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SUZY AIKEN

Suzy attended Stephens College in Missouri (where she must have been a beauty queen! you should see her pictures from that period) but left after a year and married Hardy Thomas of our class in 1959. They lived back East while Hardy was at Harvard Law but returned to California and lived primarily in Piedmont thereafter.

Hardy and Suzy raised three children: Hardy, Jr., Alison and Kirk. They divorced in the early 70's, but Suzy bought a house in Piedmont (on the corner of Oakland and Hillside) and lived there on her own, with one child or another, for many years.

However, she lived and worked at Tahoe for a spell, shortly after her divorce from Hardy, and while there met and married Jess Rebero. Jess and Suzy were both devoted followers of Scientology. They had two children, Doug (named after Suzy's father) and Monica. Jess died not long after Monica's birth.

Sadly, Hardy, Jr. and Doug have both died, and Suzy sees little of Kirk. However, she is still close to her daughters. She has sold the Piedmont house and now lives out in Yerington, Nevada, where she enjoys a quiet life and the gorgeous desert sunsets.

CAROL MCVEAN BALOUGH

Carol graduated from San Jose State with a teaching credential and taught grammar school in Oakland for several years. Shortly after college she married Bill Sparling (PHS 1955), and they had three children: Sara, Michelle and Michael.

Carol and Bill divorced many years ago, and she recently married Doug Balough, a programmer at Wells Fargo Bank. They live in a condo on a golf course in Clayton. They both attended the 50th Class Reunion, looking terrific.

All three children are college graduates. Sara lives in Marin County, but Carol's other two children both live in Hawaii, Michael (with his wife and two children) on Maui, and Michelle (who is married to a doctor) on Kauai. Carol thus has some pleasant options for places to stay on her numerous visits to the Islands.

STEVE BISCHOFF

After graduating from PHS, I entered Cal Berkeley in the fall. I joined Chi Psi and thoroughly enjoyed life in my freshman year. However, after one year at Berkeley I decided to take a year off and "find myself." I went to New York City and got a job with a picture framing company. Later I worked as a sales clerk for an art supply company. While in New York I immersed myself in the art world and in modern jazz. It was a great overall experience.

After returning to California the following summer, I went back to Cal for a semester. Then I transferred to San Francisco State College and took creative writing courses for a few semesters before majoring in American Studies. I received my BA in Feb. 1964. My next two years were in the military, six months in the Naval Security Group Communication Technician's school in Bainbridge, Maryland, and then a year and a half in Karamursel, Turkey.

With the military service out of the way, I took the Federal Service Entrance Exam and was offered a job by the Social Security Administration. I worked for SSA in various capacities for 31 years, primarily working in field offices with the SSI program. I worked in San Francisco for a number of years and then transferred to the Walnut Creek office before transferring to the office in Redding where I retired in 1999.

While working in Walnut Creek I met my wife, Gay, playing tennis at the Valley Vista tennis club. We were married in 1991. We moved to Cottonwood, at the top end of the Sacramento Valley, in 1994, where we have a 21 acre horse ranch. Gay trains "hunters and jumpers," gives English riding lessons, and travels around the country judging and officiating at horse shows. I manage the ranch and keep up with the endless maintenance with the help of a full-time employee. It's a busy life but I wouldn't trade it for anything. Our ranch is a menagerie of 20 horses, 5 dogs (including 3 Jack Russells, a mastiff and a chow), a dozen peacocks, chickens, sheep, a goat and 2 pot-bellied pigs, named "Wilber and Eydie Gorme." As you can see, we love animals.

To round things out, I play men's doubles twice a week at the local tennis club, take painting and printmaking classes at the local community college and am active in my church. Gay and I love to travel when we can get away from the ranch. We traveled to Spain to visit two of the foreign exchange students that we hosted in the late 90's, and in 2006 we flew to Argentina for the wedding of one of these students. It was a wonderful experience, spending a week in Buenos Aires with a side trip to Patagonia.

MICKEY DONOVAN

(Extract from obituary in The Desert Sun, Palm Springs newspaper)

Mike Donovan, 70, of Palm Springs, died Tuesday, January 5th, 2010, when the helicopter he was piloting was involved in an accident over Redinger Lake in Madera County CA, taking the lives of al four men aboard.

Mike was born on July 14, 1939 in Berkeley CA to Dr. Francis A. and Grace Davis Donovan, graduating from Piedmont High in 1957. He attended the University of Wyoming on an athletic scholarship, earning his B.S. degree in Education in 1962. Mike served his country as Naval Aviator from 1962 to 1972 and had attained the rank of lieutenant when honorably discharged. He was a decorated pilot during the Vietnam conflict, serving also in the Western Pacific, San Diego, and Pensacola FL, where he was a flight instructor.

Mike was a pilot's pilot, a veteran aviator whose career spanned 47 years with over 16,000 hours of flight time. His civilian career began in Bishop with Western Helicopters supporting the University of California White Mountain Research Station. He had wide-ranging experience in firefighting and ignition, external cargo long-line and search and rescue and helped many people over the years. Mike had a long relationship with Landells Aviation and through them had an association with the California Department of Fish and Game, BLM, USSGS and the U.S. Forest Service. He also had a wide range of assignments including work on the Palm Springs Tramway, Grand Canyon pipeline, exploration and mining, mapping, animal capture and relocation and EMS. Mike was among the first pilots hired by Mercy Air in 1991 and worked with them for 18 years.

Flying was his lifelong passion; those who knew him said he was a meticulous pilot, a consummate professional.

Mike was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend; he will be truly missed.

ED EVANS

As befitted a guy in the top five academically in our class, Ed attended Cal Tech along with Herb Rice and John Stromberg. He subsequently attended the UCSF Med School, and is apparently a still practicing radiologist in Santa Rosa. He married a girl named Bina shortly after graduating from Med School and had one or two children. However, Ed and Bina are apparently divorced and he has remarried.

NANCY METZ HENDRICK

Has it really been 50 years? As I roll out of bed each morning, I am reminded that it is 50 years but mostly it does not seem that long ago. My Dad moved our family to Chicago after Junior High. The high school I attended was huge and with eight periods a day I took so many different classes. When I came back to Piedmont in my senior year I was in heaven. All I NEEDED to take was Civics . . . so I had a ball. They had no idea what to do with me. I can remember taking drama, typing, and I even took a shorthand course (I have no idea why I did that). Now I certainly was not an academic queen, but I had fulfilled requirements so I could just have fun. In the fall after graduation life did change.

Off I went to the University of California at Davis. I had no idea what I was going to major in but one goes to college to figure that out . . . right? Ended up graduating in American Civilization and went a fifth year to get my elementary credential. I met my husband Larry and we lived in married student housing, eating tube steaks (hot dogs) and mac and cheese. I taught first grade for a few years in Davis and Larry got his high school credential and master's degree in Drama. Then we were off to Ft. Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana for two years, where I learned to be an officer's wife, doing important things like learning to knit and shop at the PX. We now ate frozen melon balls and steaks. Life is looking up.

Our first daughter was born in Indiana and then we moved to Sacramento, where Larry worked at Sacramento City College and I stayed home and had our second daughter in 1967. In the early 70's I started teaching parent participation preschool . . . kids and parents. I did that for ten years and then went back to teaching first grade. In 1995 I had to retire early due to health issues; it was not easy for me to give up the little ones.

We now live in Roseville, which is just north of Sacramento on the way up to Reno. Our girls and their families live close by and we are blessed to have three grandsons . . . after raising girls this is a new world for me. When my health permits, we travel around the world and especially love to hop on a cruise ship and head for a new port. I spend a great deal of time reading and working in the garden, and of course being with family is number one for me.

Sorry to have missed the reunion. The pictures tell me you had a great time. Hope to see you all sometime, maybe even on a cruise ship.

MARY CRAWFORD KEE

Fifty years! I used to think that was a long period of time. Not any more, although a lot has been accomplished during that time.

After graduation I found myself in Tempe, AZ attending what is now Arizona State University. After one year I received my first degree, MRS. I spent the next six years having three children, two daughters, Linda (49) and Barbara (43) and a son Steve (47). I was fortunate not to have to work during the years when they were small. I did my volunteering during those days, Cub Scout den mother and Brownie and Girl Scout leaders, helping out with PTA, homeroom mother, etc. Also sitting in the 100-degree heat during swim meets, softball games and little league. I wouldn't trade those days for anything.

I started back to school when they were all in school, finishing my second degree, a BA in Education. That started my career as an elementary school teacher. I taught for 26 years, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. I was still taking classes for most of that time, over 60+ hours, but never went for the third degree, a Masters. (I probably went through many 3rd degrees!) I retired in May of 2001.

I love spending time with my children and my granddaughters. Barbara and her family live about 15 minutes from me. She is a 1st grade teacher. She has two wonderful daughters, almost 15 and 12. Steve and family live in San Diego. He is retired Navy and now teaches classes in computers on base. He has my third granddaughter, who will graduate from high school in June. Linda lives in Denver and is the business woman of the family.

Over the years I have had many interests that I participated in, like Handbell Choir, watercolor painting and lessons, golfing, scrapbooking (I will never be finished), knitting afghans, gardening, going to movies and reading. It is great fun keeping in contact with friends I have known since Montclair grammar school and at Piedmont High.

I love to travel also. I've been to Australia, Austria, Canada and Germany. I've cruised to the New England states, Hawaii and Mexico. I spend time in the White Mountains here in AZ with my friends in the summer to cool off.

Bravo to you if you finished reading this bio. My accomplishments are not as great as those of some of you, but you know ----- Life has been good to me.

NANCY ESTEP LANDIS

After graduating from Piedmont High School, I attended Arizona State University where I was a Delta Gamma. I then became a teacher, and was teaching kindergarten in the Bay Area when I reconnected with Piedmont High alum Buzz Landis. In 1962, we were married, and shortly after had children Buzzy and Jennifer. Our family moved to Woodland, California, when Buzz bought the Ford dealership there.

Throughout the years, I have spent much of my time volunteering with the service group Omega Nu, advising UC Davis' Delta Gammas, and actively participating in my children's schools. When Buzzy and Jennifer went off to UCD and UCB, I began my pursuit of the perfect golf swing! As my children developed into adults, they both began families of their own and returned to Woodland, where we continue to cherish an extremely close relationship. I am lucky to have five teenage grandchildren, with whom I spend time almost every day. Buzz and I take pleasure in attending all of the grandchildren's many sporting events and activities.

When I'm not in Woodland, I'm usually golfing or relaxing with friends in Palm Desert. I'm on the go most of the time and in addition to my love for golf, I enjoy walking my West Highland terrier, Trixie, working out, playing mah-jongg, flower designing, and traveling. A highlight for years is our annual trip to Newport Beach where I take my daughter, daughter in law, and all of the grandkids for a week of surfing, Disneyland, and LOTS of laughs!

My kids say that the grandchildren picked up my "get it done" lifestyle and I am proud to say that they have started a non-profit organization that strives to promote global literacy. This organization is called R.E.A.C.H. 4 Books, and the kids work tirelessly to raise money in order to build a library and provide Spanish books to children living along the Amazon River in Peru. Check out their website www.reach4books.webs.org.

Buzz and I aren't on Facebook yet, but we try to keep up with the current trends. You can often find us texting on our iphones, programming our Tivo, or googling some important information on our macbooks. Please email me: nlandis@sbcglobal.net! I would love to hear from you!

LELAND LEISZ

After graduating from Piedmont High School in 1957, I attended the University of California (at Berkeley). I graduated in 1961 with a BS in Electrical Engineering. I continued at Cal and earned an MBA in 1963. Among my activities at Cal I served on the Rally Committee, and among honors earned were membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, Phi Eta Sigma and Beta Gamma Sigma

After Cal I accepted a job with IBM as a Systems Engineer, working for them for about seven years on several different accounts.

After IBM, I went to work for Safeway in application development within the Information Technology Division until retirement after 20+ years. The Safeway employment involved a number of jobs, including managing several application development departments.

I have been active in the Piedmont Community Church, Gideon's International, and the Seniors Committee of my golf club.

BRONTE STEPHENS LUKANISH

You will recall that Bronte and John were an item while still at PHS, and they were married before John was 21. It was clearly meant to be, as they were happy together until John died not long after the 50th Reunion.

Bronte attended Healds Business College. She and John started out in the car business but switched to real estate and founded the Piedmont Company. They lived in Piedmont, and their two children, Laura and Larry, went to PHS.

While they moved from Piedmont some years ago (Bronte now lives in El Dorado Hills), Bronte and John were still active in business, and since John's death Bronte has successfully handled business matters.

Laura is married and lives in Napa. She is a stewardess. Larry lives in Orange County and has two little girls, whom Bronte visits a lot.

COLLEEN DOUGHERTY LUND

Dear Classmates,

I promised Jane Howell that I would write my What-I-Have-Done-in-the-Past-50-Years document before another year passed. Well, the presents are wrapped, the cards are sent, and two of the grandkids are watching *Dumbo* while we babysit. Thus, I seem to have a few minutes of relative peace and quiet to attempt to summarize my life since age 18. I should warn all readers that our Christmas letter was six pages before Bill edited it down to two! That only covered one year and now I am supposed to cover 50 years in a few paragraphs. Yea – right. Oh, well, here goes. The highlights -----

After four fun-filled and often hard-working years, I graduated from Connecticut College (then For Women) with a bachelor's degree in Economics. Putting my degree to work, I returned home for a job as a portfolio analyst at Dean Witter in San Francisco. The following summer I was Connecticut College's graduate representative on the Eastern Colleges Committee. The sole purpose of this group was to put on a dance for kids going East to college. Bill Lund, PHS 1954 and Yale 1958, called to see if I would like a ride to the meeting. After the meeting he took me to *The Rickshaw Lounge* in Ross Alley, Chinatown, for a cocktail. Well, to make a short story shorter, we started dating around Christmas 1962 and were married on March 30th, 1963, after dating for only three months! So much for both of us saying we would **never** marry anyone from Piedmont (too inbred, we thought). Three children, six grandchildren and 45+ years later and we're still happily married.

We moved to Moraga in 1967 and have been in the same house ever since. I should mention, however, that many remodels have occurred over the years. Having obtained my MRS degree, I did what most women of our generation did. I quit Dean Witter and became an at home "mommy."

Several years ago, when I was a candidate for our church Pastoral Council (served for four years), I had to write a bio. At that time I put down that I did, indeed, have a job outside the home – that of "Professional Volunteer." I have been a member of Teak Branch of Children's Hospital Branches for 44 years. Over the years I've done everything in Teak Branch from Treasurer to Chairman to being a member of the Board of Directors of the Branches. I was an active volunteer in all the Moraga schools and have been on the boards of many local organizations. I'm currently First Vice President and Membership Chair of the Moraga Historical Society, Treasurer of both St. Monica Women's Guild and Teak Branch (a lifetime job, I'm sure), and serve as Parliamentarian of Moraga Women's Society.

Twenty-seven years ago my best friend and I began ColMar Creations. We "manufacture" and sell wreaths, seasonal arrangements and wooden items. I do all the wood-cutting (requested and received a large scroll saw from Bill for our 25th anniversary); Marge does all the painting. We're trying to retire, but in the present economy we are finding that the purchase of decorative items is really not a necessity and thus our inventory has not depleted sufficiently to allow us to retire.

When not doing any of the aforementioned activities I have become a novice wood-carver. I've finished two bears and a green-wing teal duck to date. I plan on doing two spotted towhees next. I really enjoy my carving class even though I am far from speedy.

Bill took early retirement from the phone company when he was only 51 so we have had a long time to adjust to (and enjoy) retirement. He did work for a few years as Business Manager at the Athenian School. He then dabbled in a consulting business he started after his years at Athenian, but has basically been retired since leaving the school. In that time, and with the kids all successfully launched (each with a master's degree), we have done a fair amount of traveling. We have managed to get to England quite often to stay with Ginger Dumont Kelly, PHS '59, and her husband. We have traveled in the UK, the Balkans, and Europe, Greece, Turkey, Israel, Australia, New Zealand, China, Borneo, Thailand, Canada, the USA, etc. This summer we are going on a Smithsonian cruise in Norway's fjords, the North Cape, and Russia's White Sea.

Two of our children live in the Bay Area, and one in Atlanta (although he is on active duty as a Naval Reserve Commander and currently works at the Pentagon during the week). Thus we have four local grandkids (3, 5, 7, and 10) and two in Georgia (2 and 4). All are a blessing and great fun.

Well, that's it. The best way to describe my life to date is to say that I have been blessed – blessed with good health, a fantastic family, and with many friends who enrich our lives.

Colleen Dougherty Lund

Can be reached at littleelf39@att.net

JULIE WINSOR MEDLAND

Julie was at the class's 40th Reunion, but the Committee hasn't heard from her since, though our latest information is that the Toronto address in the roster is still current. Third-hand reports are sketchy, but here goes.

We know she was a Theta at Cal with Lynn Fairchild and Alice Land. She was married in 1962 to a very cool guy from Cal, and they moved to Canada soon thereafter. They had two sons, and Julie received a graduate degree in Social Work from a Canadian college. The marriage eventually ended in divorce.

Julie's second husband, Mr. (?) Medland, was apparently a Canadian, and the marriage was a very happy one. The Medlands adopted an Asian orphan at some point after the boys were fairly grown up. Alice Land Runnette has been told that Mr. Medland died fairly recently, perhaps within the last year or so.

If anyone knows anything else about Julie, please let us know.

PERRY PARKHURST

My Life since PHS: Adventure, Variety and Exploration

I wanted to go to Stanford, but did not get accepted. So my first adventure was to go across two thirds of the country to Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. It was down to a choice of Pomona in Southern California or Oberlin.

My freshman roommate was from Bayonne, New Jersey, and thought that he was way out west in Ohio. He expected me to arrive with six shooters and a cowboy hat. While at Oberlin, my summers were filled with exploration: traveling to Europe with a student group of thirty gals and three guys including myself. One spring vacation I hitchhiked to Florida with a fellow Californian.

I left Oberlin after my junior year and eventually graduated from Berkeley (February of '63) with a degree called Physical Science Field Major, a combination major in Chemistry, Physics, Math and Statistics. The summer of '63 found me in Midland, Michigan working for the Dow Chemical Company. There seems to be something about identical double letter locations that identifies me. PP goes to OO then MM. After completing the sales training course, I was assigned to the Chicago office. This was a return home for me as I was born in Chicago. My first adventure with Chicago was driving the three hundred miles from Midland on a Sunday evening in a snow storm and getting a wake up call the next morning telling me it was seven o'clock and seventeen below zero.

I went through a number of sales positions with Dow starting as an inside salesman and progressing through selling designed chemicals that included antimicrobials, thickening agents, chelating chemicals and separation flocculants. It was fascinating as my customers ranged from beer manufacturers through paint companies to the tanning industry. Eventually, I became a sales specialist in the urethane industry. As with many companies it became time to look at experience in the home office – Midland. Midland is a small town where company politics control what you say and how you act.

I had fallen in love and gotten married with one son by this time. My wife and I realized that we could not survive in the atmosphere of a company town. We had become big city people and lived right in the city of Chicago and loved it. During those years we started our joint explorations that continue to this day. Our honeymoon was spent in Jamaica. One vacation was driving east through Canada, including Niagara Falls, out to Prince Edward Island and the tip of Nova Scotia, then down the coast through the Northeast and back to Chicago. A desire developed to visit all 50 states. Only North Dakota remains, but the plan now is to take a picture of all 50 state Capitols. Sales territories in the states that abut Illinois and business travels helped build the list of states pretty fast.

Back to my business career, I decided to leave Dow and became an Investment Advisor (stockbroker) with Shearson Hammill. The training program included six weeks in New York, New York. There go those identical double letter names again. I was on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on the day that the Dow Jones Industrial first closed over 1000. Soon, the Dow headed south and being a stockbroker in those days meant that you either slept well or ate well. Sleeping well was more important and a change in career was the result.

I had jokingly told Suzanne if she married me I would take her to California. Resumes were sent to San Francisco area companies with a job hunting trip planned. That never happened as two companies that I contacted had job openings in the Chicago area. Chevron Chemical Company was chosen over Stanford Research Institute. A year later, our second son had been born and we found ourselves living in Houston, Texas. My job included the office manager of a multi-business sales office and a sales territory for petrochemicals that included Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and most of Tennessee. I became a Texan and purchased a cowboy hat and boots.

My list of states visited was enhanced and I learned how many days there are between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. I have seldom found anyone that knows the answer. I didn't and consequently ended up in New Orleans on Mardi Gras. There is a bottle of my house wine available at my house for the right answer and the reason why it is the right answer. While living in Texas, we traveled to the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico and became fascinated with the Mayan culture.

Three years later, my promise to Suzanne was fulfilled with a transfer to Chevron Chemical's home office in San Francisco. We settled in San Mateo for a number of reasons including a commute without having to cross a bridge and the fact that I was at the time the only son living in California and my parents had moved to Burlingame.

My Chevron career took me through the product management of the major money making for the division and into the Purchasing Department for all of the divisions of the Chemical Company. As manager of the department, I oversaw the purchase of the raw materials that were required in the businesses that ranged from those of the Ortho Garden and Home business, to the lube oil business, the Ag Chemical business and finally the manufacture of Techron, the proprietary gasoline additive. International business trips included Brazil and Japan, while domestic travels were varied and even included visits to my old employer Dow in both Texas and Michigan.

My volunteer activities with our sons revolved around the Y Indian Guides, where I became a Nation Chief, and the Boy Scouts as a Webelos Leader, Pack Master and Assistant Scout Master. As with all of us, there was also the issue of dealing with parents and their health. Along the way was a challenging experience of dealing with our second son who was a near drowning victim. He was sucked into the grate at the bottom of a spa tub connected to a swimming pool at my parents' house. He was not breathing when he was taken to the hospital and we were given all the reasons why he probably would not make it through the night. He did live through the night and gradually over three months came out of a coma. During the year that followed, Ken had to again learn everything from rolling over to walking. Intensive special education programs and therapies allowed him to return to regular school a year later. The year was quite an adventure.

Once again my job became less than thrilling and with a boss with whose business philosophy I could not relate. He made decisions based on internal politics and I made decisions based on commercial values. I went looking for other adventures. This time my age advised me to find the new opportunity before leaving Chevron. My wife and I bought a small business and

I left Chevron the last day before my department moved to San Remote, as it was referred to in my family. Most of you know it as San Ramon.

Our business, Enrico Industries, sold empty plastic spray bottles and other plastic containers to the beauty industry and the retail trade. We sold internationally as well as domestically. Some of our products were manufactured in Taiwan and others in the United States. Additional exploration came with our international suppliers calling for business adventures to Taiwan, Hong Kong and eventually mainland China.

Along the way, a need for additional space besides the little warehouse in San Mateo was reached. We purchased land in Ceres, California, and another identical double letter location was added to my resume. My first design and construction project was a twenty thousand square foot concrete tilt-up warehouse and office. The project was a real challenge, particularly dealing with the city and county bureaucrats. We moved in without an occupancy permit because one of those bureaucrats didn't like our landscaping. That challenge was won after some time as the city had landscaped their new offices in the same manner as our warehouse.

We took the business to a level where addition capital was needed to get to the next level. Instead of raising that capital, we sold the business to one of our manufacturer's reps who moved in to Dallas, Texas. Suzanne retired and I acted as a consultant for five years. This was a way of getting our monies out of the business and making sure that it continued to be run in a manner that would guarantee us our monies. We kept the warehouse as an investment and it has done quite well.

By this time our sons had their college degrees and we completed our dream of moving to a location that was not quite as hectic as the Bay Area. Our travels to trade shows, suppliers and customers had given us the opportunity to explore California from Santa Barbara north. The area that caught our attention was the Highway 49 corridor from Auburn to Grass Valley. We could not find a house that incorporated the best of our San Mateo home with its view and our mountain cabin along Highway 4 between Big Trees State Park and Bear Valley. We sold the cabin and bought five acres in the area known as Lake of the Pines Ranchos, about halfway between Auburn and Grass Valley.

I did the space planning and design of our retirement home and then acted as my own general contractor or owner builder. The plan was to build a post and beam home where the roof is supported by the post and beam design, which allows open space as the interior walls are not load bearing. The actual architectural drawings were done by Linwood Homes in exchange for buying the materials from them. Hiring the subcontractors and overseeing the construction was a challenge with many rewards. We did finishing work ourselves which included painting, staining, varnishing, tile work, hardwood floors and cabinet installation.

Selling our home in San Mateo was another adventure as we put the home on the market two days before 9/11 and went to Hawaii to rest and relax. Needless to say the housing market crashed and the timing of our move plus the finishing of the retirement home were delayed. We moved in with only the downstairs guest quarters finished and the three story scaffolding in the Great Room awaiting us to finish the painting, staining and varnishing. After the house was finished, the acreage has occupied our time. The land has many trees and we have built a

labyrinth, fought poison oak, constructed paths, installed watering systems, and made the property more fire resistant.

Our travels have continued with Cal Alumni trips through the Panama Canal on a small ship and an overseas study trip to Greece. Other adventures include sea kayaking on the Gulf of Baja, Machu Picchu in Peru, China, New Zealand, Thailand, Cambodia, Bali, Singapore, South of Spain, Egypt, Jordan, a camera safari in Africa, and last fall to Turkey.

Current volunteer work includes doing taxes for people through AARP Foundation. This is my fourth year and there is an exam and class work review every year. It is a high helping people with their taxes. The best part of this volunteerism is that it is seasonal. Another fun activity is working on the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee that is held over Memorial Day weekend.

My most active hobby is photography. I recently joined the Nevada County Camera Club. A daily Sudoku puzzle or two keeps me challenged as do crossword and jigsaw puzzles. My ATV helps with all the garden projects. Football passions formerly centered on the 49ers but now my season tickets are with the CAL BEARS.

Hope that this has not been too boring; however, if you are interested and ever in the area please come visit. We have a nice guest room. Ask the Matkins. Jack by the way is my ninth cousin.

Perry Parkhurst

KATHERINE ALFIERS-STATHIS

One afternoon in 12th grade English, Mr. Bernard announced to the entire class that I had a talent for writing – and then he added this was a blessing since I didn't speak too well. I can't remember why he made such a public announcement, but I do remember wondering in sheer embarrassment: *Was that a compliment or an insult?* And, since I idolized him as a teacher, I took his words to heart. (The lesson here: be extremely careful what you say to an impressionable teen.)

I became a writer, and I still cannot speak well.

I enrolled at San Francisco State immediately after graduating from PHS, planning to earn a degree and then to travel for a couple of years before marriage. But family circumstances ended my student life after the first semester. Those circumstances were rooted in my father's sudden death in 1955 when I was a sophomore and my brother still at Wildwood. Dad was here this morning and gone this afternoon. He was 46. This jolt propelled our family out of orbit and into chaos until one uncle, a building contractor, dictated his plan for our survival to my 38-year old mother. Still in shock from my father's death, she passively followed his lead.

The plan consisted of first selling our home in Piedmont (which my father's life insurance had paid off) as well as my father's half share of a thriving business; building an apartment house near Lake Merritt; then installing my mother as its owner and manager. In early 1957 we left Piedmont and moved into one of the larger apartments. My uncle implemented a reasonably good plan except for one thing – many apartment units were sporadically unoccupied, and my mother's income diminished to the point where I had to augment her income. So I left college and worked at a bank until I married in 1960. My marriage lasted for 17 years and produced two sons. It was not until the early 1970s that I returned to college and eventually graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in English Lit – at the age of 40. And I loved every moment of it.

To pay for my education at UC, I worked part-time for an attorney in downtown Oakland. He relentlessly encouraged me to go into law, but (remembering Mr. Bernard's edict) I turned towards free-lance writing. Providence Hospital commissioned me to write the history of the Sisters of Providence in Oakland. I spent many months translating the sisters' detailed journals of their daily activities, thanks to Mr. Hazelton. They wrote in French (they came from Montreal) with a beautiful hand. They recorded their history in huge leather-bound books and then stored them in the hospital's attic. By the time I got to those volumes they hadn't been handled for decades. This contract lasted for three interesting years.

Then I signed on as a technical writing consultant for customer training with IBM. A few years later, Siemens bought those divisions from IBM and hired me permanently. That's where I stayed until my retirement. The fantastic evolution of technical writing in the last 20 years is another story in itself; suffice to say that "distance learning" has replaced training manuals and classroom instruction to a large extent. I had to quickly adjust to the fast-moving, ever-changing aspects of online training as we delivered customer training over the Internet to a diverse audience, at any time, in many languages – a wild, fascinating ride.

Retiring from Siemens in 1999, I brought my mother to live with us as she was beginning to show signs of dementia. That's when I started teaching piano. Today I have 26 piano students of varying ages, two of them being my grandchildren. Now, my mother lives in a nursing home around the corner, and I bike there every day to see her (Europeans have taught me to stay out of my car).

I love to volunteer in the community. I've been publicity chair for the Greek Festivals in Oakland and Castro Valley for many years. Over a 5-year period in the 1980s I resurrected a junior volunteer program at Livermore's hospital, recruiting and training teens interested in medicine. I'm a member of the Livermore Arts Council that oversees a wide variety of performing arts here in Livermore, and when so moved, I help with local community elections.

I remarried and have enjoyed 30 years with my present spouse, Andy. My sons both live in San Jose. Sarento, now 46, an engineer who thoroughly enjoys launching satellites for Loral, has married and given us two dear grandchildren. Constantine, now 41, is a musician at heart but works for Apple, manages his tech business and recording studio. He's still single and looking!

Andy and I travel every year between May and October, always ending our trips with a week or two on the island of Kythera in Greece, the birthplace of my Alfiers ancestors. Our trips have always conflicted with the reunions, but I hope to see my former classmates again at the next event and look forward to it.

May 2009

CHERIE PIERPONT WILSON

Cherie married Lee Wilson (PHS Class of 1956) in the early 60's, and they lived in the Bay Area but divorced after about ten years. Not long thereafter Cherie found Jerry Abbott, whom she and Lee had known when married. Jerry has been Cherie's Significant Other for more than thirty years, and she helped raise his two children. They have been living in Inverness, California, for many years now. Cherie adores the quiet country life and loves animals – dogs and cats, of course, but apparently also cows! She indulges her artistic bent by doing crafts and working in Inverness's charming gift shop.

She is a homebody, but when you catch a glimpse of her it is borne in on you that, however much all these years of living may have shaped her character, she hasn't changed much on the outside. There are a few "character lines," of course, but she is still the beautiful little slip of a girl she was fifty years ago.