

SOCIAL 2001

Social 2001 is now history. The Social 2001 turned out to be a really great experience for all of those who decided to attend over the Memorial Day week-end. Eddie Williamson (Class of 1957) and his lovely wife, Brenda, did an outstanding job of organizing the event. The weather was great and the camaraderie was even better. All in attendance had a chance to sit around and visit. The casual setting around a pool over a three day week-end was perfect to allow old friends to get re-acquainted.

There were in excess of 120 people in attendance over the three days. The "alumni" in attendance came from as far back as 1943, Lois (Knee) Carrol, and as recently as the class of 1995, Tasha Merkelbach. There were brothers and sisters, parents and children, current residents of the greater Morongo Valley basin and from as far away as Hawaii, Mississippi, and Montana.

Liz (Hatch) Meyers came with her mother, Ada (now 92 years old), in a newly restored Model A Ford. This Model A is the same car Liz learned how to drive in some 40 years ago. Liz is from the class of 1963 and after graduating from college returned to 29 Palms High School as a teacher. Liz also got involved in 29 Palms politics and was elected to the City Council and served as the Mayor of 29 Palms.

Ann (Jones) Maier (huskyz3@nctimes.net) and her husband David (both from the Class of 1963) did a great job of organizing the folks from the Class of 1963. Ann uses the internet to help keep the Class of 1963 "in touch" with the help of Bob Troyer. Bob (teacher@hawaii.rr.com) has built a web site for the Class of 1963 and he took lots of pictures at the Social 2001 event which he plans to post on the internet. Hopefully, we will be able to build a network of 29 Palms Alumni with their email addresses so that we can keep in touch electronically! The attendees from the Class of 1963 included Ann (Jones) Maier, David Maier, Mike Talbot, Wayne Hart, Jeannie (Hellekson) Jensen, Marty Kobaly, Bob Bruiegar, Arthur Stone, Mickey McGroarty, and at least one of the Hanft brothers.

There were a number of mini family get together's at the Social 2001 including the Short brothers, Rock's, Hanft's, Stone's, Lafferty's and the Nua's twins to name but a few. The Lafferty family was represented by Laura (Class of 1974) and her cousin Sharon (Class of 1961).

The Class of 1960 had many attendees including, Dean Hammett, Ethel (Firth) Carpenter, Jerry White, Barbara (Furgeson) Murphy, and David Hite. Corrine Dobbler (Class of 1960) was in attendance along with her youngest sister Casey. The Dobbler family are old timers in 29 Palms and there are seven brothers and sisters who grew up in the 29 Palms school system. Chris Dobbler has served a term as Mayor of 29 Palms and his older brother Conrad made a career in professional football and is now working in the broadcasting industry.

There were some teachers and staff in attendance including Don Malone, Mrs. Bruieger, Pete McMahon and David Stine. Mr. Ted Vick was in attendance and continues to retain that youthful look exactly as he did when he taught my eighth grade class back in 1956.

Stan Stine (Class of 1959) is now married to Joan Pekarovich (Class of 1961) and they were there as was Stan's oldest brother David. Some of you may remember David Stine (Class of 1954) who came back to 29 Palms about 12 years after he graduated and served as the principle of TPHS before moving on to the Cal State University at San Bernardino as a Professor. David Stine is also a member of the School Board of San Bernardino and the 29 Palms High School Hall of Fame.

There were many alumni from the 1950's in attendance. David Rock (Class of 1953) and his sisters Alice and Nancy were all there. Buryl and Gene Short were also there. Gene drove out from Mississippi in his vintage Cadillac. Roxy Caerbert (Class of 1957) and his wife Janice drove down from Montana. Roxy and Janice took advantage of the opportunity to bring a RV and "camp out" for the Social 2001 event along with several other hearty alumni.

The Class of 1953 was well represented with Marilyn Black, Hazel Thompson, Chuck Martin, David Rock, and Nancy Rock. The Class of 1952 was represented by John Fouch and Barbara (Bailey) Winder. Most of you old timers probably had your hair cut by Barbara's dad at Bailey's Barber Shop on 29 Palms Highway.

The Nua family was represented by the twins Albert and Harry. The only McGrorty to stop by for a visit was Micky (Class of 1963). Micky lives in 29 Palms and has an auto repair shop and specializes in custom "hot rods" so to speak. Micky is also one of the local artists and creates "assemblages" out of local artifacts and antiques.

Speaking of Artists, many of the out of town alumni took a tour of the "Murals" that have been painted in 29 Palms. The 29 Palms Mural Project has gained international recognition. This past year there was a conclave of international muralists in 29 Palms which brought in artist from many countries.

Well, if you missed the **REUNION 1999** and/or the **Social 2001** you missed a couple of great chances to visit with you friends from good old TPHS. However, there will be another opportunity some time in the future so watch your mail and keep in touch. Please excuse any over-sight on leaving out any names or details of the Social 2001. I could not mention everyone in attendance, so I just gave some of the highlights from my perspective.

There is a small supply of the "Alumni Directory" lists available. Just drop a note to David Hite, P. O. Box 1839, 29 Palms, CA 92277 to request a copy. The "Alumni Directory" now includes some 40 years of alumni and over 400 names and addresses. To get on the alumni list to be kept informed of future events, simply send your name or the name of a friend or relative to David Hite at the address above.