

Thorndale ISD Ex-Students News
Reported by Charlene Olbrich
Ex-Student Association Advisory Committee Member
October 4, 2009

Sure hope you read the great Homecoming coverage in the Champion last week by Bill Crist. It was so good to have him at our big bash on Saturday, September 26 and you can see what a wonderful job he did. It all started early on Saturday morning with Angie Schneider Becker, Class of 1965, her son, Michael Becker, Class of 1983 and Mary Ann Sielaff Rodenbeck, Class of 1949 in the wee hours to put all the tables and chairs in order for our decorations to be added. We can't thank them enough because this is a big, heavy job. Then the decorations crew of Irene Waiser Cast, Class of 1944 came in and under the supervision of daughter, Lori Cast Towery, Class of 1977 made the hall look fabulous. Many thanks to all these folks. Then Jimmy Kemnitz, Class of 1980 delivered the beautiful flower arrangement donated by Bank of Texas-Thorndale. They do this every year and we really appreciate it so much. Just puts the finishing touches on our beautifully decorated hall. Doors open at 10 am (or earlier) and each ex-student along with guests is greeted with a smile and Homecoming ribbon, pinned by Vernetha Brandt Moerbe, Class of 1950 and her helper, Ella "Toots" Ebner Tiemann, Class of 1957. Then they register with Barbara Stolte Smith, Class of 1956 and her helpers and get name tags from Shirley Roepke Becker, Class of 1955. Free souvenirs are available, this year maroon and gold book marks with "Homecoming 2009", our website and a bulldog on each one. Refreshments, snacks and drinks are available all during the day, thanks to Angie and Mary Ann and their helpers. Then Emcee, Elton Ray Barron, Class of 1956 takes over. We welcomed all exes and some as far away as California, New Jersey and Arizona. The prayer was given by Clyde "Poly" Poldrack, Class of 1955 of Cedar Creek. We served 169 people with Carol's great chicken fried steak lunch with all the trimmings. We sold 179 plates, but 11 didn't show up and we always worry about why they didn't come after purchasing tickets. Thanks went out to all helpers and donations and a reminder of all the memorabilia to browse as long as anyone wants to. We recognized our oldest alumni present, Verlie Smith Ponder, Class of 1935 of Austin with a small, gold bulldog trophy. Scholarship recipients for 2009 were all noted. Our free will donations brought in \$1,016.00 which is great to help with our expenses and we thank all for these generous monies. Jesse Schrader, Class of 1957 and Leroy Olbrich, Class of 1951 passed the containers and Vernetha Brandt Moerbe helped count the money. Carter Thornton, Class of 1968 of Colfax, California received the trophy for traveling the farthest, 1,863 miles. All classes, honor classes and those with class reunions were recognized. Graham Dickerson, Class of 1935 received the trophy for being the oldest Veteran present. Hope you noted the photos in last week's Champion. Ending comments were given and in closing we sang "God Bless America" and the school song. It was nice to have Mr. Callahan, Superintendent of Schools and Mrs. Laywell, High School Principal present this year. This is the first time in a long time. Our many, many sincere thanks to all the workers, contributors and donations both Friday and Saturday. You make our Homecomings a success each year and we surely couldn't do it without you.

We received one of those long lost invitations back this week. So, Clayton Adams, Class of 1995 of Bryan is now on our lost list. If anyone out there can get an address for him, please give us a call. Otherwise, he won't get an invitation next year or any year thereafter.

Our belated condolences to the family of Lorene Daughtry Gossett, Class of 1947 of Lake Charles, La. who passed away in June, 2008. Thanks to Betty Lou Ralston Logan, Class of 1947 of Cedar Hill for this information.

Geraldine Biar, Class of 1957 had a "surprise" 70th birthday party a couple of weeks ago. It was given by her family which includes mostly exes and it was so nice. They know how to party. The guys won first

place on their BBQ and we got to eat it and it was the best. Introductions of each individual family was so interesting and fun to see. They told funny stories about Geraldine. Our happy birthday wishes and many more go out to her.

Did you know that Patricia Niemtschk Mueller, Class of 1969 is living in Belgium. She and her family moved there as her husband is an engineer at a chemical company. Thanks to her mom, Ruby Niemtschk Schroeder for this information.

Received a note through Facebook from Preston Adams, Class of 1966 telling us they had a great time at Homecoming and he wants a copy of a photo he saw in our memorabilia with his dad in it. Will try to get that for him. In browsing his Facebook page, I noticed get well wishes to his wife, Janet Palm Adams, Class of 1966. We surely need to keep her in our prayers as she had surgery on Tuesday after Homecoming on Saturday. She looked great when they were here. Our big get well soon wishes go out to her.

Our exes attending college on scholarships that we know of are:

Austin Falke, Class of 2007 at Stephen F. Austin on a basketball scholarship.

Brandon Irwin, Class of 2008 at Howard Payne on a basketball scholarship.

Kayla Caffey, Class of 2008 at Hill College on a volleyball scholarship.

Kayla Lindemann, Class of 2008 at Hill College on a volleyball scholarship.

Lindsey and Morgan Youngblood, Class of 2009 at Angelo State on a basketball scholarship.

Jillian Atkins, Class of 2009 at Texas A & M Commerce on a volleyball scholarship.

Angel Bigan, Class of 2009 at Sterling College (Kansas) on a softball scholarship.

We wish each of these exes much success.

Don't forget our Business Meeting on Thursday, October 15 at the home of the Leroy Olbrichs at 6:00 pm. This is to close out Homecoming 2009 and plan Homecoming 2010. Everyone is welcome.

We can be found on the web at www.thorndale.txed.net or you can e-mail locojo@austin.rr.com. You can call 512-898-2072 or write to Thorndale Ex-Students Assn., P. O. Box 393, Thorndale, TX 76577. We love to hear from our exes.