

## ***“A Touch of Class”***

Country Music Great Lee Ann Womack had a super hit song entitled “I Hope You Dance”. The lyrics simply state “when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance”. It is a beautiful song meaning, of course, that we only go around once in life and we should take every opportunity to participate in and experience joy in everything we can.

This year’s 2010 Spencer High School All Class Reunion was an example of those kinds of opportunities. A chance to step back in time and revisit those memories of what now seems to be another lifetime. Those days of freedom from life’s major responsibilities; unending laughter and tears; sporting events and plays and clubs; ping pong tournaments and, oh yes, class work - all of which molded and shaped us for our future as responsible adults, citizens, spouses, parents and community leaders.

This is Spencer High School’s third such reunion, the first having been held Memorial Day Weekend in 2000 and then again in 2005. Each event seems to get bigger and better. In addition to the festivities at the former Spencer High School, now individual classes are beginning to have luncheons, picnics, dinners and social events in conjunction with the All Class Reunion.

This year Spencer’s only motel and two bed and breakfasts were booked as well as all available lodging in neighboring Jackson County. In addition, Spencer residents opened their homes to guests, friends and classmates. Attendance figures were estimated to be around 1,500.

Spencer High School Alumni from London, England; California; Florida; Maryland; Virginia; and others, as well as the locals, came to visit and honor their old school and classmates and faculty. The Alumni Association and Spencer Community proudly welcomed a respectful, dignified and classy people in attendance, all of whom made the Spencer High School Song come alive as it resounded with nostalgia:

*Through the halls of Spencer High School  
Hearts are young and gay;  
How we long to be united  
when we’re far away.*

*Lift your voices;  
Sing its praises;  
Thank the Lord above.  
We shall always be indebted  
to the school we love.*

Groups and organizations within the community provided a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning as well as refreshments and luncheon items at the school. Pertinent items of interest within the community were held in association with the reunion. Local

entrepreneurs and crafters and winemakers made their products available. Spencer's Antique Mall reported record sales during the event.

Recipes were submitted from all over the continental United States by Spencer High School grads for the SHS Alumni Cookbook which was on sale at the reunion and can still be purchased via mail requests.

The final event on Saturday was a dance at the National Guard Armory featuring, no less, a band comprised of Spencer High School alumni. How much better could it be?

Smiling faces were seen everywhere. The sheer joy of reuniting with friends who sometimes had not been seen nor heard from for many years brought such heartfelt emotion to the surface. Hugs from strangers were observed, only to become bear hugs once identifications were acknowledged. Fond memories were shared; humorous events were relived; glorious moments were recaptured.

T-shirts, ball caps, souvenir Rupicolos, cookbooks, and other SHS paraphernalia were in popular demand. We proudly collect our SHS souvenirs – the school that we were a part of, the community of which we were one. Teenage social barriers and stigmas have disappeared – we are now adults eager to see and visit and get caught up on the lives of people who shared our formative years.

The Spencer High School Alumni held its final 2010 meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> to finalize and wrap up the third All Class Reunion. While there was business to conduct and matters to be finalized, enthusiasm for the next event was prevalent. Expressions of “next time let's add this”; “next time let's change this”; “next time let's expand on this”; were heard throughout the meeting.

Five years sounds like a long, long time; however, it will be here before you know it. The planning will begin early in 2015 and hopefully will produce yet a bigger and better All Class Reunion. Mark your calendars for Memorial Day Weekend, 2015. It is our sincere wish that you take the advice of Lee Ann Womack and “when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, we hope you dance.”

Till we meet again,  
SHS Alumni Association