



SOUTH SALEM HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1963 NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

NEWS FROM SWEDEN ... A MESSAGE FROM BJORN

BY BJORN SODERFELDT



(EDITOR'S NOTE : Following is the e-mail which started the correspondence with Bjorn. After the initial contact he wrote

a note to Barb Cross and Glen Johnson telling what he had been doing since his days in Salem. With his permission we are sharing this with all classmates.)

I was the exchange student at South Salem High during 1962-63. It was a long time ago, but never forgotten. Then, I had the name of Bjorn Persson, which I changed into Bjorn Soderfeldt. It would be wonderful to have contact with people in the class. I got your mail address though a mail from Judy Ernst on Classmates.com.

Please let me know if anything happens with reunions or similar, and I would also appreciate a copy of addresses if you have one.

Best regards

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Thanks for your mails - this is really a nostalgic kick for me, and also a big surprise. I am sorry about my late reply, but this close to Christmas is a busy time. Anyhow, feel free to distribute my mails to anyone - I have no greater dark secrets in my life. You also ask about any particular addresses that I would like, and there are a few, like Art Little, Cathy Stone, Gail Miller and Melissa Dunaway, with whom I really would like to have some contact. It's a long time ago, I have no idea of their whereabouts but it would be nice to review memories. I do remember you, Glen, although we didn't have much contact then, even if you are a nice fellow, as I remember. It is quite amazing that you are a friend of Mats Kronström - shows what a small world this is.

Then you ask a more complicated question, my life. It flatters, of course, the ego of anyone to be asked such questions, so, here we go! After returning from South High back to my family, I graduated from the Swedish high school a year later, did military service and worked for a year before going to the University of Uppsala to study political science. I had already met a girl, Birgitta, and we married in 1967. In 1968, we got our first child, a little girl named Ida Maria, and I began graduate school for a PhD in political science. I spent the summer of 1970 in the US, at ISR Summer school in Ann Arbor, MI, where I learned statistics. I got my PhD in 1972, and in 1973 we got our second child, a little boy five months old, Martin, adopted from India.

I worked as a teacher and researcher at the department of Political Science

in Uppsala until 1977, when we moved to Lund in southernmost Sweden. My specialty was political theory and organizations.



My wife was - and is - a physician and she got her internship in neurology in Lund, but I began to work as a research leader at a county council in Örebro, 500 kilometers away, while the family moved to a small village outside Lund. (County councils are the responsible authorities for all health care in Sweden, but the Örebro county council, with some 20,000 employees, started research in connection with the big hospital there). I was a weekly commuter, traveling every week to Lund and my family, although I was home long enough for having a third child, in 1979, a boy named Gustaf. Eventually, my wife received her specialist competence, plus a PhD in brain research, and the family reunited in 1983 in Örebro, where she began to

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NOTES FROM CLASSMATES ...



CRAIG HOBBS
WRITES ...

Here's a quick update on what we've been up to. I've been out of touch with most members of our class, except Glen

Johnson, Rich Margosian and Cobe Grabenhorst.

Jan Salter (Class of 1962) and I are living on Bainbridge Island, Washington. For those of you that don't know Bainbridge, it's a short ferry ride to Seattle and is a delightful place to live and bring up a family. Jan and I have been married 40 years now, and, like I tell Jan often, "It only feels like 20 years."

We have two children, who are now 35 and 37. Our daughter, Teresa is a teacher on Bainbridge and lives just down the street from us with her three kids (5, 7 & 9). The grandkids love to pop up to Grandpa's and Grandma's house for games, cookies. Our son,



Craig and daughter Teresa on a trip to Sunriver.

Craig lives in Seattle and he and his wife have a one-year old son.

We moved to Bainbridge in 1978, and Jan told me, at the time, "Don't even think about moving further North." We have moved three times on Bainbridge and a few years ago were fortunate to find some acreage to build a home on – which is where we live now.

I retired from Washington Mutual's mutual fund management company in 1995, having been very fortunate to work for such a great company in the very early phase of its growth.

After recovering from a quadruple heart bypass in September, 2003 (on vacation in Bend), I refocused on health and exercise. I'm now play racquetball 5-6 times a week and truly love the game. I'll be playing in the "old geezer" division (60+) at the Washington State Championships in late February and in the National Masters Racquetball Association tournament in early March. Knock on wood, my body is still hanging in there to play the sport very competitively.

We look forward to attending the next gathering of the "Class of '63" to see many of you again."

Craig Hobbs



NANCY DAVIS
MEYERS
WRITES ...

A quick note to let everyone know my husband and I have retired back to Colorado. New address is 40 N. Juniper Rd., Ridgway CO 81432. It is a beautiful place to live!

Nancy Davis Meyers
meyersfamily@yahoo.com



JOHN
BEALEY
WRITES ...

I suppose I have had an interestingly varied life since high school.

I have enjoyed reading about age-old friends from high school. As we age it is fun to read about adventures many of us have had. I attended the 20-year reunion, but none since.

Most of my working life was in remote Alaska as a bush teacher and commercial fisherman and later a gallery owner. It has been nice to be back in Oregon. My life is now more normal living on a farm just inland from Bandon Dunes Resort. Raising shire/arab sport horses, growing an organic fruit orchard and trim-

ming fir trees and still teaching high school to keep me young of mind and agile.

Retired when I was 47, but that was a great bore. It lasted for 1 1/2 years until I needed something important to do and started a farm and then a health food store and now back to teaching high school which I generally enjoy except for a time every February. Teaching has been good – not much has equaled the autonomy and the politics hasn't got to me yet. I still feel idealistic and for an old-fart that's good.

I still fish for salmon, but only for sport out of Bandon when the ocean is quiet or in the Coquille River when it isn't.

Thanks for your coordination of these newsletters.

JS Bealey



RON NICHOLS
WRITES ...

I was very grateful to receive emails from Sharon (Johnson) Bradford since I missed our last (40th) reunion. I feel I have been "out of the loop" all these years, although there have been a few classmates I have heard from now and again. I am very interested in keeping in touch! I don't know what to offer in this regard, but if there was something I could do help, I would be willing to try. Understand of course, I am not retired like some of you "older" classmates (Ha!). Let me know and I will do what I can.

Since you and Ron have taught at South, I have had nephews and nieces (Liudahl) and many friends (Mosman, Edge, Ulshafer, Neal, to name a few) attend our alma mater. It seemed you two were always favorites on the South High staff and it was fun to explain to the youngsters that you were classmates so many years ago. Thanks to both of you for the job well done!! Our three children went to McNary - '90, '93 & '98. That was a good experience for all three, but would have been fun to have gone back to South. We attended some basketball games at South and that was fun.

Don Ditto, '63, informs me that Bob Cummins has recently passed away. Is

there a list of those who are gone? Was one posted for the 40th.?

Keep in touch!

Ron Nichols



GARY OLSON WRITES ...

The following was provided through a series of e-mails in the last three months between Gary D. Olson and Bernadette

(Bernie) Stone-Barrett:

Gary and Claudia (Schweigert- SSSHS Class of '65) are living in Milwaukie, OR. They keep busy with travels, hobbies, and family. Gary and Claudia have two sons living in Milwaukie. Gary retired three years ago. He was the owner of an independent insurance agency in Milwaukie for 28 years. Gary now enjoys golfing, fly fishing, skiing, and windsurfing. Gary went to Park City, Utah for four days of skiing in early January.

Gary and Claudia (and their dog, Andie – see photo) spent some time in Arizona this winter following the birth of their second grandchild in mid-January (congratulations!).



Gary Olson, wife, Claudia and dog Andie.

When last I heard from them in early March, they were traveling in their RV in Sedona and had spent some time in Surprise. Hopefully, we will hear more from Gary. Until then, keep enjoying the good life, Gary and family!

Bernadette



DON DITTO WRITES ...

After 30+ years in Southern California, Don Ditto is back in Salem. After high school graduation,

Don went to Merritt Davis Business College, and then into the Navy. When his enlistment was up four years and two ships later, Don landed a

TREASURER'S NOTE... A BIG THANK YOU!

Ongoing financial contributions from classmates will help keep the Class of '63 news coming. And, since our last newsletter issue, these classmates have generously sent in contributions to the newsletter fund:

Roger Appelgate
Pam (Raymond) Shull
Glen Johnson
Sally (Clinker) Clemens
Craig Hobbs
Vicki (Andrews) Sanders

A big thanks to each of you!

If you are enjoying receiving the class news and can help with the expense related to production and mailing (to those without email), please send your contributions to our treasurer Sue Palmason.

Checks should be made payable to Sue and mailed to:

Sue Palmason
8417 Main Street
Unit D
Edmonds, WA 98026

NOTE: If you are receiving a hard copy of the newsletter and have an e-mail address please send it to either Barb Cross at barb.cross@comcast.net or Sharon Bradford at virgilbradford@comcast.net. This small change has many benefits ... you will receive the newsletter sooner; photos will be clearer and the biggest benefit is you will be saving us money!

Further if you hear of classmates who are not receiving the newsletter by either message let a staff member know this also. We appreciate those of you who have informed us of this fact. We try to get past issues out to them and to be sure that their information is accurate on our data base.



civilian job as a Service Technician with Monroe Systems for Business in Long Beach, California. It was there that he met Cindy Lovan. They married in December of 1979, and Don brought Cindy to Salem for a Christmas-season honeymoon. She fell in love with the Willamette Valley during that first visit. Although business kept them in California for another 20 years, they bought a home in Salem in the early 1980s, using as a rental and targeting it as their future retirement home. It's in a familiar neighborhood the house is on Scenic View Drive, right next door to the one where Don lived while attending South Salem High!

Don stayed with Monroe until 1995, when he and a friend started up a new business. That didn't work out, and Don took an early retirement in favor of renovating the home in Long Beach and the house here in Salem two tasks that were a lot more work than the corporate job! By late 1998, Don and Cindy were both ready to wave goodbye to Southern California and come home to Salem. They made the move official in early 1999. Cindy is now a Systems Analyst for ODOT. Don has become a woodturner, and is currently the President of the Willamette Valley Woodturners Association. Don can be reached at ditto@maxxconnect.net <mailto:ditto@maxxconnect.net> .

Don has kept in contact over the years with Mike Maynard. Mike is divorced, and lives in West Salem. Mike is self-employed, and is currently working with equipment in the Salem area. Don and Cindy spend many of the holidays with Mike and Mike's sisters, Georgette and Maureen (who also South Salem alumni) and their families.

During his years of living in Long Beach and visiting Oregon on vacations, Don tried to find another high school buddy, Dave Rowe, but without success. When planning to attend Souths 30-year reunion, Don asked Cindy to ask everyone she talked to that evening whether they knew how to contact Dave. One guess as to who was the very first person they saw as they walked into the gathering that evening! Yep, Dave Rowe himself. Dave and Don have kept in touch since. Dave recently retired from TriMet. He and his wife Barbara, a retired flight attendant from United Airlines, live in Battle Ground, WA. Dave can be reached at DLRowe3162@aol.com.

NOTE FROM BJORN ...

(Continued from page 1)

work at the big hospital there (1200 beds). This was, of course, celebrated with still another child in 1984, a girl named Ylva. So we managed the statistical average pretty good, two boys and two girls.

Now, this sounds nice and pretty idyllic, which it wasn't. I usually joke that we tried to save our marriage about every fifth year with a new child. The fifth time, it was a new wife instead. So, we divorced in 1988 and I married Marie, 13 years younger than me, in 1989. She was a social worker working with health issues and we met at my job, then at the department of Social Medicine at Örebro County Council. I wrote another dissertation in public health at Karolinska Institute and graduated there as Dr Med Sc in 1988. Through Marie, I also got into social work as an academic subject. Then, in 1990, I got a nice scholarship to spend a year as visiting professor at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, so Marie and I went there via Oregon, where we visited the Sullivans (who were camping at the time so we spent a night in a tent there in August 1990, meeting Wes and Elsie and their children, except Steve, who couldn't make it), then driving across country all the way to Baltimore, a wonderful trip. Baltimore

as a city isn't very wonderful, but we got along fine there, working at the School of Public Health.

Coming home, there was turbulence at the job – Sweden went through a serious economic crisis 1990-91 – but we both managed to keep our jobs although with new tasks. Marie got a licentiate (about in between a masters and a doctoral degree) in social work and started out in research full time. I began collaboration with dentists – there was also specialist dentist education in Örebro – and started out with dental public health research, which led us to Malmö in 1995, at the dental school there with the only full professorship in dental public health in Sweden, which I got in 1998. Before that, Marie got her PhD in social work in Lund 1997. And then our problems began seriously, since Marie developed alcoholism, leading to a second divorce for me in 2002. A sad story indeed, and a tough struggle for us both the last five years of our marriage, but she eventually chose the bottle before me.

It seems that I have some kind of problem with religion, since both my wives had a background in Swedish independent churches, congregationalist for Birgitta and pentecostal for Marie. So, my third wife was and is logically a deacon in the Swedish church, the previous state church. I met Arja, my present wife, just after the divorce and

she moved to me and Malmö in the fall of 2002, and we married in 2003. She is born in Finland, so we married in Oulu in northern Finland. She had two children in a previous marriage – the father was from Spain – and her daughter married an American recently. The wedding was in Sweden, and it was quite interesting to note that of some 75 people at the wedding, I was the only Swede! Spain, Finland, Poland, Italy, and the Phillippines were represented. This gives a picture of globalization for you!

We now live a rather nice, although somewhat hectic life, living in the city center in Malmö in a picturesque little house. Arja's daughter moved to Detroit so we visited her there last October, then going to Mats Kronström in Halifax, NS, Canada. I knew nothing about that you, Glen, know Mats so well, so your mail really surprised me. I have forwarded it to Mats. This is so amazing, and we certainly have to meet if you come to Sweden – that goes of course for you too, Barb! Indeed, Glen, if you would indicate a possible subject for a 45 minute lecture, I might be able to arrange an invitation for you to deliver it here in Malmö, thus paying for your trip. If that could be coordinated with a visit of Mats, we could have a wonderful time here! Think about it!

And the best Season's greetings to both of you!

All my best!
Björn

ARIZONA HAS APPEAL FOR CLASSMATES

BY SHARON JOHNSON BRADFORD

It seems that many former classmates find the desert an appealing place, either for a winter get-away or permanent residence. Warmth, sun, a different beauty than the Pacific Northwest offers - all have appeal.

We know that several classmates have taken up permanent residence: Roger Appelgate (Oro); Becky Lorenz Gough (Surprise); Paula Frederick Garlick (Scottsdale); Jeanne Cannon (Anthem); Alton Albin (Payson); Olivia Berg-Mitchell (Scottsdale);

Many of us visit during the colder months of the year either for a short time - a week or so, or longer – as is the case for Bernadette Stone Barret and her husband Rich who make Yuma one of



their choices as a get-away from the Oregon winters.

Gary Olson also finds Surprise a nice winter get-away (see class notes).

As for my husband and me, we are lucky to have friends that have a home in Surprise (near Phoenix) and get a chance to visit a couple of times each winter.

The picture (see photo on left) was taken during a visit this past January at Becky's home during an impromptu visit when Bernie and Rich drove up to Surprise from Yuma for a few days to visit us. We were lucky enough to catch a very busy Becky with a few hours in the evening spent catching up and letting our husbands listen to stories that meant absolutely nothing to them - and everything to us. They get kudos for not rushing the evening and allowing us to continue our "girl-talk" much later than we expected.

Becky and Walt's hospitality was much appreciated. So if you are planning to go to Arizona, check the classmates living there and get in touch ... it is great fun!

EDITOR'S NOTE...



Your newsletter staff hopes that you will enjoy this edition of the SSHS Class of '63 newsletter. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to write your notes and updates and send pictures. It has been very satisfying to find and reconnect with some of our classmates that we had not heard from since we left high school or those that have not attended a class reunion since maybe the 10th or 20th.

The newsletter staff will be making an extra effort this year to find our missing classmates. Please take a few minutes to review the list and let us know if you have any ideas about where these people are or how we can find them.

For those of you who are getting the newsletter and haven't taken the time to write, please take a few minutes to send in a note, update, and /or picture(s) to let your classmates know where you are, how you are doing, and what you are doing.

Have a great spring and summer, and we hope to see you this fall. (See related announcement regarding the fall event.)

With Sadness ...

(EDITOR'S NOTE: It is with much sadness that we report the loss of three classmates since our last issue. We extend our deepest sympathy to their families.)



*Leona
Galbraith
Fillis Cook*

Leona Cook passed away after a courageous 16-month struggle with

cancer. The family moved to Oregon in 1951 and settled near Rosedale, just south of Salem. She worked for Salem Schools. Hobbies included caring for her family, knitting, singing, fishing and keeping busy. Survived by her husband Edwin "Bud" Cook, son Joseph, daughter, Kyleeta Cook, step-children, brothers & sisters and six grandchildren.



*Phyllis
Wirth
Mix*

Phyllis died at the age of 60, on February 22, after a long battle with cancer.

She was born in Salem to Earl F. and Neola M. Wirth, and attended South Salem High School. She was employed at South Salem Fred Meyer before moving to a Scio area farm. There, she enjoyed her flower garden, her horse, and identifying and feeding the birds. Phyllis also enjoyed creating stained glass.

Phyllis is survived by her mother, Neola; her companion, Gene Sykora and beloved dog, Ebby; her brother, Douglas Wirth and his wife, Karen; daughter, Gretchen N. Mix and companion, Anthony Doke; son, Toby J. Mix and wife, Kelsey; 4 grandchildren; and many cousins.



*Richard
(Dick) Edge*

Richard lived in Salem his whole life. He was a very talented musician. He played many instruments but was best known as "Little Richard" on the steel guitar. He joined the Maddox Brothers and Rose and played the night club circuit. He met and played with many musical legends including Tommy Collins, Ray Price, Ernest Tubb, Jim Reeves, Bob Wills, Red Foley, Kitty Wells, Win Stewart, Web Pierce, Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, Freddy Fender. He started his own band "Amarillo" that was popular in the Pacific Northwest. He started a radio program called "A Little Bit of Heaven Country Music Jamboree" on KYKN (local radio station). Survived by his wife Gail, two sons Jef and Tommy, four daughters, Patti, Vikki, Cheri, and Tyeasha, 11 grandchildren.

MESSAGE BOARD...

The newsletter's main purpose is to help classmates reconnect. One of our goals is that people will share stories and pictures of their lives and facilitate renewing friendships. To this purpose, we try to share valid information that we have received from you, other classmates, or news confirmed from the local papers. If you have a message or need support, let us know. Although keeping up with births or grandchil-

dren might be a little much, we do want to honor and respect the death of parents, spouses – or other information that might be of general interest such as awards or retirements.

That being said, we extend condolences to classmates Jeanne Osko on the loss of both her parents; to Peggy Claypool on the loss of her mother; and to Didi Warren Vaughn on the loss of her mother.

The 45th class reunion is just around the corner – the year 2008 – a mere two years away. That may seem like a long way off but as fast as the years go by, it is just around the corner. Does anyone have any thoughts as to what type of function they might like to see put together for this landmark event? AND would you be interested in being part of the planning? Let us know ... you are encouraged to take part in the plans.

SEPTEMBER EVENT PLANNED

September 15, 2006

Bill and Donna Weaver have contacted a Mexican Restaurant (La Primavera, 1111 Edgewater NW) for our mini-reunion this year. The event will be FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2006 from 5 to 8 p.m. with a no-host bar (drinks are reduced during this period) with chips and salsa being provided by the restaurant. There are also snack specials available during this period - as well as a menu for those that are interested in having dinner.

Drop by and see old friends. You may even have time to catch the Saxons if there is a home football game.

Our goal is to double our participation from last year. So write the date on your calendar and we look forward to seeing you all there.

Those of you who have to travel might note that this is also the weekend of the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest – an event that is rated one of the best in the country.

Here is an opportunity for you to visit with friends, possibly see the Saxons play football and attend an event that has gained nationwide popularity! How could it get better?

The Mt. Angel festivities begin on Thursday and continues through Sunday and you might run into some former Saxons enjoying the music and beer gardens on Friday, Saturday or Sunday!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sue (Glecker) Palmason
4718 Main Street, Unit D
Edmonds, WA 98026.

SSH CLASS OF 1963 NEWSLETTER

