

Plains Alumni Reunion held

The 2013 Plains High School Alumni Reunion was celebrated Saturday, August 3 at the Plains Community Building. The theme for the occasion was “Moments to Remember” with a patriotic color scheme of red, white and blue. There were approximately 214 people who attended the reunion. Alumni, former students, spouses and guests gathered for the day with many coming from far away. Thanks for making the trip to Plains.

The Reunion started with registration and a morning brunch. Visiting and laughter was the order of the day. A BBQ Brisket luncheon was followed with announcements by President Wayne Powell and activities directed by Vicki (Fox) Fisher. Wayne welcomed and expressed appreciation for those attending. He recognized Kirk Coats and his wife Kathy for their many hours collecting history of the country schools that have been in Meade County and continuing to update the PHS website, preserving our PHS history. Congratulations were given to Jerry & Bonnie Jo Lawson for sharing their 50th wedding anniversary and cake with the crowd.

Jeff Johnston presented information to promote electronic communication and as a cost-effective way to preserve school history.

A report on the PHS Alumni Memorial Scholarship Fund was read by Wayne, who emphasized the continued need to provide scholarships to Southwestern Heights graduating seniors. Donations to the Fund can be sent in care of The Plains State Bank, PO Box 38, Plains, KS 67869-0038.

The “Plainsman Mascot” Vicki Fisher in her coonskin cap led the crowd in a rousing rendition of the school song. Her assistants Lana (Fox) Miller, Mike Ramage, Betty (Amerin) Mansell, Susan (Ramage) Presley, Sandy (George) Wetenberger, Kathy (McVay) Oliver, Wayne Powell, Jeff Johnston and Lelia May (Pope) George on the keyboard kept the crowd whooping and hollering! The cheer “We’re from Plains, couldn’t be prouder, if you can’t hear us, we’ll yell a little louder” showed that everyone still could show that “Plainsman” spirit.

Vicki reminded everyone to view the new trophy cases and all of the trophies, pictures and memorabilia housed therein. The Alumni committee spent many hours getting the items collected in time for the Reunion. Wayne Powell created a spreadsheet identifying the location of each trophy or item in the case and as much information about it as he could find. This information is available to the public and is located in the basket attached to the side of one of the trophy cases. The Alumni gave a round of applause for their appreciation of all the hard work done on this project. The trophy cases were built by the SWH Woodworking Class under the instruction of Luke Cranston.

Boyd Fox, class of 1939, a true American hero, was crowned King of the 2013 Alumni Reunion. It was a special moment when his daughter, Lana Miller, put the crown on her father’s head. His lovely wife of 69 years, Margaret, was at his side. Boyd was asked to serve for the next 3 years and his response was “How much does it pay?” The crowd loved his response. Boyd and Margaret live in the Plains community and are much respected and loved.

A special lady, Iola (Novinger) Short, class of 1941, was crowned the Queen of the 2013 Alumni Reunion. Iola has always been a “go-getter”. When asked about her game of golf, she quickly let the group know about her championships she has won throughout the years. She is also known for playing a good hand of cards, especially pinochle. She is a beautiful, gracious queen and will reign for the next 3 years. Iola resides in Edmond, OK, and was accompanied by her daughters, Luann Fisher and Kaylee Barnes.

The Shining Plainsman medallion award was presented to Elsie (Clark) Cottrell, class of 1948, for being a very special person that shines out in the community for all her good deeds and is a person you can lean on when things might not be going so well. Jeff Johnston serenaded her with the song "Lean on Me". Elsie graciously accepted the award but was being herself when she said, "I'm sure someone else deserves this more than me".

Clifford Thomas, a retired teacher, put in a surprise visit, which pleased his former students. Vicki recognized Nila (Bortz) Surgi, class of 1948, as the only PHS graduate in attendance who also taught at Plains Grade School. She taught the first grade students in 1954-55, who went on to become our graduating class of 1966. Greeting cards were signed by the alumni for former teachers Don Campbell and Warren Peterson who had been unable to attend. A greeting card was also signed and sent to Dorothy (Hickey) Hansell, class of 1929, who is the oldest known living alum.

Several classes had to remind us of their athletic prowess and outstanding achievements, each claiming to be the best! They even could remember their win/loss records for football, basketball and state track wins. This will probably be an ongoing debate!

Vicki recognized the alum who have been married 50 years or more as well as those couples who were high school sweethearts. Dennis Jacobs, class of 1963, and his wife Wendy serenaded the couples with the song "Let It Be Me".

The PHS Class of 1963 celebrated their 50 years since graduation by reenacting that graduation day. Lelia played Pomp and Circumstance march while the class came to the front. Vicki presented each one with a diploma and getting a handshake from President Wayne. The class members were good sports going along with the antics, making it fun for all. Not to be outdone, Reverend Marshall Stanton announced his class of 1953 was also celebrating a big milestone of being out of school JUST 60 years! Those from the class of 1953 were recognized and applauded for their dedication to the Reunion.

Those who have served in the armed services were recognized for their service to our Country and for being very special PHS Alumni. Jeff Johnston led the standing crowd in the song "America, The Beautiful" in honor of our servicemen and women. Some of the PHS cheerleaders ended the afternoon activity program with the cheer "2-Bits", followed by the school song. Sandy Wetenberger surprised us all by doing the splits, just like she could do in high school.

After an afternoon of golfing and visiting, the six o'clock hour rolled around fast and it was time for the evening meal and program to begin. The invocation was given by Reverend Marshall Stanton, class of 1953. After a delicious meal, President Wayne recognized R & K Catering of Meade, KS for all the great food today. Thanks and recognition for a job well done was given to the SWH High School Honor Society and Cheerleaders for table and chair setup, meal escorts and assistance for the day. Sponsors Mrs. Collene Sheldon and Mrs. Melinda Justice did a great job of organizing the students. Wayne recognized all attending alumni by their year graduated, which included classes from the years 1939-1969.

Joyce Knott read a touching essay entitled, "And Then It Is Winter". Wayne thanked Joyce also for her assistance in helping to keep our directory updated and for the historical pictures of Plains that she contributed for display in the trophy cases.

A dedication of the new trophy cases for the Preservation of Plainsmen Achievements, Traditions and Heritage was made by Wayne. A plaque will be displayed in one of the trophy cases giving details of the project. Wayne announced we would like to obtain a PHS letter jacket to be displayed in the trophy case. Please contact Wayne or any of the Alumni Committee if you have a letter jacket or pictures and other memorabilia you want to donate.

Wayne also reported that the cost of the trophy cases exceeded the donations received in 2010. The crowd responded with "Pass the hat" again. Steve Eisenhower and Jerry Lawson used their black hats for the collection, raising an outstanding \$2,224. Thank you, Alumni, for your generosity. The money will replenish the general fund and have a little left over to allow for further development of the trophy case project.

2016 Alumni Officers were elected. A motion was made and approved to re-elect the existing 2013 Alumni Officers and Committee members to another term. They are as follows: President Wayne Powell, Vice President Elvin Harris, Treasurer Lana Miller, Secretary Kathy Boyd and members Steve Eisenhower, Lelia May George and Vicki Fisher.

As part of the evening program, the song, "Moments to Remember" was sung by Jeff Johnston accompanied by Lelia George. Thank you to Jeff and to Lelia for sharing their great musical talents all day.

The Alumni meeting ended with a final touch of school spirit. Everyone joined in to sing the Plainsman school song one more time, some of us with a tear in our eye.

Special thanks go to our roving photographer, Jennifer Miller. In addition to picture taking, she was always busy helping do other things as needed. Thank you to Elvin Harris and Steve Eisenhower for designing and making the framework to display the graduation picture panels. Thanks to SWH for the loan of the picture panels as well as the keyboard used by Lelia George. Thank you to Lila and Rodger DeGarmo, Meade County Economic Development Director, for the use of, setup and takedown of the speaker system. Thanks to the City of Plains for the use of the beautiful and air-conditioned Community Building. We appreciate having the Plainsman Room to house the beautiful trophy cases and the new home for all the trophies and memorabilia of PHS. A special thank you to Dirk Dunn, President of the Joyce Hamm Golf Course, for the free golfing offered to our alumni for the day. Thanks to Esther Elliott, class of 1946, for assisting at the registration desk. Thank you to the Plains State Bank for ink pens and note pads. A very patriotic thank you to our local Boy Scout Troop and leader Tony Arellano who made sure the flags were flying at the Plains Cemetery all day. The Alumni Committee would also like to thank our spouses for their support and help. Thanks to all that helped in any way to make this a great reunion.

Those attending are as follows:

Class of 1939: Boyd C. and Margaret Fox Jr., Plains; William Dean Borth

Class of 1941: Iola (Novinger) Short, Luann Fisher, and Kaylee Barnes, Edmond, OK

Class of 1943: Bill Klein, Tribune; Forest Lee Geisinger, Walsh, CO; Ruby (Vail) Hamm, Plains

Class of 1944: Joseph Beckman and 3 guests, Columbus, MO

Class of 1945: Bill Bolan, Plains; Joyce (Fox) Peterson and daughter Carol Barbeau, Hutchinson, KS

Class of 1946: Carl Utz, Liberal; David Stanton, Plains; Esther (Correll) Elliott, Plains; Lola (Brown) Davis and Barbara and Jim McArthur, Tucson, AZ

Class of 1947: Gregory Knott, Plains

Class of 1948: Dan Donahue, Plains; Earl Shinogle, Plains; Elsie (Clark) Cottrell, Meade; James LaVerne and Peggy Amerine, Nebraska City, NE; Mickie Sheldon, Plains; Wayne Angell, Arlington, VA; Nila (Bortz) Surgi, Kenna, LA

Class of 1949: Betty (Bortz) Butler and Kim Shafer (daughter), Minneapolis, KS; Harold Rickers, Plains; Jack Dufield, Liberal; W. Joyce Holmes, Hollywood, FL

Class of 1950: C. Jim Staples and son and daughter, Audrey and Andrew, Des Moines, IA; Delbert Fox, Plains; Dennis Gordon Dierking, Tucson, AZ; Duane Ball, Kismet, KS; Larry and Marjorie Donahue, Meade; W. Lynn Streiff

Class of 1951: Lois (Holmes) Packard, Plains; Marilyn (Langhofer) and Wilbur French, Plains

Class of 1952: Carol Sue (Donahue) Vogel, Dodge City; Don Wilson, Plains; Lloyd and Norma Palmer, Sun City West, AZ; Marcella (Kisner) and Norman Thorson, Tulsa, OK; Vera Mae (Harris) Winfrey, Plains

Class of 1953: Carol (Winfrey) Palmer, Dodge City; Donald Palmer, Phoenix, AZ; Floyd Downs, Plains; Gary Evans, Plains; Gloria (Ortega) Simpson, Tribune; J.E. and Mary Hill, Bluffton, TX; Marlene (DuPree) Brown, Plains; Marshall and Janice Stanton, Salina; Regina (Eakes) Walters, Wichita

Class of 1954: Alice (Holmes) Sinclair, Cimarron; Jim and LaVeta Hush, Plains; Lelia (Pope) and Don George, Plains; Tony DePriest, Guymon, OK; Verna (Wilcox) Miller, Plains

Class of 1955: Charlotte (Malone) and Bob Keller, Halstead; Joyce (Vail) Knott, Plains; Larry Winfrey, Plains; Lora (Hughan) Cox, Plains; Patricia (Coats) Hanrahan and George Meier, Topeka; Rev. J. Darrell Schaffer, Lakewood, CO

Class of 1956: Gayle (Richardson) and Per Lysthauge, Hastings, NE; Gerald and Mae Jacobs, Dodge City; Harold and Sis (Carolyn) DuPree, Ulysses; Larry and Bev Henry, Colorado Springs, CO; Lucy (Beckman) Bromwell, Plains; Virginia (Downs) Harrington, Moline; Warren and Ruth Angell, Plains

Class of 1957: Barbara (DePriest) Malone, Plains; Bertha (Beckman) Holzworth, Loveland, CO; Darryl Ball, Garden City; Garth Cobb, Libera; Garvin Cobb, Meade; Leon Malone, Plains; Royce and Kay Lawson, Shawnee

Class of 1958: Carl Dean and Willynda Holmes, Liberal; Clifton and Judi Sutton, Pittsburg, TX; Jerry and BJ Lawson, Bracketville, TX; Larry and Phyllis Palmer, El Paso, TX; Wendell B. and Sharon Fox, Meade

Class of 1959: Arnold Eaton, Liberal; Don and Sue Malone, Plains; Donna (Blosser) and David Singh, Pueblo, CO; Harold Correll, Plains; Helen (McCarty) Kessler, Lakin; Kirk and Kathy Coats, Phoenixville, PA; Larry and Phyllis Borth, Wentzville, MO; Mickey (Fink) Winfrey, Plains; Mike Perkins, Collinsville, OK; Pat (Borgelt) and Skip Fritze, Norman, OK; Richard and Paulette Schell, Elberta, AL; Roger and Marlene Dunlop, Buena Vista, CO; Ron and Carolyn Wilcox, Sublette; Russell O. Vail, White Lake, MI

Class of 1960: Arva Lea (Shelman) Bond, Plains; Karen (Fox) Cobb, Meade; LeRoy Bond, Plains; Kenneth Gene Robertson, Sapulpa, OK; Myra (Fox) and Kenny Christerson, Anderson, MO

Class of 1961: Don and Karen Schell, Beaver, OK; Neil Utz, Colorado Springs, CO; Ray Borth, Leawood; Shirley (Feldman) Brinkley, Amarillo, TX; Sonja (Sutton) Heald, Park Hill, OK

Class of 1962: Albert Amerin, Dillon, CO; Cheryl (Cobb) Carson, Liberal; Diane (Malone) Palmer, Meade; Darrell and Kathy Gowens, Glenn Rose, TX; E.G. (Butch) Amerin, Plains; Joe Miller, Plains; Nancy (Baker) Fulton, Plains; Raena (Reiss) Borth, Leawood; Susan (Ramage) and Joe Presley, Huntsville, AR

Class of 1963: Betty (Amerin) and G.A. (Jerry) Mansell, Plains; Dennis (Jake) and Wendy Jacobs, Rogerville, TN; Eldeana (Bond) Winfrey, Plains; Gordon Winfrey, Plains; Jeff and Lynda Johnston, Racine, WI; Lowell and Roma Wriston, Denver, CO; Raydean Miller, Boosier City, LA; Terry Hamm, Liberal; Warren and Susan Fox, Plains; Wayne and Barbara Headrick, N. Las Vegas, NV; Carl Fieser, Dodge City; Joseph Nemec, Corpus Christi, TX

Class of 1964: Lana (Fox) Miller, Plains; Gloria (Amerin) Robison, Plains; Michael Ramage, Salina; Wayne and Donna Powell, Plains; Cheryl (Wisby) Jantz, Wichita

Class of 1965: Anthny J. Nemec, El Campo, TX; Dean and Susan Fieser, Plains; Dwane and Joyce Thompson, Plains; Elvin and Hennie Harris, Plains; Kathy (McVay) Oliver, Augusta; Pearl (Whan) Bottonoff, Medora, IN; Rick and Loraine Geisinger, Walsh, CO; Sandy (George) Wertemberger, Lees Summitt, MO; Scott and Trudy Reiss, Plains; Vicki (Fox) Fisher and Tommy Fisher, Meade

Class of 1966: Dennis and Linda McCarty, Bristow, OK; Don Adams, Kismet; Diana (Wisby) Rice, Maize; Ira and Judy Downs, Tyrone, OK; Jim McVay, Erie; Roy Arnold, Libera; Terry and Linda Coats, Wichita; Wallace Headrick, Guymon, OK

Class of 1967: Kathy (Roberts) and Dave Boyd, Meade; Mike Hamm, Jenks, OK; Steve and Jane Eisenhauer, Liberal; Ron Fox, Plains; Henry McVay, Wichita

Class of 1968: Randy Littlefield, Wichita

Class of 1969: Charlene (Hutson) Littlefield, Wichita