**: Here is a sentence or two of my memories at LVHS. First of all we always had good friends around us. We enjoyed being together and sometimes hated to have to leave and go home (in my case to my Dad's store to work). Not many of us had cars and those who did would not brag about it but did drive them to show off that they had them, just for fun. The only time in all those years together (many from grade school on up) I only remember a few "bulling" going on. Remember when some got "pantsed". I was always glad I was not pegged! Our dances and prom's were the best. I know some girls did not want to dance with me because I was a terrible dancer but I am happy to say some had pity on me anyway and tolerated it for a time. When I look back, out "time" was far better than those of today. Our music was far better, our dress code was far better (even though we did wear our jeans without belt loops for a time, but

they stayed up). I feel sad that we are losing so many friends - but I guess our generation is getting to that age. Stay healthy everyone!

•**Marian Hall Catron**: Ah those wonderful teen years, especially the Las Vegas High School years of 1949-1953. When I mention graduating and living in Las Vegas, I get "wide eyes", Ohs, and Oh My's. Then I start to explain that the town was smaller than the town I live in now (Fayetteville, AR), religion was an integral part of most of our lives with the town and casinos active in keeping us busy. Let's reminisce about the Wildcat Lair and honor Mrs. Roberts. It was a must to attend all the games, then walk or if lucky get a ride to the Lair. Get your quarter out, the hand stamped and either go to the game room or on to dance (yes, to a real band). Oh by the way, sometimes the casino would send their performers between shows to entertain us. On Senior Ball and Junior Prom, they were started early so we could all go to the late shows (for a coke) and the casinos were welcoming. Yep, there was the "Round Up" or "Sill's" for a cherry coke or 7-up later. There was sitting on the front steps, acting class with Mr. Theriot, and "acting up" in Mr. Knapp's history class. Remember Miss Wooley and learning all the muscles and bones for the final test. How could I forget Miss Stuckey, who influenced and demanded discipline from 18 "young ladies". There were friendships developed and bonded that are still active today. We were in a unique time and place and I wouldn't trade a minute of it. Thank you, all my classmates for the wonderful memories and times.

•**Martha Graham Clark**: Looking back over these 60 years: First of all I can't believe we have been out of highschool this long!! I think the Class of 1953 was (and is) so unique. Even after all these years we come together for our reunions and it seems like the years just melt away. We are still close and are so excited to see each other!! I, for one, feel that my friends from



*I've now reached the age where
Happy Hour is a nap!*

Happy 60th Reunion

Bob Beville

**John &
Jeannine
Holland**



Having Fun in Retirement
Hope Everyone is Healthy, Happy, and
Having Fun Too!



Class of '53 HAPPY 60th

The Lee's

highschool still remain more dear to me than even college, and over-my-lifetime friends. I don't really have one instance that stands out above all others, just that I am so very proud to be a member of the Class of 1953 Las Vegas Wildcats!!

•**Mae Louise Smith King:** All is last minute right now, selling RV Park here and moving to Pahrump by June! Everything has been up in the air - sorry. My family is in Vegas or nearby soooo anxious! Hugs Mae

•**John Holland:** Doing just fine here in Las Vegas. Between Lions and the reunion I fairly busy. I'm still Chairman of the Western States Pin Swap which is held in Reno every October. We usually have 70 to 80 traders from all over and about 100 tables set up for trading. We get Lions from England, Australia and New Zealand. A few from Canada and most states are represented. Its a 4 day event and alot of fun. I'm still active in Lions, both of my foundations are running smoothly. I'm on a budget and finance committee, Treasurer of 2 organazations.

I'm also on the NLVPD retirement committee, which thank god is not that busy. I do contribute articles to the web site, most of them are stories about some of my cases when I worked Homicide.

Gave up golf for a while when my back went, siatica and such. I've been in therapy for over a year and still have a month or so to go. Boy, trying to stay healthy is a chore.

Not much else is going on, just keeping up the yard and playing with the dogs.

•**Alice Ann Thiriot Waite:** I started to write about events in the "olden days", but the loss of some of our class members lately started me down another route. I read about a fellow that rode a bicycle to his high school class reunion - across most of the state of Minnesota (200 miles). It was interesting reading

about the feelings it brought back to him. For some of the bikers, now days, that isn't all that far. But I can't even imagine riding across town to our 60th. It would be worth it, though.

I was sorry to hear of the cancellation of our reunion. Maybe most feel like I do - getting so I don't move around as quickly, or don't even buy green bananas much anymore. But I wanted to tell everyone I grew up with how much I appreciated having you all for friends. We were young, but spending a lot of years together we do have some special memories. I didn't want this opportunity to go by in expressing my appreciation to all of you - for a lot of great "growing up" years. We had the best group ever from LVHS!!!

Even if we are all older, it is still better to be seen, than to be viewed. Love you all.

•**Ann Love McPherson:** I am very excited to see everyone, another 5 years has passed, which could be a lifetime. The world is spinning much faster than in our day at LVHS, don't you think?

We were blessed and didn't even know it. Our days were full of good times

with good friends from kindergarten or other lower grades as we all made it to high school. We had time to visit on the front steps, we had time to go to the Round Up and Sills. We had time to go to the Wild Cat Lair after games. All fun and sometimes stressful but looking back..... on our little world we know it was very very special.

One of my most stressful moments was when I was driving our brand new 1950 Chevrolet when I was 15 yrs old and no license. I invited friends to ride with me on our lunch hour. Something startling happened. We were approaching an intersection. I looked for any cars coming with cars parked perpendicular tight along the curb. I missed seeing the car coming fast into the intersection. I ran straight into the City Manager at ground zero. Ugh....

He was very kind, thoughtful and forgave me for wrecking his car on the spot. He also consoled me for my wrecking our car too. A wonderful example of how people worked to help each other in stressful situations in those golden days of the 50's! I guarantee I didn't.. drive anymore until I was 16! That accident was on the front page of the paper the next day. I learned a big lesson from this incident and have been a very safe driver through the years.

My husband, Bob and I are enjoying our partial retirement. Bob has closed his Law Practice after 30 years. In 2007 I left VNA & Hospice went into Commercial Real Estate under Love Realty. Now that Bob closed the Law Practice and has a Broker's License, he is joining me in our company. We are trying to keep things simple, but with us, that may never happen. We like being our own bosses and accountability to ourselves is perfect. We still hang-out in Yosemite every chance we get!

Our 6 Grandchildren are healthy and happy 2 of them are in Universities about to graduate and our Twins are going to Universities this fall. Time flies when you are having fun. The two youngest is a girl 14 & a boy 17 years old and they are both beautiful and happy teenagers.

One of our son-in-laws suddenly passed away last year. It was shocking but our three grandsons and our daughter are doing well. The boys are now in University or going in this fall.

I am including a picture of all of us at Disney Land in 2011; celebrating our 30th Anniversary! So all of us look like we are 2.5 years older now! I have included our 8th grade class as we were going into High School in the fall. (see Photo Gallery page 14 for these photos) God Bless all our classmates and their families as well as those who have moved on upstairs ahead of us! I also want to thank the dedicated committee for keeping our reunions going! We love the reunions and we know it takes

a lot of time and commitment to pull it together! THANK YOU!

•**Myrna McClanahan Rogers:** So many fond memories of dear old LVHS...I'm just happy to still be around for another reunion! So sad that we lost two of my fellow cheerleaders this past year, Barbara Proffitt and Mary Jane Arnold Hoffman, we had such fun!!

See you at the reunion.

•**Danny Lee:** I had a very interesting and at times concerning time since we last got together. In September 2010 I had some pain in my left shoulder which was bothering my golf swing, so naturally I went to see a friend who happens to be an Orthopedic Physician. He determined that surgery was needed, during surgery he ground down some problems and also reattached the bicep and the rotor cuff tendons as I had torn them. Just after all the fun of physical therapy I noticed I had some sight problems, this led to a diagnosis of wet type macula deterioration and I would need some shots in my right eye, after a couple of shots a photo indicated that I also had a macular hole and surgery was required, after surgery I had to keep my head completely facing the ground for a week, great fun. Now that is out of the way let us proceed to the fun times.

We still spend the months of June, July, and August in San Diego, Bayside in our RV. Lovely. We have taken cruises to Alaska, Hawaii, Russia and Scandinavia, New York to Canada and back for the color. We took the entire family on a cruise to Mexico with very nice accommodations for our 50th Anniversary, and a good time was had by all. I bet that surprises some of you that I had found someone who would spend that much time with me. We also spent some time in England with Dorothy's cousins. Last but not least a cruise from New York to Bermuda, The Azores, Barcelona, Monte Carlo and Rome.

My children at the moment are all doing well, my oldest daughter Carrie is recovering from breast cancer and is doing well; she retired from the Las Vegas Water Authority at age 47 and now a consultant for among others, Honeywell and does training, procedure and other manuals and some supervising.

Her twin, Tracey, designs homes, mainly large ones, plot planning and has recently being very busy after the bad times.

Daughter Barbara lives in Reno, Happily married with two beautiful, smart and lovely daughters. She is working for the State of Nevada and is tracking communities that are medically underserved in the state.

Son David, a confirmed bachelor got married at age 42, so we now have a great daughter in law and as a bonus, a beautiful daughter in law. Sadly, his employer, Bechtel Construction Company sent him to Gabon, Africa for 2 years. He has been involved as one of his projects, modernizing the Albert T. Schweitzer Hospital for its 100th anniversary in June. He has 2 weeks off each 2 months and has spent some at home and others, like now, when he met his wife in Barcelona for a cruise, and the time before a week in Paris. Tough life but someone has to do it.

Above all I will enjoy seeing all of you at the 60th anniversary in September; I had a ball in high school and hope to have a few more before this life is over.

•**Gretchen Harris Payne:** The last few years have been pretty quiet. I retired from the school district in 2002, and I'm still trying to retrain my brain to let me sleep past 5:00 a.m.! Don & I love to travel wherever and whenever we can (near and far), have enjoyed

playing some golf, and mostly like to spend time with my brothers & their families (also LVHS alumni), our kids (8), grandkids (21), & greats (12). We lost one son in 2010 (not easy).

Don is recovering from a stroke, so we spend time at the "Y" in therapy, but also like to take short trips, a yearly week-long fishing trip, and monthly meetings with the LV Media Group (retired & current media members, civic & business leaders, entertainers, educators, quite a few of our LVHS alumni, & just folks who have lived here (from the old days..like us?). I enjoy all the memories we all must have from "our" LVHS -- wasn't it great!

•**Don Rasmussen:** After 20 years in Huntington Beach, Ca, Lea Ann and I have moved to Chula Vista, Ca; just east of San Diego, to be closer to two of our three daughters and their families. Now we are involved in not only our grown grandchildren's lives but also with our great grands. All the family activities are great fun.

Six years ago my older two grandsons' and I drove to Las Vegas to see the dam, lake Mead, and even adventuring to Overton. Of course, I took them to see their grandpa's old house, and our old LVHS campus. This trip has morphed into an annual "road trip with Grandpa"! Just the three of us, no girls allowed. Now each of the boys are over age 21 and we've traveled just about all of the western states. I'm told that the next trip planned will be to Boston.

After 14 years of battling cancer, I have been informed that I am in remission! WOW! What a victory, thanks to my wife Lea Ann, all the surgeries and the doctors and staff who treated me with the largest needles in the world!

My love of trains has me involved with the Nevada Northern Railroad, which was built in 1905 to haul ore from the copper mines around Ely. It still runs today as a living museum. The Smithsonian has labeled it the finest example of 19th/20th century railroading in the

“THE BEST IS YET TO COME”

***EVEN AFTER 60 YEARS!!
WOW!!***

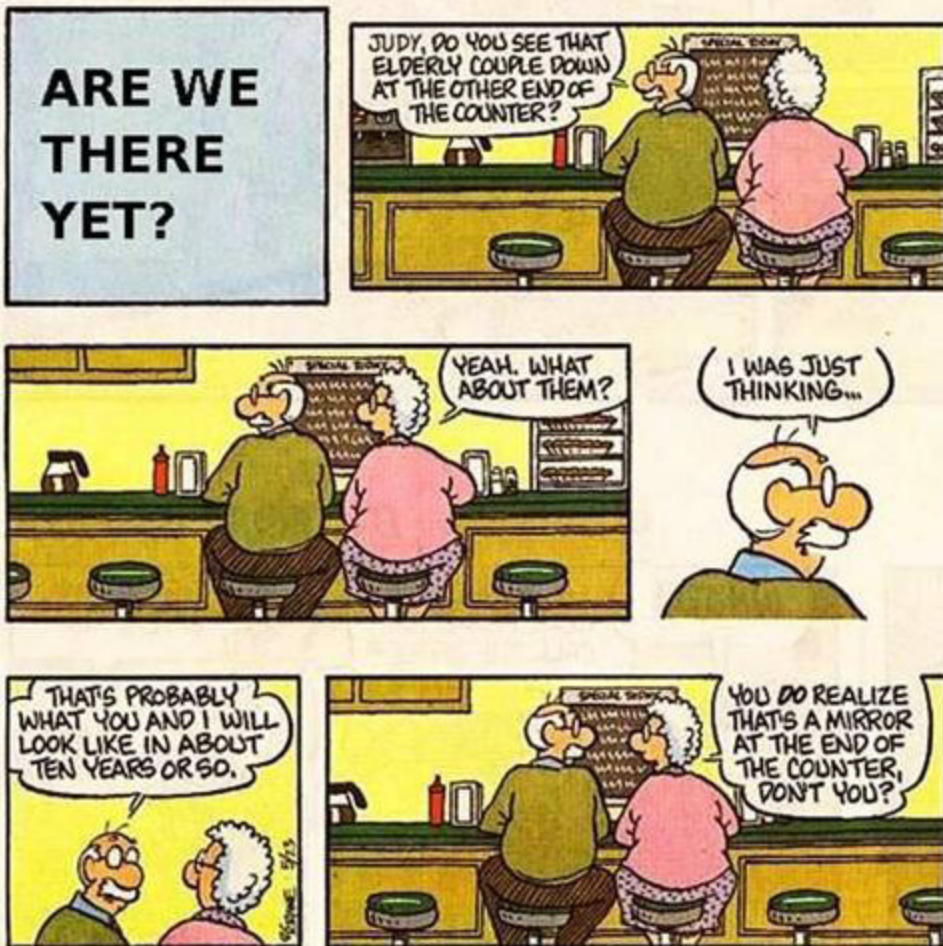
GO WILDCATS CLASS OF ‘53

Louise Davis Ritter



*Isn't it great we are still around
to get together again!*

Barbara Callaway Rawlins



*Watch out for
those mirrors*

But let's have a

***Great
60th Reunion***

George Wilkinson

U.S. During the summer of 2011, I spent an entire week there learning all kinds of railroad lore. If you want to find out just how old you can feel, try exchanging out a century old wooden crosstie and replacing it with a new one. I learned very quickly what old and tired feels like. Sitting on the right side of the cab in an honest to goodness steam locomotive, with a throttle in one hand and the whistle cord in the other is the greatest adrenaline rush you can imagine! I now manage to get to Ely to play with the trains about twice a year.

As Lea Ann and I are now both retired, we are completely enjoying family, leisure activities and exploring our new hometown.

We are looking forward to our class 60th reunion, enjoying Las Vegas and meeting up with old friends. Happy days everyone!

•**Christine Poulos:** I've attached the photo the "Fashion Fantasy." (see page 13) The models of fashions of the day doing a Show for the Magiceye located on Fifth St. Looking Good!! I look forward to seeing everyone at our big "60th". Warm Regards.

•**Carolyn Whipple Benson:** I was at a church event and it brought to memory an event during my time at Vegas High. Alice Thiriot, Sylvia Myers and I sang together. I believe Martha Graham played the piano for us. We mostly sang at church gatherings and funerals.

I always loved music but this experience of singing with Alice and Sylvia really helped strengthened my love for music and singing.

My time as a Rhythmette was also a favorite time in high school. I was able to be with girls that had some of the same interests. We had fun traveling and performing together.

Lois Stewart Bird: Good old school days. Memories are so fun to look back on. Some of my best ones are of being in the band. I loved being at all of the football and basketball games. Working all week on the formations

we would do at the games. Marching in all the parades Las Vegas had. Watching Chuck Handley throw the ball from center court and making the basket and winning the game. I also remember winning the band music festival with our playing of the William Tell Overture. In school, I enjoyed having my aunts there as teachers. Aunt Ella Caruth and Gwyn Wooley and Louise Davis' mother Mrs. Schroeder. It was nice to see loving and familiar faces every day. Then there was my friend Louise Davis Ritter. We had known each other since we were about a year old. We went through lots of family things all our lives. I love her dearly.

I am helping to raise my 11 year old grandson who lives with me during the school year. He helps me, and I help him with school work. I have forgotten so much! I enjoy my life here in Orem, Utah. There is lots of family around. I'm not too mobile anymore because peripheral neuropathy. But I still manage to do things. I enjoy TV and reading. I hope I can make the reunion in September.

Does anyone know where any of the other Stewarts are?

I hope everyone is enjoying their lives and their extended families.

PS. Send responses to Patricia Hartzell, my sister at jphart48@gmail.com.

•**George Wilkinson:** One of the bad things about putting together this newsletter is that I read everyone's memories before I write mine. For the most part all I can say is "me too." The Lair, our cars, the athletic events, the Rhythmettes, the plays put on in the gym, Helderado...those days from grammar school through high school were just great!

But I must admit that my memories are now full of blanks. I know I went to our Junior and Senior proms...but I can't remember who I took. I know I didn't go stag. Not remembering drives me nuts!! I do remember taking Dena Sakas to her Senior Prom. She was in

the class of '52 and a Prom Queen attendant. I think it was Christine who came to me and said that Dena didn't have a date and I should be a good guy and ask if I could be her date. I did and we had a good time. Triple dated with Walt Eagle and Alison McElhone and Jerry Martin and Jeannine McColl.

My regrets for those days at LVHS are just two. First, I never had a steady girl friend. I was really shy with the opposite sex and a little afraid of close relationships. Oh, if I only knew then what I know now, things would have been different!! Second was during my senior year on the basketball team. I played in every game right through the zone championships. But when we got to State I didn't play in a single game. In the Championship game I was the only guy sitting on the bench who didn't get in. And that really hurt. But that's life.

Speaking of Helderado, remember the parades. In our senior year many of us got to be part of the floats. On one (can't remember the hotel sponsor) several of us got dressed up in a Moulin Rouge format. (see photos on page15). Damn those were fun times.

On page 15 you'll also find the 8th Photo from John S. Park. Couldn't use Ann's 5th Street photos without countering with a JSP one. I've also included a newspaper clipping of our JSP basketball team. George Ball and I kid each other about basketball in grammar. At 5th Street, they had a great indoor gym and uniforms. At JSP we had an outdoor asphalt court and no uniforms (our own shorts and tee shirts). But it would seem we did win at least one Championship!

Well that's if from me. I look forward to September and hopefully seeing many of you. Perhaps some of you can help me fill in the blanks in my memory banks (including our escapades during our post graduation parties at Mt. Charleston and Lake Mead! I do remember waking up at Ann Love's behind the front room couch.)

Photo Gallery



Ready for the Fashion Show at Florence Richard's Magic Eye Boutique in 1953 are these beautiful ladies: front row - Joyce Austin, Gay Fisher, Christine Poulos; middle row - Judy Ostler, Camille Roberts, Mary Francis Irwin, Barbara Deer, Gloria Skerell; back row - Sylvia Meyers, Earlene Whitt, Marsha Whipple and Carol Datttge.

Photo provided by Christine Poulos.

Ancient photos below provided by [Marilyn Sims](#) who just found them!



Carol Smith, Marilyn, Louella Norman



Starling Williams in the snow at Mt. Charleston 1-17-1950



(left) Mrs. Sullivan's 5th Grade: Marilyn, Starling, Donna, Barbara, Beverly, Cookie, Gail

(Below) Birthday Party: top left down - Barbara Callaway, Beatrice Huntzman, Don Dillingham, don't know, don't know, Sherry Sutton and her brother, Marilyn with cake



On the front steps of LVHS 2-21-1951



GW in 1951



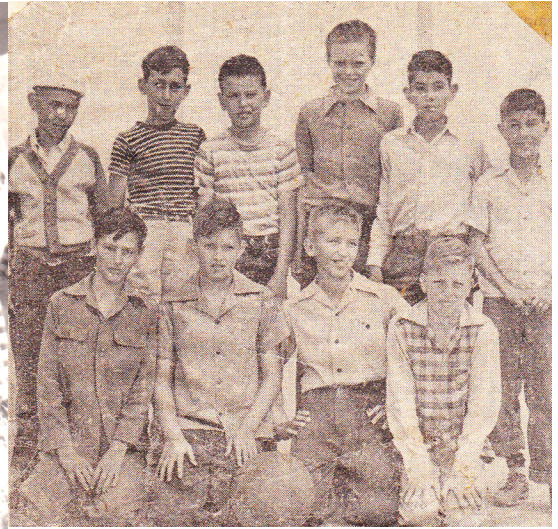


Photos from Ann Love

(Left) Ann and her family at Disney Land.

(Bottom) Fifth Street Grammar School 8th Grade.

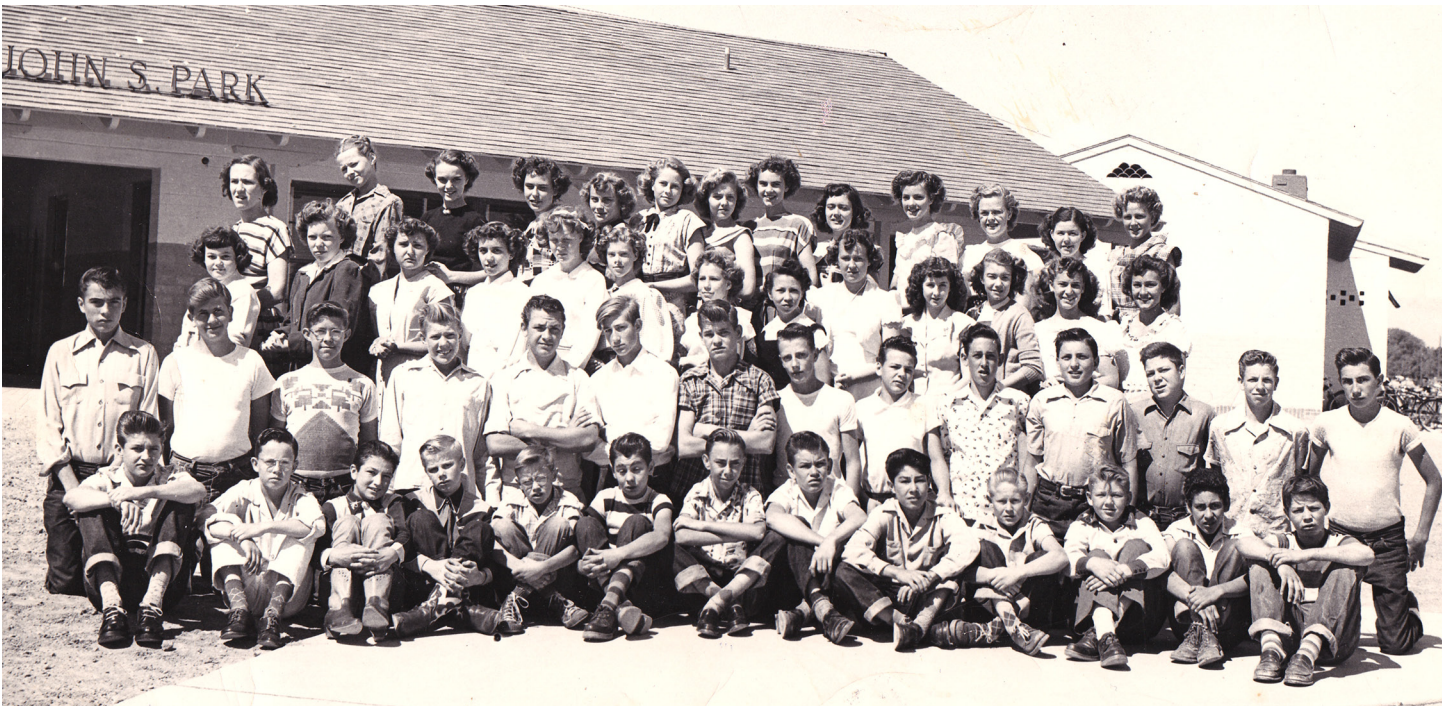




Huntridge Tigers - Another championship basketball team from John S. Park school. Left to right, first row: J.J. Guy, Rodney Reber, Pete Oliver, Charles Handley. Standing - George Wilkinson, Ronald Peterson, Phil Hardy, Pete Klein, Elmer Littlefield and Joe Jaramillo

Handley and Tousa ham it up! GW enjoys having Sharon Marshall on his lap!

Photos from George Wilkinson



John S. Park 8th Grade

Once a Wildcat
Always a Wildcat





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ALL THE BEST
to the Class of '53

Bill Hamilton



Marian and Martha

Best Friends Forever
and our little BFFs

Wish the Class of '53

a Great 60th

Thanks to all of our classmates for youthful acceptance and good deeds to us at a critical time in our lives! We now live in Mesa, AZ so that we can be near some of our children. We have 44 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Since our retirement from Mechanical Engineering Dept of BYU in 1998 we have been blessed to serve missions in Rochester, New York; Fukuoka, Japan; and Johannesburg South Africa. We really appreciate all who have organized and carried out our reunions. *We hope you all enjoy the time together.*

JOSEPH AND ISABEL WORTHEN FREE

Have a Great
60th Reunion

Frank Abocrombe

Gone But Not Forgotten



Mary Jane Arnold



Bill Barrett



Rex Bell



Barbara Binion



Silvia Brickner



Ruth Bravo



Bill Ciliax



Tom Collins



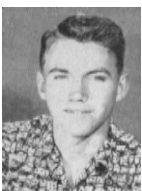
Grant Day



Bonnie Dixon



Frank Downey



Charles Dykes



Barbara Eplan



Earl Evans



Larry Farnsworth



Barbara Fisher



Jim Fitzgerald



Jeanette Flack



Jerry Fraizer



Diane Gardner



Sherman Gonce



Martha Goodman



Marion Haddock



Milt Hammond



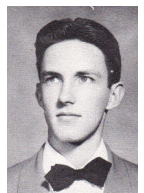
Charles Handley



Fawn Harding



Phil Hardy



Terry Henrie



Leoard Hodges



Robert Horsley



Lugene Hunter



Nina Hunter



Richard Hunter



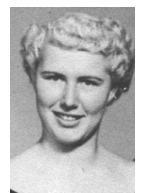
Bob Jarrett



Jerry Kerns



Dixie Kimball



Peggy Kimbal



Joe E. King



Joe H. King



June Leadbetter



Joan Leavitt



E. J. Legere



Harry Mangrum



Jim Marshall



Larry May



David Nерger



John Mayers



Barbara Maufas



Theron McGinn



Sylvia Myers



George O'Callaghan



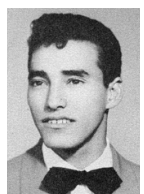
Joan Ochs



Robert Orona



Andrew Ozuna



Ray Pacheaco



Patti Patrick



Don Peardon



Barbara Proffitt



Rena Pulliam



LeMoynе Rice



Barbara Richardson



Eufрасia Rivera



Pat Robinson

Gone But Not Forgotten



Peggy Robinson



Tom Rosselet



Don Rowan



Charles Saylor



Jim Schaeffer



Conrad Simmons



Ron Sprat



Carolyn Thatcher



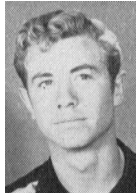
Lionel Tyree



Simon Vasquez



Helen Walker



Dennis Ward



Barbara Werner



Pete White



Imogene Williams

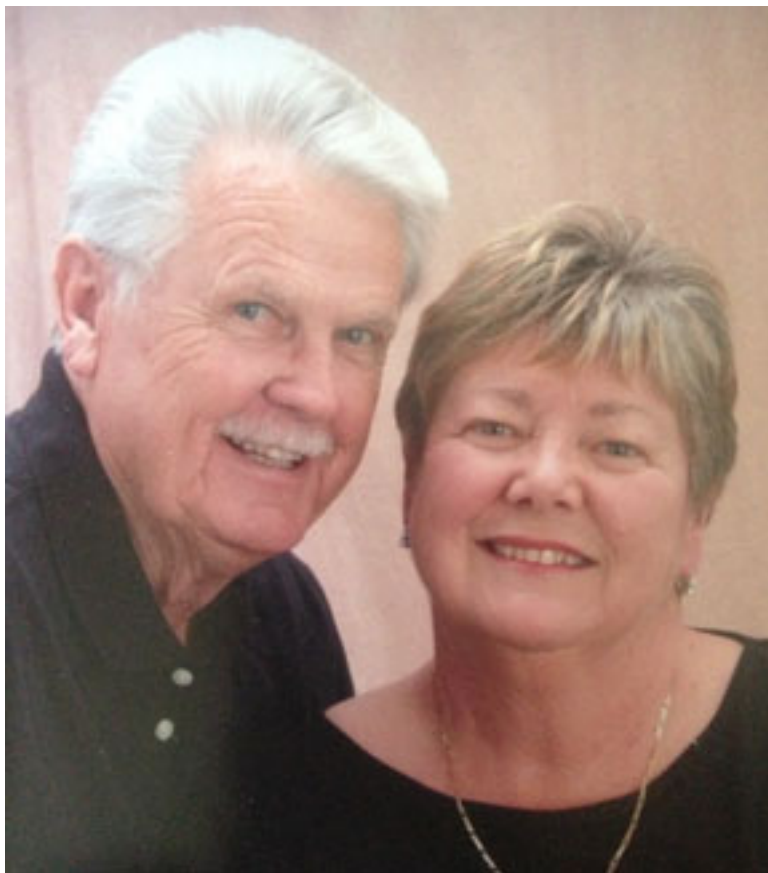


Dixie Williams



Jacky Yoss

No Picture Available: Shirley Ann Binkley, David Brode, Joel Cooper, Theresa Cornell, Ted Gagliano, Gwendolyn Hildebrand, Joe McNamee, Pat Stackhouse, Donna Thompson



Well another year has passed and we are looking forward to renewing old acquaintances. The last couple of years have been pretty eventful for me, new left hip in 2010, new right knee in 2012. We now have 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandsons (plus twin boys due early summer that will make 6 boys where are the girls?) WOW can hardly keep them straight. We are still spending summers in Salmon, ID (if up our way stop in) we are always home in BC for the Christmas holidays after that is Hawaii in January, BC in February NASCAR in March and back to Idaho in April.

Great seeing everyone

Gail and Sandi



I don't know why people keep referring to this as the last 'Cat Tracks & the 'Last Reunion': Because the more we have, the longer we live!

Seriously, Carol & I are bummed that we won't be there, but each year that goes by, the greater our sense of urgency becomes to be off on our "bucket list" quest.

To quote Barbara Proffitt in her poem published in the 55th Reunion issue of 'Cat Tracks:

"God gave us dreams." I agree, and we ought to live them.

Here's wishing everyone a wonderful and fun reunion.

Henry "Lucky" and Carol Rilling



Classmates Report In

- Personal and Family Notes
 - Best Memories
 - Random Thoughts

•**Roscoe Howes:** It is extremely difficult for me to accept the fact that it was “60 years” ago that we graduated from Las Vegas High. We were all so lucky to be in the right place at the right time and have the unique experience of attending Las Vegas High during that time. When I describe to new friends and acquaintances what Las Vegas used to be like in the ‘50’s it sounds like a fairytale to them.

Wherever you travel, the name Las Vegas will always generate a lively discussion. The warm and melancholy feeling I experience when I relive the romance, the music, the car culture, the drive ins, the floor shows, the Wildcat Lair, Mt. Charleston, Lake Mead, Valley of Fire, Red Rock Canyon, the frog pond, the desert, parking at the dump on East Charleston to look at the lights on the strip and the early morning above ground testing of the atomic bomb at Jackass Flats seem almost like a dream or a far out movie.

I feel so “blessed” and lucky to have and have had the unique and wonderful life that I have experienced. Since marrying my wife Roberta 15 years ago, after a 16 year courtship and engagement we have had an exceptional life. We are so lucky to have a home on Flathead Lake in Montana and one on the ocean in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. One of our favorite and most notable adventures was a 15-day Viking cruise on the Rhine and Danube Rivers in Europe from Amsterdam to Budapest.

Together we are blessed with 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ great grandchildren and growing.

I ‘m sorry our reunion was postponed, but I am looking forward to the get together before the Wildcat Reunion this



fall. My cell is [406-531-2776](tel:406-531-2776), please call if you are going to be in either Mexico or Montana so we can get together.

•**George Ball:** The Ball family keeps going forward. Marguerite and I have three grandchildren Madeleine Paige, Anne Marie & George Ryan Ball. My son George is a film and video editor/producer, etc. and free lances for a variety of clients. while my daughter in law (Danielle) is manager of a winery in Oregon. My daughter Susan is a deputy City Attorney for the City of Reno.

I am still working for two of my former clients. Keeps me in the water engineering game which keeps my mind active - boy do I need that. I also serve on the Western Nevada Water Planning Commission as a representative for one of my clients. Still enjoy sports - attend almost all of the Nevada football and basketball games, also, enjoy competitive running events, though I am slowing down which is frustrating.

Best to all of my LVHS ‘53 Classmates. I look forward to seeing many of them at our 60th.

•**Bob Zirbel:** Finally, I got this ()^*^%\$% silly machine listen to me and I pulled up the new Cat Tracks. Great reading. My reunion for school back in Iowa is in September too. I appreciate LVHS much more than the old high school in Iowa (now it is an old

folks home) because LVHS is a National Monument because I graduated there which I think I already told you. I tell everyone that and they say they believe it. Then they want a bigger tip than what I was going to give them.

Now it seems that I have a little health problem which I may have told you about. February 1st, my doc had me checked out in the Urgent Care unit and they said I have a low blood pressure problem if I do not drink enough water. My sister told me she has the same problem and so did my mother. That was news to me.

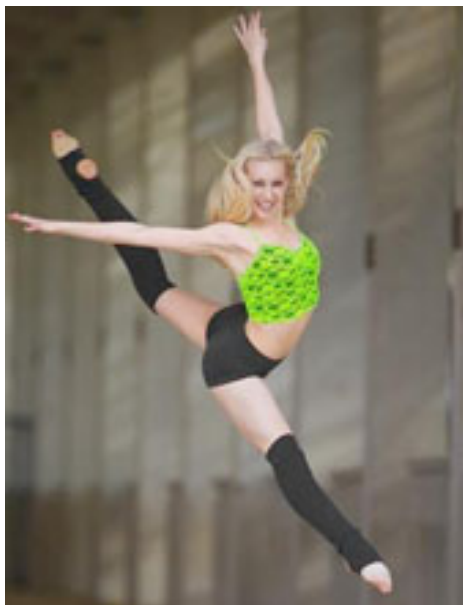
February 2 I got a little speeding ticket by a very nice highway patrol lady that said I was doing over ninety by the time she stopped me under the spaghetti bowl. She told me that we had to go to the extreme right side of the highway or there could be an accident. She came up then and said that she would be in back making out a ticket. Before I left home, I drank a large glass of water and brought along a can of Dr. Pepper (don’t like drinking out of a can, reminds me of the good ol’ days) and my blood pressure rose back up. When she came to give me the ticket, she said that she made a few changes and handed it to me. I told her what had happened and what could have happened if she hadn’t stopped me. She then told me to follow her and she would lead me home. I thanked her, she was so nice.

The ticket was for 5 MPH over the limit and stopping in the wrong lane and nothing goes on my record, just a couple of hundred bucks. I told the lady on the phone when I was paying that I would like to give a tip to the Highway lady but she said she would just tell her.

Now Sandy does the driving and I have to be quiet when she does. She's boss!!!! All women are boss because when God made Adam, that was just an experimental prototype. After a lot of thought, God came up with a much improved model called Eve--our boss!!!

One other thingy, my doc got me a 50 foot hose, a very heavy pump and three oxygen bottles that he says I have to use. That little 50 footer is good only for upstairs or downstairs so I keep it upstairs and no one can see it and ask questions.

•**Joan Giffin Virden:** Guess I could just send a couple of pictures. One of my horses, My spectacular granddaughter the dancer and myself and my three children at our house in Glenbrook, NV last summer. Just enjoying riding my horses, being entertained by my three Shih Tzu's and looking forward to visiting with my three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. again this summer at Tahoe. My years at LVHS were not spectacular. I had a huge crush on Tony Malone, but living, what was the, so far out of town, I didn't really see much of the kids that lived IN town. So nothing exciting to



remember at school. Sorry (I do remember Millhouse getting thrown out of the window. That sort of went viral throughout the entire school!).

•**Ray Winn:** Completed and sold the house ... five years in the making. (See picture below) Whew!

I have three children, and three grandchildren ... all doing well.

I remember a very poignant time when the Wildcat band was on its way to a

music competition in California. I think it was 1952. We stopped at the Bun Boy in Baker for lunch. We had two busses full of band members, flag and majorette gals and boys, parents etc. About 80 people all together. Many people had gone into the restaurant and ordered. The place was packed. The manager approached me and said the black members of the band had to eat in the kitchen. I said ... emphatically ... NO! By that time, many of the members had already been served. At the time I was the drum major. Instinctively I blew my whistle and announced we were leaving immediately. The manager, enraged, asked me who was going to pay the bill. I responded that I didn't know who was going to pay the bill, but he was going to pay the price. He hurried me off to the corner and finally withdrew his demand. However, the coward quickly hung a sign on the door indicating the restaurant was closed for a special event. Nonetheless we were ALL served. I felt great that day because all the band members and our conductor Loren (Red) Cross, one and all, stood side by side to make a statement of fairness and were prepared to go without lunch and even risk legal repercussions to make a point. It really was a great day! Wishing all the best that life can bring. We are all blessed to still be here and in good health and spirits.



•**John Honeycutt:** Growing up in Las Vegas was great. I have a lot of wonderful memories: walking to school, riding horses in the desert, exploring abandon mines, snow in Mount Charleston, swimming in Lake Mead or the Old Ranch swimming pool, the Helderado Village and parade, artesian water at Tooley Springs, cruising Fremont, Sill's and the Roundup, I could go on and on.....

When I was in the 7th grade at 5th Street I took a magnet and collected iron filings from my back yard. Mixed the filings with sulfur and heated them in a teaspoon to create iron sulfide. I put the iron sulfide in a test tube and added water and TSP (trisodium phosphate). This made rotten egg gas that I released in small quantities while the high school performed "HMS Pinafore" in the grammar school auditorium. I was escorted out!. This is how it all started. My two best friends were Ray Winn and Elmo Bruner. The three of us concocted everything that smelled, burnt, exploded, or changed colors. From iodine crystals in a napkin saturated in household ammonia, to make ammonium tri-iodide, a contact explosive that we sprinkled on the carpet of the movie theater that would pop when you stepped on the crystals' to model rockets we would launch with remote igniters. I guess that is why Ray and I both went to work at the Nevada Test Site.

I worked alongside Werner von Braun at Johnston Island when he launched and detonated a Redstone missile with a 4 megaton hydrogen bomb 50 miles high into the ionosphere. I was a design engineer for instrumentation used to control nuclear rocket engines and I worked at Area 51 to convert the radar tracking X/Y plotters to solid state design as part of the SR71 Blackbird project. Ray became one of the top executives of EG&G. Elmo earned a PhD in physics and was an astrophysicist at NASA Ames Laboratory.

My high school experiences were not pleasant; I was the nerd brother of a

blond, blue-eyed, handsome football playing brother. I was picked on by the jocks which made my life very unpleasant. But I can't thank them enough because it made me the man I am today.

I spent most of my adult career in engineering and science. I am semi-retired, but serve as Chief Technical Officer of NuTesla LLC, a biomedical company utilizing pulsed electromagnetic wave therapy. In my retirement I play and sing in the Dallas Banjo Band, I play baritone ukulele in the Kanikapila Island Strummers, give free ukulele lessons to folks in retirement/nursing homes, and play my double bell euphonium in the Peanut Butter and Jam Band.

And the bottom line:

I have a wonderful wife, 6 children, 28 grandchildren, and 32 great grandchildren – all, the JOY of my life.

