

Class of January 1957

Updated: March 2010

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JOAN MAYHEW BEALES

Having transferred to a girl's boarding school in Virginia, I didn't graduate from Piedmont High, but I appreciate being included in the reunion as I had gone through Havens and junior high with the class.

After receiving my BA in Psychology and my MA in Education at Stanford, I taught for 36 years, mostly in kindergarten and first grade. I enjoyed developing curriculum and wrote science and social studies units for Marin County. During my last four years I was asked to create and teach a program for K-5 gifted and talented students. It was a challenging, exciting and extremely rewarding experience.

In 1965 I moved to Tiburon, where I was teaching. In 1975 I married my second husband, Kirk Beales, who was an engineer with Chevron. He has three children and six grandchildren. What started with building and decorating doll houses for granddaughters became a hobby for me.

On retiring Kirk and I took up duplicate bridge to try to keep our brains limber. We love to travel. Among our favorite trips have been safaris in Africa and India, snorkeling in Palau, and visiting ruins in Central America, Asia and the American Southwest. A trip to the gardens and temples of Japan inspired me to put lots of time into our pseudo-Japanese garden.

Currently we are volunteering with Youth in Arts, an organization that brings the arts to school children. We are responsible for supplies and storage for the annual Italian Street Painting Festival in San Rafael, the organization's fabulous fund raising event.

JOAN PETERSON BRATT

I remember being interviewed for our school newspaper at Piedmont when I was serving as Secretary of the Student Body when I was saying that my goal in life was to marry a poor farmer. That's exactly what I did after two years of liberal education at U.C. Davis. I married Jim Smith, a potato farmer, and we moved to Tule Lake where we owned and managed a potato farm until 1967. We had two children together, Gordon and Jenell, and after sinking with a potato farm crisis, we moved back to Davis. There I finished my degree and began my teaching career which spanned 35 years, teaching at all levels from elementary education, through junior high and high school, and finally, my last 15 years at Rogue Community College in Grant's Pass, Oregon.

I was divorced in 1969 and moved to Inverness, California, where I lived and taught for almost ten years and met my second husband, Christopher Bratt, who had three children by another marriage, and all seven of us moved to Applegate, Oregon. . . . on to yet another farm where Christopher and I remain today. Our kids are spread all over the northwest as well as in Wyoming and Hawaii, so it gives us plenty of chances to travel, but rarely outside of the U.S. With fourteen grandchildren to keep up with, we have to stay on the road.

I still ride my horses, clean the stalls, walk every day on our property (160 Acres, mostly timber) and enjoy my friendships within our small community. Christopher is politically active and serves on various boards and environmental organizations, so I try to keep my outside activities at a minimum. I do serve on our local library board and I spend a lot of time singing. I belong to three choirs and they seem to be my inspiration in life these days. (I thank Mr. Dodson for showing me how music could enhance my life.)

I still keep in touch with a few of our classmates, and I cherish those friendships, although they are mostly long distance. The 50th reunion was so much fun, and I'm looking forward to the 55th.

RON CAYA

Ron was known at PHS for being artistically talented, and his gift has turned into a lifetime calling. He got his BA in Art Education from California College of Arts & Crafts, and his MA from the Parson School of Design, Bank Street College, New York.

He has sent us an unbelievably impressive resume. In chronological order, his job experience includes:

1962-74	Director of Civic Arts, City of Walnut Creek
1974-78	Director of Fine Arts, City of San Jose
1978-79	Executive Director, Nevada Arts Council
1979-80	Executive Director, Fort Mason Foundation, San Francisco
1980-87	Director, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale, Arizona
1987-95	Director of Arts Education, Peoria Unified School District
1995-Present	Founder, Executive Dean, New School for the Arts And Academics, Tempe, AZ

His work in the public sector included administering (and sometimes founding) arts programs and enormous art complexes and exhibition facilities. He developed area-wide plans for cultural enrichment activities and frequently found himself involved in public relations, marketing and fund-raising activities as well. All this work necessitated the supervision of large staffs. His later work has leaned toward efforts promoting the arts in education.

(Ron has been asked to provide a little info on the personal side of his life and will hopefully do so shortly.)

STEVE COHN

First, I would like to thank the “committee” for including me in the Class of January ’57. I did attend Havens, Piedmont J.H. and part of H.S. I attended Van Nuys H.S. until the last half of my senior year. When I returned to the Bay Area I went to and graduated from Oakland H.S.

After graduating, I went into the Army. I survived basic training at Ft. Lewis, WA; from there I went to Signal school at Ft. Gordon, GA. As you all know I have been into electrical-electronics most of my life. I graduated at the top of my class. The Army taught me to teach. After several months, I was sent to Augsburg, Germany where I was assigned to the Signal School. I returned to the United States due to the death of my father.

I married, had a son and daughter and fifteen years later divorced. I remarried in 1980 to Connie, who has a son. We have been married for twenty-eight years, no children. Today, Connie and I are very involved in raising our 14-year-old granddaughter, Chloe. We have five grandchildren and a great-grandchild on the way.

When I returned from Germany, I went to work for several electronics firms. We did work for NASA, S.F. Opera house, and many others. One of my partners moved to Houston and called me for help. I moved to Houston to become the installation, service manager for a major telecommunications firm; I was with them for ten years. I then accepted a job with ROLM Communications in Dallas. I was there for six years, when I was transferred to Santa Clara for six years as a course developer/technical instructor. IBM bought ROLM. A few years later IBM sold the ROLM division to Siemens. I retired from Siemens after 911. I am still involved with electronic-electrical consulting.

Health: well, let’s say, getting older is not for sissies. I am a sixteen-year survivor of cancer. The doctors say I will die, but not from the cancer.

Spare time: I enjoy classical music. I go to the Dallas Symphony and the Dallas Opera when I can. I was in S.F. a few months ago and went to the SFO rehearsal. Outstanding!

Looking forward to the 55th. I will make every effort to be there.

BILL CRANDALL

In 1962 I completed my graduate studies at Stanford and married Janet Ford. In 1965 our first son, Bill Jr., arrived, to be followed by three more sons in the next six years. While my business career was important family always came first. We were fortunate to spend two years together in Australia and then travel around the world.

Our children have chosen widely different careers: an engineering manager, a native plant nursery owner, a fisheries biologist and a professor of Latin American Studies and member of the President's National Security Council. More importantly, they have, with the "assistance" of four wonderful women, produced seven spectacular grandchildren.

Career specifics follow:

1990 to 2002	Professor of Business, College of San Mateo Taught introduction to business, marketing, finance and management courses.
1984 to 1990	President, The Corporate Staff, Inc. Founded this interim-executive placement firm. Directed its development and growth. Received considerable national recognition. Sold the firm in 1990.
1971 to 1984	Planning Manager, Marketing Manager and Procurement Manager, Bechtel Corp. Helped establish the company's long-range planning system. Managed procurement operations for major projects. Served as Deputy Project Manager for the Jubail Industrial Plan. Managed marketing activities for the petroleum division.
1969 to 1971	Director of Planning and Marketing, Wells Fargo & Co. Conducted studies of "non-bank" activities. Prepared financial and marketing plans.
1963 to 1969	Senior Associate, Cresap (now Towers, Perrin)
EDUCATION:	A.B., with Distinction, Economics, Stanford A.M., Economics, Stanford Secondary Credential, College of Notre Dame
COMMUNITY:	Trustee, Hillsborough Elementary School District Trustee, Hillsborough Schools Foundation

GARY DICKSON

(Taken from jacket of latest book, The Children's Crusade, published by Palgrave MacMillan))

Gary Dickson is a Californian who has lived much of his life in Scotland. A graduate of Stanford and Yale, he received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh, where he taught mediaeval history before becoming an Honorary Fellow. He gave the Wilde Lectures in Natural and Comparative Religion at the University of Oxford and was a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. He served on the Editorial Advisory Board of *The Crusades: An Encyclopedia*.

* * * *

In response to urging, Gary acknowledges certain personal “unblackmailable” data: his wife, Margaret, is a Scottish (not a Piedmont) Highlander. They have two daughters and one granddaughter. Both of their girls were born in Edinburgh but now live in Southern California.

JOYCE JAFFE ELLENBERG

After 11 years serving as the Placement Officer/Internship Coordinator for the Paralegal Program at Saint Mary's College in Moraga, I retired in 2003 and have been enjoying my retirement ever since, along with my "mostly retired" husband. My time is now focused on, among other things, travel which includes visiting our daughter, Linda, 43, her husband and their two daughters, ages 6 and 3, in Washington, D.C. Our other daughter, Lori, 45, lives nearby in Moraga with her husband and two teenagers, our grandson, 17 and granddaughter, 14. We enjoy traveling frequently and are particularly interested in foreign travel, having visited over 50 foreign countries. We recently took a 3-week trip to India and have plans for touring Viet Nam and Cambodia later this year. We also enjoy cruises and have taken quite a few – our next one will be up the Northern Pacific Coast with my 92-year-old mother and my sisters, Barbara Jaffe Aronson (class of Jan. '58) and Carol Jaffe. We make our annual pilgrimage to the Palm Springs Film Festival in January and the Ashland Shakespeare Festival in the summer. Home improvement projects also seem to take up a good part of our spare time.

I have maintained my activities in the community by serving on the East Bay Jewish Community Relations Council and the Jewish Film Festival Committee (we get to pick the films for the annual festival in March). I enjoy participating in book groups, playing bridge, and going to concerts, the theater, movies and Cal Football games.

Going back to ancient times, I graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Speech and an elementary school teaching credential, which I used for all of one year. In 1961 I married Marv Ellenberg, an Oakland attorney (he later practiced in San Ramon). We raised two wonderful daughters, and have lived in the same community for 45 years. When I was in my late 30's I enrolled in a master's degree program in Career/Life Planning at Cal State Hayward, which led to my position at Saint Mary's College. I have been very fortunate to have most of my extended family living in the Bay Area so family get-togethers are a frequent activity.

I thoroughly enjoyed the reunion activities and hope to see everyone again for our 55th.

ANN MARKS FOSSAN

Ann Marks went to Stanford after PHS and graduated in 1961. She married David Fossan, a University professor, who died in 2003. They had three daughters: Jennifer, now 43; Kirsten, 41; and Stephanie, 38. Ann is proud of her children, all of whom worked while having children of their own. They have presented Ann with ten grandchildren.

Ann set her children a fine example of the work ethic. For 25 years she was Managing Editor, then Executive Editor, of a chain of community newspapers. She states, "I enjoyed my work as it gave me the opportunity to interact with the community." She is now retired but serves on the Board of the local Conservancy.

She was the local tennis club champion "a few years back," enjoys reading and travel, and takes classes at the local University.

FRED GILBERD

I graduated in the January class of 1957 and spent six months working in a steel foundry in Portland, Oregon. In spite of the fact that Mr. Bernard [our senior English teacher] told me I shouldn't bother with college, it quickly occurred to me that college would be a good idea so at the last minute I sent in an application to U C Berkeley. Lucky for me it was a lot easier to get into in the old days or I never would have made it. It was the last place I ever intended to go but it was a good experience, once I learned to study. I graduated in '61 with a BS in business and went on to the Navy to spend a few years on an aircraft carrier, the USS Hancock. Had a fine time sailing around the Orient.

Arrived in New York in 1964 to learn to be a stock broker with Smith Barney. I ended up back in San Francisco after a great year where among other highlights I bumped into a gal I had known at Cal, Diane Steele. We were married in July 1965. We moved to Lafayette, had four sons, Adam 1967, Peter '69, Randall '71, and Sam '73. I was offered a job in 1973 to manage the Smith Barney office in Paris and moved the entire family, babies, dogs, nanny and all. Loved France but after three years decided I would rather live back in Lafayette. Divorced in 1979 and played single dad for ten years.

I switched careers in 1980 to raise money for real estate investments for individuals and pension funds. In 1988 I met my second wife, Pam Swenson, who is a spectacular lady that has made me very happy. Pam came with a daughter Tauni born in 1973 and son Tyler, '78. After all six graduated from Acalanes HS we left town to start a new life. We live in Carmel Valley where Pam is working on her fifth book and I bike, make wine, play bocce ball and try to improve my golf game.

We are expecting our fifth and sixth grandchild in the fall. Life is wonderful and as I look back over the years all the way back to Beach School, I realize that I have had a very lucky life indeed.

HELEN REDFORD HASSELMAN

After leaving PHS I attended Cal and graduated with a degree in history. Eager to experience another part of the country I headed to the East Coast shortly afterwards settling in Washington, D.C I found a job immediately on Capital Hill working for the U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, Hugh Scott. I met my husband Pete in Georgetown where he was working as an architect. We married and raised our two daughters in nearby Bethesda, Maryland.

In 1978 we returned to the Bay Area settling in Orinda where we still live. I have worked as an events planner, tour guide, coordinator of self-esteem workshops for teens, and most recently in fundraising at U.C. Berkeley.

Pete and I love to travel and have been to many wonderful and exotic places, my current favorites being Vietnam and Patagonia. Hopefully we can continue to investigate new parts of the world focusing on architecture and history.

I lead a serene and satisfying life in Orinda where I play duplicate bridge, study botanical art, volunteer at our library, and tutor once a week in an inner city Oakland school. The only thing lacking is that our daughters and granddaughter don't live closer to us, but we continue to hope that one day this will change.

One of my most satisfying experiences was to be selected as a kidney donor to my younger brother, Buzz, 17 years ago. He has polycystic kidney disease which slowly reduces function of that organ eventually requiring dialysis or transplant. We celebrate each November together in gratitude for another year of continued good health and a productive life.

I drive to Piedmont frequently but one of the most nostalgic visits came last year when our childhood homes – one on Bonita Avenue and one on Mesa – went up for sale. I walked through them both and was filled with memories from my time living there in the 40's and 50's. At 25 Mesa Avenue, the owner who bought it from Mom in late 1960 was still living there. Much of the house remained the same, a time warp from a half century ago. Amazingly the stove was the very one we used as I remembered the well in the back burner where Mom cooked up soups for us. The hideous pinkish linoleum covering the kitchen table brought back memories of Dad's handiwork as did the precise brick layout of the flower beds and patio in the backyard. The neighboring streets shaded with graceful sycamore trees were as neat and tranquil as ever, and I reflected on how lucky we were to have been raised in this idyllic community.

DARRYL HENLEY

After PHS I attended UC Berkeley for four years but got my BA (in music) from San Jose State in 1963. I went back to Cal in 1969 and obtained my MPH in Hospital Administration in 1971. I married Judy Hamic in 1968, and we were married until 1999. In 2000 I married Shelly Comer. I had two sons with Judy: Charlie, now 35, and Sam, 34. I have a grandson, Sam, 2 (son of Charlie and Alexandra who now live in NYC). I gave up smoking in 1963 but still have an occasional glass of sherry.

My career (day job) experience has been as a Hospital/Health Care Administrator as follows:

- UC Hospital, San Francisco, 1969-70
- Children's Hospital, Oakland, 1971-1978
- Peralta Hospital, Oakland, 1978-85
- Los Banos Hospital, 1987-1991
- Dos Palos Hospital, 1997-2001
- Los Banos Cemetery District, 2002-present (cemetery manager)

I served in the US Army from 1963-1968, as a Captain in the Army Medical Services Corps, in Texas, California, Korea and Vietnam.

My musical life has been going on a lot longer. I have played the piano since age 7 and played professionally from 1955 to the present. My music has overlapped my other careers. I have played both piano and organ for many churches over the years, and currently play for three churches (!). Some of my most memorable experiences as a musician are as follows:

Jan. 1964: I played organ for Catholic Mass, Robert and Ethel Kennedy were present. 8th Cavalry Regiment, near Munsani, Korea. Post chapel.

I played for the touring USO production of "South Pacific" in South Vietnam, 1965-66.

1966 and 1967: I played piano in a whorehouse on several occasions, Saigon. In the same years I played for two big military weddings as well as for assorted funerals.

I was the only white musician in three different black jazz groups, Oakland and Saigon.

I accompanied an Elvis impersonator in Morgan Hill, 1999. He was pretty good.

I played in jazz, country, blues, rock, piano bars, cruise ships, back yards, flat bed trucks, weddings, funerals, reunions, engagement parties, country clubs, and bars and hotels too numerous to mention [in Berkeley, Piedmont, Oakland and everywhere I was in the military or had another day job].

One night, Larry Cappelli, Fred Neft and I played at a pizza parlor in Oakland, split the till and were paid 25 cents each for 3 hours work. 1959. Also the same year, we were

playing at the Kerry House on Piedmont Ave. and one night a drunken woman got up on top of the piano and did a strip tease.

Ah, great memories. I could go on and on. Maybe I should someday.

Editor's note: *Let's hope he does.*

DICK HILDEBRAND

Dick's PHS aspirations were pretty generic for a Student Body President: "go to college, get a good job." He certainly realized those aspirations, in spades.

He attended San Francisco City College in 1957, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in 1957-58, and UC Berkeley in 1958-1961, where he obtained his B.S. degree in Business Administration.

We all remember that he and Lynne Gherra were an item at PHS. They were married on March 25, 1961, and are still married. They had four children: Rich, born 7/27/62 and now married with 2 children; Bill, born 7/30/64; Kristy, born 9/15/69 and married with one child; and R.C., born 12/9/71. On marriage and raising children, Dick sagely observes, "When you are 20+/- you need to be really lucky, good or diligent. I think we were all three."

He has had a lot of careers, as follows:

- USMC, 1961-64, Helicopter Pilot
- NCR, 1964-64, Systems Analyst
- FilperCorp. 1965-70, D.P. Mgr/Controller
- Westland Foods, 1970-1985, Vice President
- Valley Door, 1985-1996, owner
- Appraiser, 1998-present (self-employed)

On this colorful career history, he comments, "Owning [my] own business was the hardest. Being self-employed is great."

Not surprisingly for a high school officer, his later public service has been extensive and impressive. A partial list reads as follows:

- Contra Costa County Planning Commission, 1972-1976,
- Walnut Creek City Council, 1976-1985
- John Muir Medical Center Board of Directors, 1985-1996
- Walnut Creek Mayor, 1979 and 1984
- Contra Costa Mayors Conference Chair, 1984
- John Muir Board of Directors Chair, 1993-95

His hobbies are "home improvement, travel, golf, skiing, and surviving old age."

He has been active on the Reunion Committee and comments, "Piedmont was a lot of fun. Remaining friends with classmates makes it even better."

BILL LEET

I commend your noble effort to collect biographical information from our classmates. Not normally one to submit to such requests, I offer the following:

Keeping with your outline, I start with my high school aspirations. I had but one: to achieve the honorable. I must boast singular success in that. Honorability is such a vague concept that I would venture to guess that many of our classmates achieved it. I am absolutely certain that I did.

With that conquest in hand, I got a job on a Norwegian freighter which carried me to almost every coastal village and city on both coasts of South America. At the end of that voyage I went to work for the Forest Service clearing trails in central Oregon. In the event that Robbie Wolcott does not respond to your bio request, he was my co-worker.

Then things got serious. After stints at UC Riverside and USNA (Annapolis) I enrolled at Cal and graduated in Wildlife Conservation, a little known major that Darryl Henley told me about. It clearly suited my long-time avid interest in stalking the wily trout with flyrod in hand. Upon graduation I married Theresa in Bend, Oregon, the first of my three wives. Then we were off to Warm Springs, Georgia, where I worked in a fish hatchery and discovered that there were species of fish that are of little or no interest to me. I quit and enrolled at Humboldt State to pursue a MS in fisheries – but not before Julie was born.

Although it was not until four years later that I got the sought degree, I finished the course work in two years (but not before Mary was born). From there we took our daughters (age two and one), and spent six months at 10,000 foot elevation on the Kern plateau where I worked as a novice fishery scientist, but mainly a forest firefighter. Subsequently, I got my first full-on professional job, studying tuna in Mazatlan, Mexico. That's where Carlos was born. We were, I must say, very happy at that juncture. But international agreements can be flimsy and this one was just that, so after two years we all moved to San Pedro, CA, where I plied my trade for three years.

After two years in Portland, OR, we wound up in San Rafael for around 20 years during which time I worked at a fisheries laboratory in Tiburon. Also during that time, Theresa became ill and ultimately died. I married Maureen, who was the librarian at the lab at Tiburon. Maureen was a memorable wife, but after a divorce, Mary-Helen (formerly Reich, of PHS) accepted my proposal. I retired and we moved to Kona, Hawaii. During the seven or eight years we lived there I wrote three novels (alas, nary a one published), we learned how to paint, and spent untold hours in the water looking at remarkable tropical fish.

But we did not live happily ever after. Happily, yes. But financials suggested a need to return to the conventional workforce. I nailed a job at UC Davis, and she resumed her practice as a psychotherapist.

So we now live in Davis, although I live part-time on our ranch in Bellevue, Idaho. I still have three unpublished novels to sell in case anyone is connected in that world.

Julie is a chemical engineer and invented the process to successfully mix conditioner with shampoo, enabling her employer to manufacture a product called Pert Plus.

Mary (whose middle name is Helen, perhaps in anticipation of my eventual wife-choice) is a retired bond broker, after a successful career with Charles Schwab. One of her sons is named Charles, although I can say with certainty that Chuck S was not a factor in the naming.

Carlos is a trial lawyer in Petaluma. Check him out at Leetlaw.com. He does it all, but never killed trout like his old man can.

Editor's note: *You may or may not recall, if you knew in the first place, that "achieve the honorable" was the PHS motto. Congrats on that, Bill.*

BILL OLOFSON

I'm enjoying reading the interesting bios of old friends from PHS. I'll keep mine brief and informal, omitting the minutiae.

After PHS I attended University of Colorado, Boulder. Then a stint in the Army. After that, I worked in real estate and property development. Bill Sparling and I developed and built 425 Perkins Street, near Lake Merritt.

In 1967, for a change of pace I went to Vietnam with Pacific Architects & Engineers for two years. I lived in Saigon almost a year, then out in the field to a base camp named Phu Loi. When I left Vietnam I traveled around Asia. All in all, a very good experience.

In 1971 I married my beautiful bride, Judy. We lived in San Francisco. Then in early 1973 we departed for Dhaka, Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) where I worked for an international engineering company for three years.

In 1976 we moved from Dhaka to Jakarta, Indonesia, where we developed and constructed a major ammonia and urea complex on the Island of Java. We lived in Jakarta about a year, then to the job site, an area called Jatilahur, way out in the boondocks. That was interesting.

During overseas jobs I had the opportunity to travel to, and work in Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Thailand, and other countries. Good to get the traveling out of your system while you're young. By the way, living on the economy, and working in foreign countries is vastly different than visiting as a tourist, staying in western-style hotels.

Between overseas jobs we lived in San Francisco, Lafayette, and Idaho Falls, Idaho, where I built homes for six years. A great place but winters are very long and real cold!

Our last overseas job was in Sichuan Province, mainland China, working on a large hydro project (ERTAN) on the Yalong River. When people tell you how great authentic Sichuan cuisine is, don't believe them. Our diet consisted of lots of snake soup, hard boiled eggs, and fried rice. And the Chinese are very big on dog meat. What about all the wonderful food available in San Francisco Sichuan restaurants? Forget it. All of the chicken, duck, et cetera goes to Beijing for the consumption of round-eye tourists spending real money.

In 1997 we built a home and moved to sunny Sierra Vista, Az., a small, mountain town in the southeast corner of the state. We're at 4,700' so don't get the scorching heat of Phoenix or Tucson. In our R.V. we happily spend three winter months on the beach in Mexico, and three summer months in the Idaho mountains. We're home the remaining six months.

Sorry to miss the 50th reunion. We were camped on the Gros Ventre River north of Jackson, Wyoming with our dog (great little Border Collie named Blue) and cat ...

corking, forking, and enjoying the view of the majestic Grand Teton. Darryl says you got along just fine without me!

GARY SANGE

For those of us who did not know about Gary's artistic leanings and talents, it may come as a surprise – though certainly a delightful one! – to learn that he has become a poet – a renowned and much-published one – and a teacher of literature. He tells us he received many degrees and finally ended up first, in 1963, at St. Joseph's High School in Alameda, as an Instructor of English and Chairman of the English Department. In 1967 he moved to Virginia and was an Instructor of English at Georgetown University. From 1973 to the present he has been an Associate Professor of English and Virginia Commonwealth University.

He has published two books that consist entirely of his own work, and his poems have appeared in several distinguished anthologies and numerous periodicals. Among his career highpoints he lists:

- Fellowship to the Iowa Writer's Workshop (1963-1967)
- Richard Hugo Memorial Award – out of 300 submissions, his poetry manuscript, **Joyboss**, was selected by William Stafford as a basis for the summer residence at the Centrum Foundation Summer Writers' Conference, Port Townsend, Washington (1987)
- Long poem, *Maud*, published by Shenandoah in 1970, adapted by Michael Delario as part of his Ph.D dissertation in music at Princeton University; the adaptation won the National Young Composers Award for 1977, and was performed as an oratorio for orchestra and soprano at Carnegie Hall in April 1977
- Year in the Virginia State Penitentiary as teacher of a poetry workshop (the course was included in his VCU teaching load) (1973)
- Team-teaching with Bryant Mangum in a lecture series called **Daddy and the Great Shebang (1977)**
- Co-founding the Virginia Commonwealth University with poet Dave Smith

He has also participated in numerous summer residencies at home and abroad and received a number of distinguished grants for his endeavors. Many of his students have become serious poets and teachers of poetry.

All that said, it is obviously appropriate to let Gary continue his story in his own gifted voice. This next piece appeared as a Dedication in one of his books.

GRATITUDES

This book is for my Mom & Dad, Bobbie & Tommy Sange, who not only gave me life, but me hunger for more of it.

And Gratitude for my children, Heather, Noah, & Kate, & the grand kitties Emily, Mattbew, Nico, & Heather's on-the-way baby who may have a name by now but grandpa doesn't know it yet.

Gratitude for both my good wives, especially for the outstanding babies, growing grownups they bestowed on me.

Gladness for splendid buddies, Bryant, Gus, Joanie, Big Jim, & the DWA, an acronym for DeniseWilliamAnna, who will always be for me a whole family that's like a single inseparable friend.

Thanks for my students, especially the poets, Liz Canfield, & Patty Paine, at Virginia Commonwealth University, who keep making teaching such an adventure in friendship & community.

Thanks be to Nick Sharp for his deft schedules & remarkable paternity, not just to the Three Tenors but to our own MFA Bard Choir of GaryGreg&Dave for their cocksure cacophonies, their harmony, and to our Chair, Chippendale Marcel, for his tenacious amusement, resiliency & courage. And O! for wondrous Rosa, growing poet, my heroic TA.

A constant cozy cantankerousness for my bro, Captain Marco, who's not even nearly like anyone else. Who really did once give me the shirt off his back simply because I liked it. Impulsive & unpredictable as the fact we call one another either "Mighty" or "Tiny" & neither of us can really tell why.

Blessings for & from the Divinities I live with – Lila Hoot, an elderly ebullient yellow lab, Quarido Flacco, a contemplative donkey, whom I keep for hugging purposes, & closer contact with Ireland & Greece, a Gataki Hunge-Hall – a coy, shy, indolent, gallivanting tabby whose ownership I share with my lady, Dhristine Hall..

And then there is Chris Hall, herself – I could "count the ways" but I have hard enough time balancing my checkbook. I can tell you this: Chrissy gives joy & serenity at once is a "beatific imp" who will clog in your kitchen, darn the tiny hole in your old vest sweater, or teach you how to find the Buddha in a yoga posture, put you under such an abiding spell you won't ever want to come back...

* * * * *

Gary attended his class's 50th Reunion – you'll note on the website that he is in MANY pictures – and was inspired to write the following on his return home.

GARY SANGE

I'm him. This is he? Let me get off this phone. Besides, I've been waiting a long time to become chummy with someone. I want you to be just the one... You've come to tout your modesty? Wouldn't you love to be humble too? But first let me tell you I'm Gary-the-Hunge, Chrissy-kisser, HummingbirdWhale, an oddly eloquent elderly man. And since that's barely enough, you may need to know I'm the son of Tommy & Bobbie, who couldn't help but dance beautifully together & make babies & one another laugh.

My Momma comforted me because she knew I was slow. Besides, I was afraid of my father's powerful humor & wanted to be funny too. So I must have drifted toward some shy vaudeville – dragged a shark to school with my belt around its snout, had a great deal to do with blood-drops on the linoleum all down the hall. And there was that puffing, slow, fat little guy whom the janitor could so easily catch, but not before I'd told all the other kids I fought it for five hours straight until it almost bit me & I finally hauled it in!

*They gaped at that saber-toothed, gashed, haggard, weedy shark, & didn't look so meanly at my fat. When that didn't work, I told all the other kids **MY DAD'S WON MR AMERICA THREE YEARS IN A ROW!** And since that was funny to no one, I got scared. Got several degrees, even a fellowship to the Iowa Writers Workshop, began to learn how to teach for the pleasure of it for nearly forty years, would run enough miles to surround the globe, no sooner than I'd start up my own babies, too, they'd grow up in time to catch me trying not to get last place in my last marathon, I'd be blessed to dance at daughter Heather's wedding with all my children, all my wives, plus Ann Bolin.*

*I know. Still not too funny. OK,
What if we whisper until nobody has to think;
We could just listen to our listening and...
Why not take this pause...this space...
To drift awhile...be quiet together...*

DAVE SELBACH

Dave attended East Contra Costa Junior College for two years, and was part of a Town Hall Committee which proposed and pressed for the name change of that institution to Diablo Valley College (a definite improvement!). He then went into the Navy and worked on a carrier in CIC (“Combat Intelligence Center,” operating radar, etc.) for two years.

He had met his wife at Diablo Valley College, but they didn’t marry until during his post-military stint at Hartford Insurance Co. He worked there for three years, and decided that he needed something more creative. He went to work for a furniture store in Walnut Creek, and, when that store closed, opened his own furniture store in the same location in the early 1960’s. He ran that store until 1989.

He retired for a year and a half but wasn’t satisfied. He opened his own cabinet shop and, for the next 17 years, made kitchens, entertainment centers – all custom work – and built a lot of furniture himself. He loved the furniture business, finding it both fun and profitable, and did not retire again until January 2008.

Dave and his wife have been married for 48 years. They have two sons, Steve (born 1961) and Ted (born 1965). The family lived in Danville for 30 years, and the boys went to Montevista High. Ted in particular was a good football player, and Ted’s son (he has a son and a daughter) now attends Montevista High and also plays football. Dave says he “wouldn’t miss a game.” Steve (who has a son) now lives in Pine Grove, California.

Dave volunteers at Kaiser, working in the gift shop and in “transportation,” i.e., apparently, getting people around in wheelchairs, etc. He plays golf and used to sail a lot. He and his wife do a lot of traveling inside the U.S., and recently returned from a trip to Boston. He says he has become computer-literate in the last couple of years and would welcome emails from one and all, at selbach@ATT.net.

MARYLYN SMITH SIEWERT

First – I am so sorry to have missed the 50th celebrations, but our niece was getting married that weekend, we had eighty for dinner on Friday in our Squaw Valley home, relatives in the house, etc. See you all at the next gathering.

After Piedmont High School, I had a great four years at Cal Berkeley – skiing on the ski team and also, as a minor, studying and graduating in International Relations – the result of which was that I married a Swede, Peter. Ahh, the great opportunities for women graduates in that era!

After our marriage in 1963, we built a home in Tiburon (dirt road to property) where we have lived ever since. (Road has been paved and house has been remodeled many times. View of SF to Mt. Tam has not changed.)

Peter has been very successful selling commercial insurance, but our main interests have continued to be sports. The skiing has continued to today. We spent many years racing sailboats but then changed to windsurfing. We are still playing tennis, and I am in all the local leagues (my teammates are so young). Now as insurance for old age, we have taken up golf with a passion.

On a more serious side, I have volunteered for various charities. The more time consuming was the Design Review Board for Tiburon and twelve years on the Planning Commission, many of which I was chairman. I'm still involved with Tiburon and am president of my local homeowners association. Also I am head of design review for our association in Squaw Valley. Our home there is in the subdivision that is associated with the Resort at Squaw Creek.

Peter and I had one daughter who lives in Tahoe City with her husband and sixteen-year-old son and eight-year old daughter. Obviously this family is a big draw to us, and we spend more time in the mountains than we do in Tiburon. However, we love both places so also spend a lot of time on Interstate 80. Fortunately our Golden Retriever loves to ride in the car.

Life now includes quite a bit of travel. We spend a lot of time in Jackson Hole, Snowbird and Sedona. Though we go out of the country occasionally, we really prefer to drive wherever we go, so that keeps us west of the Rockies.

KEN TELL

Ken was of course first and foremost an athlete, and the biggest guy PHS had on its football team. (The program said 185 lbs., but he admits to 205 and says that when he actually did get down to 185 he was skin and bones. In a roster where 150 was average, he was HUGE but, alas, not nearly as big as the 250-lb. linebackers of Berkeley High and similar institutions that PHS competed against at the time.) He was evidently a leader in the locker room and on the field, and he and Mike Mead remember a time when Ken slammed Mike into the wall, telling him that THAT was how to handle the Berkeley players, and that the Piedmont guys were too nice. We almost won the game that year.

However, football was not always kind to Ken. He went after the opposition and they went after him, and he emerged from the Piedmont program minus some teeth and obliged to come up with the wherewithal to replace them. He notes that at the time PHS did not do much for its athletes and/or slower students, among which he numbered himself, and that he might have done better at Oakland High with Barry Ferris, but he still loves his Piedmont friends and is not sorry he stayed.

His brother and sister never allowed their sons to play football, though a nephew excelled in soccer. His mother, moreover, talked Ken's superiors out of getting him to play while in the service.

He went to Oakland City College and Diablo Valley College, and, among numerous colorful phases, dealt craps in Las Vegas for a time. He says it taught him NOT to gamble. His main career was on the General Motors assembly line in Fremont, a job he held for a number of years, and at which he made a lot of friends, and a lot of enemies, too, he claims.

He is very lame now, but not as a result of a football injury. One of his colorful phases involved motorcycling, and his machine flipped and crushed any number of bones in his leg. The bones eventually healed, but the necessary operations left him open to attacks of staph infections, and he thinks the medication for that eventually did something to his muscles. He gamely goes around with canes and exercises strenuously, in hopes of improvement, which he feels is happening, if slowly. Notwithstanding what is undoubtedly perpetual serious discomfort, he comes to the class gatherings with a big smile on his face, looking not that different from the football hero of Piedmont High. It is always great to see him.

WALT VANCE

Immediately following graduation from PHS Dan Jenkins, Rog Ricketts, Rod Sears, Ken Tell and I headed for Fort Ord and a brief six month tour of duty in the Army.

In the fall of '57 I enrolled at SF City College and later transferred to San Jose State, where I became a Sigma Chi and joined my sponsors, fellow PHS graduates Bob Elfin, Sheldon Crandall, Bud Hills and Mike Howard. In 1960 my "Sig" roommates arranged a coffee date for me with a Burlingame High classmate of theirs that I had seen at a "pinning." Thus I met Judy, my bride of 46 years. After my graduation from SJS with a B.S. (appropriate abbreviation) in Business and Industrial Relations we wed in February of '62 and immediately started our family.

Our son Dave was born on Xmas day '62 and son Greg two years and five days later. Dave and his wife Cindy have given us grandson Matthew (age 15) and granddaughter Delaney (5). Greg and our other daughter-in-law Kollen got a head start over Dave, delivering granddaughter Erin (16) and grandson Andrew (14). As a senior cytogenetic technologist, Dave supervises the Kaiser San Jose Santa Teresa Cytogenetic lab personnel and Greg is a senior enterprise software developer for IBM in San Jose.

Aside from my family, my life's passion has been and continues to be recreational boating. As a teen I began racing an El Toro sailboat on Lake Merritt. Rog Ricketts and I spent joint family vacations sailing and water skiing at Clearlake. In 1965 Judy and I purchased a Lido 14 sailboat and began racing. Soon thereafter our boys began sailing and racing. Throughout the years we have been involved with several sailing, and boating organizations. During our racing years we were active in the Lake Merritt Sailing Club, the Fremont Sailing Club (I served as Commodore in 1974) and the Small Boat Racing Association (SBRA). In the mid '70's we moved on to larger sailboats and in 1981 we joined Encinal Yacht Club (I was President in 2001). While sailing remains my main passion, during 2003 we transitioned to power cruising in the Sacramento Delta and joined OxBow Yacht Club where I currently serve as a director and their delegate to the Pacific Inter Club Yacht Association (PICYA). I am also a member of the International Order of Blue Gavel (IOBG).

Judy and I enjoy visiting new places. Travel in the U.S. and abroad as a peripheral benefit of business trips and travel excursions with good friends has brightened and enlightened our lives – Judy insists I should have been a tour guide.

In 1962 the need to support my family, my boating passion and travel interests compelled me to begin a career. I chose to carry on my grandfather and father's legacy by entering the electrical construction and industrial equipment repair industry. Following graduation from SJS I began a four year apprenticeship with Local 595 I.B.E.W. In '66 I joined the family firm and worked variously as a journeyman, foreman, estimator, project manager and general manager until I purchased the firm in 1979. I served as its President until my retirement in 1998.

During my 36-year industry career I enjoyed participating with the Richmond JC's, Oakland Rotary, Northern California Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NCC-NECA) and the Contra Costa County Chapter (CCC-NECA). I was honored by election of my peers to terms as President and Governor of NCC-NECA, Chair of the Electrical Contractors Trust (ECT), Alameda County Chair of NECA West – California Industry Insurance Trust, and Chair of NECA Labor Negotiating Committee. I served as a Trustee on joint labor management committees as management Chair of the IBEW/NECA Pension Trust and as Trustee on the IBEW/NECA Health and Welfare Trust. I also served a term as Chair of the Oakland Rotary Endowment Trust.

With the exception of reunions, particularly the 50th, I have had little contact with my PHS classmates since graduating in 1957. I have fond memories of football games, club parties, dances and “dunk tanks,” movie dates – the Paramount, Fox, Grand Lake and Mel's Drive-in, climbing Matterhorn Peak in the Sierras, failed experiments in the chemistry lab, and study hall conversations with friends. I now remember those we have lost. I hope these bios will renew old memories and encourage future get-togethers.