

Please Note: Send membership fee checks to:

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Bowie Alumni Newsletter

Vol. VIII No. I, April 28, 2008

From the Editor of the Bowie Alumni Newsletter

Larry Lagle - Class of 1958

50 YEARS! WOW; when I write it, it looks like a really big number! I stood on that stage fifty years ago and gave a speech about all the things we had done and what we were going to do to change the world. I can still remember most of what I said. It sure doesn't seem like it has been such a long time. I still think that I received the best education that was available and it has served me well. Through my time at the University of Arizona, the United States Marine Corps, the Southern Pacific Railroad, the Northwestern Pacific Railroad, and the State of California, I always felt that I had a better chance of doing well and getting promotions because I had a better basic education than the other person. I can only thank the teachers and school administration for giving me what I needed to help me through these fifty years. They enabled me to provide for my family in a better way than a lot of the people around me.

On June 14, 2008 the Bowie School Reunion will be held and I hope to see all of you there. People are working very hard to make this happen and see that everyone who attends will have a great time. I have attached a copy of the invitation. Mark your calendars and plan your vacations around this date. My wife and I are going to make a trip through New Mexico and Utah when we leave Bowie.

Attached also is a notice of Annual Membership Fee. Due to the high cost of making and sending out notices, the Newsletter, and various invitations; the Reunion Group Board of Directors is asking for an annual membership fee of \$10.00 to help defray these rising costs.

Please send/E-mail Evelyn (Spikes) Lathram, elathram@juno.com, any address changes and the addresses of other school members. Each time I mail out the Newsletter and/or E-mail it to the addresses on our lists, I get a few back as undeliverable. Then we lose track of people. We want to be able to keep in touch with as many of our classmates and friends as possible. Keep us up-dated!

Those we will miss:

Again, I say that this part of the Newsletter is the hardest to write. I know that this list is incomplete and I apologize for those names that are left off or for inaccurate information. Please send me any updates or corrections and I will include them in the next issue. I don't have the room to have the full obituaries reprinted from the newspapers but I wanted to let the readers know about the persons that I have heard have passed away.

Rena Carol (Ioli) Brdecko, Class of 1957

Carol Brdecko of Bowie died in Tucson on Feb. 12, 2008 at the age of 69. She was born in Tanque, Ariz. on Dec. 19, 1938.

Carol had lived in Bowie most of her life and was a Bowie High School graduate in 1957. She attended Bowie United Methodist Church and was a former member of the Bowie Lioness Club. On Oct. 18, 1958 in Bowie, she married Frank Brdecko who survives her.

Also surviving are her daughters Kathy (Tim) Eyrich of Alliance, Neb., Debra (Jack) Garrett of Yukon, Okla. and Angela (Reggie) Ordonez of Bowie; and her sons Frank, III of Yukon, Okla. and James of Bowie. Her sister Toni (Ron) Priest of Oklahoma City, Okla. and a brother David Ioli of Bowie along with 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren also survive her. Preceding her in death was her parents William (Bill) D. and Rena Margaret (Caceletto) Ioli, a son Tony Wayne, a brother William (Bill/Junior) and her sister Terri Hargrove.

I didn't know about the passing of Terri (Ioli) Hargrove, Class of 1953. I would appreciate any information that anyone has and I will include it in the next Newsletter.

Larry Lagle, Editor cllagle@mindsync.com

Roma Jacobs, (long time Bowie resident)

Roma Jacobs, of Willcox and a former Bowie, resident died March 31, 2008 at the age of 83. She was born in Dexter, N.M. on Feb. 5, 1925.

Roma came to the Bowie area in 1952 with her husband Wallace whom she married on June 14, 1941 in Carlsbad, N.M. She was a member of the Willcox United Methodist Church, the Willcox United Methodist Women, was past Worthy Matron of the Order of Eastern Star in Bowie and did volunteer work in the community.

Roma is survived by her sons John Ray (Sandra) Jacobs of Belen, NM, Glen K. (Catherine) Jacobs of Midland, Minn., and Shelby (Lynne) Ray of San Simon, Ariz., and her sister Clara Rae Waggner of Phoenix. She is also survived by her grandchildren Robb (Shaunda) Jacobs, Cynthia (Billy) Sedillo, Michael (Tawsha) Jacobs, Megan and Sean Jacobs, and her great-grandchildren Shalynn, Emory, Makayla, Jace, Randylea and Garrett. Preceding her in death was her husband Wallace in 2000 and her parents John and Lillian (Bledsoe) Bible.

Desert tree for Jack Spikes and Phyllis Slinker

From Evelyn (Spikes) Lathram:

My father, Jack D. Spikes, and his longtime companion, Phyllis Slinker, were members of a running group, "Feel the Power Group". They worked with Phoenix Parks and Rec and the Living Tree Celebration Program. They arranged to have a desert tree planted near the Ramada in Pima Canyon in South Mountain Park in Phoenix. A plaque was mounted on a boulder and reads "In Memory of Phyllis and Jack, Happy Trails, 5-18-2007". The tree is dormant now, but will look better next spring. This was a favorite place of theirs

About 20 of their friends from the running club, a bicycle club, and family and friends met to dedicate the tree and remember them. It was a very windy day, but everyone was reluctant to leave. We were there almost 2 hours.

Evelyn

From Ken Ansley:

Yesterday morning, Dec 7, 2007, Lucy and I attended a blessing of a tree that was previous planted in memoriam for Jack Spikes and his lady Phyllis, at South Mountain Park in Phoenix.

Jack's daughter Evelyn Lathram and her husband Chuck were in attendance as were several members of Jack and Phyllis's hiking and bicycle clubs. I took some pictures of the group and the monument with plaque; I will send them to you soon.

I am sure there would have been a larger turn out from other Bowie folks living in the Phoenix area, but it was predicted to be a rainy day. Fortunately the rain held off until the afternoon. It was a very nice gathering of friends of Jack and Phyllis, plus Evelyn and Chuck and Lucy and me. We even took our dog with us for the outing (lol).

I hope that all is well with you and Joan.

Ken and Lucy Ansley

Bowie News and Letters from Friends and Classmates:

I have had computer problems and lost a lot of data. For those of you that sent me E-mail and you don't see it here please sent me an up date on your where-a-bouts and what you are doing. I need input to have enough information to make a paper. Hopefully I won't loose it anymore. I learned my lesson about backing up on a harddisc copy. Some of the letters are edited for content and/or to combine a couple of letters/emails and to make easier reading; not to change meaning.

Larry Lagle, Editor

From Mr. Bruce Brown – Superintendent Bowie School System:

I am the current superintendent of the Bowie School System. I was here from 1983-91 and now from 2004-????????? I hope you know that Bowie High School and San Simon High Schools have recently (Jan., 2007) combined for athletics once again. We were combined under a Bobcats mascot in the 80's and 90's before that broke up. Our mascot for the combined athletic program is the Cougars and the colors are gold/white/black. At the 1A State Volleyball Tournament in Apache Junction and Desert Ridge High Schools our Cougar Volleyball team finished an undefeated 1A Regional and 1A Conference schedule to win the 1A State Volleyball

Championship. Casey Lewis from San Simon was the 1A East Coach of the year. Four of the girls were all region and state tournament team selections, Luz Cuevas was the 1A East Player of the Year. I was at the state tournament, but I did not accompany the team home for their triumphant return. They were greeted upon their return to Bowie and San Simon on Sunday afternoon by people in a caravan through town and on the streets of Bowie. Ernie and probably Bobbie Blandin, Nancy-Jean, Florina and others were instrumental in organizing that event. The team was very appreciative of their reception. The Bowie Chamber of Commerce has presented the team with bracelets with a medallion commemorating the accomplishment. This is the 2nd State Championship to my knowledge, one in softball in 1991 and this one in volleyball. There have been numerous regional and other championships, but only 2 at the state level from my knowledge.

As soon as we can we will start to upload the roughly 2,800 pictures taken during the tournament. A ceremony will be held to post the championship banner when we get one ordered and in. I will let everyone know when that happens.

Bruce Brown

From: Peggy (Sheffield) Dahlvang

I received the last newsletter and enjoyed reading it, although I don't remember many of the people. I do remember Dave Areingdale, as we were in school about the same time.

I was born in Bowie in 1938, (actually in Olga, which a Railroad siding where trains passed each other, in a company house there for the Section Foreman, my father, John Sheffield). When I was about 5 yrs. old, we moved into a railroad house just North of Bowie, called the A&E Yards. My sister, Billie Jean, and my brother, Charles Sheffield were students and they both graduated from Bowie High School in about 1945 and 1946. I attended school there until 1951. My parents moved to Benson, AZ, when my mother, a railroad telegrapher, was transferred. My father had to retire from the railroad very early due to his poor health. He passed away in 1952.

Ken Ansley and I are "shirttail relatives" as my brother's first wife was his sister. We have kept in touch with Ken and Lucy all these years.

Larry, please let me know if I owe the newsletter fee. I will be happy to donate something in order to keep the letter coming. Some day I would like to attend one of the luncheons or reunions.

Peggy (Sheffield) Dahlvang

559-625-1965

email: dahlvang2@comcast.net

From: Todd Brown

I am the son of Leroy Brown. I am looking for anyone that would like to share stories or any other information on my dad. Also looking for the same type of stuff on his sisters Jean, Joann, Sandra, or Jane. I know very little about his siblings or their lives. I believe they have all passed on now. Anything anyone could provide would be appreciated. I can be contacted via e-mail at tcbphoto@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Todd Brown

Tucson, AZ

From: Charles Powell

This is one I know that I had another E-mail. It was lost when my computer died.

I went to school at Bowie only one year, 1944, and do not know many people but I really enjoy your newsletter. I live in Mesa. How can I contribute and how much?

Charles Powell

From: Charlie Brown

Larry, I went to Bowie High my sophomore year because my father had been transferred to Cannanea (?), Mexico and since there were no high schools in that town my parents sent me to live with my grandparents who were living in Bowie. I really enjoyed that school year and made some very good friends. At the end of the school year my folks moved to Scottsdale and I finished my high school education at Scottsdale High.

I lived in Bowie and/or Wilcox in the summers of 1946, 1949 and again in 1997 when working for El Paso Natural Gas Company while the laying the gas pipeline across southern Arizona. During 1949 I met Ann Takvam who was a very beautiful and intelligent young lady.

I graduated from Arizona State and worked in the oil industry as a Petroleum Engineer in the New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and California until I retired.

Charlie Brown

From: Nancy-Jean Welker

SouthWestern Power Group will have a presentation and/or a booth for the reunion and they have donated \$500.00 to the Bowie School Reunion Group.

From: Kay (Thomas) Mahan

Hi Guys, Just wanted to see if we can put this in the next Newsletter. We, along with our son Curtis, now own a guest swimming lake in Ft. Worth, Texas. You can Google Barger's Lake and see all about it.

We thought if any Bowie folks get down our way, tell them to stop by and see us. We'll be glad to give them free admission to the lake if they will identify themselves as being from Bowie. Home phone: 817-236-8650 Cell: 817-822-2612 Arizona: 520-845-2396

Kay (Thomas) Mahan

9220 West Fork Trail

Ft. Worth, Texas

From: Larry Lagle

The next article is concerning the Walls of Merit; the information was gathered by and then written by Evelyn Lathram.

The Wall will be on display at the Reunion on June 14, 2008.

Walls of Merit Have Permanent Home

The path of the Walls of Merit to its current location was a long and eventful one. The idea started with the Bowie School Reunion Group many years ago as a way to honor Bowie School alumni or residents for their heroic or outstanding service to their communities. The alumnus or resident could be nominated for inclusion to either the Wall of Honor or the Wall of Outstanding Service. The rules were formally written up in 2000 and are displayed with the honorees.

The original location for the Wall of Honor and Wall of Outstanding Service was in the hallway of the Eva Hall Building and several honorees were displayed with their pictures and biographies for a few years. Unfortunately, the building was condemned as unsafe and the pictures and bios were removed and packed safely away while a new location was found.

A solution was presented and approved by the Bowie School Reunion Group in the spring of 2008. A multiplex panel display was ordered and the pictures and bios are displayed there. This floor standing display has the added advantage of being portable and will be on display in the hallway of the high school most of the time. During events it can be moved to the gymnasium or other areas. In addition, it is expandable to accommodate future honorees.

The multiplex panel display will also be used to honor Bowie School attendees, alumni or staff who have served their country in the armed forces, during both war and peace.

Many people were instrumental in the creation and maintenance of the Walls of Merit, most notably are Bobbie Welker Blandin, Doug Welker, Bill Allen, Ken Ansley, Florina and Dale Christiernsson, Ernie Blandin, and Nancy-Jean Welker. Others have donated generously to the fund used to frame the pictures, to print the bios, and to purchase the multiplex panel display.

The new home of the Walls of Merit will be on display during the 2008 reunion. Please take a minute to stop by and read about the outstanding people who attended Bowie Schools or lived and worked in Bowie over the years.

From: Ken Ansley 4-24-2008

According to Florina Christiernsson, Bruce Brown told her that the Power Plant folks have overcome the problems with Cochise County. Road construction to the Plant site should start in about three weeks. Florina will check on whether the new landscaping will possibly be completed at the High School in time for the Reunion, as well as the installation of the A.R. Spikes Memorial, and she will try to have that info for me by the first part of this week as well. At this time, I don't think there is much new in Bowie that we can guarantee will be completed for the Reunion.

From: Larry Lagle

Please support the Bowie School Reunion Group with your membership fee. This is the last Newsletter we can afford to send to people who are not supporting members.