

Dallas High class of '63 relives 30 year old memories

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

It was 1963, the year that the second class graduated from the brand-new Dallas High School.

Rock 'n Roll and young Elvis Presley were in.

Kids danced the Twist, the Pony, the Stroll and the Jitterbug. "Teen Angel," a melancholy song about a beautiful young girl who dies, was the top song.

Twenty-one members of the Class of '63 gathered Saturday, July 24, at Howard Johnson's in Wilkes-Barre for their 30th reunion, to share many inside jokes and fond reminiscences of their school days, as "In the Still of the Night," "La Bamba" and early Beatles music played in the background.

Chevy Impalas, T-Birds, the new Corvette and 1955 Fords were really hot cars in those days, according to Rick Farr and Gary Whitesell.

Kids hung out at Hanson's Amusement Park at Harvey's Lake or made the long drive to the Stardust Ballroom in Wilkes-Barre and Sans Souci Park in Hanover Township.

Route 309 as we know it hadn't even been built yet. The two-lane road wound its way through the rural Back Mountain, past the old Forty Fort Dairy Bar, Harter's Dairy, long-gone little stores and gas stations in Shavertown and Trucksville and the railroad trestle at Carverton Road.

The "rock cuts" wouldn't be blasted through the mountain for several months.

Dallas's football, baseball, basketball and wrestling teams were "super" in 1963, with all but the baseball team winning championships.

"Mini-skirts had just come in, but we weren't allowed to wear them," Ruth Stanulis reminisced, describing the favorite girls' wardrobe of orlon cardigans worn

backwards, so that they buttoned up the back instead of the front ("gosh, they were ugly!"), removable frilly white collars and below-the-knee straight skirts with kick pleats in back.

Boys wore black chino pants with metal buckles sewed on the back, cotton shirts with button-down collars, white socks and penny loafers. Wearing their belts so that the buckles were on the left was mandatory.

The more daring guys wore white T-shirts with a pack of Marlboros rolled up in the left sleeve and combed their hair to look like Elvis. Long hair was strictly forbidden.

The absolute worst thing that a kid could do was get caught smoking in the boys' room.

"One of our English teachers, Chester Molley, liked to fling the boys' room door open and shout, 'Anyone smoking in there?' as clouds of blue smoke would roll out," Rick Farr laughed. "We'd all say 'no' and he'd close the door and walk away."

Principal Frank Trimble, whom the students nicknamed "the Bull" because he looked like one, was an intimidating presence in the high school.

"I used to hate to get called into his office," Farr said.

Trimble didn't yell. Very quietly, he would tell offenders what they had done, that they shouldn't have done it and that it was very serious.

Then he'd go back to working at his desk, occasionally looking up at the increasingly uncomfortable student still sitting in front of him, shake his head, say "tsk, tsk, tsk" and go back to work.

"I wish that he would have yelled instead. That would have been easier to take," Farr chuckled. Now that the statute of limitations has run out, Farr revealed a secret prank that his classmates loved to play in the new high school, with its long, straight



CLASS OF '63 - Gathered for the 30th reunion of the Dallas High School Class of 1963 are, front row from left: Ruth Stanulis, Marjorie Meade, Dorothy Ladamus, Cindy Dymond, Marge Goldsworthy, Gloria Williams, Linda Grey, Jon Shaffer and Nandy

Sieber Menapace; back row from left: Paul Sherman, Ruth Piatt, Andy Germick, Larry Piatt, Willard Bullock, Ken Kennington, Gary Smith, Ralph Wall, John Molski, Gary Whitesell, Bob Ashman and Rick Farr.

Revealed: The secret of the Volkswagen in the hallway

corridors.

"We drove a VW beetle through the front doors and up and down the halls," he laughed. "Since we couldn't make the turn at the library, four guys picked the car up and turned it for us. Off we went down the hall, tires screeching."

No one ever found out. No class reunion is complete without special awards, and the Dallas Class of '63 was no exception.

Paul Sherman, 49, and Jon Shaffer, 47, received certificates for being the oldest and youngest class members present. Ralph Wall, 48-1/2, was the "almost-oldest."

Larry and Ruth Piatt have the most children (five) and grandchildren (four).

Master of ceremonies Gary Smith's luxuriant, wavy steel-gray hair and thick mustache won him the award for class member with the most undyed gray hair.

And Margie Goldworthy traveled the longest distance to the reunion, all the way from Australia.

Reunion planning committee members were Ellen Chopyak, Dorothy Ladamus, Rick and Susie Farr, Gary and Sandy Whitesell, John Molski, Gary Smith and Linda Smith.



CLASS SUPERLATIVES - Members of Dallas High School's Class of 1963 who won awards were, front row from left: Jon Shaffer, youngest class member, Margie Goldworthy, traveled the farthest; Paul Sherman, oldest class member; back row: Ralph Wall, almost-oldest class member, Larry and Ruth Piatt, most children and most grandchildren and Gary Smith, most undyed gray hair.



POST PHOTO/GRACE R. DOVE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - Ruth Stanulis and Rick and Susie Farr leaf through their senior yearbook, reminiscing about their classmates.

Kemmerer earns PhD from Fordham U

Kathleen M. Kemmerer was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from Fordham University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences during the 148th Annual Commencement held May 22 at the Rose Hill Campus, Bronx, NY.

Dr. Kemmerer, who attended Fordham on a Presidential Scholarship, specialized in 18th-century British literature, writing her dissertation about Samuel Johnson, a famous literary figure of the period. She also holds a Master of Arts degree in 19th century British literature from the University of Scranton and a Bachelor of Arts degree magna cum laude in English from College Misericordia.

A graduate of Bishop O'Reilly High School, Dr. Kemmerer has

served on the faculty of Wilkes University, the University of Scranton and College Misericordia and also taught in the writing center at Fordham University. In addition to giving workshops on the teaching of writing and literature, she has presented papers on 18th and 19th century British literature at conferences in Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania and is scheduled to lecture at Towson University in Maryland, in November.

Dr. Kemmerer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Nulton, Dallas, resides in Shavertown with her husband, Eugene Kemmerer, Pharmacy Manager at Rite Aid, Landsford. They are the parents of four children: Mary, Laurie, Tim and Elizabeth.



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