



# The Reunion Times



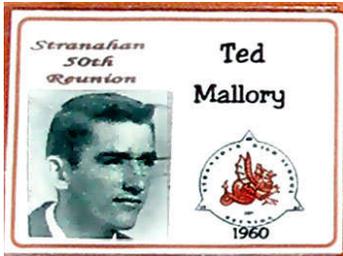
July, 2009

Stranahan High School 50th Reunion, June 11-14, 2009

Volume 5

## 250 Attend 50th Reunion of 1st SHS Grads!

### Photo Nametags Were a Hit!



What was one of the best additions to this reunion? The photo-nametags, of course! After 50 years, it was definitely a helpful tool. Very few classmates have changed so little that they were unnecessary. You might have been able to recognize retired USAF Maj. General **Ted Mallory** - he hasn't changed much - but the name-tag was a nice back-up. **Bev Weiss Shaffner** volunteered to add the photos - and was assisted by **Sue Huffman Camaraine**, **Bev Bryan Hoppe**, & **Kathy Craig Dunn** - who also supplied the year-book used to scan the Class of '61 and beyond.

Fifty years ago, on June 1, 1959, 349 seniors marched across the stage in the gym to become the first graduates of Stranahan High School. In celebration of that momentous occasion, the 3-class group (Classes of '59, '60 and '61), which has been having combined reunions for the past 25 years, held Reunion 2009 to commemorate the first 50 years of Stranahan. As usual, the kick-off party was held at the Elbo Room on Thursday evening, June 11. Even the *Sun-Sentinel* sent a reporter and a photographer to cover the event and a large article appeared in the Saturday morning edition and in the online version at <http://sun-sentinel.com>. Perhaps it was that article or perhaps it was the chance to ride a school bus again or maybe it was truly a desire to remember those classmates who have become the "Dragons Eternal" - whatever! But the Saturday afternoon Memorial Service and Tour of Stranahan had an attendance of more than 150. The Friday night cocktail party had around 215 in attendance and Saturday evening's dinner/dance had around 250. It was obvious that the stars of both evenings were the faculty members who were introduced and re-



ceived abundant applause. On Friday night, Coach **Bud Marcum**, **Betty Cobb** and **Mary Valasky Philhower** (pictured above) were there. On Saturday night, **Mary Val** was once again present and was joined by **Jo Powell Callahan**, **Roy Campbell** and his wife **Sammye**. (below) **Coach Marcum** had planned to attend Saturday night, but by the time the Memorial Service had ended, he reports, "I lost my voice from talking to so many people, my wife wasn't feeling well and we decided to return home."



## "Memories" Was Prevailing Theme of Reunion

At a 50th reunion it is inevitable that memories will play a major part. It was particularly true for this reunion although it wasn't planned. Things just simply came together. **David Chino** ('60) was responsible for the first wave of nostalgia when he scanned all 4 years (1956 - 1960) of the school newspaper *The Stranahan Echo*. This major undertaking filled 680 megabytes of a 700 megabyte CD if one chose to download it! David found a better way to share his efforts by putting it on his Flickr account on the web. You can find it at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/10136933@N03/> or use the link on the website <http://stranahanreunion.com>. On Friday evening, this project, along with lots of photos from past reunions played throughout much of the party. As David was doing his project, **Jim Westmoreland** ('61) was creating a DVD which ended up as the featured entertainment on Saturday evening. He managed to combine the 1959 version of *Dragon Tracks* (the 45-RPM record of the year's activities produced by Anchor and Junioresettes) with photos of each event that



he scanned from the year-book. These productions were shown on a 12 x 12 screen with a projector rented for the weekend by



**Ken Millen** ('60) who was the man operating the equipment. Coincidentally, **Ed Cox** ('59), who emceed Saturday's Memorial Service, decided to read the words of Barbra Streisand's *The Way We Were* - which begins "Memories.. ..Light the corners of my mind."

Memories of classmates who have passed on were assuredly in everyone's thoughts as the names of each of the Eternal Dragons were read by the following classmates:

**Kay Christian Sanford  
Fay Christian Scott  
Linda Cox Harnage  
Carl Darby  
Bill Bertholf  
Ann Harvey Ottaviano  
Jim Westmoreland  
Kathie Price  
Bev Davis O'Brien  
Joanna Akers Rand  
Ann Boyle Heald**

One happy piece of information was that **C.C. Crosby** who had been on the deceased list is alive and well! Read about her in the Directory!

## Memorial Service Honors Eternal Dragons



Clockwise from top: Buses arrive at SHS with 90 classmates; Ed Cox emceed; Theo Jones played the piano; Walt Lee presents plaque to Principal Deborah Owens; and to David Haun; 156 attended; Peggy Barber directed the 11 former Stranahan Singers; (center) Reverend John Los led the service.





Gordon, Bob, Bill, Pat & Bev



Judy & Dennis



Joyce



Tom, Kathy, Jo Powell & Luckey



Jeannie, Barb, Brenda & Barb



Allen, Dave, Mary Val & Fran



Walt, Mickey & Mike



Carl & Kathi



Fay, Peg Barber & Kay



Ginny, Betty Cobb & Vic



Joyce



Barbara, Betty, & Eva



Joanna et al in the gym



Decorations by Bev Weiss Shaffner

# Bev's Bytes.....



People came from all over - **John Starr** must receive notice as "Coming the Farthest." He came all the way from Australia with a stop in Colorado! Australia to FL is 9305 miles or 18 hours and 37 minutes flying time. And **Kathie Price** left directly for South Africa from the reunion. Is there an award for "Going the Farthest"? Others who made long trips were **Joanna Akers Rand**, Coos Bay, OR (3368 miles, 51 hours, 37 minutes driving time); **Don O'Neal** from Spokane Valley, WA (3009.57 miles, 45 hours, 3 minutes driving time) **Barbara Brown Schimmel** from Wisconsin;

**Joyce Noll Barrier**, California; **David Chinoy** also came from California - after he and his wife Kathy

made a 2-week cross-country trek to be there for the birth of their first grandson **Giacomo** who cooperated by arriving on May 27. **Tom Farino** came from California too - on his motorcycle!!! Asked if it was worth it, he replied, "The reunion was

worth it and then some!" And, according to his figures, he traveled 6200 miles and it took him 10 days for the entire trip. Did anyone actually go to the beach besides me? Will and I had a lovely swim on Saturday morning in a nearly-flat-calm ocean - but I didn't see anyone else except **Ann Harvey Ottaviano** and **Sandy Hoover Pilcher** whom we met on their way back from a walk toward the jetties! I'd heard through the grapevine that I'd made many ladies very happy because I can no longer fit into my old drill team uniform. I brought it along for the memorabilia table and four of us "old" Dragonettes posed with it.



From left are **Sheila Colichio Goodhue** ('61), **I** ('60), **Carolyn Kirpatrick Prescott** ('59) and **Becky Nelson Gibbs** ('60). **Joanna Akers Rand** asked **Dane Hancock's** wife **Cynthia** if she could take a photo with her husband since

**Dane and Joanna** had gone to Senior Prom as good friends because neither had dates. She wanted a photo 50 years later to put in her high school memory album. And here they are!



From all reports, it seems everyone had a great time! "Best reunion ever!" has been the word!



Will there be another reunion on this scale? Who knows? And that's the very last byte!

*Bev*

## It Was Their Very First Time!

First time reunion attendees included from Class of '59: **Patricia Craig & Carolyn Kirkpatrick Prescott**; from Class of '60: **Joanna Akers Rand, Barbara Brown Schimmel, Dianne Sigenthaler Downing, Judy Millet Timmis, & John Starr**; from Class of '61: **Susan Regner Noll and Sheila Collichio Goodhue**, who said, " Yes, it was my first reunion, and I enjoyed it thoroughly! Going to Stranahan on the buses and having the memorial service was very impressive...."



## And Overall....

Tallying the numbers for each class, the **Class of '60** had the most with 73 in attendance; **Class of '61** was next with 45; And the **Class of '59** had 41; **Class of '62** had 6 and there was even one from the **Class of '66!**

## And the Dragons Came From....

Once again classmates came from all over the country to attend the reunion. Two came from the Pacific states of Washington (**Don O'Neal**) and Oregon (**Joanna Akers Rand**); and 4 from California (**Luckey Dodge, Diana Dodge, Joyce Noll Barrier, Tom Farino**; and **David Chinoy**, who actually lives in FL, but had to fly back from CA where he'd gone for the birth of his grandson on May 27.) From the northern states came **Barbara Brown Schimmel** from Wisconsin; **Ann Boyle Heald** from Michigan and **Butch Clary** from Illinois. From the NorthEast came **Sandy Spangler Vandebosch** from Massachusetts; the mid-Atlantic states were represented by **Ruby Benn Bookwalter** from Maryland and from Virginia came **Carl Darby, Sue Roth** and **Gene Wirwahn**; Coming down the East coast there were **Tom Nelson** and **Eva Nuñez Nelson** and **Bruce Schmahl**

from North Carolina; **John Los** and **Joyce Fields Los** as well as **Frances Church** from South Carolina. There were 16 from Georgia and 109 from Florida - these shall remain nameless due to lack of space! From Alabama came **Jim Fletcher, Joan Graff Fletcher** and **Dianne Sigenthaler Dowling**; **Florence DeFroschia Andre** came from Louisiana ; and 7 from Texas: **Bill Bertholf**; **Virginia Boyd Rogers, Fay Christian Scott, Kay Christian Sanford, George Moore Eric Reno** and **Pat Gebhardt Reno**. From Colorado came **John Starr** - who also lives in Australia. From Arkansas, **Theo Jones Byrne**; From Missouri, **Betty Thornburg Poole** and **Cathy Young Moore**; **John Lowman, Myra Rouse Lowman** and **Becky Nelson Gibbs** came from Tennessee. **Adrian Bambini** and **Patricia Craig** trekked from Kentucky; and last but not least, **Ed Cox** and **George Boyd** made the trip from Pennsylvania.



## Corrections to Directory:

### Change e-mail to:

**Mike Grizzle** - mdgrizzle@yahoo.com  
**Larry Williams** - Larryawilliams@hotmail.com

### Add e-mail addresses:

**Myken Brady** - Myken@att.net  
**Tom Farino** - tfarino@mac.com  
**Dennis O'Bea** - cdromage1@yahoo.net  
**Don Widmann** - dcwid@aol.com  
**Cathy Young Moore** - jcatmoore@suddenlink.net

### Address Corrections

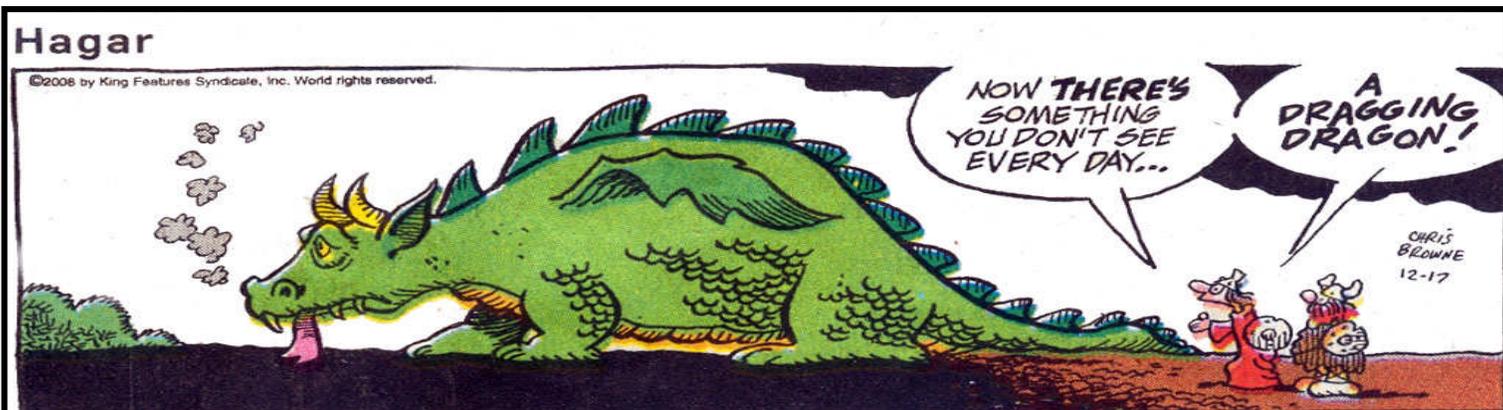
**Skip (Art) McMahon's** Zip code should be 30067

### Remove from Dragons Eternal:

**Savage, James**  
**Strong, Patricia**

### Add to Dragons Eternal:

**Motley, Mackie, '59**  
**Mazzola, Nick, '59**



## Which classmates fit these categories?

(All answers are in this newsletter or the Directory - Some have more than 1 answer! )

College president \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Doctor \_\_\_\_\_

Retired Air Force Major General \_\_\_\_\_

Law professor \_\_\_\_\_

Author of *Windrusher* books \_\_\_\_\_

Retired college professor \_\_\_\_\_

Owns 2 homes in Viet Nam \_\_\_\_\_

Has visited 150 countries \_\_\_\_\_

Former CIA employee \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance agent \_\_\_\_\_

Retired dentist, teaches AP Physics \_\_\_\_\_

Married his late wife's best friend \_\_\_\_\_

Optometrist \_\_\_\_\_

Met at Reunion 2000; married a month later \_\_\_\_\_

Broward County judge \_\_\_\_\_

Was on the "Dragons Eternal" list for 20 years \_\_\_\_\_

Retired nurse \_\_\_\_\_

General contractor; built palace in Saudi Arabia \_\_\_\_\_

Had 65 foster children \_\_\_\_\_

Reported that he won \$67 million in GA Lottery \_\_\_\_\_

## Many Thanks to....

Publix for donating 150 goody bags

The City of Fort Lauderdale for contributing bags, pens, hand-sanitizers

**SHS Principal Deborah Owens**, the members of ROTC and all the students who volunteered to serve as hosts and hostesses for the Memorial Service.

**Dane Jensen** and **Bonny Lacota Cox** for arranging those respective gifts

**Diana Dodge** for supplying the 50th Reunion candies.

**Ed Cox** for putting together the Stranahan Singers' segment of the Memorial Service

**Theo Jones Byrne** for assisting on the piano...and to

**Peggy Joyce Barber** for leading the group of 11 without benefit of any rehearsal at all!

**John Los** for leading the service

**David Chinoy** for scanning all the *Stranahan Echoes* and the *Last Will and Testament* of the Class of '60, and making them available!

**Jim Westmoreland** for creating the "Dragon Tracks" presentation.

**Ken Millen** for providing a projector and screen for the entire weekend to view David's and Jim's work.

**Brenda Blocker Newham**, **Joanna Akers Rand**, **Bob Edeward**, **Sheila Collichio Goodhue**, **Fran Harwell Oliver**, **Mickey Hanes Lee** and **Betty Thornburg Poole** for sharing photos for this newsletter!

**Jeannie Schneider Trower's** husband **Wil** (who's president of the Broward County Historical Society) for the great historical calendars.

**Dennis O'Bea** for arranging the Elbo Room party.

**Ann Harvey Ottaviano** for organizing Hospitality Room volunteers.

**Myken Brady** for contacting and communicating with all the faculty members.

**Mike Roland (aka Walsh)** for arranging for the school buses, the feast at the school, getting the plaques and obtaining the 50th Reunion tee shirts! He only made it to one Reunion Committee meeting, but was invaluable working behind the scenes!

**Bev Weiss Shaffner** for doing the weekend decorations as well as the photo nametags.

**Walt** and **Mickey Hanes Lee** for locating nearly 1200 classmates and for organizing the Memorial Service. And especially to

**Doug Wilson** for arranging everything with the hotel,

**Sue Huffman Camaraille** for managing all the money, and

**Bev Bryan Hoppe** for doing the Directory.

If I've omitted anyone who helped, I truly apologize!

## Can You Spare \$5.00?

SHS Principal Deborah Owens and Mike Roland would like to propose an idea. If every person who graduated from Stranahan during the past 50 years gave just \$5.00 to an Alumni Scholarship Fund, it would be an amazing amount! For example, if we assume an average graduating class of 350 for 50 years, that would equal 17,500 alumni. If each of these people sent just \$5.00, that would be \$87,500! Pass this info along to every other SHS class with whom you have contact to get the ball rolling! And send your own check to Stranahan Alumni Scholarship Fund, c/o Deborah Owens, Principal, 1800 SW 5th Place Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312.