

Dear Vin,

5/26/81

Thanks for the detailed report on the class reunion. It makes me regret even more that I could not get there.

I remember so many of those faces, as they were as of our high school days.

I'm surprised that I do not recall a couple of the names.

I do hope that I perk up enough to get up there soon. My mother is 90 and I haven't seen her in two years. But right now I'm still not up to the trip.

Whenever I do I'll let you know. I'd like to see you and ~~Id~~ again and hear more about some of the others. I was quite fond of some of them and of some not included in your list.

I saw the surgeon a week ago and he put me on an anti-biotic on the chance that I developed a belated infection at the site of the surgery, where it is swollen now but wasn't for almost a month. Other than that his report was OK. My local doctor thinks it may be some damage to lymph glands that shows up more because I am moving around more.

Whatever it is, it has me more tired, even when I'm not doing anything.

In time it will pass off and hopefully the doctor will clear me for the trip.

I'm making out fine with the wheelchair, but I don't use it as they are intended to be used. I think I told you about chopping wood from it. Now I'm pruning from it. We have a privet that grew like a tree. My wife decided that half had to go to give a beautiful azalea air and sun. Only if it were sawed down it would ruin the azalea. So I took the half she wanted out piece by piece, sitting in the wheelchair, and even cutting the prunings up in small pieces so they'd pack more closely in my large garden cart and require fewer trips to get rid of them.

My best to you two and to any of the others to whom you may speak.

I do look forward to getting up there soon.

Best wishes,

Thursday May 21st

Dear Harold,

Well a week ago was the big night. The weather was perfect and I would say a good time was had by all.

Elizabeth and I picked up William Wetherill from the Hotel duPont, and Fran Midlam Kennedy from 2511 W. 18th St. where she was staying, and proceeded to the Hercules Country Club. It is situated amid rolling hills and the countryside was beautiful and green. Arrived about 5:30 at the club and quite a few were already there for "Happy Hour" and the opportunity to get reacquainted. We had the jump on many in having worked in finding names and addresses, and in knowing who had put in reservations, so it wasn't too difficult to recognize people and at Marge Kennedy Loven's request on her reservation---MAKE THE PRINTING ON THE NAME TAGS BIG you could easily read the name tags Betty Alden Euranius had printed. Tags were red and white. The maiden name was in thicker and larger lettering than the married name.

ELIZABETH
HICKMAN
Nichols

The following were there from our class: Bruno Ariganello, Dorothy Baughman(Coote), Edward Beacom, Madeleine Berg(Lillard), Hugh Blackwell, Irene Brasure(Bochenek), Rachel Cavalli(Fioretti), Jioconda Charmella(Interlandi), Bayard Cloud, Bob Coote, Irvin Danberg, Charles Dannenberg, Donald Darrel, Robert Devenney, Elizabeth Foster(Buffington), Margaret Green(Thomas), Jack Hartland, Audrey Hayden(Brannon), Elizabeth Hickman(Nichols), Ruth Hinkson(Hammond), Anna Johanson(Molin), John Kelleher, Everett Kelly, Agnes Kendall(Hall), Marge Kennedy(Loven), Betty Manchester, Barbara Manser(French), Rose Marino(George), Eliz. Mearns(Thompson)(she asked to be included; had doubled up and graduated the June before); Marjorie McElroy(Owens), Maynard Sayer, Mary Scheing (Garyantes), Louis Schinfeld, Zeld Smith(Cohen), Edith Steelman(Wessells) Margaret Thompson(Turner), William Wetherill. Some were alone and some were with spouses. States represented were: Del., Maryland, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, California, Georgia, New York, New Jersey.

Naturally the June class had many more than we: 230 sat down for dinner. "Happy Hour" was held in two lounge bar rooms, and the dinner was in the ball room of the club. A group picture was taken out on the terrace; how it turns out I don't know. The photographer didn't seem to have the group in control--he made the contact with Al Balfour (general chairman) and Al said we wouldn't be at all responsible for orders, etc., if he wanted to come and take picture, that was up to him. It seems it was the photographer who had taken the June class 25th reunion picture.

Tables--round and oblong ones--were with red cloths and white napkins. The first course was brandied fruit cup already in place at the tables. The main course and salad were served buffet style; one long buffet table was in the ballroom and the other in the hall. When the maitre d' called your table number he directed you to the proper buffet table. In this manner it didn't take long for all to be served, for 4 lines could be going through at once. The salad bar had all kinds of vegetables and relishes, cole slaw, potato salad, etc.; entrees were roast beef, seafood casserole, veal scalopini; potatoes au gratin, green beans almondine, glazed baby carrots, rolls, butter. The beverages were served at the tables, as well as the dessert snowball.(Vanilla

ice cream rolled in coconut and placed on chocolate sauce in a frappe dish. Makes your mouth water, doesn't it?

Milton Keene, minister from the June class gave the invocation and Bill Wetherill, minister from our class, gave the benediction when the affair was over. Bill was inquiring for you and I gave him your address. He has an Episcopal church in Orange, New Jersey.

I suggested you would be glad to hear from him.
After the dinner Al Balfour of course gave greetings, introduced and thanked the committee. Officers from the classes were introduced. We had group singing of old songs led by Anne Kahn from June class. After this Bob and Dot Coote and I took turns giving out door prizes. We had about 50 prizes in all. Your name tag had a number on it, and when that number was pulled from a box, you got a prize. Some were serious prizes like metal trays, wicker baskets, writing paper, candy, nuts, champagne; others were frivolous like a can of oil to oil one's joints, cocoa cup cakes made from the Wilmington High School cafeteria recipe (sold for two cents when we were there); an old brick, a genuine replica of the ones from the torn down high school; toy badges in reference to the authority of the traffic squad in not letting one go "up the down staircase"; pencils with Wilmington High on them; big executive type paper clip with V.I.P. on it (this stood for very impatient principal Mr. Talbot); placemat in the shape of an elephant who doesn't forget the good and bad times of our high school days; a jar of soft soap. Jack Hartland in our class came from California; the June class also had one from that state. Each got a metal tray with Delaware symbols on it. Don't recall who received Grandpa and Grandma mugs for having the most grandchildren and great grandchildren, or the number.

Just by a show of hands we might have another reunion in 5 years.

That was the evening and I truly think it went off very well and that everyone had a good time. Think we all looked pretty good after 50 years. Our class signed a card for Huddy Erisman, our president, who was unable to attend because of limited activities due to a stroke several years ago. We learned that night that Huddy was in the hospital; he had fallen and broken his hip, so we readdressed the envelope to the hospital rather than to Rehoboth Beach where he lives. Haven't heard how is is to date.

Peg Thompson Turner sent in a reservation--then cancelled because of a gall bladder operation, then was finally able to come from Florida when the doctor gave her permission. She looked well and still had her great smile.

We had a note from Peg Gamble (Moore) wishing us well; she was unable to come from Texas; her husband is deceased and she is running their ranch. Betty Carley (Fontana) planned to have come, but there was a conflict. Her husband was having a college laboratory named for him and the dedication ceremonies that afternoon in Ohio where they live made it not feasible to be in Wilmington for the reunion.

If by chance there are any addresses you might want, let me know and I will send them to you. We located 80; 37 deceased and 37 we can't locate.

Sorry you couldn't make it, but your health comes first. Do hope you continue to improve from the operation and with a wheel chair be able to be more mobile.

(over)

In your opinion, did any evidence surface
in either of the Kennedy killings to indicate
that the Teamsters union or organized crime
were involved?

When you next get to Wilmington to
visit your mother, please give us a call.

Best regards,

Jim Nichols