



CLASS OF '66



July, 2003

Volume 1 No. 1

WELCOME!

Hello, Class of '66 and welcome to the first edition of our alumni newsletter! This first newsletter is being mailed out, but future newsletters will be distributed by e mail (See how fiscally responsible we are?). If you would like to help with the expenses that were incurred to produce and mail this newsletter, you can mail a check, made payable to XHS Class of 1966, to Charlene Castonguay, 1011 North Detroit Street, Xenia, Ohio 45385. If you are interested in continuing to receive the newsletter, please send your e mail address to: mbking66@comcast.net. Also, let me know if you do not want your e mail or snail mail address made available to a classmate who may be interested in contacting you. And while you're at it, tell me if you think our next reunion should be held in the summer (July?) or in the fall to coincide with Homecoming. And, if you live in the Xenia area and would be willing to help plan our next reunion, contact Jim Kennedy at JIMKENNEDY1XENIA@aol.com or 372-5552.

This newsletter needs your input. If you have photos from our school years that you are willing to share, you can e mail them to the above address or you can mail them to: Mary Beth King, 4105 Camino Drive, Plano, TX 75074, and I will scan them and mail them back to you. Some of our classmates who lived in Xenia during the tornado lost all of their school memorabilia, so this is an opportunity for them to see some of those old photos again. If you have a suggestion for an article for the newsletter, let me know. Is there a classmate that you've been wondering what they're doing now? Let me know, and, if they're willing, we'll feature them in a future newsletter.

If you are online and would like to see photos from our 35th reunion, Kathy Spahr Carey and Michael Smith have set up a website for our class and photos from the reunion can be seen there. It is located at: <http://www.cocori.com/xhs66-35/>.

MISSING CLASSMATES

In preparation for our 40th (HOW did we get to be this old????) reunion, Kathy Spahr Carey and I are trying to locate addresses for some of our classmates. The list of those classmates is also on our website, but for those of you who don't have internet access, here it is:

Robert Turner Bennett
Karen DeMent
Sharon Edens
Melody Foland
Esther Graham Owens
Marla Graham
Tom Hibbert
Jim Hickman
Byron Hurst
Edward P. McCormick, Jr.
Danny Murphy
April Anne Neville
Steve Newsome
Freda Oliver Erbaugh
JoAnn Perdue
David Pitzer
Charlene Popp
Diana Price
Darla Rife
John Touhey
Kathy Watkins Murphy

If you have any information on any of these classmates, please send it to Mary Beth King at 4105 Camino Drive, Plano, TX 75074. The list may grow after this mailing, so we'll keep you posted.

THE PENDLETONS

If you ever attended one of the dances at the Y, then you will probably remember The Pendletons. Rumor has it that the group is planning to reunite and play a few songs at our 40th reunion.

The first iteration of the group got together in our ninth grade year to play for the West Junior High talent show. Danny Harbin, Steve Duckett, Terry Callahan and Terry Stout (Class of '67) played "Wild Weekend" and "The Peter Gunn Theme." Sophomore year, the band became Danny Harbin, Steve Duckett, Bob Francis, Steve Hone (Class of '65), and John Hook.



Kneeling L-R Gary Hetzler and Bob Francis
Standing L-R John Hook, Steve Duckett and Danny Harbin

They got the name The Pendletons from The Beach Boys. Before they were The Beach Boys, the band called themselves The Pendletones. They even wrote a letter to The Beach Boys, asking their permission to use the name. When Steve Hone left for college, Bob Geyer signed on as the new bass player, after being assured that they would teach him how to play a bass guitar. In early fall of '65, they decided to get serious about their music and recruited Gary Hetzler to be the lead singer and tambourine player. When John Hook left the group, Mark Jordan got a co-signer, bought his drums and joined the band. Steve Duckett bought some parts and built speakers for the PA system and his guitar, Danny had a small Fender amp for his guitar, Bob Francis bought a small organ and later added an electric piano and

everyone else pitched in with getting something – microphones, etc.



L-R Bob Geyer, Mark Jordan, Bob Francis, Steve Duckett, Gary Hetzler and Danny Harbin

Bob Geyer's parents had moved from their house across from the Field House, so the band cranked up the volume and practiced there after school. Much to the band's dismay, the Geyers finally sold that house, but they allowed them to practice in the garage of their new home across from the fairgrounds (maybe The Pendletons were one of the early garage bands!).

In addition to the Y dances, the group played at the Castaway's Club on Route 380, Forest Park Arena, Coca Cola HiFi Club, Kettering Skating Rink, Icelandia, and their last gig before Bob Francis, Bob Geyer and Steve Duckett went off to college was as the house band at Mario's Pizza on Brown Street in Dayton the summer after our senior year.

Gary Hetzler, Danny Harbin, Mark Jordan and Bob Francis tried to keep a band going for awhile after that and recruited Dean Silver and Jim Nutt. They had an agent out of Cleveland who got them a job in a country western bar in Grand Rapids, Michigan that was memorable. They got to live in a big room over the bar, so they didn't have to pay for a motel, but Gary got tonsillitis and couldn't sing and Bob Francis did serious damage to his car when he jumped the speed bumps to avoid the parking fee at the airport. Gradually, they had fewer and fewer bookings, so the group finally dissolved.

And what, you ask, are they doing now?



John Hook is married to Nancy and has four children – Elisabeth, 27; Estee, 23; Stephen, 17 and Thomas, 15. He lives in El Cajon, California, where he is a helicopter pilot and instructor for Mission Aviation. His original plans after finishing high school were to be a doctor, but he flew helicopters in Vietnam and is still flying 37 years later. He has lived in Indonesia, Singapore, Africa, South America, and Florida before settling down in California, but he says it's still nice to come back to Xenia and feel at home. He remembers getting in trouble at school because his hair touched the top of his ears. He appealed all the way to the superintendent but finally had to get a haircut.



Steve Duckett is married to Deborah, and he has three children – Beth, 35; Maxx, 14 and Kenzie, 12. He lives in Wellington, Florida, where he is the Art Director of *Naples Illustrated* magazine. Music has remained an important part of his life, and he's looking forward to getting on stage with some of the old Pendletons and playing some of the old songs for the class of '66 just one more time. Steve recounted the band's experience playing for a Xenia High School talent show early on and changing from one song to a medley without telling the music director. He remembers Bill Archer, who was working the curtains yelling "They're not finished yet!" and getting in trouble for not closing the curtain when the music director told him to.



Bob Francis is married to Julie, and he has a daughter Kimberley, 24 to match Julie's three boys: Preston, 18; Alex, 17 and Max, 12, as well as two stepsons who are 31 and 28. He lives in Branford, Connecticut but commutes to Detroit, where he is Executive Director for Capital Improvements for the Detroit Public Schools. On the weekends, he helps manage their two stores in Connecticut, one of which is a specialty running store. He remembers Danny Murphy, Bill Archer and Paul Lavigne as some of the talented musicians and singers from our class, and I'm told Bob caught some heat from the group when he booked them to play the Coca-Cola Hi Fi Club dance in Dayton in the afternoon, the Y dance in Xenia that evening and an after-prom party back in Dayton all in one day.



Bob Geyer is married to Kathy and the father of Greg, 31 and Ryan, 26. After living in California, Arizona, and Rhode Island, he's back in Xenia, working as the Greene County Engineer. His favorite memories from high school are graduating and his time with The Pendletons. The group is still trying to convince Bob that he can play bass again for our reunion, even though he hasn't picked one up since '66.



Danny Harbin is married to Glenda Jean and the father of Jason, 26 and Luke, 2 1/2 . He lives in Crofton, Maryland on the western shore of the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. He is retired, and enjoying his role as Mr. Mom. He has continued to play over the years and has performed in several groups and duets in Maryland, Virginia and Washington D.C. His favorite memories of Xenia High are The Pendletons, Friday night football games, and Frisch's drive-in.



Gary Hetzler is married to Carmen and has 2 children – Misty, 29 and Brandon, 26. He lives in Lancaster, Ohio, where he is retail sales supervisor for Golfsmith International, which is a great fit for him since he has a real passion for golf. Prior to working for Golfsmith, he worked for AT & T for 23 years. After graduation, Gary, Danny Harbin, Byron Hurst, Terry Hedges and Virgil Speakman all enlisted in the Air Force and were in the same basic training barracks. He still remembers his first time singing with The Pendletons, mostly he says because Steve and Danny won't let him forget it. On the very first song at a West Junior High dance, Gary froze and couldn't remember the words to the song they had practiced constantly. The band kept playing the intro over and over and glaring at Gary until one of them finally figured out what was wrong and told him the first few words and he took off singing.

Mark Jordan is single and lives in Tempe, Arizona, where he owns a flooring company and plays a lot of golf. That's pretty much all I know about Mark, so he'll have to fill you in on any other details. Although I did hear a great story about him getting stopped by a police officer, who turned out to be fellow classmate, Colin Pierce!

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to hearing another set from The Pendletons at our 40th reunion!

CATCHING UP



Ruth Dudley Bone has been married 36 years to Roger and has three children and seven grandchildren. She and her husband own M-P Marine in Jamestown, but they move to Florida every winter. Her favorite memories from Xenia High are the basketball and football games and the group of guys and girls that got together for a party once a month during our sophomore year.



Mike McCann is single and has two grown children and three grandchildren. He recently retired as a meat cutter and moved back to Xenia. Now that he is retired, he's indulging his passion for travel. He's been to Asia, Egypt, Australia and much of western Europe, and he writes a newsletter chronicling his travels for his family and friends. His favorite memories of Xenia High are of all the people there.

(From the November 22, 1965 Buccaneer)

SHARP SENIORS

Smart as Nelson King
Happy as Doug Martin
Active as Luann Jenner
Rare as Wayne Rasper
Pretty as Linda Gerhardt

Sweet as Sue Boring
Exciting as Bill Archer
Nutty as Freddy Davis
Interesting as Bob Francis
Otgoing as Dave Heath
Rebellious as Dave McMillan
Small as Suzie Lewis



Sara Minton is recently divorced and lives in Chicago. She works at Northwestern University as a program assistant in the vascular surgery department, as a costumer at Oak Park River Forest High School, and as a professional actress and singer in area theatres. For the past three years, she has performed an original one-woman show on immigration in area elementary schools and libraries, as well as for special adult programs. She still gets back to the Xenia area frequently to visit family and friends, and her memories of Xenia High include singing with the ensemble, the production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" that she and Susan Rupert did our senior year, and working with Mr. Conrad in the chemistry lab.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS.....



West Junior High Freshman Dance
L-R Dave Hunter, Kathe Kelly, David Brantley, Pam Rogers, Cathy Johnson,
Jerry Pelphrey, Carla Eltzroth and Barry Bahns



Mrs. Evans 2nd Grade Class at Tecumseh Elementary
L-R Jerry Pelphrey, Gary Hetzler, Barry Bahns, Alan Anderson,
Jon Spitler and ?



Central Junior High Christmas Program December, 1961
 Kneeling L-R Norton Doran, Reeta Bickett and Doug Whitacre
 Standing L-R Susan Rupert, Ron McClelland, Mike Tudor, Jim Stewart, Charles Campbell, Mary Beth Blocker, and Jerry Pelphrey



Cox Elementary Football 1959
 Kneeling L-R Terry Stout, Dale Markin, Doug Whitacre, Danny Harbin, Floyd Guthrie, Mike Whitacre and ?. Standing L-R ?, Jim Swigart, Dave Hunter and the rest are unknown

Congratulations

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS



XENIA HIGH

First Row, Front, Left to Right

Carol Flomerfelt, Becky Kline, Jayne West, Sally Allgaier, Susan Barber, Ellen Hagler, Janet Poland, Kaye Taylor, Ann Fuson, Carol Vastbinder, Linda Hoke.

Second Row

Carla Eltzroth, Andrea George, Sara Minton, Sheila Kemple, Nedra Seaman, Mary Beth Blocker, Sharon Garner, Marianne Stephan, Sue Potterf.

Third Row

Patti McClelland, Linda McCoy, Reeta Bickett, Angela Hicks, Diane Linebaugh, Linda Gerhardt, Sharon Clark, Jane Sweet.

Fourth Row

Dave Whilding, Kathy Spahr, Linda Shanks, Gloria Dornstaedt, Susan Rupert, Corrine Steele, Brookia Warden.

Fifth Row

Ed Claggett, Clark Bolz, Gary Snell, Don Sutton, Howard Ayle, Stephen Eckstrand, Fred Coy.

Sixth Row

Mark Luttrell, Dave Brantley, Jim Kennedy, Bob Nash, Fred Herdman, Rodney Warner, Alan Anderson, Bob Geyer, absent when picture taken Sharon Norris.



Mrs. Evans' Second Grade Class Play at Tecumseh Elementary
L-R Linda Adams, Paula Whitaker, David Brantley and Reeta Bickett



Mrs. McClellan's Third Grade Class
Row 1 L-R Mrs. McClellan, Frank Benadum, Donna Shaw, Elwood DeHaven, Sharon Clark, David Workman, Paul Gultice and Carolyn Shope
Row 2 L-R Golda Green and Denny Melton
Row 3 L-R Leah Mae Henry, Gary Hetzler, Ann Derrick, Barbara Sherrill, Bev Hart, Tom Downing, Nancy Wallen and Kay Kirby
Row 4 L-R Doug Kidd, Margene Amlin, Wayne Apgar, Carol Moody and Gloria Darnstaedt
Row 5 L-R Donald Wolf, Paula Whitaker, Beverly Ables, John Spittler, Terry Callahan, Terri Ingles, Lydia Jo Dallas and Reeta Bickett



CHEER FOR YOUNG BUCS—These are the cheerleaders for the seventh, eighth and ninth grade basketball teams at Central Junior High School. Shown left to right, the girls in the front row are ninth graders Linda Denger, Ruth Dudley, Luann Jenner, Kim Rickels. Suzie Lewis, Kathy Spahr and Lenora Harding substitute. In the middle row are eighth graders

Janie Johnson, Sue Ellen Hurley, Ellen Hagler, Beverly Gordon, Lois Sheridan, Lyn Reid and Carole White. In the rear are seventh graders Terry Lawless, substitute, Carole Whitacre, Sue McNemar, Virginia Tharp, Leslie Drake and Louis Thurman. Not present for the photo was Debbie Condello, eighth grade substitute.—(Gazette Photo by Tom McCatherine).

4105 Camino Drive
Plano, TX 7507

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED