

AHS63 May 2023 Newsletter

60th Reunion Edition

Back at the Northern Outpost, 46°, clear, beeyootiful moon. First, a thousand mea culpas and happy late birthdays to Norman, Don, Johnny, Lew, James, Eddie and Kris!!! This edition took a lot more time than it should have, and I hope you're still celebrating! Meanwhile, the saga continues. Little Whiskeysit on the Sheepscot is surprisingly quiet. The hullabaloo over a proposed recovery counseling center and affordable housing to be plopped down next to highbrow hill has gone underground. But the quiet won't last. Campaign signs have started popping up on neighborhood lawns, and the Great Candidate Debate is scheduled for May 23rd. Mark it on your calendar and send the your most positive thoughts in a northeasterly direction. My 2-year term is almost up, and it will be interesting to see what they make of it. It should not come as a shock that more was done on our selectboard's (aka city council) watch in the last 2 years than in the last 20. We had to spend serious dollars on aging cans that had been kicked down the road to "save taxes." Literally. The house "cans" in the village were in in danger of backing up. Pumps kept going offline that were supposed to move stuff along to the wastewater plant. So I have a hot idea for the night of the great debate. One former member of the previous do-nothing boards is running again. I'm thinking of Amazon-ing up one of those fake dog turds and parking it with its perky attitude right next to her microphone. Ha. Dare me. Meanwhile, the pitchforkers—who were after my hide last month for supporting affordable housing in their back yard—have found a new passion for writing letters to the editor. Well. There's a guy who regularly spars with editor-letter writers who uses the moniker "Kermit." Serious green superpower with that one there is. And he's taking them all on. Did I wonder why it was so quiet around here lately? It's because there isn't one pesky, whiney, "There-go-my-property-values!" mosquito left buzzing on the Federal Street pond. RIBBIT! Burp. If I ever find him, he's the next new knight of the realm: Rise, Sir Kermit!~Queenie.

The "MINI" Reunions

UJH

What Jimmy Raup wanted to know was why he wasn't invited. He had just heard Susan Roberts "wore" her UJH Eagles cheerleader uniform...and it was a smash hit.

On Saturday, April 29, the "UJH girls" were invited to gather for a lovely luncheon at JoAnn Morris Matthews' residence at the Overture Arboretum.



We lunched on quiche, salad, fruit, and lemon tart mini-pies and iced tea. Hostesses were Mary Frances Mercado Guerrero, JoAnn Morris Matthews, and Martha Sansom.

Pictured seated are Mary Frances, Jane Lucksinger, and Marcy Howard; standing in a mishmash line-up from there are Mollie Gregory, Terry Hobbs, JoAnn Morris with Susan Rodgers just behind, then Martha Sansom with Janan



Rodgers over her shoulder, then Claudia Middleton, Carol Ann Foyt, Connie Knippa, Vickie Herold ... and Mary Jo Culp (peeking through in the very back, and the imp of the party!)—it wasn't hard having fun with this group.

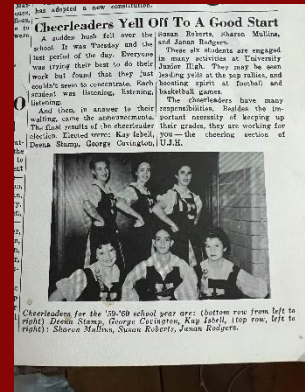


Left: Carol Ann Foyt Shepherd and Claudia Middleton in front of the UJH building, now the School of Social Work, soon to be ... well, read on.

'Got a note last month from Virgil Johnson who wanted to alert all Eagles:

"As a fellow former UJH Eagle, thought you might be interested in the old school being replaced by this new football practice facility and to pass it on in the newsletter.—Virgil

Aaaaaaaa! Thanks, Virgil. Unbelievable. 'Just looked through my 1960 UJH Eagles yearbook and enjoyed the memories of the old school ... lo and behold there was a fun pic of the newly announced 1959-60 UJH cheerleaders. Sure enough, Susan still looks (and acts) like her young cheerleader self. 'Made me feel marginally better to know there are still pictures to go with the memories, even when the building is gone.



BAKER JUNIOR HIGH

The Baker kids also got together for a picture, and thanks to Kelly Luedeke for seeing to it that I received a copy of it. Here are Bonnie Isaac, Kathy Shive, Dottie Plummer, Shirley Zenkner, James Hinton, Bo Rothchild, Mary Ann Mellenbruch, and Moton Crockett.



And just for fun, I found this on Bonnie Isaac's [wonderful class website](#), quoted from the Baker Junior High Yearbook.

As the final act of departure from Baker, members of the
9th grade graduating class of '59-'60
bequeathed the following:

- Kathy Shive leaves all the erasers Mr. Pine and class have thrown at her to Leroy Click.

- Mary Ann Mellenbruch wills her "severe" case of hay fever to Earl Hagn, along with her favorite saying, "does anybody have a Kleenex."
- Barbara Carroll leaves her ability to be thoroughly confused to Frances Weise.
- Butch Spalding leaves his address book to Scotty Moore in hopes that he will carry on this worthwhile chore. (Follow-up: Still a player in his AHS senior year, Butch was the escort for Almarie Magnuson at the citywide DE Club Sweetheart contest)
- Bobby Dollar leaves his last name to Scotty Moore to spend in some way.
- Bo Rothchild wills all his left over spitwads to the trash can.

MATHEWS ELEMENTARY



Several alums from Mathews School attended the Reunion gathering and Linda Burk Kemp attached a photo of most of them—thanks Linda for all you did for this reunion and for getting the Mathews crew together for a pic.

Standing: Saralyn White Stewart, Rodney Smith (no RED hair any more!), Dottie Plummer Blacklock, Gwen Doss Stone, Linda Burk Kemp.

Seated: Nancy Taylor, Brenda Rogers Warner

Not pictured but in attendance were Ronnie Warden & Steve Goodwin.

What is Dedication Day?

Held each spring, Dedication Day is observed as an anniversary celebration of the 1976 dedication of the Lakeside Campus. Dedication Day is considered to be the “official birthday” of the school. Distinguished Alumni and Honored Faculty



are inducted into the Hall of Honor, AHS alumni Veterans are honored, and select seniors are inducted into the Maroon Society. From the Class of 1963, Mollie Gregory Tower was inducted into the Hall of Honor for her outstanding work in establishing a Music Memory Program for AISD students that is, today, used by schools all over the country.

The purpose of Dedication Day is to “tie the new school to the old and the past to the present.” When the school was moved to its present lakeside location in 1975, students created a movement to establish a process and presentation of honorees, which became the Hall of Honor Student Steering Committee. The work of the student committee resulted in an annual observance of Dedication Day, and a reason for an Honor, a roll call of distinguished and meritorious Maroons.

Dedication Day events include an archival display, an honoree induction ceremony, and the Grand Assembly. In the Grand Assembly, more than 200 former students, teachers and community guests join over 2000 students and 200 staff members for the coming together of Austin High past, present and future.

Special thanks to Linda Burk Kemp for sending this information on Dedication Day.



LINDA BURK KEMP'S REUNION REMARKS IN RECOGNITION OF THE COURAGE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR BLACK CLASSMATES

Born in the 40s, Raised in the 50's— We were positioned in Austin's history to go through a social transformation together.



There were a brave few Black students walking into Austin High who graduated among the 538 of us in 1963.

We'd like to offer a very belated recognition of them and their parents for braving a cultural & geographic city divide. Their decisions to choose to attend AHS edged our town toward equity in learning opportunities.

From all of us, to these 12 Maroons of '63: "Thank you for your rare determination, your perseverance, your achievements, and for being our friends."

There are 4 Guys in the Class of '63:

Larry Tasby who is here with us at the reunion; Robert Reid; James Means; and Tommy Caruthers (RIP).

There are 8 Girls in the Class of '63:

Sandra Vickie Kirk, who is here with us today; June Alexander; Esther Anderson; Sandra Anderson Baccus (RIP); Rubye Crenshaw; Mae Frances James; Lois Lyons Anderson (RIP); and Glodine Propps (RIP).



Thanks to each of you for your friendship and for remaining Loyal Forever.

JIMMY RAUP'S REUNION SPEECH ON LOYAL FOREVER

Loyal Forever is not a mere catchy slogan for spirit signs or for an administrator's stationery. Loyal Forever means selfless love, steadfast faithfulness, and undying devotion. These are not empty words.

Loyal Forever embodies and evokes real and strong emotions which last a lifetime. We feel these emotions for our school, certainly, but we also feel the same emotions for those organizations and other aspects of our high school years which made Austin High great for us. Although our interests and our activities differed, we feel common emotions for every person, place, and thing which made Austin High our school, to the exclusion of all other schools.



Your classmates are here. Think of those who could not be here. Say a silent prayer for those who have gone on to whatever is next for us. Remember all the experiences and memories we shared. As a Class, we are Loyal Forever to Austin High and to our experiences and our memories, but most of all, we are Loyal Forever to each other.

This, here, tonight, all of us: this experience, these emotions, our feelings for our school, our feelings for each other. This tonight is Loyal Forever. Spirit unequaled, and we will never let it die.

As we go on with the rest of our lives, let's pledge to be forever loyal to Stephen F. Austin High School and to the greatest Class which ever was or which ever will be—the Class of 1963.

Some pictures for ya ...



Kelly Luedeke and David Benjamin (left)



Randy and Kathy Shive Matthews, and
Mary Ann Mellenbruch Meigs



Sidney Brient Lock, Beth Marsh Baldwin, Lucy Ross Farland
and Grant Simpson (left)

Ray and Diane Andrade (below)



Part of the planning team: Linda Burk Kemp, Susan Roberts, me, Nancy Williams and Jimmy
Raup (above)

Dan Summers and Russ Sparenburg (below left)

Phyllis Gerloff, Leslie Robinson, Tina Lawson and Camey Spaulding (below right)...somewhere...this thing keeps moving around, sheesh)



Norman Winters and Linda Fariss Winters (above left) -- Georgia Gaarde Fariss, Linda and Gary Swenson (above right) -- Mike Deguerin (below)



And there are so many more pictures to post, but we're running on vapors trying to get this edition out, so take a walk over to the class [website](#) and watch for more pictures that Bonnie Isaac may be able to post.

It was a huge success getting together for our 60th reunion, and the new thought going around is that we should shorten up the wait for the next one—maybe get together for our 80th birthdays. What do you think? Hit reply and let me know.

Just for the record, I think being Loyal Forever is a simple act of kindness in caring about people and sticking together. And we're sticking together just fine. 'Turns out, after 60 years, all of us are pretty cool kids. T.



PSSSSST... 'Need your help. We're trying to put together an updated directory! Our next reunion idea is to get together when we turn 80. SO. We need addresses and phone numbers and emails for classmates that y'all keep up with because, chances are, we don't have the right information on them! So turn them in—PLEASE—either by hitting reply to this newsletter OR call Marguerite Kelly Jarrell Luedeke at 512.784.8707.

DO IT NOW while you're THINKING ABOUT IT!

You know what happens when you don't :)

And one more thing: Kelly put together a beautiful remembrance of departed classmates in an "In Memoriam" booklet with their pictures. Would you like to order one? Call her (above) or email her at jkluedeke@gmail.com.



May Birthday Kids

01 Norman Winters (45)

06 Don Gregg (45)

06 Johnny Coats (45)

07 Lew Adams (45)

07 James Hinton (44)

08 Eddie Dudley (45)

08 Kris Nelson Staton (45)

13 Georgia Gann Flynn (45)

16 Pebble Stone Moss (45)

17 Suzanne Allen Gordon (45)

17 Rhoda Torbron Spuhler (45)

21 Terry Parker (45)

23 Lucile Puett (45)

24 Robb Southerland (45)

24 Bill Barron (45)

24 Jeff Rodman (44)

25 Wade Weiler (45)
29 Russ Sparenberg (45)
30 Ted Parrish (45)

Got a birthday? Don't see it? Just hit reply and send me your birthday/year and you'll make the big time right here. Guaranteed. Q.



Bob Bodoïn, Mary Williams, Kenny Roberts, Lulu Peal, Hank Hundley,
Meiling Lung, and Malone Hill

LOYAL FOREVER Y'ALL

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You are on this list because you are brilliant & still drink from the fountain of youth known as Loyal Forever

- the AHS Class of 63

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