

# Still together after 50 years



"So good to see you again," says Claire Schall Simington, of Lake Silkworth, to her classmate Barbara Kern Lasher.

By DOTTY MARTIN  
Dallas Post Editor

It doesn't matter if you never graduated from high school. If you know the people who attended Lake-Noxen High School, you're always welcome at their annual reunion. Mark your calendar - it's held the second August of every month at the Harveys Lake Beach Club and, according to Carlene McCaffrey, "it's a blast."

McCaffrey, a member of the Class of 1956 from Lake-Noxen School, is the unofficial spokesperson for the group and is only too thrilled to talk about the classmates who get together every year to eat, reminisce, wander around and just enjoy each other's company.

The party idea started in 2001 when the Class of 1951 invited members of oth-

er classes to join them when they dedicated the former Lake-Noxen High School to Robert Z. Belles, who served as principal. Belles started as principal of Noxen High School, then served as principal when the Lake-Noxen High School was formed. When the Lake-Lehman School District was formed, Belles became supervising principal of the Lake-Lehman High School.

Belles, who celebrated his 92nd birthday recently, and his wife, Thelma, were at this year's party along with Mr. and Mrs. Jay Zaleskas. Mr. Zaleskas served as supervising principal of the Lake-Lehman High School upon Belles' retirement.

When members of the Lake-Noxen Class of 1956, who had celebrated their graduating anniversary every year, learned that some classmates had not had a reunion in more than 20 years while

others had never had a reunion, the combined gathering became an annual event.

"We don't care if you graduated or not, just come see us," said McCaffrey, already looking ahead to next year's party. "It's a covered dish so everybody who comes brings a dish and we have more food than we know what to do with."

With more than 100 people attending the August 11 event this year, McCaffrey has already heard from several classmates who can't wait until next year's party.

"Even if people didn't graduate from the school, we make them feel so comfortable," she said. "And we feel so honored that they want to see us."

The Harveys Lake's Beach Club, formerly Old Sandy Bottom Beach, has already been booked by the group for the second Saturday of August 2008.



"We weren't so bad, were we?" asks Barbara Kern Lasher, right, as she meets up with her home economics teacher Midge Scruitsky at a Lake-Noxen school reunion at Sandy Beach.



Laketon/Lake-Noxen schoolmates from the Class of 1957 and others gathered at a reunion at Sandy Beach at Harveys Lake.



Sandy and Richard Race meet up with classmate Margaret Dershimer as the Laketon/Lake-Noxen High School Class of 1957 celebrates its 50th reunion.



Clyde Martin, of Noxen, a member of the Lake-Noxen High School Class of 1957, and Frank Hummel, of Loyallville, a member of the Class of 1956, try to remember the way things were 50 years ago when they graduated from high school.

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