

AMES HIGH SCHOOL—CLASS OF 1942

Our 65th

May 17-19, 2007 — Gateway Center, Ames, Iowa

36 Turnout to Commemorate our 65th Anniversary

Our Ames High class was composed of a happy bunch of boys and girls most of whom had attended Welch or Central Junior High School. Ames had a population of about 10,000, and our class numbered 177 when we graduated in the summer of 1942. My how much has changed since then!

Now our mailing list contains just 75 names. But these 75 live all over the country and one is in France. Twenty-five alums came to this 65th reunion, and with their spouses and friends, the number swelled to 36. *Wayne Bourne* and his daughter *Janet DeCesare*, and *Norman Paulson* arrived from Arizona. *Lizan Butler Vancisin* and her husband *Joe* flew in from Connecticut. The California contingent included *Al* and *Mary Elizabeth (Mel) Lush Hausrath*, *Clarene Smith Schupp*, and *Janet Yoder McKinney* with husband *Riley*. *Delores Knight Oates* came from Arkansas. *Charlie* (always the pilot) and *Florence Miller* used their own plane to travel from Missouri. *Rollie Paulson* and *Whitey Smith* represented Colorado. *Marjorie Smith Wolfe* and son *Rick* traveled from Ohio.

Not to be outdone, 18 Iowans attended this reunion. From Des Moines were *Win* and *Nan Douglass*, *John* and *Marilee Rice*, *Stan* and *Mary Siberell*, *Alice Willis*, and *Nondas Zenor Beswick*. *George* and *Mary Dixon* came from Marshalltown. *Norma Shellito Morgan* lives in Denison, but winters in St. Petersburg, FL. *Fran Robinson*, widow of Classmate Charles Robinson, lives at the University Towers in Ames. Anchoring the entire reunion, and doing all the work, was the

Ames contingent: *Bob* and *Ginny Stafford*, *Betty Clarke Heggen*, *Dorothy McCoy Ochanpaugh*, *Tom McElherne*, and *Dorothy Queal Maroney*.

Many more sent in their regrets. *Kathryn Crocker Aderman* cited previous travel plans. *Bonnie Butler Mortensen* stated “. . . I’m no longer an enthusiastic traveler.” Perhaps the best excuse came from *Harriet Breckenridge Turkington*; “Mother Nature and Father Time” prevented her attendance.



Lila Mae and Lannie Boyd

Ruth Midgorden Goodwin complained of being “physically challenged.” Health problems were cited by *Charlotte Downs Lonergan*

as well. *Si Larson* reminds us in declining that he is the only surviving member of Miss Bowers’



Dave and Maggie Lush

The Solid Six. He still sings in the church choir. *Ray Byrnes* is in a multi-care facility with ups and downs in his health. *Lila Mae (Torch)*

Hummel Boyd has some health problems and travel conflicts. *Rosemary Jones Morgan* reports that she just can't keep up with our (frolicking?) group. And *Cleone Grant Ullestad* declined to attend because of her husband's health. *Dave Lush's* excuse was unique: in January he married *Margarete (Maggie) Sigaud*, and she was involved with the Cannes Film Festival which was scheduled at the same time as our reunion.

May 17 — The Early Birds



Bob Stafford

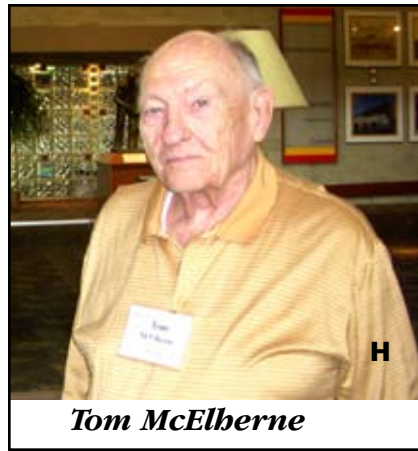
The gathering began Thursday night around a table in the Audubon Restaurant at the Gateway Center. Bob Stafford was at the entrance to the dining room, looking for early arrivals. Soon we had a small quorum and ordered our meals. Lizan, our great

plan-ahead gal, had taken the precaution of studying our '42 Spirit to help her in recognizing her classmates. She stuck her head in the restaurant, looked right past us, and started to leave when we caught her attention by waving. Could it be that we no longer look much like those 18 year olds? Naw. It must be her eyesight.

The Gateway Center was busy, with various class reunions from Iowa State, as well as other get-togethers. Because the '42 Committee had planned ahead, our table was the most prominent of all. Posted were photos and trip reports from past trips and reunions, as well as the many regret letters reviewed above.

May 18 — Dinner with Tom

The real action started Friday evening with a cocktail reception in the main lobby of the Center. Our nametags were in large print, helping those of us with poor memories not to repeat Lizan's mistake of the previous evening. But as soon as our memories and eyesight adjusted, we realized that these were our classmates, still looking just about as they did in '42. And, amazingly, the conversation was not about illnesses, but about children,



Tom McElherne

grandchildren, and even a few great grandchildren. And about their homes, and their activities.

Dinner was in the Harvest Room, with Herb Crusted Iowa Pork Loin as the entrée. Then without leaving

our comfortable chairs in the banquet room, Tom McElherne resumed his duties as the class bus tour director and took us on a (virtual) tour of Ames, 2007! Although we hadn't changed very much, Ames is now a big city — more than 52,000 call the place home. The schools are still tops (they've recovered from that boisterous class of '42). The city extends to the Boone County line to the west, far south on Duff Avenue, east past the Skunk river, and half-way to Gilbert on the north. No longer is it a two industry town (The Highway Commission and the University). ISU is still the largest employer, but the McFarland Medical Clinic and Mary Greeley Medical Center the next largest work places. Over 50 small businesses are located in and around Ames, and its Industrial Park is host to some high-tech start-up companies.

With the use of many slides, Tom took us around the city. Carr's Pool, now the Ames Swimming Pool, is at the same location, but it's almost in the center of the city, as is Homewood Golf Course. Yes, Ames has grown in these 65 years, but it's still the same Ames in many ways. There are traffic lights on the major arteries (i.e., Thirteenth and Grand), but the quiet, tree-lined residential streets are still as we left them. No megamansions here. Thank you, Tom, for a very nostalgic tour.



Dee Oates & Betty Heggen



Norm

Wayne

B



Win

Lizan

Nan

V



Marilee

John

H



Dorothy M

Nondas

Alice

S



Norma

Dee

S



Marjorie

Rick

B



Betty

H



Florence

Mary S.

S



Al

Stan

Joe V.

Rollie

V



Riley Janet Lizan Joe V



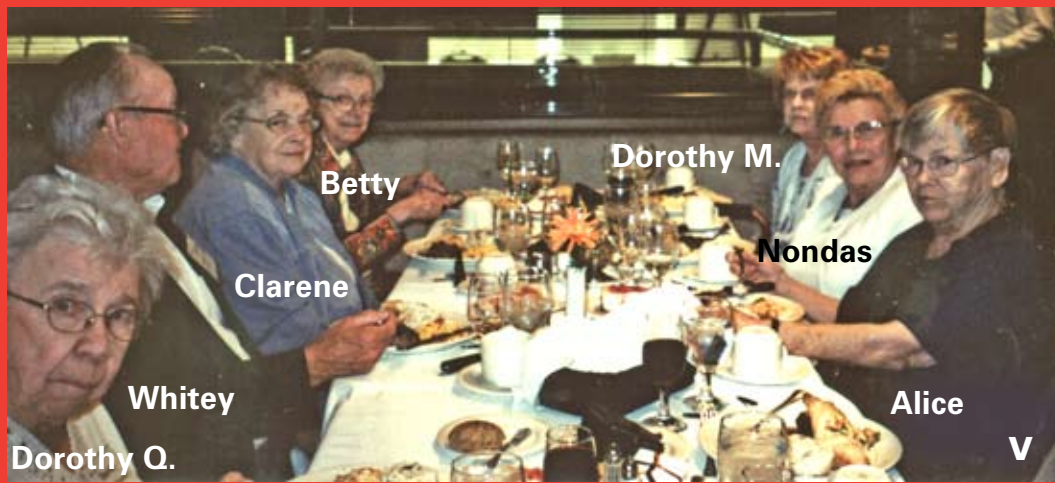
Ginny S. Tom Mel H



George D. Stan S



Janet D. Wayne H



Dorothy M. Betty Nondas Alice V Clarene Whitey Dorothy Q.



Charlie H



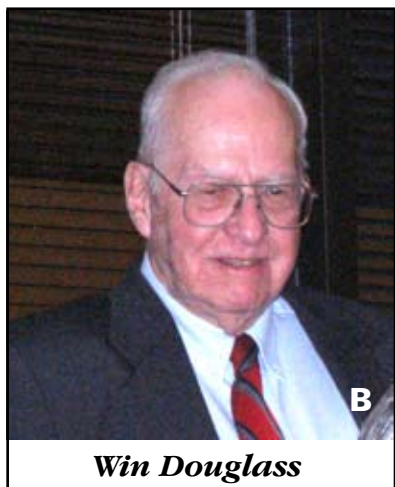
Alice Bob Win Nan Norma Dorothy Q. Whitey V

May 19 — Lunch with Dee

Dee Knight Oates was our featured speaker at lunch on Saturday. As we nibbled away at our strawberry shortcake dessert, she gave a touching presentation remembering many of our classmates that have gone ahead of us. Also included in our luncheon handout was information on our old alma mater, updated to 2007. Ames High has been a four-year high school for many years now, and class sizes have grown from our 177 to about 360. As their test scores would indicate, Ames is still a city where all their children are above average.

May 19 — Dinner with Win

Saturday night's farewell dinner featured our own Win Douglass as speaker. He welcomed us with, "We are the few, the proud, and pretty darn old." Then he repeated the invocation Alice Willis wrote for our dinner at the time of our 55th Anniversary.



Win Douglass

"Dear God. We give thanks for this gathering of old friends and acquaintances as we share memories, life stories, and bad jokes. We feel blessed that we are able to be together to restore our sense of unity as a group if only for a short time. Let us re-

joice in our successes, ask forgiveness for our blunders, and pray for the wisdom to use and pass on our knowledge. Please, God, we ask for peace for our departed classmates. We also ask for courage for ourselves to continue our journeys with dignity and compassion to the end. Amen.

Win continued after dinner with many more witticisms and touching remembrances. Here are a few examples:

"I know I'm very lucky to be a part of this class. When I started school you could enter kindergarten in September if your fifth birthday was before January first. My birthday is December 27th so I qualified for this class with a margin of four days. Under today's rules I would have had to wait a year and I would have missed being part

of a very unique and special bunch. I know there were some terrific people in the class of '43 but I don't think any class can compare to ours."

Some senior bumper sticker ideas from Win:
Campbell's new large-type alphabet soup for seniors.

Quit worrying about your health. It'll go away.

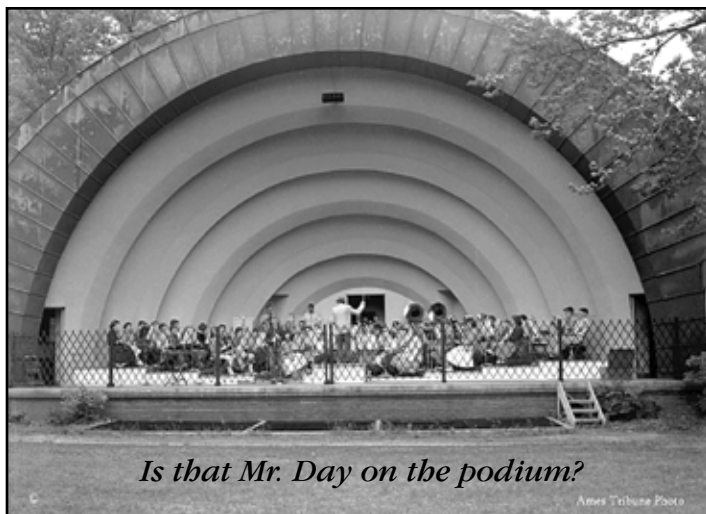
Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.



Win passed the microphone around the room, so each could comment on their life, their loved ones, how they downsized, and other personal information that is of interest to close friends like exist in the Class of '42.

Win's touching memorial continued. Here are some more selected paragraphs from it.

"We've all had some happiness, we've all had some tears. We know what it is to lose. We've lost jobs, we've lost money, we've lost our youth.



Is that Mr. Day on the podium?

We've lost weight...and we've gained weight. We've lost loved ones....our parents, our siblings, our relatives, our friends. Many of us have had the almost unbearable pain of losing spouses, children and even grandchildren.

"We were a pretty innocent bunch 65 years ago. Our little town was prosperous and peaceful and we had no television to show us some of the bad things happening out there in the real world. Ames was a good place to grow up in. We didn't know what life was like in the inner city and we didn't know much about the shame of racial, religious, ethnic and sexual discrimination."

"Ames is still a fine community....a great place to raise a family. If you were to be plopped down in the middle of main street you would not know you are in Ames. What happened to the Maid Rite shop, Carr Hardware, the dime stores, Tildens, The Fair, Reynolds and Iverson, The Rainbow Café, Cartys Shoes, Dudgeons Jewelry, Lila B. Fromm, Eschbach Music House, Moore Dairy, Chritiansen's Hardware and the Schoenman and Munn lumber companies? Where are the downtown theaters? Where is Montgomery Wards and the J.C. Penney's store with the slingshot devices that zipped your money up to a balcony and then sent back the change?"

Win then played some "real music" from the thirties and forties, using the same tape he had used at both our 55th and 60th anniversary parties.

Here are a few of the titles:

- Little Brown Jug
- One Dozen Roses
- Moonlight Cocktail
- Juke Box Saturday Night

The top hits for the week of May 23, 1942 featured performers like Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Tex Beneke, Frank Sinatra, and the Pied Pipers, and Win played them all.

He finished with this touching conclusion:

"The past is behind, the present is a little bazy at times and the future is kinda scary. We know there'll be tears....hopefully there'll be some joy. Maybe there are still mountains to climb and rivers to cross. 65 years from now we'll all be long gone but maybe one of our great, great grandchildren will find a decrepit copy of the 1942 Ames High Spirit in some old attic and wonder what those people were like.

"Well, kid, they were a pretty darn great bunch.

"Will we have another reunion? Realistically, no. But we will remain together in memory and spirit andwho knows. Here's one last song with Vera Lynn on her vocal, "We'll Meet Again."

"And I believe we will meet again. Somehow, somewhere; some way. Until then, we remember each other with love and may God bless us all."

Our Photographers

Photographic coverage of this reunion was provided by Wayne Bourne, Stan Siberell, Lizan Vancisin, and Al Hausrath. Their photos are identified by a B, S, V, or H.

Dr. H. Brown Otopalik died July 11, 2007. Brown continued his orthodontics practice until early this year, and may have been one of the last working members of the AHS Class of '42 when he retired in February.

Ames High School Class of 1942

(As of July 2007)

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Nondas Zenor Beswick
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E-mail Addresses

These addresses are courtesy of the Ames High School Alumni Office.
If you are interested in e-mail addresses, go to www.ahsalum.org and
click on <E-mail Directory>.

Where We Are Today

One Each In:

| | | |
|------------|----|-------------|
| Iowa | 23 | Connecticut |
| California | 8 | Hawaii |
| Colorado | 7 | Illinois |
| Texas | 4 | Indiana |
| Florida | 3 | Kansas |
| Missouri | 3 | Kentucky |
| New Mexico | 3 | Michigan |
| Arizona | 2 | New Jersey |
| Arkansas | 2 | Oklahoma |
| Minnesota | 2 | Tennessee |
| New York | 2 | Virginia |
| Ohio | 2 | Washington |
| | | Wisconsin |
| | | France |

This report was prepared by Al Hausrath. If you would like a pdf (software) version of this report, please send a request to Al at mel.al@verizon.net

And Many Have Left Us

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| W. Russell Alderman | Herbert T. Gilkey | Jack E. Pinney |
| Robert D. Allbaugh | Robert D. Green | Earl G. Plagmann |
| John D. Anderson | Virginia Halstead Pape | Patricia A. Quinn Duran |
| Keith H. Anderson | Kathleen Hein Bellman | Wayne A. Reed |
| J. Philip Armstrong | Elizabeth M. Hixon Long | Edward Martin Ritts |
| Harry E. Barnes, Jr. | Maxine Hockman Erslund | Charles H. Robinson |
| Fred M. (Bud) Beman | Patricia Hovde Holdener | Richard D. Ross |
| Keith David Berry | Travelle Hutchison Reed | Donald Routh |
| Charlotte Boggie Skeen | James K. Iversen | Robert E. Sampson |
| William M. Buck | Carroll K. Iverson | Dona Sauvain Byrnes |
| Donald M. Budge | Charles H. Jensen | Charles M. Shockley |
| R. Emory Burton | Albert E. Jones | Bill M. Sleichter |
| Bertha Mae Cassady Lee | Eldon R. Kauffman | Howard A. Soma |
| Laurence "Larry" D. Chesling | Frances Kerekes Meyer | Bernard Swanson |
| Karl "Red" Clark, Jr. | Elizabeth A. LaVelle Carby | John Edwin Swartz |
| Bonnie M. Clauson McElherne | Cornelia G. Lindstrom Buck | Robert Edward Tague |
| John W. Cole | Virginia E. Lowman Breizy | Ronald M. Taylor |
| Charles Coy | Randall K. Lowry, Sr. | Rosemary Taylor Snow |
| Kenneth Craig | Jack R. Lyons | Faustino Terrones |
| Clarence A. Craven | Robert E. Maritz | Joyce Thomas Smith |
| Wayne E. Cunningham | Cecil P. Monahan | George W. Tripp |
| R. Roderick Davis | James A. Moore | Marie Isabelle Turpin Lyon |
| Robert P. DeHart | Henry F. Morrison | Helen L. Twogood |
| R. James DeLahunt | Robert J. Mulcahy | Helen Van Vlack Hutchinson |
| Dean Dixon | Robert M. Nicholson | Roderick T. Wendell |
| Valora Dixson Lewis | Vern H. Norlin | James R. West |
| Leland D. Dudley | Charlotte A. Nutty Johnson | Rev. Mark Wetteland |
| Beverly Dunlap Warner | Don Charles Ohl | Victor Eugene Wierson |
| Betty Erslund Huke | H. Brown Otopalik | Mary Williams Chingren |
| Walter B. Eschbach | Arlene Passmore Kuklok | Louis H. Willson |
| Edward C. Farni | Rodney Paulson | Rev. Major William C. Winlock |
| Roscoe Earl Feldman | Wanda Penney Heasty | Robert Lyman Wood |
| Wallace Rex Forman | Jack B. Perry | |
| Wilma Jean Geiger Walsh | Belva E. Pickell Loerger | |