

THE VIGOR HIGHLIGHTS

Class of 1960

50th Anniversary Edition

October 16, 2009

CLASS OF 1960 PLANS 50th REUNION FOR 2010

The Reunion Committee for the Class of '60 has set the weekend of May 13 - 16, 2010, for its 50th reunion celebration and encourages all classmates to make plans to attend. The weekend activities will consist of:

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Evening – Beach-casual reunion kick-off party at the new Hangout in Gulf Shores, Alabama, at the intersection of State Highways 59 and 182 (Beach Boulevard).

Friday, May 14, 2010

Evening – Casual get together with catered country cooking at the Oak Hollow Farm, south of Fairhope on Highway 98 (14210 Greeno Road). Oak Hollow's party barn is located on a beautiful 300 acre site.

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Morning – Tour of the new Vigor High School. As many of you know, Vigor's physical plant on Wilson Avenue in Prichard has undergone a badly-needed, major renovation over the past few years. See page 6. The only building remaining from the 1950's is the auditorium. The Mobile Public School System is being asked to arrange a special Saturday morning tour of the facilities starting about 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 15, 2010

Evening – The main event of the weekend. Dinner and dancing at the Heron Lakes Country Club, 3851 Government Boulevard; near I-65. This is the old Skyline Country Club where our 40th and 45th reunions were held. The dress will be 'dressy casual,' sport shirts and dress slacks for the men, and nice dresses or pant suits for the ladies. No jeans or shorts, please. In addition to a cocktail hour, the evening will include dinner and DJ, Ken Henderson, Class of 1961, playing tunes from the 50's.

Sunday, May 16, 2010

Lunch – Casual wrap-up luncheon at the Blue Gill Restaurant on Mobile Bay Causeway (3775 Battleship Parkway in what is now Spanish Fort).

Notes:

Since this is our 50th reunion, your Reunion Committee has added more events to make this a "Reunion to Remember." The Reunion Committee members emphasize that you may attend any or all events or pick and choose from the list. The cost per person/per event will be included in the Formal Invitation to be mailed out in the late Winter or early Spring of 2010. The Invitation will include a return RSVP form and other information; so please keep your contact information up to date.

If you would like to see other events take place, such as football team members getting together, a meeting for cheerleaders or band, etc., please let your co-chairs know and be willing to help put it together.

For more information and direct links to the event host establishments, as well as email addresses for your reunion committee members, please visit our website at: <http://Vigor60.com>

Chairpersons for the reunion are:

Ann Keith Noble

251-675-3845

Charlotte Palmer Roper

251-679-6088

Vigor High - Class Of 1960

P.O. Box 144

Saraland, AL 36571-0144

'SILVER WOLVES'

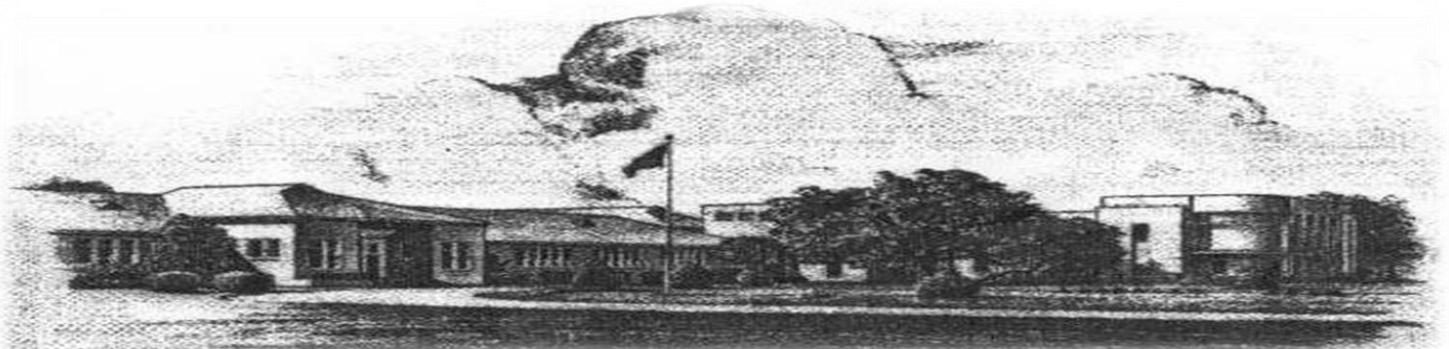
RETURN TO THE DEN

In our quest to bring you, our classmates, the very best reunion ever, your Reunion Committee requests your assistance.



Alumni are encouraged to visit the Vigor '60 website to see if you can help find our 22 lost classmates. Members of the Reunion Committee have spent countless hours tracking down as many classmates as possible for this 50th Reunion; 327 to date. Therefore, we would be especially appreciative if you would update your email address so that we can communicate with you via email in the future and, quite possibly, have an easier time finding you if you do move. You may update your contact information at our website; by calling a committee member; or by dropping a note to the high-lighted address in the lower center of this page.

We also ask you to consider making a monetary donation to help defray the many upfront reunion expenses. Please make your check payable to "Vigor 60 Reunion" and mail it to the high-lighted address in the lower center of this page. To those who have already sent a donation, you have our heartfelt gratitude.



Thursday Night - "The Hangout Kick-off Party"



In the late 50's and early 60's the Hangout was the coolest place to meet on the beaches of Gulf Shores - a place where worries went out the window; even though there weren't that many windows - it was open air! The more beach breeze - the better. Arcade, pinball, root beer, twenty-five cent hamburgers and a chance to bust out the latest dance craze; that was the life. Crusin' up and down the street and around the Hangout parking lot was just the ticket for meeting friends and "pickin' up chicks". The Hangout wasn't just a place; it was The Place - "meet me at the Hangout" was an invitation to enjoy life at the beach.

Well, fifty years later, the Hangout is back and better than ever! So we'd like to invite you to "meet us at the Hangout" to kick-off our Vigor High Class of '60 - 50th Reunion on Thursday Night, May 13, 2010.

In fact, since the lodging rental rates are most reasonable at this time of the year, especially Sunday through Thursday nights; the beach is not crowded; and the weather is just beautiful; come on down even earlier in the week and make a "Spring Break" of it. We will have a Vigor'60 "Meet and Greet" table set up at the Hangout every afternoon from 5-6 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, May 9-13, 2010, to encourage classmates to get together, have a drink and "hang out". The reunion officially begins on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. with a beach-casual kick-off party at the Hangout. The new Hangout is located at the South end of Highway 59 - At the Beach. Make plans now. Don't miss it! For more reunion information, stay tuned to our website at <http://Vigor60.com>.



For area information, visit the Gulf Shores website at: <http://www.gulfshores.com>.

We will be posting lodging info and other "goodies" at the Vigor60.com website as well!

Friday Night - "Country Dinner - Down on The Farm"

Welcome to Oak Hollow Farm. Outdoors we have 300 acres of land, a fishing pond, trail rides by horseback and a playground. Inside take advantage of our large, rustic barn complete with a stage and retractable screen for special presentations. The barn is the perfect setting for one of our delicious, made to order, fully catered meals with our Southern Country Menu and a night of entertainment. When our barn fills, you've got over 6,000 square feet to socialize. For the fun loving and talented, or not so talented, we can provide for a fun night of karaoke or line dancing.



Oak Hollow Farm is located on 300 acres of scenic farmland, about 8 miles south of Fairhope in Baldwin County, Alabama and is family owned and operated.

Join us for a casual get together on Friday, May 14, 2010. Socializing begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by a Catered Country Cooked Dinner at the Oak Hollow Farm, located south of Fairhope off US Highway 98 at 14210 Greeno Road.



Saturday Evening - “Dining & Dancing at The Country Club”



Heron Lakes Country Club is known as one of the prestige banquet venues in Mobile and offers some of the most meticulously prepared cuisine in the area. The dress will be ‘dressy casual’; sport shirts and dress slacks for the men; and a nice dress or pant suit for the ladies. No jeans or shorts, please! Reunion registration begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Heron Lakes Lobby followed by an open bar, social hour in the Heron Lakes Main Dining Room. The Main Event, beginning at 7 p.m., will be hosted by your Vigor’60 Masters of Ceremonies and will include buffet dining.

After dinner, Ken Henderson – WKEN (Vigor Class of ’61) will be on hand to spin platters from the era for your listening and dancing pleasure. So come on out to Heron Lakes Country Club (the old Skyline Country Club on U.S. Highway 90) and join your classmates from Vigor High – Class of ’60 as they renew old acquaintances and relive some of the best years of their lives!



Sunday 11:30 am - “Wrap-up Luncheon at The Bluegill”



Since 1958 this landmark restaurant has been a favorite spot for locals and a great discovery for visitors. And why not? Menu favorites like Royal Red Shrimp and Party Platters keep appetites perked up and comin' back. Located three miles east of Battleship park, The Bluegill is open 7 days a week, from 11:00 a.m., and has been run by Restaurateur, Harry Johnson since 1998. A frequent winner of "Best Place to Hear Live Music" competitions (as well as being named one of the Best Bars in America by Esquire Magazine), the Bluegill features great food, a gorgeous waterfront deck as well as an Amphitheater where patrons can enjoy live music most weekend evenings.

Originally owned and operated by Wallace and Evelyn Johnston, the Bluegill has been attracting hungry diners to the Causeway since 1958. Since opening, the Bluegill has weathered through two hurricanes (Frederick in 1979 & Katrina in 2005), both of which destroyed the physical structure, but never the heart and soul of this Delta mainstay, so the Bluegill tradition of offering great food and live music in a casual, welcoming atmosphere continues on.



So come - join us on Sunday, May 16, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. for a send-off you won't soon forget!

And who could forget: “The Kreame Bar?”

We had planned to hold one reunion event here, but it is fully booked through 2012!

THE KREAME BAR

Wilson Avenue

- HAMBURGERS
- MALTS
- MILK SHAKES
- SUNDAES
- SOFT SERVE ICE CREAM



Vigor High School, Class of '60 Roll Call

Fred Abney, Rowlette TX	<i>Randy Cambron, (Deceased)</i>	<i>Eva Nell Fairly, (Deceased)</i>	<i>Barbara Gayle Holder, (Deceased)</i>
Rolf Albinussen, Svendborg Denmark	Ruby Camp, Saraland AL	Ann Falck, Satsuma AL	Pat Holder, Mobile AL
<i>Marian Allen, (Deceased)</i>	<i>Jimmy Cantrell, (Deceased)</i>	Barbara Fayard, Mobile AL	James Holley, Panama City FL
<i>Sherry Allen, (Deceased)</i>	Billy Ray Carlisle, Daphne AL	Gwen Ferguson, Fairhope AL	<i>Bruce Hollingsworth, (Deceased)</i>
Gerry Anderson, Elberta AL	George Carlson, Montgomery AL	Peggy Ferguson, Chickasaw AL	Rosalyn Howell, Milton FL
John Andrews, Axis AL	Byron Cawthon, Alachua FL	Mary Fithian, Gulf Shores AL	<i>Patsy Hrabe, (Deceased)</i>
Vernon Andrews, Mobile AL	Barry Chambers, Semmes AL	Frank Foster, Wilmer AL	<i>Mac Hudson, (Deceased)</i>
James Applin, Mobile AL	Lila Chambers, Ocean Springs MS	<i>Ronnie Franklin, (Deceased)</i>	Pat Huffmaster, Whistler AL
<i>Barbara Atchison, (Deceased)</i>	Bennett Chastain, Hawkinsville GA	Dale Frith, (Status Unknown)	Herbert Hughes, Semmes AL
Joe Awalt, Spanish Fort AL	Jim Chavis, Jacksonville FL	Patricia Frye, Satsuma AL	Johnnie Hughes, Semmes AL
Brenda Bagley, Saraland AL	Cecile Christenberry, Mobile AL	Stanley Fuller, Huntsville AL	Harriet Hurt, Saraland AL
Richard Ball, Mobile AL	Carolyn Clark, Saraland AL	Charles Garner, Lubbock TX	<i>James Hurt, (Deceased)</i>
Rex Ballard, Saraland AL	Tony Clark, Eight Mile AL	Albert Gaston, Mobile AL	Thomas James, Chickasaw AL
<i>George Bamberg, (Deceased)</i>	Donald Clements, Saraland AL	Mike Gaston, Daphne AL	Bettie Janes, Wilmer AL
Pat Bargsley, Birmingham AL	<i>Donald Cochran, (Deceased)</i>	Sue Gideons, Semmes AL	Gary Johnsey, Hattiesburg MS
Linda Bass, Pensacola FL	Doy Cole, Sharpsburg GA	Virginia Gilbert, Mobile AL	Hamp Johnston, Magnolia Springs AL
Richard Bass, Knoxville TN	Jack Conway, Mobile AL	John Gill, Riverside CA	Brenda Jones, Saraland AL
Jackie Beasley, Foley AL	Sylvia Cook, Malcolm AL	Bobby Glass, Mobile AL	Charles Jones, (Status Unknown)
Billy Beckham, Denton TX	Robert Cooley, Satsuma AL	<i>Charles Glass, (Deceased)</i>	Martha Jones, Chickasaw AL
Elizabeth Bennett, Satsuma AL	Jerry Corker, Mobile AL	Jo Ann Gleason, Satsuma AL	Rose Jones, Athens AL
Jackie Benton, Satsuma AL	Carolyn Cowart, Mobile AL	<i>Betty Godwin, (Deceased)</i>	Ronnie Jordan, Chickasaw AL
<i>Pat Bishop, (Deceased)</i>	Suzelle Cranford, Chickasaw AL	Eleanor Green, Orlando FL	Kenton Kastorff, Wilmer AL
<i>Bobby Bittle, (Deceased)</i>	Joe Crenshaw, Saraland AL	Orville Greene, Alpharetta GA	Ann Keith, Saraland AL
Carolyn Blackmon, Daphne AL	Jane Davenport, Mobile AL	Velma Greer, Semmes AL	Imo Kellam, Mobile AL
Linda Blackwell, Hattiesburg MS	Joan Davenport, Chunchula AL	Joe Griffin, Mobile AL	Kenneth Kelly, Saraland AL
Jimmie Booker, Mobile AL	Diana Davis, Saraland AL	Gloria Griggers, Banning CA	Martha Sue Kelly, Fairhope AL
Marian Boone, Fairhope AL	James Davis, Hazel Green AL	Thomas Guerin, Spring TX	Donna Kiker, Stockton AL
Sylvia Boswell, Saraland AL	Ouida Davis, Pensacola FL	Mary Jane Guinn, Mobile AL	Roger King, Semmes AL
Peggy Boulter, Queen City TX	Tommy Davis, Theodore AL	Mary Beth Hadden, Saraland AL	Barbara Kinsaul, Naples TX
Ed Bowman, (Status Unknown)	William Davis, Tyler TX	Jimmy Hall, Mobile AL	<i>Jimmy Kirk, (Deceased)</i>
Donnie Brady, Mobile AL	Ruth Dean, Gloster MS	<i>Linda Hall, (Deceased)</i>	John Kirk, Bay Minette AL
Lynn Branch, New Albany MS	Bobby Dearmond, Schriever LA	Wayne Hall, Mobile AL	Rodney Kite, Semmes AL
Anne Brantley, Decatur TN	Harold Deason, Mobile AL	Jimmy Hannah, Orange Beach AL	Jimmy Kittrell, Chunchula AL
Larry Brewer, Naples TX	Dave Dennis, North Charleston SC	Linda Harbin, Satsuma AL	Buck Knizley, Spanish Fort AL
Cecil Brooks, Goldonna LA	Guy Diehl, Pinson AL	Geraldine Harper, Saraland AL	Dale Kyser, Mobile AL
Billie Brown, Birmingham AL	Louise Dinger, Theodore AL	Dan Harrell, Chickasaw AL	David Lamon, Decatur AL
Linda Brown, Marietta GA	Donald Dishinger, Panama City FL	<i>Amanda Harris, (Deceased)</i>	Ann Lane, Fairhope AL
Melba Brown, (Status Unknown)	Betty Dixon, Grand Bay AL	Elaine Havard, Cleveland GA	Johnny Lane, Chickasaw AL
Jimmy Browning, Bruce MS	Linda Dowdle, Fairhope AL	Sylvia Havens, Mobile AL	Glenda Langham, Foley AL
Wanda Brunson, Prattville AL	Zack Dowdle, Daphne AL	Ann Hayes, Robertsedale AL	<i>Margaret Lassiter, (Deceased)</i>
James Bryan, Creola AL	Angela Duke, Templeton MA	Lamar Haynes, Saraland AL	Sharon Lassiter, Mobile AL
Gary Bullock, Conway SC	Doug Duncan, Ashford AL	<i>Herbert Hays, (Deceased)</i>	<i>Ronnie Leflore, (Deceased)</i>
Inez Bullock, (Status Unknown)	Haskell Dunn, Atmore AL	Ronnie Hays, Spanish Fort AL	Betty Legg, Chatom AL
<i>Tommy Bullock, (Deceased)</i>	<i>Richard Dykes, (Deceased)</i>	Janet Healy, Newark DE	Bette Kay Lett, Saraland AL
Carlene Burford, Mobile AL	Austin Easterling, Picayune MS	Helen Helveston, Eight Mile AL	Carl Lewis, Pensacola FL
Gloria Burnham, Satsuma AL	<i>Jimmy Dean Edmiston, (Deceased)</i>	Sarah Hendricks, Fairhope AL	Dendral Lewis, Semmes AL
<i>Donald Busby, (Deceased)</i>	Dawn Ellis, Eight Mile AL	Fran Hicks, Douglasville GA	Leroy Lewis, Birmingham AL
Glenn Buxton, Opelika AL	Richard Ellison, Santa Barbara CA	Jackie Hicks, Pansey AL	Barbara Lindsey, Chattanooga TN
Roxie Byrd, Saraland AL	Roger Elsevier, Reedsport OR	Kirk Hildreth, Arvada CO	Sarah Jane Little, Chickasaw AL
Wayne Byrd, Woodbridge VA	Jimmy Englett, Victoria TX	<i>Gloria Hill, (Deceased)</i>	Sarah Littrell, Mobile AL
Jo Calascione, Mobile AL	Jim Evans, Hattiesburg MS	Elaine Hitchcock, Stapleton AL	Jim Livings, Birmingham AL
Carolyn Calvert, Abilene TX	Mary Fail, Tyler TX	Peggy Hodo, (Status Unknown)	Leon Loewen, Chickasaw AL

Vigor High School, Class of '60 Roll Call

Betty Logan, (Status Unknown)	Faye Naron, Mobile AL	Margaret Ridings, Mobile AL	Vic Vickers, Saraland AL
Carol Long, Mobile AL	Gary Nelson, Mobile AL	Guy Rippy, Vilas NC	Brenda Vining, (Deceased)
Mary Loper, (Deceased)	Helen Nelson, Spanish Fort AL	Delores Risor, Lucedale MS	Peggy Wakefield, Wilmer AL
Alton Lott, Mobile AL	Jimmy Nelson, Grand Bay AL	Katherine Ritchie, (Status Unknown)	Martin Walker, Saraland AL
Jane Lowe, Mobile AL	Barbara Newberry, Mobile AL	Sandra Ritchie, Chickasaw AL	Sue Walker, (Status Unknown)
Nora Lucas, (Status Unknown)	Duane Newton, Saraland AL	Miriam Roberts, Silver Spring MD	Rita Wall, Saraland AL
James (Jim) Lundy, Crestview FL	Delores Nicholas, (Deceased)	Paul Robinson, Escatawpa MS	Betty Wallace, Lima OH
Rhetta Lyons, Daphne AL	Beth Nicholson, Mobile AL	Mila Rogers, Mobile AL	Pat Walters, Chickasaw AL
Ronnie Marler, Mobile AL	Harry Noble, Saraland AL	Bobby Rowell, Eight Mile AL	Laverne Waltman, (Deceased)
Jim Marshall, Katy TX	Joyce Norman, (Deceased)	Dorothy Rowland, Mobile AL	Milton Ware, Gulf Shores AL
Elsie Martin, Atlantic Beach FL	Marjorie Norred, Mobile AL	Daisy Ryals, Buckatunna MS	Jerry Warren, Satsuma AL
Pat Martin, Ponte Vedra Beach FL	Chuck Norris, Akron AL	Margaret Salter, Saraland AL	Carolyn Waters, Dora AL
Billy Massey, Mobile AL	Wanda Norris, (Deceased)	Donnie Sanders, Mobile AL	Gloria Weaver, Ashville NC
Pat Mastin, Crossville TN	Julie O'Dell, Houston TX	Ray Sanderson, (Deceased)	Grady Weaver, Mobile AL
George Mayfield, (Deceased)	Judy Odom, (Deceased)	Doug Sawyer, Mobile AL	Jo Ann Weaver, Eight Mile AL
Merrily McBride, Mobile AL	Mary Odom, (Status Unknown)	Ronald Scheets, Stratford OK	Virginia Weaver, (Status Unknown)
Melvin McConnell, (Deceased)	Gloria Ogletree, Saraland AL	Kenneth Scoper, Creola AL	Winston Weaver, Scottsboro AL
Margaret McCoy, Shubuta MS	Lee Olander, Mobile AL	Roy Scott, Eight Mile AL	Ervin Webb, (Deceased)
Thomas McCoy, (Status Unknown)	Jean Orso, Mobile AL	Brenda Sessions, Mobile AL	Pat Welborn, Gulf Breeze FL
Harriett McDavid, Lancaster SC	June Orso, Mobile AL	Lawrence Sides, Saraland AL	Richard Welch, (Deceased)
Carolyn McDonald, Daphne AL	Ronnie Osborne, Chunchula AL	Robert Singley, Fort Worth TX	Billy White, Daphne AL
Johnny McDougal, Chickasaw AL	Carolyn Oswald, Mobile AL	Douglas Slay, Citronelle AL	Noretta White, Mobile AL
Jessie McFall, Saraland AL	Gerald Overstreet, Chunchula AL	Betty Smallwood, Greenville AL	Robert White, Saraland AL
Lawrence McHenry, (Deceased)	Charlotte Palmer, Saraland AL	Bill Smith, Albertville AL	Penelope Whitmore, Mobile AL
Jane McInnis, Saraland AL	Margaret Parker, Saraland AL	James Smith, Chickasaw AL	Benny Whittington, (Deceased)
Sonny McKee, Mobile AL	Wayne Parmer, Saraland AL	Janet Smith, Wilmer AL	Carol Wiggins, Carlinville IL
Wayne McLaurin, Long Beach MS	Sue Parnell, (Status Unknown)	Larry Smith, Dauphin Island AL	Richard Wigley, Mobile AL
Charles McLean, Fallbrook CA	Brenda Patterson, Springville AL	Lonnie Smith, Chickasaw AL	Paulette Wilkes, Saraland AL
Que McMaster, (Status Unknown)	Elizabeth Paul, Dothan AL	Sandra Smith, Mobile AL	Billy Willard, (Deceased)
Wayne McWilliams, Wilmer AL	Daniel Pearce, Millry AL	Sidney Smith, (Deceased)	Brenda Williams, Point Clear AL
Tommy Meadath, Brookfield IL	Bea Peden, Northport AL	Barbara Snider, Satsuma AL	Charles Williams, Semmes AL
Kay Melton, Chickasaw AL	Aline Pennington, Greenville SC	Richard Springfield, (Deceased)	Donald Williams, Satsuma AL
Brad Menhorn, Kissimmee FL	Judy Perry, Semmes AL	Dickie Stainton, Columbia TN	Marcus Williams, Mobile AL
Barbara Middleton, Saraland AL	Kenneth Pettis, (Deceased)	Doug Stallings, Mobile AL	Ronnie Williams, (Status Unknown)
Carol Middleton, Chickasaw AL	Ralph Phelps, (Deceased)	Vivian Stanley, (Status Unknown)	Charles Williamson, Chickasaw AL
Kenny Middleton, (Deceased)	Bill Philipp, Florence SC	Claude Steele, Fairhope AL	Hugh (Sonny) Williamson, Denver CO
Mae Jean Middleton, (Deceased)	Mary "Helen" Pierce, Mobile AL	Nell Stokes, Conway SC	Bill Wilson, (Status Unknown)
Luther Miller, (Status Unknown)	Armeida Platt, Whistler AL	Gladys Strahan, (Status Unknown)	Larry Wilson, Saraland AL
Alice Mills, (Deceased)	Diane Porter, Eight Mile AL	Jim Strickhausen, Fairhope AL	Pat Wilson, (Status Unknown)
Faye Mitchell, Chickasaw AL	Eleanor Powell, Stockton AL	Wanda Strickland, Marion AL	Joy Winfield, Chickasaw AL
Henry Mitchell, Saraland AL	Cecil Prentice, (Deceased)	Clay Swanzy, Fairhope AL	Bobby Wood, Satsuma AL
George Monk, Orange Beach AL	James Presnall, (Deceased)	Joseph Tanner, Denton TX	Peggy Wright, (Status Unknown)
Charlie Morgan, Wilmer AL	Wanda Rabon, Moreno Valley CA	Diane Tennant, Mobile AL	Richard Yates, Moss Point MS
Joe Morgan, Vestavia Hills AL	Lloyd Ramsey, Daphne AL	Richard Terry, (Deceased)	Bob Young, Winter Springs FL
John Morgan, Chickasaw AL	Mary Jo Ransier, Semmes AL	Bob Thames, Alabaster AL	Ronnie Young, (Deceased)
Barbara Morphis, Chunchula AL	Larry Raybon, Nashville TN	Virgie Thames, (Deceased)	
Eugenia Morphis, Thomaston AL	Shirley Rayborn, Saraland AL	Mark Thomas, Fairhope AL	
Joy Morphis, Satsuma AL	Peggy Rhodes, Mobile AL	Marston Thomas, (Deceased)	
Brenda Morrison, Chickasaw AL	Lee Rhodey, (Deceased)	Sarah Thomas, Saraland AL	
Rodney Mosier, Grand Ledge MI	Edith Rice, Loxley AL	Pat Thorton, Saraland AL	
Martha Mosley, Satsuma AL	Brenda Richardson, Saraland AL	Jerry Vaughn, (Deceased)	
Gloria Myers, Creola AL	LaJeene Richardson, (Deceased)	Joyce Vernon, Saraland AL	

Total 409

Deceased 60

Status Unknown 22

A Brief History of The Old and Photos of The New C.F. Vigor High School



It was fitting that in January of 1944, a new elementary school at 913 N. Wilson Avenue in Prichard was named for him. Originally there were eight grades in the school. After its opening, the student enrollment quickly increased to such an extent that three grades were put on double sessions.



C.F. Vigor was Assistant Superintendent of Mobile County, Alabama Public Schools for more than 30 years, serving from 1910 to November 3, 1941, and was mainly in charge of rural schools in the system. He was a lifetime resident of Mobile, having graduated from Barton Academy, and was the first president of the Mobile Education Association.



Three years later, relief for overcrowding came when the elementary grades were absorbed by other schools in the area. Eight additional classrooms were added to the existing facility and Vigor began concentrating on the upper grades. Before then, all public high school students in the county had to travel to midtown Mobile to attend Murphy.

In those days, high schools had only 11 grades. Vigor's first 11th grade graduating class was in 1952, the same year the auditorium was added to the complex, and the last 11th grade graduating class was in 1953. The first 12th grade graduating class was in 1954. Elvis Presley, before he became The King, came to the campus in 1956 for an assembly program that ended abruptly when Principal J. M. Laird had the curtains pulled.



In the fall of 1956, when some of the Class of '60 entered Vigor in the 9th grade, a 12th grade had been added and Vigor was an up and coming member of the Big Four in Mobile area high schools (Vigor, Murphy, UMS and McGill). The crowning night of recognition in 1956 was when Vigor beat Murphy in football for the first time. In fact, Vigor beat Murphy for three of the four years that the Class of 1960 was in residence.

A Comment on The 45th Reunion!

Dear Friends and Classmates from the past,

First, let me express my happiness in seeing all of you that have made it this far in life. It was really encouraging to talk with some of you and just knowing that the Vigor Class of '60 has a notable legacy to leave our posterity is indeed fulfilling. I enjoyed every minute and thought the organization, presentations, and selections were very professional.

Thanks Ann Noble, Charlotte Roper, Clay Swanzy, Brenda Sykes, and of course Milton Ware for the magnificent job you all did. I personally wish I could have stayed for about a week or two and get to know all of you a little better. A lot of water has passed under the bridge of my life and the nostalgic trip back in time to those days of the 50's and 1960 are very gratifying. I thank you all and may God Bless each and every one of you.

Secondly, let me extend my empathy to you that suffered loss at the winds of Hurricane Katrina and the lesser other one of which I cannot recall the name of right now. Hope to see all of you in 2010 and beyond.

*Ronnie & Mary Leflore
Freedom! God Bless America!*

Response From a Friend

A comment please, directed to the Reunion Committee.

As you can tell by the only post on the web page on the subject, one graduate really appreciated your efforts.

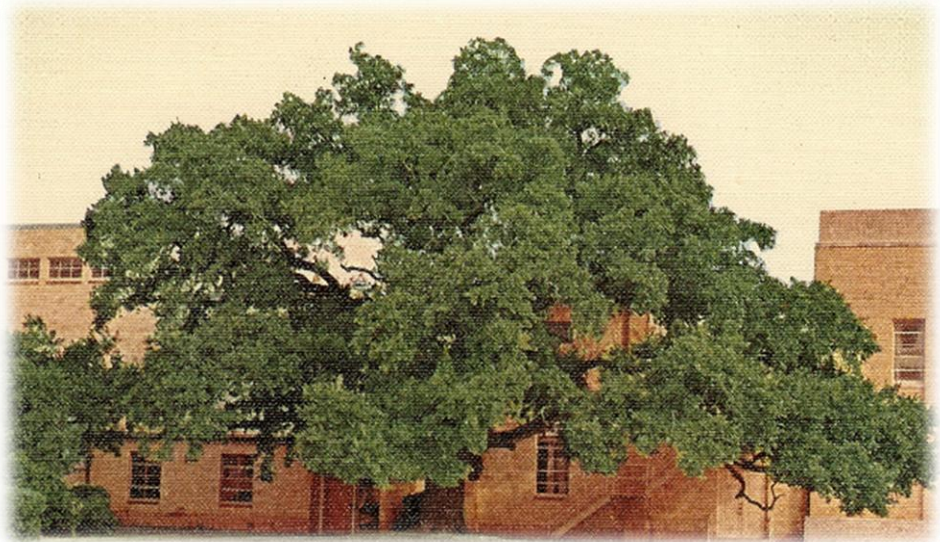
Ronnie Leflore died on Wednesday, 14 December 2005. A remembrance will soon be posted by his name on the Class Roster. In a last conversation with some friends and family, Ronnie talked at length, again, about the reunion and about the good time Mary and he enjoyed. Ronnie paid a high price to graduate with our class. He was proud to be a graduate of C.F. Vigor High School.

Nobody at the reunion enjoyed the reunion more than Ronnie Leflore. Many serve on committees and few are commended for their work. Ronnie wanted you to know of his appreciation. Thank you again for organizing the reunion. Thank each of you for coming to the reunion. Ronnie anticipated that we would all have a great time. We did. You made that good time happen. Thank you. We have lost another really good guy. A friend!

The Binding Tree

A poem by Guy C. Diehl, III

Dedicated to the 1960 Class of Vigor High



Having lived among you, there,
For many hundred years,
The proudest days I number,
Weren't spent among my peers.

While many of my fellows,
Graced lawns and avenues,
I'd rather be remembered,
For the time I spent with you.

All my cherished mem'ries,
Are centered 'round the time,
While living as a symbol,
For the "teens" of Vigor High.

I represented virtues,
The strengths of legend-kind,
I was your oak heraldic,
Most honored throughout time.

My duty was to tend you,
To serve as anchor post,
"Instill into my humans,
The virtues of an oak."

My strength-of-heart and valor,
I've granted to you all,
I've shown you how to persevere,
When all seems set to fall.

My crown of sturdy branches,
Grown slowly, without haste,
Showed to my youthful charges,
That time engenders grace.

My spirit shall continue,
For those that harkened near,
We'll 'ever be a family,
From Vigor's finest years.

But though my time has ended,
And I'm no longer there,
We have a common tying,
Through friends we all have shared.

We'll always be together,
Down through eternity,
I'm Vigor's spirit chalice,
I am The Binding Tree.

© Guy C. Diehl, III
8/2000

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The '59 "Bomb" Scare

An airplane over Vigor flew,
Dropping bombs on me and you.
The careless pilot, unable to bank,
Barely missed the water tank.

The boys flew back, very much elated,
Next morning with authorities they debated!

**Poem written by:
Harry Noble, Class of '60**

The boys in question had filled paper bags with flour and flew a small plane low over Vigor High School to drop them onto the campus at lunch time when most of their classmates were outside. As the bags hit the ground, they exploded in a white cloud of dust. It was a little scary at first but then everyone saw it was a joke. But, as the poem reads, the authorities didn't see it that way!



"Voyager"

Bombs Hit School London Gets News

"The London Daily Mirror?" sputtered Mr. James McPherson, principal.

"Yes," replied the voice on the other end of the line, "I wish information concerning the bombing of your school. I'm the American representative of the London Mirror and I've called about the school bombing."

"Of course you know it wasn't the real thing; the bombs weren't real!" pointed out the astounded principal of Vigor High.

"Oh, yes, we know the bombs were paper sacks filled with flour. We have the story. I just want a few statements on it from you. I'm writing a feature on it. This thing represents the spirit of adventure that the British people love."

So Mr. McPherson made a few comments and, after hanging up, marveled at the state newspapers must be in if they considered this news!

Cruising in the Bay

Kenny Middleton and Jimmy Livings
enjoy the thrill of sailing their own
boat near the Mobile Bay,
'In The Good 'ol Summertime'!
1959

News Article/Picture from:
THE VIGOR HIGHLIGHTS
October 16, 1959

THE CLASS REUNION

Every five years, as summertime nears,
An announcement arrives in the mail,
A reunion is planned; it'll be really grand;
Make plans to attend without fail.

I'll never forget the first time we met;
We tried so hard to impress.
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars,
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole class was there.
It was held at a fancy hotel.
We wined, and we dined, and we acted refined,
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first
To achieve great fortune and fame.
Meanwhile, their spouses described their fine houses
And how beautiful their children became.

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean,
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.
The jocks who were there had all lost their hair,
And the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd
Who'd guided a spacecraft to the moon;
Or poor little Jane, who's always been plain;
She married a shipping tycoon.

The boy we'd decreed 'most apt to succeed'
Was serving ten years in the pen,
While the one voted 'least' now was a priest;
Just shows you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys
Who seemed to have aged the least.
Another was given to the grad who had driven
The farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture
Of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties.
Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini;
You never saw so many thighs.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether
They impressed their classmates or not.
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal;
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party
I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light.
It'll be lots of fun; But I just hope that there's one
Other person who can make it that night.

Author Unknown