

A Reunion of the Traveling '42s

There is something special about the camaraderie of the Ames High School classes. And as the Class of '42 held its reunions, these friendships became even stronger. At one of these reunions (possibly our 40th) Dave Lush, Bob Stafford, and Phyllis Rademacher began talking about a tour of France. Dave had the insider's knowledge of France, a good travel agency, and a connection with a great bus company. Bob and Phyllis had the contacts. So the plans evolved, and immediately after the 50th anniversary reunion of the Class of '42 in Ames, a group of 28 alums, spouses, and friends headed to France. This trip was so successful that it was followed by trips again in '94, '96, '98, '01, '03, and '05. Altogether, over 60 different people participated, with 24 alone from the Class of '42. We toured not only France, but Switzerland, the Spanish Riviera, Germany, Prague, Budapest, Vienna, the Italian Lake Region, Belgium, and Holland. Only three of our travellers have made all seven trips: Dave and Phyllis and Jack Rademacher.

Sadly, Debe Lush died in a car accident. Dave has since married a lovely French woman, Maggie, who had not previously visited the U.S. Dave had shown her New York, California, Utah and the Grand Canyon, but not Ames or Iowa State University. It was his desire to show her this part of his life that inspired him to host a reunion of his fellow travelers on Monday, May 28, 2012. This brief document is an attempt to summarize the reunion.

Your reporter wasn't well organized enough to ensure complete photographic coverage. So please forgive him if he has missed some key photo ops. The photos in this report are from Lizan Vancisin (L), Stan Siberell (S) and Al Hausrath (A).



Maggie and Dave



Mel Hausrath, Maggie and Dave Lush, Stan Siberell, and Don Heinrich in the Gateway Hotel Parking lot.

Most of the out-of-towners stayed at the Gateway Center. Even its parking lot proved to be a reunion site.

While the official reunion wasn't slated to begin until Breakfast at Ginny Stafford's on Monday morning, we decided to have a warm-up get-together at The Café Restaurant in Ames on Sunday eve. And, since Mary Lou Wheeler had just moved back to Ames, she added an invite to visit her new home not far from The Café for après dinner coffee and cookies. So with no reservation, and no accurate head count we headed off for The Café. 18 showed up, and in a classy manner, The Café soon had us all seated; 14 squeezed in at a long table, and four more at an adjacent booth. Our skilled waitress not only quickly filled our varied orders but even kept the tabs straight so we could get our individual checks.



Stan Siberell, Polly & Don Heinrich, Bill and Ellen Block at The Cafe

We jumped in our cars and headed for Mary Lou's new home. Although she claimed she was still in the process of moving from Marshalltown, her home looked completely furnished, with even a bicycle out by the garage. It was just a short distance from The Café to 2401 Lakeside Drive on the extreme northwest corner of Ames. Enthused by our jolly



Some of the gang at Mary Lou's beautiful home: Dave and Maggie Lush, Polly Heinrich, Charlie and Florence Miller, Don Heinrich, Mel Hausrath, and Mary Lou Wheeler .

dinner at The Café, we mixed and visited with each other. Away from our crowded get-together at the restaurant, it was a real luxury to move around and reacquaint ourselves with ~~old~~ former classmates and traveling companions.

Memorial Day, May 28, 2012

9:00 A.M. at Ginny Stafford's

Our almost full group of 20 arrived for a fabulous breakfast at Ginny Stafford's beautiful home. Only Elaine Bath was absent; a last minute health problem forced her to cancel. A luxurious breakfast spread of mixed fresh fruit, sausage in a pastry roll, assorted sweet rolls, and an egg, cheese, and ham casserole awaited us. The hospitality, food, conversation, and camaraderie all combined for a great official start to our reunion.



Ginny and her great selection of breakfast choices

Ginny Stafford with Al and Mel Hausrath



Mary Siberell, Don and Lizan Vancisin





Ellen and Bill Block, Mary Lou Wheeler, Norma Morgan, Charlie and Florence Miller



At the other end of the same table: Florence Miller, Maggie and Dave Lush, Mary Siberell, Coleen Nutty, Joe and Lizan Vancisin, and Ellen Block



Mel Hausrath, Polly & Don Heinrich, Ginny Stafford, Stan Siberell, and Martha Anderson

1:00 P.M. Ames Historical Society

About one-half of our group, mostly the out-of-towners, gathered to hear Kathy Svec of the Ames Historical Society give us a Power Point presentation on the history of Ames.

To compliment this presentation, Charlie Miller had arranged for (and subsidized) a bus for our group. With Kathy Svec narrating, we toured the ISU campus, again up to northwest Ames, then all the way across Ames to Carr's Pool (now closed), through the downtown area, past our old high school (now the city hall and police station) and back to the hotel. One outstanding memory for this reporter: How well the Ames residents have maintained their homes. Ames continues to be a great place to live.

6:00 P.M. Back at the Gateway Hotel

From previous Ames High reunions, we were very familiar with the Harvest Room at the Gateway Hotel, the site of our banquet. We gathered for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and resumed our conversations with our fellow travelers and classmates. This was followed with our banquet, a delicious three course dinner with a Boston Bibb salad, Stuffed Chicken Breast, and Apple pie with caramel drizzle, all courtesy of Dave Lush. It was a grand and glorious way to end our short reunion.



Ellen Block and Joe Vancisin



Florence and Charlie Miller



Martha Anderson, Maggie Lush, and Don Heinrich



Mel Hausrath & Bill Block



Polly Heinrich, Mary Lou Wheeler, and Ginny Stafford



Stan and Mary Siberell and Norma Morgan

The Participants

Martha Anderson
2201 Hamilton Drive
Ames, IA 50014
515-286-5186

Ellen and Bill Block
1144 Leisure World
Mesa, AZ 85206
480-981-0746
elbloc@cox.net

Mel and Al Hausrath
2741 Palos Verdes Dr. N.
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274
mel.al@verizon.net
310-375-8428

Polly and Don Heinrich
P.O. Box 73
Wayne, IL 60184
630-797-5143
pollydon@cs.com

Dave and Maggie Lush
46 Ave de Beñéfiat
06400 Cannes, France
011-33-972-841-844
dave@lushfamily.net

Charlie and Florence Miller
440 S. Clay Ave, Ste 302
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-821-7773
cmillerflo@aol.com

Norma Morgan
1801 20th St., Apt.135
Ames, IA 50010
515-232-2820

Coleen Nutty
P.O. Box 846
Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9487
cnutty@ghhome.com

Stan and Mary Siberell
9225 Cascade Ave, Apt 1227
West Des Moines, IA 50255
515-987-2528
stansiberell@gmail.com

Ginny Stafford
2872 Greensboro Circle
Ames, IA 50010
515-292-1528
vfstaf@gmail.com

Lizan and Joe Vancisin
18 Orchard Ave
Branford, CT 06405
239-566-8657

Mary Lou Wheeler
2401 Lakeside Dr.
Ames, IA 50010
515-233-3309

It was a great reunion! Special thanks to Dave and Maggie for instigating it. And additional thanks to the rest of you for participating.

Your reporter,

Al