



# SANDS OF TIME

June 2010

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

## SAA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

September 11, 2010 11:30 am  
Three Rivers Casino  
Florence, OR

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Insert:  
2010 All-Class Reunion

## President's Message

Greetings:

This past year was full of accomplishments. Your Board of Directors has worked hard to move the organization in a direction that everyone will be proud of. This was accomplished through dedicated work from all the committees. A few highlights from the past year are:

- The 2009 reunion was held at Three Rivers Casino with a record number in attendance totaling 179 alumni and guests.
- The by-laws committee presented the final draft of the revised by-laws and this was approved.
- Scholarships—Thanks to your generous donations, we will be able to award **two \$1,500 scholarships** this year to Siuslaw graduating students.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the organization this past year. We look forward to continuing this level of success with the help of everyone. **See you in September for another great All-Class Reunion on September 11, 2010!!**

Wes Strahm, SAA President

## Johnston Motor Company

### The Oldest Single Family Owned Business in Florence

By Wes Strahm

In January 1939, J.C. Ponsler sold the Ford dealership to Ed and Elsie Johnston. The dealership was located on Hwy 101 where Hoberg's Auto Repair stands today.

In the beginning, the employees consisted of one mechanic, one lubrication man (who also pumped gas), Ed Johnston sold cars, parts and tires and Elsie Johnston was the bookkeeper.

During the war years from December 7, 1941 to the end in 1945 new cars, tires and gas were hard to find to buy for resale. It was a difficult time to keep the doors

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**SIUSLAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION****Board Members 2010****Officers:****President - Wes Strahm****Vice President - Lou Anne  
Wood Fore****Secretary - Ramona Meink  
Slocum****Treasurer - Phyllis Bennett  
Wells****Advisor to Officers/Board - Ivan  
Olson****By-Laws Advisor - Ivan Olson****Directors:****Mike Bones****Ida Holden Hagedorn****Arland Johnson****Carolyn Lockwood Nordahl****Melissa Goodrich Phillips****Zilpha Meink Smith****Rita Boyce Snyder****Sharon Gwynn Strahm****Directors at Large:****Dick Jones****Beth Meadows Sandberg****Skeet Arasmith****The SANDS OF TIME****Editor/Publisher -****Lou Anne Wood Fore****Reunion Invitation -****Rita Boyce Snyder****Process: subject to editing,  
omissions, revisions.****It Was Fine for '59****(And the rest of us enjoyed, too)**

The All-Class Reunion of 2009 was a terrific, fun-filled event attended by alumni from near and far. The Class of 1959 celebrated their 50-year class reunion (see article below) as part of the All-Class Reunion and their numbers helped push the attendance to an all-time high. A short business meeting introduced the 2010 officers and a By-Laws change was noted and voted on by the assembly.

Prior to starting the evening events raffle tickets were sold at the door. All proceeds from the raffle go to the scholarship fund. This year there were over 30 local business and alumni donations of prizes for the raffle. There were also two items for a silent auction—a lovely wine basket provided by Carolyn and Richard Nordahl and a great margarita basket donated by Donna and Earl Muscutt. Raffle items were given by A&W, Abby's, Annette Jones, Carol Mobley, Coastal Fitness, Coffee Roasters, Grape Leaf Wine Shop, Honeyman Nursery, Irene Wittwer, Johnston Motor Company, Kathy Grimes, Kitchen Klutter, Krab Kettle, Lane Interiors, Les Schwab, Little Brown Hen, Mon Ami, Mother May I, Ocean Dunes Golf Links, On Your Feet, Roby's, Sand Pines, Sea Clean Services, Siuslaw News, Splash, Sweet Beans Espresso, Three Rivers Casino, Tony's Garage, True Value, U.S. Bank, and Waterfront Depot. Because of the generosity of these businesses and alumni the amount of money received for the scholarship fund has allowed for the possibility of giving more scholarship monies this coming year. Thank you donors!!

Many reunited with friends from earlier times. Laughter, tears and good conversation were abundant throughout the evening. One sad circumstance was that '59 graduate Stecher Bishop, on his way to the airport to come to Florence for his 50-year reunion, suffered a fatal heart attack.

**Class of 1959 Celebrates 50-years****By Carolyn Nordahl**

Out of a class of 54 graduating students nearly half attended the 50-year reunion. Eight tables were shared by the class. Gold balloons floated above their area to signify their 50 years since graduation. One blue balloon represented the deceased classmates. Planning for the 50th celebration was made easier by joining the All-Class Reunion. A very nice dinner, elegant table setting and decorations were pre-planned and provided by Three Rivers Casino & Hotel.

An eight-foot-high Viking drawn by Gary Swatzel for one of the dances during their high school years presided over the celebration. Rumor has it this very special mascot will be present at the 2010 reunion!

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**Class of 1959 Celebrates— continued**

Many of the group camped out in their RVs at Heceta RV Park on Friday evening and had a great time visiting while sitting around the campfire. This provided lots of time to catch up on everyone's activities and families since their last get together.

The Siuslaw Alumni Association planned a silent auction and a raffle. There were very nice items provided by local businesses and alumni. All money generated by these activities went to the SAA Scholarship Fund.

As reunion organizer for the class of 1959, I would be happy to offer assistance to any other class with similar plans for their special reunions. I may be reached at 541-997-2330, 541-999-9284 or by e-mail address: [echographics@charter.net](mailto:echographics@charter.net).

**Here and There**

**When Spring arrived the avid gardener was so excited she wet her plants!!**

**Life is a song, love is the music—**

**This and That**

Courage doesn't always roar—sometimes courage is the voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow." *Anonymous Author*

Seen on a local reader board—"Life is full of obstacle illusions."

How not to work another day in your life: Fall in love with what you do!!

**IN MEMORIAM**

**The following are classmates we have lost during 2009-2010:**

- Carol Anne Worthylake Myers (Class of '59)**
- Paul Geuy (Class of '52)**
- Pauline Tallman Austin (Class of '60)**
- Stecher Bishop (Class of '59)**
- Roland Roth (Class of '49)**
- Leo Meadows (Class of '46)**
- Carolyn Jones Bainter (Class of '59)**
- Len Tabor (Class of '53)**
- Kenneth Hatch (Class of '40)**
- Debra Smith Puzio (Class of '75)**
- Donna Skinner Dollinger (Class of '55)**

**SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** by Sharon Strahm

Siuslaw Alumni Scholarships are made possible through your annual donations to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Additionally, at the All-Class Reunion & Banquet in the fall, raffle tickets are sold on donated items and all these proceeds go directly into the Scholarship Fund. It is the goal of the Siuslaw Alumni Board to be able to increase the number of our scholarships and/or the amount of the scholarships.

This year we were able to award **two** scholarships and increase the amount of each to **\$1500** for the year of 2010.

One of the \$1500 scholarships will go to Verrill Beaudro. He will be attending Oregon State University where he will be studying marine biology. He hopes, as an upperclassman, to be able to study at the Marine Center in Newport/OSU.

**Verrill Beaudro**

**Jennifer Parry**

The other \$1500 scholarship goes to Jennifer Parry. She will be attending OSU, with plans to earn a master's degree in civil engineering. Her dream is one day to be a part of designing functional structures, such as bridges, dams and large-scale buildings.



These are two excellent recipients for the Siuslaw Alumni Scholarships. Thank you all for your continuing support enabling the Alumni Association to be one of the larger scholarships awarded this year.

## Early Education

by LaVaughn Vanderburg Kemnow—Class of '54

The first school teacher in Western Lane County, in 1884 (several years before there was a school in Florence) was my father Warren Vanderburg's aunt, Caroline Vanderburg. She taught at the Portage School on the North Fork. Her first pupils included my mother's uncle and aunts, the Haring children. At age eighteen Caroline had come with her family from Iowa by wagon train to Oregon. Her brother Darius Vanderburg, my grandfather, was four when they traveled across the plains. After teaching at the Portage for a time, Caroline married Samuel Lindsley, one of the earliest settlers on the North Fork.

Education was paramount to the Vanderburg's. When the family arrived in the Coos Bay area with their six children there was no school nearby, so my great grandmother, Emily Culver Vanderburg, started a school in their home for her own and the neighbor children. Emily's granddaughter, Anna Dell Clinkinbeard, taught for 35 years. Twenty of those years were as principal of the Central School Coos Bay. Anna later wrote a book about the Vanderburg family's journey by prairie schooner, "Across the Plains in '64."

Charlotte, a younger daughter of Emily and John Vanderburg, was also a teacher and taught for many years in a number of schools along the Oregon Coast, including Florence, Acme and Fiddle Creek. There were articles in 1897 issues of *The West* about Charlotte going up the coast on horseback via Alsea to attend a teachers institute in Newport. Charlotte and her sister Caroline were instrumental, also in 1897, in getting a teachers institute started in Florence. Continuing education to improve their knowledge and skills as teachers was a big factor in their lives...and very seriously pursued. My father's sister, Alice Vanderburg Large also taught for awhile.

My mother's family also produced some educators. Mom's aunt Clara Haring Johnson (the first white child to come to the North Fork) taught for many years, as did her younger sister Loretta Haring Farris. My grandfather Albert Haring served on the school board for a number of years—my mother Ella Haring Vanderburg's eighth grade certificate from the Portage School in 1927 bears the signatures of her father (Albert Haring, Chairman Board of Directors) and her aunt (Loretta Farris, Teacher). Mom was the only graduate that year.

A cousin of my mother, Ralph Johnson, married Elsie Rhodes, who taught two years at the Portage. Years later when Elsie Rhodes Johnson died she left her estate to the Siuslaw Public Library; they used the money to buy the land on which the present library is located.

There were no roads until the settlers gradually carved out rough wagon roads through the brush and timber. Most children walked to school—because of the long distances between homesteads there were many small schools scattered about the coastal regions. My father's maternal grandparents, Wilhelm and Bella Karnowsky, had no school for their children to attend until about 1915 when a one-room school was established on Karnowsky Creek near Duncan Slough to educate the children from the newly established logging camp. This was known as the Karnowsky School. The Bernhardtts, who came to Oregon from Germany with the Karnowskys, also had a school on their creek.

My great-uncle Charley Vanderburg opened his home as a temporary school until the new Upper Fiddle Creek schoolhouse was built around 1900. The desks, chairs and blackboards were of hand-hewn cedar, smoothed with a draw knife.

Eventually, as the population grew, a grade school was established in Florence, and later a high school. Some pupils from outlying districts who lived too far from a school, or who wanted to attend high school, would live in Florence with or without their parents during the school year. When my mother, Ella Haring Vanderburg, attended high school in Florence, she and her friend Dorothy Francisco rented an upstairs room in Claud and Bessie Akerley Earl's house.

In the early days, teachers would "board around"—stay with each family for a few weeks. In this way families would contribute to the cost of educating their children. Later the teacher would live with one family throughout the school term. Most often, teachers at the Portage School boarded with my great-grandparents Amos and Clara Gamble Haring, and later with my grandparents Albert and Gladys Gentry Haring. Teacher Della Severy Harwood stayed with the Harings in 1890, and said her only pupils were Walter, Clara and Emma Haring, and Arnold Karnowsky. My great-grandparents John and Annie Laurie McBee Gentry were at Heceta around 1910-1912 and boarded the teacher in that area.

Editor's Note: LaVaughn provided the above information from family members and records as well as various issues of the *Siuslaw Pioneer* and *The West*.

**CALLING ALL ALUMNI!!!!**

This September the All-Class Reunion will be honoring the 1960 graduating class at their 50-year reunion. It is our hope that as many of you from all classes will attend to make it a very special event for the class of 1960. Just come and enjoy the evening and the celebration.

**Interested in getting involved in SAA?**

There are three Siuslaw Alumni Association Board meetings per year and all alumni are invited to attend and participate. We welcome your new ideas and opinions. The Board meetings are working luncheons with one held in Eugene and two held in Florence. So, if you have an interest in helping the positive direction of the SHS Alumni Association and its' work, please join one or all meetings.

The next meeting will be September 11, 2010 in Florence at the Three Rivers Casino. For more information please contact Wes Strahm at [weshars@aol.com](mailto:weshars@aol.com) or any of the Board members listed on page two.

**Bridge Traffic**

And the stories flow on....like water under the bridge. The bridge in our hometown carries a lot of memories.

This one comes from Scott Richardson (Class of '72): "During a cross country workout I had with Vance Ellege (Class of '69 or '70), he ran up the bridge arch! I remember thinking at the time it would be difficult explaining to his dad (State Police) how he died. I assumed he would be blown off the top, but instead, he ran safely down the other side!!"

**A Pane in the Glass**

Grandma used 1/2 cup ammonia, 1/2 cup white vinegar, 2 table-spoons cornstarch and 1/2 gallon warm and *lightly* soapy water to clean all the winter grime and wood stove smoke from her windows. (No streaks, honest!)

**Thank You**

From Rose Cook-Tabor: Sincerest thanks to you all for the support and encouragement you gave me and the family of Len Tabor during his illness and subsequent death last January. Your thoughts and prayers were of great comfort.

**Memories of "Old Florence"**

by Ivan Olson - Class of '50

I remember Pedersen's garage across the street from the old grade school where the big thing was to buy candy from their small in-house store.

Also, prior to my starting grade school I remember the wooden sidewalks in old town. And I used to check out books regularly from the old city library which was against a sand bank!

Aaaah.....the good 'ol days! Anybody else have some good memories??

**Johnston Motor Company — continued**

open, but Johnston's was able to survive. With hard work and low overhead, they were able to keep the business going.

Stu Johnston joined the business in 1947. The business survived a fire in 1950 and rebuilt at the current facility on Hwy 101 North. Stu's son, Brian, joined the company in 1986 after graduating from Oregon State University. Brian became General Manager in 1995 and is currently running the business. Stu Johnston remains President of the company. He is retired and enjoying watching the family business grow and be an important part of the community. Both Stu and his son, Brian, are graduates of Siuslaw High School.

Great job Johnston Motor Company!!!