

REHEARSAL'S ON

(Notes for the THS Class of 1950, for the Year 2000..... from the year 1994.)

During the Fall of 1993, when Barbara Burrows Crawford, Mary Ann Carson Sarrels, Margaret Clampitt Bath, Joni Clore Price, and Kathy Dillas Brown, met to compile a questionnaire for the 1994 Memorial Day Weekend Forty-fourth Reunion of the Tucson High School Class of 1950, they (and the Reunion Committee as a whole) wanted to retrieve from their fellow graduates: 1) certain basic information which would bring the rest of us up to date about one another; and, 2) to retrieve as many reminiscences and memories as possible to inspire, enlighten, surprise and delight us all into recollections of those good (or bad) old times.

And the Questionnaire succeeded in getting the basics down, the sort of things people expect to answer: like length and frequency of marriage, numbers of offspring, successes and accomplishments. But the second half of the Questionnaire, the one asking for "favorite memories", turned out to be a more difficult task for those answering the questions. We may have made it too easy for people to just generalize their answers. Somehow, most of the time, we did not say the right words to trigger responses longer than one or two words to describe favorite sports or academic memories. Although many of us could not remember the name of our graduation marching partner, (one of the very few specific questions we asked), at least for those who did remember, we got an answer. But, for favorite sports and academic memories, we got mostly answers like: "football", "basketball", "graduation", "Thanksgiving Amphi-Tucson battles", etc.

For our next reunion, the Big Five-Oh, we must try to find better words to inspire and excite memories. Perhaps, six years from now, our Questionnaire should contain only two or three lines for Name, Address, Spouse's name, and the numbers of Great-grandchildren...(we have so few of them, that there might be an interesting difference for that category in 2000). Other personal data is probably of little interest...what we really yearn for are MEMORIES. We can (perhaps) get memories by asking specific questions. "Do you remember thus and so?" "Did you ever participate in such and such?" "Was high school a good time for you, or a rotten time?" "Who, among your fellows, did you most admire?" "Did you just put in time, from 1947-1950, or did you gain positive good from the time you spent at THS?" What made things pleasurable (distasteful) for you?

Or, another approach might be to submit an essay and ask the respondents to add to it: Would anything like the following get some old juices flowing?

A MODEST ESSAY

Do you remember wearing your Pop's white shirts, rolled up to the elbows, and hanging out over your skirts (or Levis)? Saddle shoes? Penny loafers? Fuzzy sox? Argyle sox? Levis rolled carefully up to just below mid-calf? The girls getting to wear pants to school only in February during La Fiesta de Los Vaqueros? Wearing tennis shoes for gym, and not for everyday? Angora sweaters? Charm bracelets? Getting pinned? Sports sweaters? Cheers--Yells, that is? Getting to wear your Mom's diamond ring for very special occasions? Bobby-pins and pin-curls every night? Slumber parties? Making fudge? The end of Campbell? Small silver spoons from local jewelers in "your" pattern? And cedar chest "hope chests" (miniatures) from local furniture stores? Prom night? The Senior Follies? After-graduation night parties that went on and on into the night? (And, the police coming to ask you all to "hold it down... the neighbors are listening!")

Or, how about remembering some of your favorite extra-curricular activities, not including sports...no, no!... plays, and assemblies, and Roddy McDowell coming to talk to us, and putting together a newspaper, and playing in the band, and singing in the chorus, and participating in dance and dramatic productions... Standing in bookstore lines. Watching it snow one afternoon just as school let out. Going to movies....Drive-in movies ..(doesn't anyone remember a 1939 Chevrolet, named "Buttercup"?) What was the music we danced to? (Remember, that was 40's music, not 50's.) Decorating for the dances? What were our favorite songs? Favorite performers? What was the slang we used? "Keen." "Neat." "Swell." "Pardon?" Where did we go to hang out ... drive-ins ...for hamburgers and shakes? Mexican delis... for won-derful bean burros? Did pizza exist yet? (I think I had my first taste of lasagna during those years.) Were we so focused on our school activities that home life became an uninteresting blur? Or, was school a drag for us, and our goal was just to get through it as quickly as possible? Were there strange fads and foibles? Perhaps not just in our class... Do you remember a class several years ahead of us wherein all the "smart set" (girls) walked with a slow-paced, pigeon-toed walk, because one of them did so naturally, and eventually everyone of her friends decided that it was "cool" to follow suit? For those of us several years behind, it looked (and was!) totally absurd, but we probably did similar things ourselves!

Weren't all the movie theaters downtown on Congress?. Do you remember The Rialto, The State, The Lyric, The Fox, The Plaza? Was there another? Didn't The Catalina on Campbell come later? What movies did we see then? What stars excited us: Ingrid Bergman, Gary Cooper, Bette Davis, Clark Gable...and, so many more that each name recalls a host of others... (Didja know that Fred McMurray was the physical model for Captain Marvel?) What radio shows did we listen to avidly: The Shadow, Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Mr. District Attorney, The Lone Ranger, Gunsmoke, Inner Sanctum, Fibber McGee and Molly, Red Skelton, Bob Hope, Lux Radio Theater, Mr. First Nighter? One Man's Family? (Did you (and your family) listen to it faithfully, or disdain it?) Superman? Lum and Abner? Archie's Tavern? Henry Aldrich? ("Coming, Mother.") Our Miss Brooks? The Maxwell House Coffee Hour with Candice Bergen's father, Edgar, and little wooden brother, Charlie? When we were home sick and listening to soap operas couldn't we pick up on the story lines in no time at all? We couldn't see the blood and gore, so boxing was politically OK for everyone to enjoy. Who were our heroes? Who did we scorn? (We don't think much of the current entertainers that our children and their children idolize, but were ours any better? Surely, they were!) What magazines did our parents subscribe to, which might have influenced our thinking and behavior. Was the "Watch-Bird" watching us... from The Ladies Home Journal? Was Kilroy, from WW-II, still hanging around? Weren't the Readers Digest jokes just a little bit, um, off-color? If someone asked what was going on in the world at the time, would we have an answer? Did Classic Comics get us safely through a number of required plays and novels? I know we went to Sadie Hawkins' Day parties, so Al Capp must have influenced our lives, at least in the Comic Strip pages. What other Comic Strips made our days: Terry and the Pirates, Li'l Orphan Annie, Out Our Way, Jiggs and Maggie, and Dick Tracy... and always and forever, the immortal Mrs. Worth! And, don't forget, Skeezix. And, and, and...

What were our vices? So many of our parents smoked that it was rare to find us unaffected as well. Didn't we crack chewing gum to the total despair of our teachers who had to face room-fulls of ruminating students, chewing, as they told us over and over, like cows with cuds? What games did we play? Did we learn bridge from our parents? Monopoly? Chess? Canasta? Gin Rummy? What people or events excited us? What did we read? (If

we read, at all.) Some of us lived at the Carnegie Library, or eagerly read the books our parents borrowed from Steinfeld's lending library. Mr. Anderson, who taught us English and counseled, sponsored a classical music group...we met in one another's homes, playing favorite LP's over Magnavoxes and Victrolas and other American-made combination radios and phonograph machines. Some of us had little RCA machines that played records known as "45's." Television was barely a gleam in the eye of a few Tucson furniture dealers...we were still innocents in that regard. What frightened us? Appendicitis? Tonsillectomies? Nothing at all? Wasn't the biggest thing in our lives looking forward to being 16 and (at last!) getting a driver's license: our passage to adult-hood and freedom! Weren't we immortal and brave and true and positively won-derful? The "Police Action" in Korea hadn't quite happened to us, yet (that's where we lost Bancroft Robertson, THS Class of '50, perhaps the first Tucson boy to die there) What a fortunate group, only the threat of nuclear annihilation causing a little chill and casting its pall over the whole world. Oh, yes. We knew some anguish from time to time. (Some of us took plays out to the Veteran's Hospital and felt quite out of sorts at the lack of enthusiasm there...the men just came and watched and then went away without much of any reaction. We weren't quite sure we understood, entirely.)

Several of us have asked what happened to those days of "innocence" during our years in high school. At least we did experience them, and can remember them, if we will just try... ... WHAT DID WE DO? DID WE LIKE DOING IT? HOW WELL DID WE DO IT?WOULD WE LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN? Santayana said that Life is not a Spectacle or a Feast, but a Predicament....

Margaret Clampitt Bath.

THE JOY OF STATISTICS

And now, let us whisper in your shell-like ears just exactly what we did learn from your responses to our 1994 Questionnaire.

As of the 18th of April, 1994:

We have heard from 91 Men, and 118 Women.

We are almost evenly divided between those retired (92) and those not (87).

156 of us are married. 6 Are not married. 17 are Divorced. 11 are Widowed.

And Barbara Rubin Kaller is Engaged!

Two of us have been married for 44 years. (Dortha Carson and Bill Hutchison, and Addie Lou Hancock and Robert G. Arndt.) Fifteen of us, for 43 years. Our average is about 35 years of wedded bliss, of one kind or another.

185 reports indicated we had a total of 606 children, average 3.3 per family.

148 reports indicated we had a total of 832 grandchildren: Average 5 per family. (Nancy Hughes had 10 grandchildren, and 20 step-grandchildren, which ought to make her champion grandmother with a total of 30 grandchildren! Although Arlene Bingham Haymore has 25 grandchildren and certainly can give her a run for her money in the bragging rights department!)

We have only twelve great-grandchildren: Alice Alexander has one; Alva Bustamente has a brand-new one; Bob Fickett, two; Syliva Wesson, two; and Viola Gastelum, two; Bob Wilson and Joe Ozmun have two each. Nothing but winners here!

114 reporting are from Arizona (80 of those live in Tucson)

54 report living in California

8 report living in New Mexico

4 report living in Maine

4 report living in Maryland, 4 report living in Washington, 4 in Texas, and 4 report living in Florida.

3 report living in New Jersey

2 report living in Nebraska, 2 report living in Missouri, and 2 in Mass.

1 each report living in North Carolina, New Hampshire, Colorado, Delaware, Tennessee, North Dakota, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Kansas.

The list of favorite teachers is extraordinarily long. Almost every teacher is remembered by somebody! But the champion vote-getters were Frances Smith and Florence Reynolds, followed by Elbert Brooks, Danny Romero, Harriette Martin, Alice Butts, Mr. Black, Doc Van Horne, Madge Utterback, Coach Greer, Virginia Robinson, Prof. Sewell, Mr. Scott, Ida Celaya, Miss White, Mr. Whiting, Mr. Futrell, Mr. Acosta, Miss Culley, Miss Steinke, Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Barringer, Mr. Egbert, Miss Frantz, Mr. Goldstein, and Miss Perkins.

1950 Graduation Marching Partners...of those reporting who remembered:
(First name, the Rememberer, second name, the Remembered.)

Rod Bell - David Gardner
 Walt Blakeslee - Bill Condron
 Barbara Bowen - Peggy Klaiss
 Rosemary Bradfield - Bonnie Wheeler
 Bob Burkholder - Pat Monachesi
 Alva Bustamente - Elvira Vega
 Charlotte Calvillo - Gene Carrillo

Gene Carrillo - Charlotte Calvillo
 Robert Carillo - Betty Lara
 Edna Mae Carey - Bernice Bellmer
 Dortha Carson - Joanne Ward
 Margaret Clampitt - "I think Sally McDonald"
 Joni Clore - Kathy Dillas
 Katie Coker - "I think Stanley Berry"

Lloyd Colbeck - Charles Bowman Cunningham
 Sylvia Conelly - Mary Frances Vest
 Pauline Crews - Charles Wilcox
 Sydney Deal - Peggy Haymore
 Kathy Dillas- Joni Clore
 Loy Eich - Ray Stewart
 Dolores Feldman - Jean Brovas
 Duane Foerster - Charles la Grassa

Betty Gagliano - Dorothy Ethridge
 Viola Gastelum - Valerie (Peggy) Sheaffer
 Bridget Genovese - Raclare Cordis
 John Gerdes - "either Fred Gelderman or Addie Lou Hancock."

Gail Gibbon - Barton Kendrick
 Sue Gin - Joan Malone
 Mary Grace - "I'm guessing Lorna Grady"
 Page Gray - Pat Herron
 Melodee Gruber - Frances Anderson
 Raymond Guerrero - Don Daney
 Gloria Gutierrez - Lillian Forsythe
 Peggy Haymore - Sydney Deal
 Nancy Hughes - Bill Gundy

Marvin Humble - Bob Bartol
 Pat Keevan - Pat Marshall
 Ann Kelley - Lois Baker
 Gloria King - Margie Callahan
 Peggy Klaiss - Barbara Bowen
 Betty Lou Kroeger - Barbara Latshaw
 Betty Lara - Robert Carrillo
 Suzanne Laws - Zola Lyerly

Angelita Lopez - Dolores Ronquillo
 Zola Lyerly - Suzanne Laws
 Joan Malone - Sue Gin

Doris Myers - Marion Green
 Armando Ortega - Johnny Molina
 Frank Patania - John Robinson
 Natalia Ponce - Stella Renaud
 Mary Ann Ridgeway - Odley Jecminek
 Dora Ronquillo - Mary Fimbres
 Marjorie Seymour - Margaret Cromer
 Rich Sherfey - Barbara Lewis
 Joanne Smolczyk - Warren Haines
 Donald Vingino - Edward C. Martin
 James Walker - Pamela McCoy
 Henry Way - James Walker
 Bonnie Wheeler - Rosemary Bradfield
 Dick Wheeler - Charlie Prentice
 Aida Wilkins - Lillian McAlpin
 Bob Wilson - Orene Wing

In the matter of Favorite Reunions, #35 won with 44 votes; with #20 second with 27 votes. Four people said they liked both #35 and #20, jointly "best". Twelve picked #25, six guessed they would like #44 best; eleven spoke up for ALL of the reunions; five said "none", two are waiting for #50 to be their favorite, and one adventurous and optimistic soul (Jack Thomas) selected the big Seven-Five!

THERE WAS ONE NAME THAT CROPPED UP SEVEN TIMES IN THE 'HOW HAVE YOU CHANGED DEPARTMENT?'... SINCE IT WAS THE ONLY POLITICAL NAME MENTIONED, WE FELT IT WORTHY OF NOTE. AND IT WAS MENTIONED BY PERSONS WHO WERE ALLIED WITH BOTH MAJOR PARTIES. IS IT BECAUSE WE GREW UP IN ARIZONA, OR MIGHT THE SAME NAME APPEAR ACROSS THE UNITED STATES?.....Barry Morris Goldwater.

Our average for Holiday Greetings* sent to THS grads (all years) was roughly 5.5 per respondent. The range was from zero to 30. Ernest Bravo sends the most, "between 25-30," altho there is a question about this since Aida Wilkins Mendez says that 25% of her list goes to THS graduates... * (We were "politically incorrect," on the Questionnaire, to have asked about "Christmas cards": a left-over insensitivity from the olden times. Our apologies. We do try to learn from our mistakes, and, if the Spell Checker worked, we caught all references to "Christmas" and changed the word to "Holiday".)

Occupations were so varied that the list would be mind-boggling. But here is a fast look at the variety of our employment histories:

Housewives, Teachers, Engineers, Bankers, Nurses, Ministers, and Farmers, were the most frequent job descriptions. Accountants, Bookkeepers, Managers, Administrators, Lawyers, Judges, Doctors, Secretaries, and experts in Investments; Librarians, Real Estate Agents, and people connected with Insurance were mentioned several times. We've been Entrepreneurs, Shop Keepers, Contractors, Supervisors, Government Employees, been in the Military, done Sheet Metal work, travelled the world in Music Ministry, or as Stewardesses, been Travel Consultants, become Psychologists, designed jewelry, collected and sold art, gotten PhD's at advanced ages, Taught at prestigious universities and colleges, Bred and Shown dogs, become Fashion Consultants, engaged in

Hypnotherapy; become a Brailist; Controlled offices, Researched family histories, sold things, built things, become writers, brokered things, and served in Law Enforcement. We've put out fires, rescued people, worked as printers, and biochemists, become pharmacists, written newspaper columns, and worked as a Cartographer. In short, we've very nearly done it All! And, very well, too. It was apparent to me that we had all received a very good education. How Lucky We Were.

Margaret Clampitt Bath

Perfect attendance records from 1948-1950

Alice Alday
Robert Arechederra
David Ayraud
Barbara Bennett
Ernest Bravo
William Condron
Socorro Corral
John Eagey
Esther Gillig
Andrew Huckaby
Shirley Scott
Esther Warner
Sylvia Wesson

From the desk of Shirley-Mae Lee Elliot

P.S. In the Words-to-Live-by-Department, from Ann Kelley Boice:

Be Kind To Your Children. They'll Be Choosing The Nursing Home.