Riggs High Class of '63

2000 Reunion

Millennium Celebration
June 30 - July 2, 2000
Ramkota - Pierre



Back Row - left to right: Dennis Naasz, Jerry Hunsley, Joe Hanson, Bonnnie Forney Mattick, Len Roberts, Dan Neiles, Merl Hawkins, Mark Simmons, Ruth Amundson Lyneis, Nancy Kindt Lorenzen, Ed Sorenson, Jerry Big Eagle, Tinker Samco Crawford, Janice Wright.

Middle Row - left to right: Carol Butler Jones, Ruth Lewis Cassel, Karen Carroll Smith, Ruth Ann Spicer Stenberg, Peggy Owens Rath, Kay Cruse Graff, Jeanne Bauman Cannon, Barb Stoehr Nelson, Sharyn Smith Martinson, Nina Colbert Maxfield, Eva Olson Hageman, Paula Volk Hunsley, Marianna McLauchlan Gibbons, John Whitney, Larry Moore, Dave Baade.

Front Row - left to right: Harry Hogan, Mike Pellerzi, Tony Lucas, Dick Lamster, Mary Tyler Zulk, Judy Larson Monk, Maxine Otto Tessier, Ron Smith, Bob (Dannie) Weddle, Dean O'Rielly.

Not pictured: Jim Boyd, Jerry Hirsch, Milt Morris, Carol Pyncheon Whitney, Earl Sherburne, Linda Temple Hanson, Jim Whitney.

Reunion Synopsis

The "Cheers to 2000 Years" Millennium Celebration kept the Class of '63 busy from Thursday night, June 29, when we met for a pre-reunion get-together at the home of Milt and Dawn Morris, until Sunday afternoon, July 2, when we said our goodbyes over brunch at the Ramkota. Forty-seven classmates and 28 of their spouses or guests were able to join us and we had a wonderful time.

This reunion was very special in many ways. Not only did we gather to celebrate the new millennium, we also had an opportunity to see and get reacquainted with six classmates who had never been to a reunion before and whom many of us hadn't seen since graduation. Joining us for a reunion for the first time were Harry Hogan, Judy Larson Monk, Larry Moore, Leonard Roberts, Earl Sherburne, and Linda Temple Hanson (Check on Linda). Two of the classmates, Harry Hogan and Judy Larson Monk, had been on our "missing" list until this year, when we were able to find them using the internet. It was especially nice to see Harry Hogan because, up until the reunion in 1995, rumor was that Harry had died. When we relayed that story to Harry, he was quite surprised. Especially since he's been residing in Sioux City, Iowa, for some time, and Sioux City isn't that far from Pierre.

The cash bar reception on Friday night was held in the Courtyard at the Ramkota River Centre. Our first "official" gathering of the weekend proved to be quite interesting and entertaining. Booklets from the previous reunions and several class photo albums created a lot of interesting conversation. During the reception, one of our former classmates made a surprise appearance. Ruth Amundson Lyneis, who went to grade school and junior high with many of us but moved away when she was in junior high, traveled to Pierre to meet and spend the weekend with

her sister, Connie, who was here for her 40th class reunion. Connie had informed Ruth that the Class of '63 was also gathering and would be having a joint function with her class so Ruth sought us out. We invited her to join us for the reunion and told her that once she attended one of our reunions, she would officially be added to the
"reunion list " for all future reunions and would be considered a part of the Class of '63 from here on if she wanted to be included. Ruth thought that was a great idea and said she would be happy to be included as a member of the class.

Several members of the Class of '60 joined us from time to time throughout the evening and as we sipped our favorite beverages and listened to stories from high school and reminisced about the "good old days, the stories seemed to get better and funnier as the time got later. If the Ramkota staff hadn't closed the bar, started clearing the tables, and hinting that they needed to clean up the Courtyard, some of us probably would still have been there Saturday morning listening to those great stories.

All of us but the early morning golfers got to sleep in on Saturday morning. They got to get up early and start their first round of golf before 7:00 am, so it was a pretty short night's rest for some of them. Getting up that early in the morning on a hot summer day in Pierre does have its benefits though. They were able to complete their golfing before the day really heated up. That was a blessing, since the temperature rose to over the 100 degree mark later in the afternoon.

While the golfers were enjoying their games, several classmates, spouses, and guests gathered at the Ramkota to decorate for the reunion banquet and dance. We welcomed the class with a two foot lighted purple banner that read “CLASS OF ‘63" and smaller purple and silver banners depicting our "Cheers to 2000 Years" Millennium Celebration theme. Matching purple and silver helium balloons served as centerpieces on the tables. The time that we spent decorating was really a nice time to get to know one another. It was especially nice to spend that time with the spouses and guests. As soon as we finished decorating, it was time for the picnic.

The picnic was held at Steamboat Park and we had a great turnout, especially when you considered the hot, humid temperatures. It was too hot to play volleyball so we just congregated and visited with one another. With refreshments to keep us cool and plenty of good food to eat, no one seemed to mind. It was just nice to sit near the river, relax, and enjoy one another's company.

The banquet was held at the Ramkota on Saturday night, followed by a dance. We shared the banquet room with the Class of '60, however, a folding partition separated the two classes until after dinner so each class could have some privacy for their individual programs.

Following dinner, we held drawings for various door prizes and had a short program, where it was decided that it was time for the Class of '63 to get back to a routine reunion schedule rather than having our reunions in odd years like we have been the past few reunions. Bonnie Forney Mattick offered (and we took her up on her offer) to host a 40 year reunion in 2003 in Phoenix. The reunion in Phoenix is scheduled for March 14-15, 2003, so mark your calendars and plan to join us in Phoenix. Following the reunion in 2003, we will have our 45 year reunion back here in Pierre in 2008.

Bob Fuller, from the Class of '60, offered to take our Class photo so as soon as he got us all rounded up, positioned, and the photos taken, the Classes of '60 and '63 then merged for a mixer and dance. Many couples took to the dance floor and others just visited. It was really nice to see many of the "older" classmates, and give them a bad time about how long it had been since they graduated and how old they were - - only to reminded by several of them that in a few years we were going to be where they are now. It's amazing how time catches up with us, isn't it??

Sunday, found us back at the Ramkota for a farewell brunch. We shared the lounge with the Class of '60, so once again were able to share some time with them. Our entertainment was listening to the real life stories of Terry Hanson and Linda (Temple) Hanson. Terry and Linda relayed stories to us from the time they dated in high school to the present day and some of those stories were hilarious. We were laughing so hard, that we were in tears. Terry and Linda hadn't been back for a reunion for a long time, so they had lots of stories to share. That's what makes these reunions so worthwhile and so much fun.

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us in this celebration and for making it such a memorable time for all of us. What a great way to start the new Millennium! For those of you who weren't able to join us, please know that you were with us in spirit and we hope that you'll be able to join us in 2003 in Phoenix or at future reunions.

Classmates Who Attended Reunion

*Ruth Amundson Lyneis
David Baade
Jeanne Bauman Cannon
Jerry Big Eagle
Jim Boyd
Carol Butler Jones
Karen Carroll Smith Nina Colbert Maxfield
Kay Cruse Graff Bonnnie Forney Mattick Joe Hanson
Merl Hawkins
Jerry Hirsch
*Harry Hogan
Jerry Hunsley
Nancy Kindt Lorenzen
Dick Lamster
*Judy Larson Monk
Ruth Lewis CasselTony Lucas
Marianna McLauchlan Gibbons
*Larry Moore
Milt Morris
Dennis Naasz
Dan Neiles
Eva Olson Hageman
Dean O'Rielly
Maxine Otto Tessier
Peggy Owens Rath
Mike Pellerzi
Carol Pyncheon Whitney
*Len Roberts
Tinker Samco Crawford
*Earl Sherburne
Mark Simmons
Ron Smith
Sharyn Smith Martinson
Ed Sorenson
Ruth Ann Spicer Stenberg
Barb Stoehr Nelson
*Linda Temple Hanson
Mary Tyler Zulk
Paula Volk Hunsley
Bob (Dannie) Weddle
Jim Whitney
John Whitney
Janice Wright

*First time attendees