

NEWSLETTER



Aztec Calendar
AZUSA HIGH SCHOOL AZTECS
Kiowa Class of 1961

June 2008

General Information

Welcome to issue #7 of our newsletter. Again, thanks to everyone who provided alumni information and updates so that we would have something to write about. We hope to continue emailing the newsletter monthly rather than quarterly, so keep those stories and information coming. Photos would be great too.

If you have anything you'd like to include in the next newsletter, please email the info to me at rainymail@yahoo.com or mail to Cheryl Dillard, PO Box 2413, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. You may also phone me at 503-781-2658 or fax the info to 503-214-6316.

If you have changed your address, phone number or email address, PLEASE let us know so we can update our list. **Janice Quick Ashborn** is the "point man" where all your contact information should be sent. Her email is okayjan@cox.net and her mailing address is 8670 Robles Dr., San Diego, CA 92119.

Kiowa Spotlight

Mary Kay Hanson Mittag is featured this month.

Happenings

Richard McDowell and his wife, Barbara, of Carlsbad, California are hosting a Kiowa Class of '61 golf tournament in September. Tentatively the golf outing will be held at Warner Springs Ranch on September 13, 14 and 15 with the tournament on the 15th. We'll let you know as soon as the dates and golf course have been finalized.

Remember, you gals are invited as well as spouses. And you don't have to play golf to share in the fun. Just bring your cowboy boots, swimsuit and shorts because there's plenty to do at Warner Springs Ranch including horseback riding, hiking, tennis, bicycling, volleyball, swimming and relaxing in the mineral hot springs.. Click here for more info: <http://www.warnersprings.com/index.cfm>

From Azusa High

The **ALL CLASS REUNION (1959-1969)** reunion will take place on October 18 at the Etiwanda Gardens in Etiwanda, California near Ontario and the cost will be \$60.00 per person. Make your check payable to Azusa HS 60's Class Reunion and mail it to Azusa High 60's Class Reunion, 147 West Route 66, PMB 104, Glendora, CA 91740. For more information about the reunion visit: <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Pages/events.html>

Important: If you want to protect your privacy, be sure to write your initials next to the 'DO NOT provide my name and address to the AHS Aztec Alumni Association' at the bottom right hand corner of the form on the reunion brochure. That information is being collected by the Azusa High Alumni Association for their

database and may be used for solicitation purposes. To register for the reunion, you need only provide your full name (include maiden name if applicable) and the year you graduated.

For info on Azusa High School events and activities visit: www.azusausd.k12.ca.us/schools/5AHSAlumniPage.htm.

Special Reports

In October of 2007 major wildfires ravaged through San Diego county forcing residents to evacuate their homes, taking with them only what they could carry to their vehicles on such short notice, leaving everything else behind. A 1961 alumnus, **Irene Ashkenas**, was one of the evacuees and in the story that follows she writes about her experience during those nightmarish few days. To read the rest of her story click on the link following the excerpt..

“Evacuated”, written by **Irene Ashkenas**

On Sunday, the first wildfire broke out shortly after noon. My neighbors and I (I live in the Rancho Bernardo area of San Diego), smelling the smoke, gathered in the street and exchanged information. The fire was in Ramona about 12-15 miles east. Since that is an area that burns frequently, we were not concerned. Our street is several blocks from open brush. I kept tabs on the fire on TV and when I went to bed about 10p.m., the town of Ramona was being evacuated and were being sent to Mira Mesa High School, about 8 miles South. I wasn't able to fall asleep, so I got up, packed a duffel bag with 3 days food for my Sheltie (Bailey), 3 days food for my Macaw (Midori), water bowls, leashes, treats, and medications, then I put that bag by the door from the house to the garage. I then added the box with my important papers (passport, birth certificate, etc.) and my laptop computer. I felt very silly, since I had never had to evacuate, but once I had done that, I was able to fall asleep. At 4:30 a.m., my phone rang and it was my next-door neighbor who said "Irene, it's Linda. We are evacuating." I thanked her, got up and tossed on clothes... **To read more click here:** http://www.azusahighschool1961.com/Stories/Irene_Ashkenas_Wildfire_Evacuation.pdf

The above story has been posted to our website at <http://www.azusahighschool1961.com>. Be sure to bookmark the page and visit the website often because it's updated frequently. The site was created so that alumni news and information can be found at one location. Here you'll be able to access past newsletters, alumni bios, completed questionnaires, digitized yearbooks, links to alumni blogs and websites, reunion photos, alumni events and much more

If you haven't completed your questionnaire please do so and send it to me so that I can add it to the website. Also, if you have a blog or a website of your own that you'd like to share with our alumni, just send me a link and I'll add it to the site. Once again, my email address is rainymail@yahoo.com

***Send me a story and I'll put it in this section.**

Illnesses, etc...

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Neal Sparks** who is courageously battling lung cancer.

If someone knows of an alumnus who is very ill, please let me know.

Changes

If you change your address, phone number, email or even your name, please contact Janice Ashborn at okayjan@cox.net. She will let me know and I shall put the changes here.

Patrick Rueter's new email address is rsranch1@gmail.com

News Updates

Burt Franks and his wife, Carol, just welcomed their third grandson, Sullivan McDonald Franks. Sullivan was born April 27, 2008 to their son, Steve and his wife, April. He is their second son. Steve is the creator and producer of the television show "Psych" which airs on the USA network.

Yolanda Ramos Chittum and her husband, Jim, just became grandparents to Caleb Matthew Smith, born and adopted on March 5, 2008. He is their second grandson. Micah, their first grandson, will be seven in July. Yolanda and Jim have been living in Roseburg, Oregon since 1973.

In January **Kay Winburn** Seale retired from GBS INC.com, a software company that she owns with her husband, Richard. Kay and Richard are planning to visit Maui in September, Las Vegas in October and are taking an around-the-cape South American cruise in January where they will get to visit the Antarctic.

Walt Ashborn and **Janice Quick** Ashborn left on June 16 for a 9-week motor home adventure. They'll start out on US Highway 40 until they reach their destination, the east coast. Once there they plan to visit Washington DC and New York City as well as the beaches along the coasts of North Carolina and Virginia. Their plans are to travel US Highway 70 on their return trip home.

In July **Joanne Srack** Mead is heading to Europe for an exciting two-week vacation.

To set the record straight, after retiring in 1981 **Richard McDowell** has recently and successfully completed his 5,000th crossword puzzle. According to Richard, **Bob O'Connor** is still working on his first.

In Memoriam

You, dear readers, have to be the ones to let me know about anyone who passes. At the present time we are aware of the following alumni who are no longer with us:

Loree Hodge	Gary Bielke	Ken Navarro
Theresa Asbury Bence	Kenneth MacDermott	Ray Nakama
Gary Pollard	Kenneth White	Geraldine Diaz Kinsey
Keith Hunt	Kenn Crafton	Harry Kimura
Mary Arbuckle	DonRay Logan	Les Frieberg
Billy Estrada	Joe Contreras	Joseph Mora Jr.
Henry Pedroza	Ronald Dunkle	Regina Johnson Nash
Mike Walters	Mary Ann Connor	Darwyn Freed
Laurie Wittich Taft	Oren Putnam	

The following is a special note from **Sharon Hunt** Carden regarding the memorial service that was held for her twin brother, **Keith Hunt**, who passed away in 2007.

To all of our classmates,

Our classmates made my twin brother's passing somewhat of a joy. I had not seen many of you for years. White's Funeral Home was where my brother wanted to be. He wanted to be with his friends, you were there..., and I want to thank you so very much for that. I was astounded with the love of his classmates. When I looked into the audience I was filled with joy and amazement. All of you meant so much to him. And now you mean so much to me...Thank You! I try not to dwell on my brother's passing but for now it's still new. Hopefully in the near future I can accept it.

Sharon Hunt Carden

A handful of us were fortunate enough to have spent a very special evening with Keith during our 45th reunion on August 25, 2006 in Long Beach, California. We enjoyed dinner together at a nearby restaurant and laughed as Sonny Rau and Keith ordered a very expensive bottle of wine only to drink it straight from the bottle. After dinner along the waterfront boardwalk we all became teenagers again as we tried on silly hats, enjoyed double-scoop ice cream cones and feeling very nostalgic, rode the carousel (Keith and Sonny wore their newly purchased 'chicken hats.'. To see photos of Keith that night visit our website at <http://www.AzusaHighSchool1961.com> Even though some of us didn't hang out with Keith in high school we attended Keith's memorial service because we formed a connection with him that night at the reunion. Those close to him say that Keith was fun-loving and generous to a fault and that his passing was sudden and unexpected. He will be missed by many.

I'm sad to announce that Claudia Patterson Wellman from the class of '60 passed away Sunday, June 15. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family. If you'd like to send a card, here is the address: Gary Wellman and Family, 7585 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92504.

I hope to hear from more of you soon! Be sure to send me your stories and information about our fellow classmates to include in our July newsletter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheryl Dillard (Burlingame)

Spotlight on Mary Kay Hanson Mittag

Life after Azusa High School

After leaving Azusa High School Mary Kay Hanson attended Mt. SAC where she received her AA degree. In September of 1963 she married Dale Mittag –class of 1959. She worked as a secretary at Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino until Dale finished his teaching credential. In September of 1966 Mary Kay entered Cal Poly where she completed her Bachelor of Science degree, teaching credential, and Masters degree.



Mary Kay with her cymbidium orchids

In September of 1984 Mary Kay was diagnosed with acute leukemia and was told she would live six months to a year. After making it through the first two rounds of chemotherapy her doctors thought she might be a good candidate for a bone marrow transplant because of her otherwise excellent health, plus the fact that her brother was a perfect match. At this time not only was this experimental, but the best success was with younger children. Given a 50 percent chance of survival she opted for the transplant, beat the odds and in 1985 at the age of 42 became the oldest patient to receive a bone marrow transplant at Kaiser. She says, "It was some kind of miracle." Mary Kay returned to teaching in the fall of the same year.

Work

Mary Kay taught at four schools in the Azusa unified District and retired in 1998 after 30 years of teaching. Her last teaching assignment was at Valleydale, where she attended school in the 7th and 8th grades. Dale was the track and cross country coach at Azusa High School and retired after 32 years in the district.

Play

After retiring Mary Kay and Dale, traveling with a track and field group, took the trip of a lifetime to the 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney Australia. They were there a month and had a great time getting to know both the people and the country.

For fun Mary Kay and Dale grow cymbidium orchids and have more than 50 plants. They have also raised 135 camellia plants that they show at Descanso and Huntington Gardens during the months of January and February.

Besides exhibiting camellias at shows, Mary Kay's other hobbies include quilting, water aerobics, fishing and traveling. Mary Kay also collects Precious Moments figurines. She's such an avid collector that in 2004 she and Dale stayed at the Precious Moments campground located near the Precious Moments museum and park in Carthage, Missouri.



*Mary Kay & Dale –2006
Precious Campground, Carthage, MO*



*Mary Kay and Dale – 2004
West Yellowstone Park museum*

Mary Kay and Dale have been living in Upland since 1974. They are listed in the phone book and would like to hear from classmates who are still in the area. Their e-mail address is dwmmkm@aol.com

DO YOU KNOW WHERE ANY OF THESE ALUMNI ARE?						
PLEASE INCLUDE ADDRESSES, EMAILS AND PHONE NUMBERS						
THANK YOU FOR ANY ASSISTANCE.						
THERE HAVE BEEN MORE ADDED SINCE LAST ISSUE!						
EMAIL TO okayjan@cox.net or rainymail@yahoo.com						
MAIL to Cheryl Dillard, PO Box 2413, Lake Oswego, OR 97035						
Cesaria	Accardo			Dorothy	Lake	
Josephine	Acero			Muriel	Lathrop	
Michael	Agnew			Robert	Lee	
Melvina	Andrieux			Leslie	Long	
Julianna	Ardelean	Parker		Elvira	Lopez	
Roberta	Armstrong			Glenda	Majors	
Kathy	Arnold	Houlthouser		Paul	Malenfant	
Larry	Bailey			Janice	Mann	
Linda	Beavers	Ponce		Olivia	Mardis	
Jeanne	Becker			George	Marquez	
William	Behounek			Dennis	Miller	
Carol	Brown			Mary	Monson	
Vernona	Buckner			Judith	Morski	
Diane	Burns			Deanne	Noriega	
Harriet	Bush			Patricia	Paquette	
James	Butcher			Janet	Parker	
Carolyn	Caldwell	Bolda		Dianne	Peplin	
Gary	Campbell			Durwood	Poff	
Tom	Campbell			Jerome	Pollock	
Joan	Carson			James	Popoff	
Susan	Chambers			Bert	Putsey	
Lucy	Chavira			James	Ralley	
Marie	Chavira			Herbert	Reynolds	
Donna	Coholough	Flemens		Jimmiell	Riddell	
Herbert	Cross			Phil	Rix	
Marion	Cullimore			Albert	Rocha	
Richard	Davolos			Cecil	Romero	
Judy	Deanes			Richard	Romero	
Lorraine	Defosses			Norma	Rust	
Eleanore	Dominguez			Janet	Schnute	
Charlotte	Dotson	Ryan		Mary	Sever	
Joann	Duke			Janice	Silvera	
Sheila	Dunlap			Judith	Smith	
Morris	Dye			Patricia	Smith	
Ruth	Eckes			Sharon	Stroika	
Carrie	Farrell			Eleanor	Sutherland	
Roberta	Fike			Hedwig	Szatmari	
Virginia	Flewell			Shirley	Thorgerson	
Bill	Foss			Phyllis	Tom	
Joy	Gammill	Zelvitz		Patricia	Tonseth	
Henry	Garcia			Susie	Torrence	
Sheila	Garver			Jay	Towne	
Donnarose	Gates			Sharon	Treat	
Barby	Gibson			Carol	Turner	Seiverson
Mary	Guzman			Darlene	Villar	

John	Haile			Virginia	Vukovich	
Irene	Helgrud			Judith	Waten	
Peggy	Hofold			Johnny	Watley	
Sandra	Hoggarth			James	Weber	
Robert	Hooper			Linda	Werner	
Joann	Harrell			Charlotte	Wilson	
Bill	Hawley			Pamela	Wise	
Jerry	Jarett			Elizabeth	Woods	
Kathlene	Jarrett			Carolyn	Worthey	
Barbara	Juniper	Phillips		Robert	Wright	
Isabelle	Kelly					
Carol	Kirsch					
Bob	Klassen					
Claudia	Knight					
Jane	Kunkle					
Alice	Konopasek					