

Phyllis Hodgson (Scott)

was a hospital nurse, a clinic nurse and finally a home care nurse. The last position was the most rewarding and memorable of her care-giving career.

She now lives on a farm overlooking tranquil Otter Lake near Armstrong.

City-girl Phyllis learned a lesson about farmers that she never forgot when she went to an Armstrong Fair Dance shortly after she graduated as a nurse from Royal Inland Hospital. Farmer Jim had one dance with her, got excited and decided to show her the joys of farm life, starting in 1960 when they married. Once Jim had a BA in Education from the University of Victoria, she settled with him on the farm that he owned. There they raised beef, hay and three pragmatic children.

Her children became avid 4-H members, which gave them a fabulous grounding to become successful citizens. Jay is a director of Development at Rock Star Computer Games and lives in Vancouver. Julie is a social worker in Vernon and partner in the family farm. Michael works for the BC Government paving out of Fort St. John.

Phyllis and Jim have two granddaughters, thanks to Jay. The other two children gave them only pets. [Ed: What do you expect from kids raised on a farm, watermelons?]

For recreation, Phyllis and Jim Scott used to RV to California in the winter. Three years ago, Phyllis took up curling, instead, as Jim's health wasn't good. Then last year she had to face cancer and a mastectomy herself. She's now a staunch cancer survivor.

She's so pleased with a medication called Tamoxifen supplied free by the BC Cancer Society that she highly recommends the society.

Phyllis looks at her pension, shudders and walks out to the coral. After working most of her life as an RN in government positions, including 19 years as a home care nurse for the BC government, her pension, including a recent increase of \$0.53, is now \$44.11. That's not enough even to feed a Hereford steer!



Phyllis Panasuik

(Skrypnik) ventured to Alberta after graduation to work with a magistrate in the courts.

She married John Skrypnik in 1959, they raised three daughters in Vegreville, and then moved to Kelowna for better opportunities in 1972.

Phyllis coordinated running her home with an accounting job when her youngest child started kindergarten. She continued to work as their daughters graduated, pursued careers, married, and moved to the coast.

Widowed in 2003, Phyllis decided to retire from accounting to make her new home in Langley. She is presently enjoying her leisure time with her three daughters and five adorable grandchildren.

During Easter, Phyllis was all smiles when she had her daughter Lori (holding Hayden) on one side of her and daughter Carolyn (embracing Taylor and Samantha) on the other. Her daughter Trish was behind Graysen and Caprice. Caprice was leaning on a crutch not as a crutch to stand out on a picture but to expedite the healing of a broken leg.

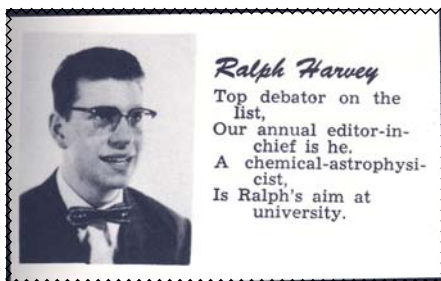


Phyllis Panasuik

*She's as busy as can be
For Harold's her man
as you can see.
And something else,
you know I'll bet,
She is a good drum
majorette.*



Ralph Harvey has had many achievements in many fields. The “brains” of Vernon High was a Meteorology Supervisor in Goose Bay, Nfld, a meteorology student at McGill University working on a MSc degree, a Supervisor in Arctic Weather Centre in Nfld, a Meteorology Officer for Transport Canada in Toronto, and just before he retired in 1991, a Senior Meteorologist at Pacific Weather Centre in Vancouver.



He “cruised” on the Canadian Icebreaker, the Louis St. Laurent. He flew around the arctic with Canadian Ice Patrol. He chased Soviet “fishing trawlers” with the RCAF. He studied meteorology in Britain.

Upon retirement, Ralph went back to UBC where he had graduated with a BA 29 years before, for a BEd in Secondary Teaching. He then taught Math and Science for ten years.

During this period he was Mayor of Goose Bay and Lay Pastor in his church. He retired to Abbotsford.



Ralph made a wise choice in 1960 when he selected Judith Martin to be his loving wife. Eight of his twelve children are university educated in such fields as computers, chemistry, business management, dietetics, engineering, and education. Having brains is an advantage when it comes to remembering the names of all thirty-four grandchildren!

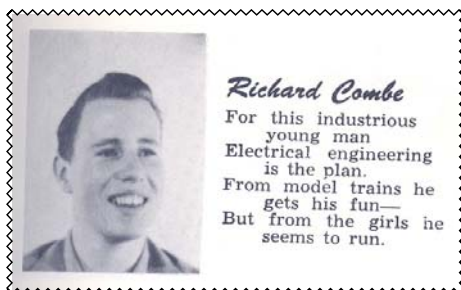
Ray Zieske is married to Betty Ruks and they haven't moved very far from Swan Lake in the North Okanagan. [I guess that's all the important things that we need to know about him because that's all the information he has given me.]



[I figure if Ray doesn't want to tell me about his family, I may as well tell you more about mine and not allow the space to go to waste. When I was courting Gerda, I wanted to show her how beautiful the Okanagan was so I took her for a hike up a mountain north of Vernon on the Victoria Day weekend in 1964 to look across the valley toward Swan Lake. She was so impressed that she made me a garland of sunflowers!]

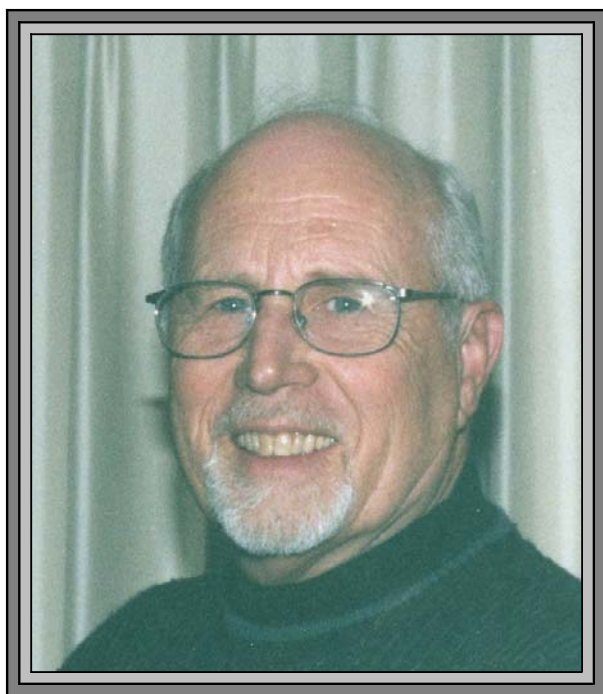


Richard Combe thought that teaching was the salt of the earth so he did not move far away from salt water for 36 years. After retiring from teaching he returned to the North Okanagan to desalinate but not before spending six enjoyable weeks touring Europe.



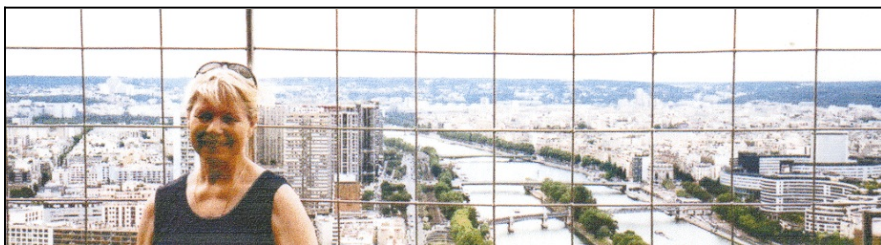
Now that he's warmed up and dried out [dry as in not wet and not dry as in martini!] he is close to family in Vernon, including his endearing grandchildren.

Vernon has changed a lot but he still thinks it's a terrific place to call home. [Ed: Vernon may have changed but Richard's smile has not changed much.]



Rita Gellert (Carlson)'s

meticulous concern for detail showed itself on a trip to Europe in 2003, when she saw the need to weed the Tuileries Gardens, water the enchanting Monet Gardens, rearrange a floral display in one of the cathedrals, and adjust the lighting around the Mona Lisa. Her daughter Barbara managed to prevent all this from happening. Shopping in Paris was less restrictive and views from the Eiffel tower more expansive.



Although sun-drenched days in Tuscany will never be forgotten, the highlight of this experience was revisiting Poland, where Rita was born, and Germany, where she attended school for five years, prior to immigrating to Canada with her family.

After choosing nursing as her profession, she married Gerald and together raised two talented daughters, Barbara and Glenda. Her nursing career and raising a family taught her much about herself and others.

After living in New Westminster and Victoria they moved to Kamloops.

Gerald and Rita Carlson are involved in volunteer activities, mainly coordinated by their community church. They spend precious times with their three grandchildren, the joy of their lives.



Roy DePourcq was already working full time when we were barely into our teens. Later when he was 14, Roy and his father opened the Rambler car dealership at the corner of 32 and 32.



After 10 years Roy had to close the garage because of his father's illness.

Roy chose to work in Edmonton but to make sure he had a good reason for returning, he got engaged to Linda before he left. They married in 1964 and moved to Summerland where John and Cindy-Michelle were born.

In 1972 Roy began working for Western Star Trucks and stayed with them for 29 years. He evolved with the company as the industry changed.

At the same time Roy opened Personal Touch Catering. The family business catered to banquets from Osoyoos to Vernon. Roy said that it was hard but gratifying work.



Their son had a super talent for hockey so the family travelled extensively in Europe and the United States to watch John compete and play semi-pro hockey. When John graduated from Michigan University, he was immediately drafted by Pittsburgh.

Cindy-Michele married Stephane Lecuyer and John married Lorri. Grandson Cody brought many hours of enjoyment to "Papa Roy" and "Nonna Linda."



In their spare time Roy drives a shuttle bus and Linda is the chef at a retirement facility where they live in Penticton.

Ruth Steffens (Copeland) dropped out of school in Grade 10 but was a gifted music teacher for two decades. In addition Ruth has the distinction of being a classmate with great-grandchildren.

Ruth had an early start on raising a family. The Steffen family left for Vancouver in 1952, where Ruth became a telephone operator for two years. Then she met Maurice. Their marriage in 1956 produced three lovely dark-haired children— Cheryl, Leslie, and Scott.



She returned to Vernon and commenced working at Tempo Music in Village Green Mall in 1975. She was so capable that the job lasted only a year. She was then promoted to manager of the Kelowna store.

For 21 years Ruth remained with Tempo Music and only quit to retire in Kelowna. For 14 of those years she lived separately from her husband, before they divorced.

Ruth is blessed with five grandchildren – Kyla, Jackson, Sonny, Leon and Lonnie and two great-granddaughters

[I thought the photo showed Ruth's daughter with her granddaughter Kyla and twin great-granddaughters Kianna and Riley. I was wrong on only one count: the person in the red dress is Ruth!]



I am in excellent health and I enjoyed every moment of my life and give thanks to God daily for my blessings!!!!
Ruth Steffens Copeland.

In addition to her biological family Ruth has four step-grandchildren Che, Angela, Adrianna and Fabian - and [hold on as I go through this one] one great (adj) step great-granddaughter, Shanice.

Sharon Smith (Dick) lives in the middle of a wildlife habitat that has been televised three times on *Outdoors Maryland* on Maryland Public Television. The first episode featured hummingbirds that return each year. The second featured native frogs that she encourages to spend their whole life cycle -- propagating, croaking and then "croaking" -- to give her enjoyment from her kitchen window. The third program showed the deeper meanings and higher dimensions to her back yard so it was featured on *Spiritual Gardens*.

Had you been in Maryland in March a year or two ago, you could have gone to the Cylburn Arboretum Association's open house at her yard in Lutherville and Sharon would have taught you how to build a frog pond and how to plant to attract bees. The habitat garden that she has developed is certified with Maryland Wild Acres, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Audubon International Sanctuary System. [In case you are wondering, Sharon, I got this information from the internet so it is public knowledge.]



Sharon first went to Baltimore in 1966 when her husband, the physicist Dr. Kenneth Dick, was invited to do postdoctoral research in atomic physics at Johns Hopkins University. She really began to appreciate what Baltimore had to offer after living in Tucson, Arizona, and Rockville, Maryland.

Sharon culminated her formal education by getting a Master's degree. [Sharon didn't say in what field but I'd say it could be in something to do with the philosophy of natural landscaping.]

Ken and Sharon enjoy trips to places that are relatively unspoiled such as the beautiful Seychelles or places with charm such as an outdoor café in Paris.

Sheron Aktemichuk

(Andrews) seemed to be drawn back to Vancouver whenever she lived somewhere else. She worked as a para-legal secretary in Vancouver until she thought the grass was greener in Toronto.



Sharon Aktemichuk

A piano player in the band;
A teaching job she plans to land.
Enjoyment she derives from Math (?)
To Victoria will be her path.



Better opportunities in the legal field, chances to dabble in commercial art, and offers for part-time modelling could not hold her through very many frozen winters. She was soon back to enjoy the Vancouver style of living and working for a Whistler developer.

For a while Sharon lived in Vernon, where she was involved in the restaurant business (The Hacienda) and helping her parents at the Tiki Village. Even the easy lifestyle in Vernon could not hold her very long. Once again the coast beckoned and she returned to the coast to establish a successful accounting practice. She enjoys her work so

much in North Vancouver that she's still at it.

To satisfy her spirit of adventure Sheron cruises the world. She is exhilarated by new places to discover and new ways to drink champagne.



Shirley McTaggart

(Hunter) has returned to her first love after attending the birth of their first grandchild 12 years ago.

She had attended Miss Brown's art classes in Vernon for four years and continued to have an interest in art.

She had volunteered as a docent for Calgary's Glenbow Museum and Art Galley for twelve years. In addition, she was a buyer for a gift and car shop connected to the Centre for Performing Arts for eight years.

From the emergence of a new life, emerged her desire to express herself in pastel portrait painting. Now the interest has developed into a career of painting portraits of mostly children.

Shirley married a petroleum engineer 48 years ago. When Jack Hunter formed his own company, she became a director. She also taught English to new Canadians for a while.



When the family sits together, one has to look twice to notice that Shirley is the one sitting between her two attractive daughters, Catharine and Jill. Her son Bob and husband Jack are more easily distinguishable.

She feels happiest being beside water reminiscent of her childhood, especially when her six grandchildren are around.

Shirley and Jack have travelled extensively, mostly to warmer climates. From Calgary that probably means in any direction except north or east or west.



Shirley Nistor

(Ogasawara) and Normie were together for 43 happy years. They started married life in Keremeos but quickly returned to Vernon to manage Bella Vista Grocery, better known as the friendly "Normie's Store".

Shirley gave full time support to raising a family, first in cramped rooms with four sons in the back of the store, and then after the rooms started bulging, from a house at Okanagan Landing that's been her home for 40 years.



Shirley had the respect of all five males in the home, helped by shepherding athletic sons to hockey, lacrosse, baseball, cubs and scouts. Now she has the privilege of sharing her laughter and love with three grandchildren and three step-grandchildren.



A very deep void was created in 1999 with the passing of both Shirley's husband and son Doug while coming home for his father's funeral.

Shirley became a Medical Receptionist 25 years ago. She was so good that she's still at it.

Shirley co-chaired the huge, very successful 50's reunion in 1981, participated in the 1992 Centennial reunion, and, today, she's giving her enthusiastic insights to the Reunion 55 Committee.

Shirley Rivett (Larsson)

was always full of energy but would you believe she sailed to San Francisco in a 38-foot homemade sloop? The six-man crew started with 350 Graval pills. The pill box was empty before the stomach's were.

Shirley has also travelled in all six directions from her home in Chilliwack – north to the Shuswap, east to Europe, west to Hawaii, south to Mexico, down to Australia, and up into the sky. Parachuting did not last very long as there was not much time during free-fall to think about world peace or even finding a cure for cancer before reality hit.



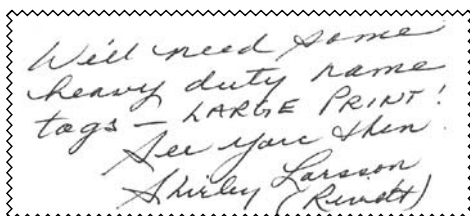
Shirley graduated as a nurse in 1958 and immediately married Eric Larsson. Karin arrived in 1963 and Kristine in 1965. Mother and daughters are now three great pals.

Karin has supplied her mother with two grandchildren – Trev now 23 and Alyssa now 20.

Shirley is currently living with her cat that she thinks loves her unconditionally. [Why else would she keep feeding her so diligently?]

For 38 years Shirley worked as a nurse in medical offices to avoid shift work. Now that she is retired, she manages two after-hours clinics – shift work! Like they say, for some to retire is to retread.

In her neat writing, she gave the Reunion 55 committee some sane advice. As you can see on the Morning Star photo on page 30, her advice was followed.



Shirley Wreede (Kury)

started working as a secretary for BC Power Commission after going to business college in Vernon. She did so well, she stayed with them for 35 years.

She started in their Smithers office but didn't stay long in the shadow of the late-night sun on majestic Hudson Bay Mountain. Shirley had gone with a girlfriend to the beautiful northern part of our province but when her girlfriend married, Shirley got herself transferred to another beautiful area – Invermere – in the shadow of Bugaboo Glacier.

After five or six years, she asked to be transferred to home turf – Vernon – where Silver Star Mountain cast no shadow on her luck. She met Bill Kury. She had sung *Beautiful Heaven* at our 1955 Honours' Day Banquet by heart but now she could sing the song from her heart.



Mountain.

Shirley and Bill Kury love to travel by ship. In between cruises, they hook up their fifth wheel and head out into the big world of nature. In between cruises and jaunts around in their trailer, Shirley volunteers her expert secretarial skills in the church office, and her beautiful voice singing heavenly songs in the church choir.



Shirley Wreede

A musical student is this Shirl,
The "rythm bones" she likes to twirl.
Book keeping is her plan at June,
When school is finished soon.

When she married Bill in 1974, she not only got a caring husband but a built-in family of three children. That gave her a head start in getting grandchildren. While most of us had to be married 20 or 30 years before we would have a chance to spoil our grandchildren, Shirley could do it after only eight years of married life.

Shirley kept working until 1986 when her arthritis became too painful to continue. She continues to spend her pain-free time kibitzing with her five grandchildren who range in age from 22 years to 2 years, volunteering, and sleeping in — until the sun lights up Silver Star

Ted Kozub started off as a taxation manager after attending Mount Royal College and taking accounting courses from University of Calgary. After getting his CMA designation, he worked with Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas, and taught taxation and accounting at University of Calgary.

He served on various committees representing the petroleum industry in Ottawa on oil and gas taxation policies. For two years he was national president of the Canadian Petroleum Tax Society.



After 16 years in Alberta, Ted moved back to the Okanagan with his then-wife and daughter Lori. Lori went on to graduate from UBC and is now director of marketing for a public Vancouver company.

Revenue Canada quickly recognized Ted's enormous talent and vast knowledge. Within six months, the federal government assigned Ted to the Rev Can Dept. of Finance joint task force in Ottawa for the drafting, introduction, and implementation of Tax Reform. For two years Ted commuted to Ottawa. Then he trained central BC accountants and lawyers on the Tax Reform legislation that he had so carefully helped prepare.

After a stint with Special Criminal Investigations to make sure the Tax Reform was being followed, Ted headed the entire business audit enforcement division in the Penticton office. [I was going to bring in some humour until I realized I was dealing with Canada Customs and Revenue.]

After 10 years with Rev Can Ted opened up his own firm and, within four years, had a staff of thirty people including wife number two. He became senior Tax Partner when his firm merged with KPMG.

Once his talents were turned loose (i.e., Ted retired), he started working on special tax projects, mostly fighting Rev Can and sitting on the boards of four public companies and the Penticton Golf Club.

Sequential wife number three, Janet Parker, must now try to keep up to the male dynamo. As a physical fitness freak, Ted hits the gym five times a week, skis the black diamonds whenever there is snow, and packs a big club on the golf course. He won the Fairview Mountain Seniors Open Tournament last year in a field of 130. Not bad for a 10 handicap!

Velma Forry (Crawford)

trained as a psychiatric nurse in Essondale and then became a dedicated nurse in a variety of challenging places. She started at Essondale Hospital and then came back to Vernon to work in Dellview Hospital.



Her marriage to Jack Crawford in 1965 soon brought on maternalistic pleasures – a son and daughter. Brian and Cindy have now given Velma para-maternalistic pleasures – five grandsons, one step grandson and one step-granddaughter, ranging in age from 7-19.

Velma moved to Nanaimo to be a psychiatric nurse at Drug Centre and at Brannen Lake Correctional Centre.



For a while she was taxi-grandmom. She froze through many cold winter soccer games, giving the support that grandchildren only really begin to appreciate once it's no longer needed.

Velma got lymphoma at age 52 so she went on long term disability until she retired in Ladysmith.

Velma volunteers at a library but a recent commitment keeps her mind young and her body agile. She has her oldest grandson living with them.

Verena (Rena) East

(Todd) and Clance Todd raised a family of gifted, healthy, and active children in North Vancouver. The four children kept Rena busy with their swimming, gymnastics, group sports, bands, choirs, and skiing.



The air up there among the trees on the North Shore Mountains must have been good because son Gordon became a forester, daughter Shelley a I.C.U. nurse, son Ian a university grad "cable guy" and daughter Barbara a dental assistant. Mother Rena became an Administrator for an Adult Day Care Centre once the children had established themselves in life.



Rena started her nursing career as a Paediatrics Nurse after graduating from Royal Columbian Hospital in 1958 and United Church Leadership Training Program in Naramata in 1959. She immediately married Clance, moved to North Vancouver, and shortly thereafter, started her family.

Rena and Clance have lived in Lynn Valley for 30 years where Clance's 98 year-old mother still lives.

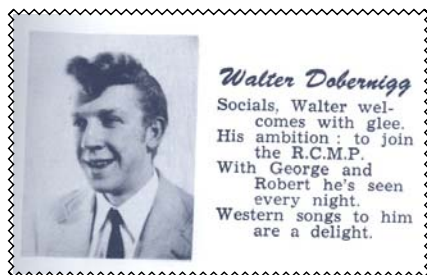
Clance's career was with the Super Valu, Kelly Douglas and IGA. systems.

The family spent their summer holidays first in the Okanagan and then in the Cariboo. Now that Rena and Clance Todd have retired, they winter in Whistler and but continue to summer in the Cariboo. They continue to enjoy Beautiful BC while volunteering in local school, health centre, and children's arts festivals.

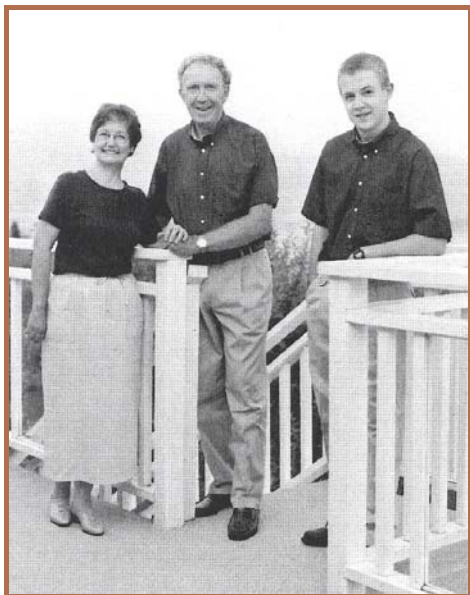
Rena and Clance's four grandchildren have blended well together. Malcolm and Lachlan are Gordon's sons and Jake and Billy are Barbara's sons. All four create lots of laughter and have wonderful experiences for Rena to share with friends and relatives.

Walter Dobernigg was born in Edmonton but in 1948 his parents found a warmer place to raise their family -- Vernon.

Walter got a variety of experiences working at a number of jobs after high school graduation, including two years with the fish and wildlife department.



After 12 years he found a job that gave him the independence and variety that he wanted. An international company paid him to drive to the most fantastic corners of our continent. Not only did he travel all over western North America, Walter also met people from the rest of the world when he became a driver for Greyhound in 1967.



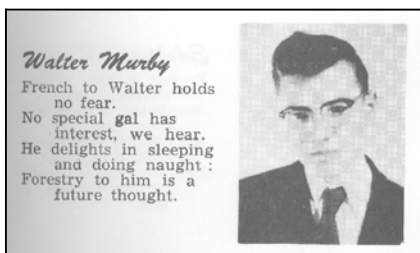
Walter and Martha Dobernigg will soon celebrate their silver anniversary. They felt the empty nest syndrome when their son, Stefan, went off to college.

Recently Walter has gone to the dogs. Well, at least that's an interpretation of Walter's statement, *When one retires from Greyhound we have a saying, "Retired drivers have gone to the dogs."*

[If I drove a bus for 32 years I'd probably bark at stupid car drivers too.]

Walter continues to use the palm of his well-worn hands in retirement in Vernon, but now with sandpaper in them. He builds things with wood.

Walter Murby rose up the echelons of the Bank of Montreal like an eagle gracefully catching upward currents until he was soaring on top of his field from the US Operations office in New York.



How did he start? The quiet, student graduated from Vernon High just like most of us and married a supportive spouse like the lucky among us. Margaret has been his support for 45 years, being the mother of their children Nadine and Bud and grandmother of their grandchildren Nolan and Nicole.

Walter joined Bank of Montreal in Vernon and soon became Auditor and Supervisor of Compensation and Benefits for BC Division. Soon he was Manager of the Ontario Division. Then he was manager in Corporate Headquarters Division in Montreal. Walter was soaring— Senior Manager, Compensation and Benefits for World Operations headquartered in Toronto.

Walter caught a side current for a while. He took time away from BoM to give of his financial expertise to the Federal Government in Ottawa, first two years with the Anti-Inflation Board and then two years with the Human Rights Commission.

All the while, Walter was strengthening his soaring power. He studied Economics and Commercial Law at UBC, Industrial Relations at Queen's University in Ontario, and Advanced Management at Harvard Business School. Wow! No wonder he was soon Senior Manager, Human Resources for United States Operations headquartered in New York.

So would you expect a downward plunge on retirement? Not for Walter. He moved from New York to Summerland ten years ago, travelled a bit and just caught another current. He was elected Director of Lions Club of Summerland for a year, President for 3 years, Zone chairman in 2002, Vice District Governor in 2003, and District D Governor for area stretching from Prince George to Wenatchee, Washington in 2004. And he's still soaring, boosted upward with various Appreciation Awards from the Summerland Lions, the Zone, and District, culminating with the 100% Zone Chairman award.

And to think that we sat in the same classes with him! Too bad Walter Murby won't be coming to Reunion 55 –he will be in Mackenzie as District Governor for the Lions Club.

Walter Worobey, PhD, has been moving down ever since he left Vernon. I'm not talking about his status in the academic world (he was a physics professor at State University of New York for a year and represented the president of UBC at the 200th anniversary celebration of Rutgers University) or in his profession (he worked on the forefront of microelectronics development) but the common ordinary kind, the up-and-sell-your-house-and-move kind. He has moved south nine times.

Teacher Al Humphreys and Walter's first award (\$200 bursary) inspired his first move down to UBC in Vancouver to get a degree in engineering physics. His next move was down to New Jersey to marry charming Val and in 1965, get a doctorate in low temperature physics at Rutgers University.

Then he moved down to Pennsylvania to help Bell Telephone develop the first touch-tone phone. At Bell he was actually being paid for doing something he really liked – research. Val was so happy she got him to settle down long enough to raise three bright sons – Dan, Alan and Brian.



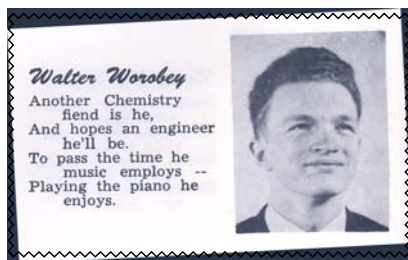
To start a stint in fiber optics and solar energy at TRW, Dr. Worobey and Val moved down to Los Angeles.

Finally they moved as far south as he could, down to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where Walter helped develop plasma flat panel display pixels at Sandia National Labs.

Walter's first big move up was to retire in upstate New York, where he now snorkels

in George Lake, hikes, boats, gardens, travels, and plays the good loser in tennis to Val, his supportive wife of 45 years.

Finally he doesn't need to stay up at nights, worrying about talking in his sleep and revealing classified information that he had to keep secret for so long.



Wayne Halvarson went on to graduate from UBC with a BA degree in Biology and Psychology.

For 13 years he taught science in junior and senior high schools in Armstrong and Vernon.



Wayne Halvarson
English and Ag. to him
are a dream ;
In sports he is right on
the beam.
A fun loving boy is
Wayne you know--
To a future in Forestry
he plans to go.



In 1972 he accomplished two things that have remained significant for the rest of his life. First he married Wendy Burnside from Duncan, who has remained his loving partner for 33 years. Secondly he built a house on a small acreage on the outskirts of Vernon that has remained the family home for 33 years.

Wendy and Wayne have three sons who are all taller than their parents – Reece (25), Kelsey (22), and Torrey (18). Kelsey is married.

Wayne sent some fascinating pictures of his hiking activities but his occupation after his teaching career at Seaton Junior High School (1972-74) is not given.

Wayne goes on to say that he is totally retired now and keeps occupied with ministerial work, gardening, golf and hiking.



What a way to live!

Winnifred (Ivy)

Hayden (Reeve) told us that her family, friends and acquaintances have been calling her Ivy since infancy. Winnifred, an “imposing, gloomy, almost Wagnerian name,” she writes, “was inflicted on me by a Grade One teacher.” Ivy sounds much more lighthearted and sunny and much more like her jovial personality.



Ivy has three children and four grandchildren and Sid, an enduring friend in the Okanagan. She had a husband once but is contentedly single now.

She studied at York University and has had dozens of jobs – reporting, editing, advertising, and publishing in dozens of places – Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal, and Toronto, as well as unheard-of-little towns like Milverton on the outskirts of Stratford where her two cats are at home.

During her communications career, she was awarded a citizenship award and several journalism awards.

Ivy Reeve shares with us some contemplative words:

A graphic showing handwritten text on lined paper, enclosed in a decorative orange border. The text is written in cursive and reads:

Like many of us in the Class of '55, I've done what I wanted to do, done what I didn't want to do, and am looking forward to more of the former and less of the latter.

Yvonne LePage

(Anderson)'s great love and triumphs were with automotive dealerships. During her 43-year career, she found that good supervision is the art of getting average people to do superior work.



Yvonne married John Anderson quite soon after graduating from Vernon High. She worked for a few years at Associated Growers office in Vernon and then at Vernon Box and Pine Lumber Company office developing her talents for the challenge and success she would have once she started on her automobile career in 1962.



She moved to Nelson where, in two years, she was promoted to Dealership Comptroller. In 1969 she took another big step up the corporate ladder when she moved to Courtenay on Vancouver Island. Soon she was the highest standing person in British Columbia General Motors Senior Accounting and was tied for top place in Canada.



Yvonne and John Anderson downsized to a retirement home in central Vancouver Island in 1998. Yvonne writes:

IN COURTENAY WE ENJOY HAVING OUR TIME TO
DO WHATEVER WE WANT TO AND TAKING TRIPS IN
OUR MOTORHOME WITH OUR KITTYCATS.

In Memoriam



1937-1957

John Yarama

Johnny's interests lie in sports ;
On diamond, ice and indoor courts.
In years ahead, a Phys. Ed. teacher is what he plans to be.



1937-1958

Philip Bulman

He goes places in his car of green ;
With Barb he's almost always seen.
This term's council knows him well ;
And at Chemistry he's no great shakes.



1937-1981

David Neal

A guardian of the woods is Neal,
Since forest ranging is his zeal.
His favorite topic : girls are
Much more fun than guys or cars.



1937-1981

Jack Craig

His favorite subject is Law 93,
But his future interest is forestry.
He's frequently with "All de boys"—
You not only see them-- what a noise !



1937-1981

Dick Munk

At basketball this boy is a whiz.
Boys' sports rep. on the Council he is.
The grade 10's really dread, they say,
His fiendish tricks of initiation day.

Sharon Irvine

Sharon's one of the Landing crowd,
Who are just as swell as they are loud.
Home Ec's a subject she likes to see :
She's interested in Len—quite obviously !



1937-1989

Rose Malysk

Rose, a pretty nurse to be.
Likes Law and Math and History.
Sewing and art are her hobbies, we hear :
And of swimming and hunting she has no fear.



1937-1990

Marlayn Follis

Her favorite friends all call her "Skinner".
In basketball she's always a winner.
Chemistry is all Greek to her ;
Driving cars she does prefer.



1937-1997



Norman Vennard
From Needles hails
this comely youth:
To be a teacher is in
truth
His ambition. Math he
does with zest
'Cause that's the sub-
ject he likes best.

1932-1997



Don Bearisto
Donny's girl friend's
name is June.
He'll be a draftsman
pretty soon.
Baseball is his hobby,
too;
There's lots of things
this boy can do.

1937-1998



Kent Hubble
Kent, our gay and
witty boy
Finds life to be just
plain joy.
School often seems a
pain in the neck.
His ambition: to get
out on rec.!

1937-1999



Lorne Shockey
Lorne was one of the
"red pants" few
Who shocked the school
through and
through.
This guy is really on
the beam
'Cause he's high scorer
on the team.

1937-2002



Shelley Gibson
To see the world is
Shelley's plan;
As a stewardess the
world she'll span.
A rider of the horse is
she,
She says "the open
air's for me".

1937-2004

Shelly Gibson was planning on being with us at Reunion 55. But it was not to be.

Also: Gordon Rowatt 1937-1958
Belle Maksymiw 1937-1963
Harold Kotke 1935-1983
Jerry Sparrow 1937-1987
Evelyn Stusek 1937-1998
Harold Greeno, 1937-1999
Larry Spurgeon 1937-1999
Lee Smith 1937-2003

Clara Stoll 1937-2005
Lorne Francks 1936-2005
George Chobatar
Ken Hall
Gary Dickson
David Kineshanko
Jim Siglet
Norm Vennard

Although Derry McCulloch and Gordon Follis were a year ahead of us, we were all shocked when their joyful plane ride ended in tragedy in 1956.

[If you happen to be on these pages, it is by mistake. Consider yourself lucky enough to forgive me.]



Classmates hoping to reconnect at Reunion 55



Ak Sakakibara



Alan Trehearne



Alfred Fester



Art Fester



Barry McGill



Brian Backler



Dan Rippin



Don Bock-Phillips



Edgar Hunter



Eugene Weleschuk



George Parchomchuk



Gordon Wirth



Harold Pillar



Harry Costerton



Helmut Fandrich



Jack Dale



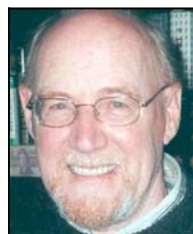
Jim Gordon



John Desimone



John Dobernigg



John Lane



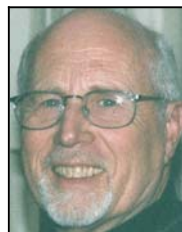
John Toporchak



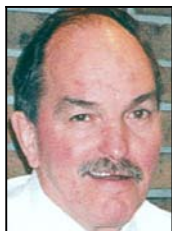
Norm Hubner



Ralph Harvey



Richard Combe



Roy DePourcq



Walt Dobernigg



Walter
Worobey



Anne Firman



Anne Grierson



Annette Daem



Arlene Biollo



Barb Austrup



Barb Curry



Betty Baird



BettyJune Sherba



Betty Mori



Bev Nolan



Birdie Cooney



Charlene Drage



Eleanor Hatten



Elizabeth Krestinski



Ellen Hein



Francis Smigol



Gert Beckman



Grace Kreutzer



Helen Sasges



Janet Glana



Jean Ferguson



Jeanne Bickert



Joan Genovy



Joanne Braun



Joyce Arnold



Joye Sengotta



June Husband



Loretta Blower



Loretta Urbetis



Lydia Price



Marguerite Griffiths



Marnie Beveridge



Mary Sterling



Maureen Carswell



Miyoko Chiba



Nellie Fandrich



Phyllis Hodgson



Rena East



Rita Gellert



Ruth Stefens



Sheron Aktemichuk



Shirley Nistor



Shirley Rivett



Shirley Wreede



Velma Forry



Yvonne LePage



For all those
without photos

Appendix 1: THE CLASS OF '55

(DEJA VU ALL OVER AGAIN)

Jerry Jellison on DVD shown at Reunion 55, June 11, 2005

Hi There Classmates,

GREETINGS FROM SUNNY CALGARY!!!!

Can you believe it? 50 years have passed since that day in June 1955, when we all assembled in the gymnasium of VSHS.

Do you remember?

We were dressed in our best bib and tucker, feeling very, very important; after all, we were the focus of the day, all 122 of us.

Perhaps there was also a little nervousness, maybe even apprehension. (def. there was for me!!)

This was the day long awaited the official end of our high school education.

Now, we all faced the big decision, WHAT NEXT? University? Technical or trade school? Or go out and get a job?

WOW! Pretty scary stuff. We had been thinking of this time as the beginning of freedom and independence. But now the reality of that scary word, responsibility, begins to invade our senses.

But for today at least, it was a day of celebration, of recognition, a day of being saluted as the CLASS OF '55!!

So, there we were, surrounded by parents, friends, teachers, and other onlookers, about to go thru the formalities of graduation day, a dinner, a dance and a party after the party, out at OK Landing, with bonfires, some libations, some music and well, you know!!

But I'm getting ahead of myself. Up on the decorated stage, there was:

*Mr. Larry Marrs, our School Principal,

*School District Inspector (Mr. A. S. Towell),

*Business and civic leaders who were there to present awards to a very impressive gathering indeed.

As I recall, the beautiful and classy Jean Ferguson was also on the stage where she would later be recognized and receive the Ayers Cup award for all around School Citizenship.

Ralph Harvey, Andy Sokol, Walter Worobey, Helmut Fandrich, Verena East, Barb Curry, Dick Munk, Helen Sasges, Marilyn Hein, to name just a few, would all receive major awards.

And there I was, sitting huddled down on a chair on far stage right, looking like I wanted to be anywhere but on that stage, where everybody could see me, for heaven's sake, waiting nervously, for when I had to go to the podium to deliver the valedictory.

Most of the rest of that day was a blur to me , tho' I know that I had a good time – no, a wonderful time.

I recall that part of my valedictory was a wish for all my fellow grads that:

Success and happiness go with you wherever you may go and whatever you may do.

Which brings me up to today. Here I am, a lot heavier, less healthy, sadder but at least a little wiser and much more experienced in life than 50 years ago. Yet, as I look out over the audience from this screen, I see that all of you ladies still look as beautiful and the guys as handsome as ever.

Unfortunately, my health problems prevent me from being with you physically, so you have to tolerate me in this electronic form for a few minutes. (And be kind – remember that the camera adds at least -- what is it – 50 pounds?)

Before I continue, I want to acknowledge the warmth and persistence of George Parchomchuk , who tracked me down about 4-5 years ago. Ever since, he has maintained contact with me, telling me what our fellow classmates were doing, told me about the various gatherings and reunions, who attended, etc. He wrote to me so much about Vernon that for awhile I thought he was still living there.

George, you are a terrific communicator and a delight to know. I'll bet you were one hell of a Police Chief!! Thank you for your friendship.

Through George's influence, the awesomely talented Walter Worobey, who is living with his wife in upstate New York, called me one day as they were passing through Calgary. We had a great chat on the phone and have exchanged a few emails since then as well. What an interesting life of achievement you have lived, Walter.

I also want to say a word of appreciation to a lady who used to make my heart beat a little faster when we were 16/17... the lovely Phyllis Hodgson, who is now married to Jim Scott and should be properly addressed as Phyllis Scott. But she'll always be Phyl Hodgson to me. She got word that I hadn't got around to sending in my bio to Helmut, so she got on the phone and called me and told me in no uncertain terms that I better get busy and get that bio in. She made it clear that the class valedictorian MUST be involved in this reunion.

So, I dutifully replied "Yes, ma'am I'll get right on it." So, thanks for the much needed PUSH.

But seriously Phyl, it was great to reconnect with you and to hear about the life you have lived and the family you have raised and are so proud of now.

I also need to say a few words about the amazing Helmut Fandrich. When I sent my bio to Helmut, that started an email dialogue between us and it enabled me to get caught up on Helmut's life. This classmate of ours is the embodiment of an incredible success story. The man is a professional engineer with a PhD.

He also has a very inventive, creative mind and has made a breathtaking contribution to the Forestry Industry and to those who are concerned about protecting and safeguarding our environment.

Helmut's wife is also very well educated and they produced four children who are also holders of advanced degrees, as are their spouses. Talk about a commitment to education I!! You are amazing, Helmut!

I have now had occasion to read some of the written material that Helmut has prepared for this reunion. My reaction?? ENVY!!

I told Helmut that I wish I was as good an engineer as he is a writer!! I'm supposed to be the writer, but Helmut has shown he has a wonderful aptitude for humour as well as a sensitivity and creativity in writing that is very impressive. How about sharing some of that bountiful talent of yours, Helmut??

I also need to pass on my compliments and congratulations to the Reunion Committee under the chairmanship of Eleanor Hatten. I believe the committee also included Phyl Hodgson, Shirley Nistor, John Toporchak, John Dobernigg, Jean Ferguson, Birdie Cooney, Gert Beckman and Joye Sengotta.

I want you to know how very pleased and thankful I am that you authorized me to make this presentation electronically. In this way, I can feel that I at least had a small part in this reunion celebration of the GREAT Class of '55 III!!!!

It's been a huge undertaking for all you committee members, a million and one details, numerous meetings, assignments, follow-up, endless patience and probably the occasional little flare up as nerves got a little frayed.

Bottom Line? You did it! It's happening and will no doubt go off like a fine tuned watch. You deserve the thanks of all of us so here's mine. THANK YOU and WELL DONE!!

It is also appropriate to pay a tribute to those classmates who aren't here because of sadly having fallen asleep in death much too early. They include: Johnny Yarama, Phil Bulman, David Neal, Jack Craig, Dick Munk, Sharon Irvine, Rose Malysh, Marlayn Fallis, Norm Vennard, Don Bearisto, Kent Hubble, Lorne Shockey, Gordon Rowatt, Harold Kotke, Jerry Sparrow, Evelyn Stusek, Harold Greeno, Larry Spurgeon, Lee Smith, Ken Shier, Ken Hall and Gary Dickson. I could say kind and deserving things about each one. Suffice it to say "May you all rest in peace."

I am taking a long time to get to my main thesis, but my comments have alluded to it. And here it is.

The Class of '55 was the largest grad class in Vernon High School history. Now that's interesting but big isn't always best or beautiful.

But this time, IT IS BOTH.

My dear classmates, we have the honour of being members of one of the most talented grad classes ever produced. We have an incredible number of individuals who have achieved, contributed, or given back, in a dizzying number of ways.

So, I speak now in tribute to THE CLASS OF '55.

50 years ago in June, at Vernon Senior High
A group of students was busily making ready,
To be recognized for all their achievements
That are best described... as heady.

There was important academics,
As well as sports and much of the arts,
In each of these challenging endeavours,
Our classmates more than did their part.

We shone brightly in Math and Physics
As well as Chemistry, Biology and such,
And of course, in English, French and Music
We also achieved so very much.

To those who looked closely, way back then,
Have now seen what we provided to the world,
Like a myriad of beautiful multi-coloured flags
That were, for the first time, being unfurled.

Some shone in Special Ed and in teaching,
And several in the sciences too
Nursing was a major call to 16 of our girls,
Healing and soothing was what they would do.

Some became business folk, a few chose forestry,
And of, course, there were a couple of engineers.
I refer of course to Walter and Helmut,
Who dazzled the world for many years.

We have a highway builder, a master gardener,
And yes, an embalmer too,
Consultants, retailers and real estate specialists, Yikes!!
how many professions can one class possibly do?

There's pharmacy, charity and even some logging,
A librarian, a rancher and some who love jogging.

Office workers of many types and a school bus driver too.
And how many accountants should we admit to you?

There's a power lineman,
a deli cook and fireman

And a very able policeman,
Who would so closely look
Where ever his investigation would take him
To find those sneaky crooks.

We have a Red Cross worker, many housewives
And a world travelling bon vivant,
An orator to tell us stories and a clergyman,
To guide and remind us as to what really counts.

One of our engineers (Helmut by name),
Is also an amazing inventor,
He has contributed so much to the forestry industry
They will forever to him be indentured.

We have some bankers, a surveyor and a secretary,
A reporter, an editor, and an advertiser too,
Then of course we have a publisher,
Who tells everybody what to do.

Naturally we have some pilots,
And an aircraft mtce engineer,
And there's an airworthiness inspector.
He's the guy who says "you're not flying that plane out of here".

We also have a model, a bookkeeper,
An insurance agent who protects the house in which you live,
And a professional Santa Claus who reminds us
That we're happiest when we give.

There's an HR Executive (we're not sure what he does),
And a specialist in Children's Ed ,
A tractor distributor,
And several farmers who keep us fed.

We have a mayor and a municipal councillor.
And several civic workers too,
And a manager of airports,
The guy who tells pilots what to do.

We have a drill team instructor
Who trained baton twirlers so fair
She taught them to concentrate and focus
To catch those batons twirling high in the air.

We have one who served bravely in the Air Force, .
Another in the Coast Guard, where you're often wet,
Another, a community policing specialist
And another- Royal Roads Academy? You bet!

There's a classmate who is great grandmother,
Not many of those not yet,
And a sewing and embroidery specialist,
Not many of those either, I'll bet.

We have a music dispenser, and then an explorer,
Who says she is also a beauty on the beach,
A restaurant worker who says that good food
Is always within easy reach (if you know where to go)

We have a Medical Asst. in the military
And a teacher of dance and baton,
A potter who creates wonders
And a head nurse who just wants her patients
To heal, give up their bed and move on.

We have a teacher I assessor of nurses,
And an administrative secretary,
And a meteorology supervisor,
Who, of the weather, is always wary.

We have an employee of the Can. Ice Patrol
And a legally inclined court worker,
A lay pastor, who brings calm to disaster
And an administrator of day care, who from kids is not a shirker.

The class of 55 also has a Music Store Manager,
And a specialist in commercial art.,
As well as a paralegal (almost a lawyer)
And a card store manager, with messages from the heart.

We have a Medical Receptionist,
And a manager of several clinics
Cheer up everyone of you,
We're getting very close now to the finish.

But we have to face it folks,
Even tho' it's an unhappy situation,
The Class of 55 even gave the world
A Manager of Taxation.

This next might redeem us a little, you see,
We tried to re-establish the norm,
How did we do that, you ask?
We provided Canada with a specialist in tax reform.

But just when things were starting to look up,
We are suddenly back in a uncomfortable situation,
Cuz we also gave the world,
A specialist, in Taxation Criminal Investigation.

In this land of beauty and of plenty,
Our rep in Fish and Game acted as a sentry,
If you treat our wildlife badly,
To our jails you may find entry.

We have a Greyhound Bus Driver, a heavy duty mechanic
And one of the preventive mtce kind,
Did I mention an Automotive Comptroller,
And another as a Sr. Acct, who the BC Govt did find.

And finally, my friends,
Let the drums roll for these.
Walter Worobey has not only done a lot in this world,
He's done it with grace and ease.

A physics professor in New York, he taught budding engineers well,
Then later he worked on the touch tone phone, with a company known as Bell.
Worked in Fibre Optics and Solar Energy with the famous NRC,
And finally as a Research Engineer, on the Nat'l Council for Security.

In the early days, Rick (Allan Trehearne) lived a dangerous life
As a member of the RAF he served in several countries of strife!
A peace-keeper in Suez, Malta, Cyprus and Libya, as a member of the RAF,
He was also a London "bobby" for 2 years, Until he got into the business of death.

There you have it, my dear friends,
An impressive list I know you'll agree,
Have I left someone out?
If you say yes, May I ask for some sympathy?

Now as you take this all in, does it take your breath away?
Contributors and achievers, of that there is no doubt,
The Class of 55 has really had it's day
So let's stand and applaud ourselves and give a mighty shout.

Last, but certainly not least,
Thank you from my heart,
It means a lot to me
That you allowed me this little part.

And now my friends, it's time to bid you adieu.
I leave with the memory of the song our Class has sung
I am impressed by who and what we have given to the world.
And I am able to say, of the 122 originals of the Class of 55 . . .
I am proudly one.

Warm wishes to each of you,
(He hopefully and wistfully thundered,)
Perhaps I'll be able to make it out,
For anniversary one hundred

Have a great party, guys.
If anyone gets their picture in the press
Or a write-up should appear in my mail,
I promise I won't use it for purposes like blackmail.

As I said to you all 50 years ago, may I say again today:

Success and happiness go with you wherever you may go and whatever you may do.

Thank you again for this privilege of speaking with you. I look forward to seeing you in 2055 for the 100 year reunion I!!

And my final word to you my friends is: PARTY ON, CLASS OF '55 !

Jerry Tellison

Appendix II EMOTIONS SOAR

Hugging, screaming, laughing like teenagers was the scene on Friday, June 10th, 1955, as classmates spotted one another arriving at the Schubert Centre for the 3-day trip down memory lane. For many, it was a "first time" connection since graduation in 1955 at the Vernon High School (demolished in 1998) in Polson Park. But no one had forgotten their classmates, which room they were in, what one another had excelled in, and who dated who. But all that mattered now was to reconnect, meet spouses and partners, and talk to all 89 classmates.

The significance of this 2005 event was that it was the first ever just for the 1955 class.

Many recalled the 1981 Reunion for all students from the '50's, and then a second Reunion in 1992 (Vernon's Centennial) for students from 1920-1959 (over 1000 attended). What had changed since 1955? Careers, retirement, grandparenthood, health, marriages, deaths, partners, homes, relocations and on and on.

As classmates registered, they were greeted by **Helen Donovan (Sasges)**, **Gert Kashuba (Beckman)**, **John (Deanna) Toporchak**, **Lydia Cumming (Price)**. The walls of the banquet room "wrapped around" the 147 people, (46 guests and 7 teachers) as if to step back in time. **Pat Bock-Phillips** (Don's wife of Class '58) designed and created the decor with guidance from **Jean Wetherill (Ferguson)** and assistance from **Joye Raber (Sengotta)** and **Phyllis Scott (Hodgson)**.

Ninety-five black 78 play records, each centre holding a grad face, were scattered amidst silhouettes of jivers and Nick's Candy Kitchen. Music notes and songs danced about the walls amongst authentic grad gowns, shirts and sweaters. The items of nostalgia looked down on the white-clothed tables holding lighted blue candles, frothy blue soda mugs and straws. Strings of blue and white lights sparkled on tree plants from the corners and every available space held photos on blue easels. The school colours of blue and white were everywhere - banners, pennants and classmates' attire. **Pat** accessorized the event decorations by dressing in a circular poodle skirt, scarf and saddle shoes. Live music by Kevin Kienlein floated softly during the weekend with the recognizable Four Lads, The Platters and The Four Aces. A buffet of savouries awakened appetites for the coming days.

Chairman **Eleanor Hatten** greeted the group officially, and reminded everyone to wear their 5x9 name tags all weekend, and to have fun.

So what about those years of everyone's lives between 1955 and 2005? Classmate **Dr. Helmut Fandrich** contributed a special keepsake; a lifetime legacy. He compiled, edited and printed in just 3 months, a 144-page coloured booklet, Reconnections available to everyone. He has embellished a memorabilia collection of early school photos, past

reunions, photos, teachers, candid occasions and biographical summaries, written with humour and sensitive recall. The closing pages hold a photo collection of those classmates deceased. The centre 100 pages cover every classmate, with their photos and lifetime highlights. Classmates said they read the booklets into the wee hours on Friday and before Saturday events began. With up-to-date backgrounds, the booklets proved helpful in preparing for conversations during the weekend, and will be a treasure to every classmate of 1955.

Saturday morning brought denim (reunion theme) and blue-clad groups to the downtown area for breakfast and travel plans) to visit Silver Star Mountain, Kal Lake Park, the Allen Brooks Centre and the Mural Tour. Vernon swarmed with grads, many returning to the site of the old VHS in Polson Park, and then joining the guided tour of the murals organized by **John Dobernigg**. The guide, albeit well tipped, said, "this has been my longest tour, with the least said by me and the most learned this group went back to 6 years of age and knew more than me."

Everyone looked forward to the Saturday Banquet and program of suspense, recalling the Graduation Banquet 50 years ago an air of formality and elegance, candles, linens, an Emcee, speakers and guests. A similar custom was upheld by **Rick (Alan) Trehearne**, who set a relaxed tone with his inimitable sense of humour and open sincerity. He put life in "perspective" for everyone before turning attentions to **Helmut Fandrich** for his address to his classmates. "Reconnections", he explained, "would be registered shortly, when it would become available to the public, in Museums and Libraries". Having to leave and attend his daughter's graduation in the USA, he was farewelled by his classmates with a standing ovation.

George Parchomchuk then came forward to acknowledge the teachers present, who were contacted and invited by **Shirley Ogasawara (Nistor)**. **Gordon & Margaret (McKinnon) Anderson, Stan Hoye, Norm Galloway (Lorraine) and Stan Bamford (Shirley)** honoured their students by their presence on Saturday evening. Fittingly, retired RCMP **George** "opened the files" of the teachers as a detective, in a humorous drama, roasting and toasting, to the delight of the audience. The change of mood was set by **Harry Costerton** and **Richard Combe**, who quietly read alternately, the names of 35 students taken early by death between 1957 and 2004.

1955 Class Valedictorian, **Jerry Jellison**, due to health reasons, was unable to attend. This couldn't be a reunion without the Valedictorian. Always the mature student at school, the "boy next door", good sport and all-round favourite classmate, **Jerry** pre-visualized the banquet setting on June 11, 2005 and created a 25-minute video valedictory address to be shown on a life-size screen. He seemed close enough to reach out and touch his face, as he appeared in colour, 50 years later.

"Jerry took us back to June 3, 1955", recalls **Jean Wetherill (Ferguson)** "as he described the stage, flowers, picket fence, dignitaries and staff. He recalled vividly our excitements and fears about the path ahead, as we leave our comfort of 12 years in school, and his own task of addressing his class, with sage advice and good wishes. How cleverly he did this in poetry form and then 50 years later, overwhelmed us by presenting again in poetry."

Jerry spoke with personal openness about his health, his struggle with lungs, immobility, and the death of his wife (VHS classmate '58) in 2003. He was, in so many ways, still the 18-year old boy we remembered, as he marvelled at the achievements of classmates' 55. He named each award recipient on June 3, 1955, and mentioned outstanding students who have since made valuable contributions to society in fields of health, environment and technology. In flowing poetry, he recognized every accomplishment and career of the entire class, leaving the group to quietly whisper their guesses and the names they knew that matched his descriptions. Tears fell as Jerry touched the hearts and memories of his classmates. His concluding remarks of 1955 - "may success and happiness go with you," concluded his video and still hold well. **Jerry** is forever Class Valedictorian 1955-2005.

It was almost surreal that classmates filled the risers for a group photo, just as they did in June '55, with only a few classmates missing. Those who registered but were unable to attend were **Barbara Rhoades (Fishier)**, **Walter Worobey**, **Sharon Smith (Dick)**, **Ralph Harvey**, **Maureen Beardsley (Carswell)**, **Bill Palmer**, **Dale French**, **Joelanne Stanford (Loheed)**, **Ivy Reeve (Hayden)**, **Phyllis Hanson**. Classmates travelled as far as Cairns, Australia – **Jack Dale and Fran (Smigol) Dale**, Halifax, Nova Scotia – **June (Husband) Chisholm**, Mexico – **Audrey Kosty**, Fredericton, New Brunswick – **Loretta Martens (Urbetis)**.

Many classmates danced the rest of the Saturday evening to the foxtrot and jive beats, while others visited with teachers and one another, making plans for Sunday's brunch and tour of O' Keefe Ranch. Some were in no hurry (after all, it's retirement now) and met again Monday for a group lunch in town to prolong the reconnections and guess what else? Plan another for 2010!

The Planning Committee of the Reunion, on behalf of all the classmates, extend special thanks to **Deanna Toporchak**, **Pat Bock-Phillips** and **Janet Arens** for assisting. **George Parchomchuk**, **Helmuth Fandrich**, **Lydia Cumming (Price)** and **Nellie Thompson (Fandrich)** were pivotal people in their relentless search for students and through their encouragement to attend, took the number of registrants (60 in April) to 89 by June 8th.

The Reunion was a joyous celebration of reconnecting after 50 years.

Jean Wetherill