

## 6/19 Reunions

### CHS Class of 1965

You may have noticed some old familiar faces in town over the Memorial Day holiday as the Corsicana High School Class of 1965 gathered here 181 strong for a weekend-long celebration of the 40th anniversary of their graduation. The three-day event was a resounding success, enjoyed by the classmates, spouses, parents, guests and friends who were able to attend.

The festivities started May 27 with a gathering for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the Palace Theatre where the class was honored by the attendance of Mary Love Sanders and Marsha Sanders, mother and wife of the late B. Lynn Sanders III. As the evening began, the class honored the memory of their now deceased classmate, Lynn Sanders, by touring the Warehouse Living Arts Center in small groups to view a display of his photographic art work.

Once assembled back at the Palace, Bill Middleton presented reunion committee chairman Jimmy Whistler with a plaque on behalf of the class, expressing their recognition and appreciation of his tireless work as reunion coordinator and super sleuth finder of lost classmates since 1985. Whistler then formally welcomed the alumni and guests and, after recognizing all reunion committee members and individuals whose effort made the reunion possible, introduced film presentations reminiscent of the 1965 era.

First, the class enjoyed the "renovation" film provided by the Palace Theatre, as everyone recalled their earliest movie-going days, from Saturday morning kiddie shows when admission was six Pepsi-Cola bottle caps to their high school memories of dates in the balcony, midnight movies with personal appearances by then-famous rock 'n' roll singers and dancing in the aisles.

Next, an artistic and moving slide show was viewed in memory and in honor of the 1965 classmates who have passed away. A gradual series of school pictures of the 29 deceased classmates was projected on-screen, each framed beautifully with a colorful stained glass-like floral design as the melody of "Memories" played in the background. The slide show was produced and presented courtesy of Curtis Ivie, 1966 CHS grad and husband of classmate Kay Rader Ivie.

The last feature of the evening, a composite of still images, sound bites and film clips depicting the now historic highlights of the year of 1965, accompanied by period music, was the creation of classmate David Gravelle.

Following the film features, the reception reconvened in the lobby of the Palace while several classmates indulged in "dragging Beaton" once again in the beautiful 1965 Ford Mustang convertible so generously provided for the event by owner Scott Watkins, through Stan Ross and his wife, classmate Ro Dossor Ross.

The morning of May 28 found the classmates eager to meet once again as they arrived for a class-sponsored "Florida Scramble" golf tournament at the Corsicana Country Club. Coordinated by Scott Tekell, the tournament provided great fun for all participants. There was no winner of the "Hole In One" prize of a 2005 Chevrolet Equinox offered by the sponsor, Carl White of Carl White Chevrolet, even though the golfers returned to the course after a thunderstorm interrupted their play.

Other sponsors for awards and prizes for the tournament were: Citizens National Bank, Corsicana Bedding Inc., Tekell Furniture Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, US Army; Hugh Stroube, David Gravelle, John Redden, Rob Dunn, Bill Henson, Chip Curington and Bobby Ross. Results of the tournament were

announced and prizes awarded immediately following a hamburger lunch at the club.

Tournament results were: First place team — Bill Henson, Bill Nekuza, Bob Edgin and Nick Georgas; second place team — Chick Whistler, Buddy Gelineau, Ken Doran and Bill Middleton; third place team — Scott Tekell, Jodi Tekell, Craig Tekell and John Redden; closest to the pin — Bobby Deisher and Craig Tekell; and longest drive — Craig Tekell.

Classmates and guests who were not golfers were greeted at 10:30 a.m. at the Country Club by classmate Sally Stewart Van Gee for an open house social tagged "Memories and Mimosas." Fellowship continued with the sharing of memories and catching up on each other through lunch at the club. On hand were photographs and memorabilia contributed by many of the classmates in advance of the reunion and fashioned by classmate Mary Deisher Whistler into a story board, wall-type collage and display for all to enjoy. Parents attending the social and lunch were Mary Love Sanders and Mrs. Ferma C. Stewart, mother of classmate Sally Stewart Van Gee.

The Corsicana Country Club was again the evening site for the class reunion's "sock hop" where music of the 1965 period was played by local disc jockey H.M. Davenport, also a 1966 CHS graduate. At the dance, the class was honored by the presence of Mrs. Maurice Rosen, mother of classmate Stan Rosen.

Throughout the weekend, the home of classmate Dr. Kal Shwarts and wife Julie was graciously open to the class for pre-party and after-party gatherings where even more memorabilia and nostalgic sentiments were shared into the wee hours by those who wanted to make the most of their reunion time together.

The 40th reunion of the Class of 1965 came to a close with the dedication of a hallway bench May 29 in the auditorium of Drane Intermediate School, which was the high school building attended by the class in 1965. The former CHS students toured the building and enjoyed a "graffiti spree" backstage of the auditorium. After the closing benediction given by classmate David McDaniel, classmate and Drane Intermediate assistant principal Sharon Stubbs Goodman "dismissed class" and locked the doors of the school behind them once more ... until they meet again.

Reunion committee members were Jimmy Whistler, Mary Deisher Whistler, Jan Green Ivie, Richard Kelly, Pat Green Kelly, Ro Dosser Ross, Kay Rader Ivie, Sharon Stubbs Goodman, Martha Long Tally, Cassie Kloecker Stein, Sharon Dyche Paulsen, Sally Stewart Van Gee and Scott Tekell.