

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



**ENGINEERING
CLASS OF '55
40th REUNION
1995**



Another great get-together -- lots of I'm sorry's, but many notes on activities.

A lot more grey hairs -- we all looked very distinguished. Many nice stories, a few sad ones.

No rain this time, remember the 25th, but a few mosquitoes (a rarity for Winnipeg this year!).

Hy and Esther Dashevsky were gracious, busy hosts for the Thursday night wine and cheese party. Seventy people attended and there was room to spare. A beautiful home and two very nice people.

Professor **Andy Baracos** and wife Mary, **Ray Chant** and **Reuben Bellan** attended, all looking hale and hearty and really interested in the lives and achievements of the Class of '55. Others had expressed a desire to attend but didn't make it. **Oscar Marantz** is recovering from surgery, **John Wiebe** is in a nursing home following a stroke, **Art Carlson** was a little under the weather, **Rocky Russell** is not very well, and **Jack McMath** was going to try to attend; others could not be reached.

According to Don Elliott's figures there were 37 grads at the wine and cheese but 39 actually appeared at one event or another. Pretty good percentage.

The Alumni Association provided name tags and Alf Dyregrov had picture buttons made up from copies of our Slide Rule of '55. Some of us are relatively unchanged, the rest of us are still recognizable to close relatives.

There was wine sipping, cheese and fruit nibbling, but mostly chatter. Old times were reviewed and everyone brought things up-to-date. Grant Sims' daughter Laura took photos, some of which appear in this report. It is rather

astounding that after 40 years (except for the case of those at the 25th reunion) we can remember lab partners and classmates. This was a nice party that we wished would never end, but because of age and other commitments, such as seeing relatives or getting some sleep, this event ended somewhere around 11:00 P.M.

During the evening Grant Sims called for a moment of silence to remember classmates no longer with us -- **Ken Borkowski, John Driscoll, Larry Dunn, Barry Ferries, William Karakuc, Barry Murphy, Clinton Reid, Stephen Sapinski and Budd Whiticar**. Before letting the '55 grads go, they were each presented with a pair of beautiful bookends produced and donated by Clyde McBain and Ancast Industries. Clyde provided a brief comment on each of the attendees outlining their family and career activities. There are a lot of us retired and it was noted there is no shortage of grandparents in our group.

Clyde also noted that he had the company invest \$2 million in new equipment just to run off the bookends. Pretty nice donation Mr. McBain (and family)!!

On the Friday night, 23 classmates and 6 significant others met with Dean **Don Shields** and wife Carol Shields at the Engineering Building. Wine and food was provided and there was a continuous slide show of personalities from the past. (Does anyone know what happened to Mr. Overstreet?) Associate Dean **Glen Morris** and Prof's **Ernie Bridges, Jack Cahoon, and Jim Graham** were there. If you recall, after the brunch we had in 1980, the Province gave the Engineering Faculty \$ 2 million. This time Clyde spent the \$2 million on bookends, so the Dean pleaded

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with us to increase our financial assistance. (Should have had a brunch!)

Although we didn't tour the building it is always an experience to look around the site, to see how old the "New" Engineering Building of the 50's is, to stand in awe of the still-standing original structure, and to note the many new additions. It is also always a challenge to try to determine why architects can never get the floors of the additions at the same level as the existing ones. It probably has something to do with stair climbing being good exercise.

On the Saturday the lunch was held at Grapes Pier 7, also the site of a lunch for the Home Ec. class of '55. A total of 22 classmates and eleven significant others attended. (Fred Young wonders how the wives feel about that "significant others" descriptive? ...). More talking and, thank God, some listening.

Unfortunately the river cruise had to be cancelled. Irv Olafson owns the "Black Hawk" and he had her all spiffed up for our cruise (and her 100th birthday). The problem was that Irv only has one Captain and he broke his hand. Oh well! Maybe in 2005.

The banquet (part of the U of M Homecoming program) that night had a whopping total of 48 attendees from our class group, made up of 30 grads and 18 you-know-whats. Gord and Alice Palmer won a beautiful painting of buffalo roaming the plains to take back home to Sarnia. They were one of two winners in our group at the Dutch Auction put on by the Alumni Association as a fund-raiser. The other winner were the Dashevskys. Was the bed comfortable? (They won two nights at the Fort Garry Hotel.)

The following is a brief rundown of our class made up from the forms received, word of mouth, rumours, and what have you. If you can't find your name you didn't return the form and we couldn't dig up any dirt.

Dick Scarth was there. He left his wife Jilian and 2 married children in B.C. They have a beautiful home in the Point Grey area of Vancouver overlooking the Spanish Banks and English Bay. Dick is retired and points out that he and **Bob Reeve** were top students, finishing either 1st or 2nd in their class of Geological Engineering. Dick came to Winnipeg for a Bison reunion last year. He is still tall enough to play basketball. Bob was planning to move to California in October

Arnold (Ace) Baker was unable to come. He has now moved out to Canmore Alberta.

Mervin Bedford is among the missing grads. If anyone knows where he may be, please let us or the Alumni Association know. **Roland Gagne, Don Hadden, Torrance Hazelton, Abe Hildebrandt, Robert Klassen, Erich Valstyn, and Baldwin Thorsteinson**, have also eluded us. Note that all but one of the above are from among the Electricals . . . my they're an elusive lot.

John Bell is married with 3 children and is looking great but limping a bit on a problem hip. Retired from Red River Community College.

Don Campbell was not on the Alumni Association mailing list and hence we overlooked him when sending out the invitations. Our apologies Don. We have since located him in Belmont CA.

Glenn Charge suffered the loss of his wife Jeanne in the spring. He has five children and retired from Ontario Hydro in '93. He's still tall, a little more grey hair, but still the affable young fellow he always was.

Orest Chaykowsky got to the reunion looking very fit for a guy who retired in '82. He and his wife Ingrid still live in New Jersey and have two sons in New York City. He wondered if Herb Till was any taller and now he knows (over wine and cheese). He also thought the Rangers did a creditable job on the Canucks (kicked their ass he said).

Harvey Cohen sent his regards, and thanks for the bookends, from Encino California. He is well and hopes to make it to our next reunion in 2005. (The committee says not before then, but Herb Till promised to come every year if we would do the arranging ... we won't.)

Reuben Duboff is with Boeing in Seattle, couldn't make it here, and we don't have an update on his activities.

Don Eby, married to Wendy, they have five boys all away from home. He's retired in a rural Ontario setting and remembers the 1st TV set in residence.

It may be academic (pardon the pun) at this stage of our lives, but considering the importance of the class of '55 and its impact on the world, we'd like to clear our committee conscience. It seems that there are certain discrepancies in the lists obtained from various sources. Some wonderful people were left out (we think). After mailing the lapel pins and bookends, there were six faces staring at us. The Slide Rule had more photos than the lists had names. Sorry about that! We want

everyone to get their 7 lbs (3.175 kg) of bookends. We have since located Bob Bagnall Don Campbell and Ralph Vryenhoek. If you can help us find any of the other names listed on page 4, please do!

Doug Hastings and **Wally Hryhorijiw** were not able to attend.

Rudy Hummel and wife Betty got to the wine and cheese after the long drive in from Saskatoon. They also attended other functions. They have two children. Rudy is a medical physicist with Saskatchewan Cancer Fndn.

Ken Kramer and wife Geitie were at the W&C. Looking good. Now retired. Enjoyed selves but couldn't make it to other functions.

Ian Norquay also made it to the W & C, from his farm near Selkirk, looking good too.

Walter Omelian and **Art Pitt** did not respond. Let us know how you're doing guys!

Ben Reitelman and wife Evie have 3 children and by now, 6 grandchildren. He is apparently the only one left in Quebec of the many Montreal invaders of '55. (Some of us wish we were still there Benny.) He says he has some grey hair. Said he went to P.Q. as a missionary but failed the mission. Owns his own companies -- Componetrics Ltd. and Datametrics Ltd. (or is that LTEE?)

Mike Sawka missed the get-together, still counselling at Red River Community College, married with four children -- grandkids yet?

Ralph Vryenhoek was one of the individuals we failed to invite. He made it to the 25th. Sorry Ralph. Still doing electrical consulting in Pittsburgh.

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Bob Wall was not able to attend. At last report he is heading off to an assignment in the Phillipines.

Herb Walton retired from Ontario Hydro three years ago and had hoped to make it but didn't.

Joe Zanyk retired from Dow three years ago and had also hoped to attend but couldn't.

Please note that we are following the precedent of 1980 and scribbling notes on Geologicals, then Electricals and Mechanical grads followed, at last, by the Civils. The Engineering Physics have been listed with the Electricals, as you may have noticed. This is the way the Alumni Association has done things since this is a discontinued option in the Engineering Faculty. (And you thought this was just some random order!) So here are the Mechanicals.

Bill Ayres hasn't changed a bit. He and wife Beverley have 2 children and still live in Pinawa. They commuted to the parties. Retired from A.E.C.L.

Bob Bagnall, like Don Campbell, didn't get invited to the party. Sorry Bob, we'll try to do better next time. Bob is now in Oakville ON.

Ron Brown couldn't make it, but asked to be remembered to the gang. He is not well.

George Chernoff and special friend Dorothy now live in Bragg Creek, west of Calgary. George made it to the reunion. He is retired from the oil and gas business. He remembers Terry Hanna divesting himself of his clothes and diving into the hydraulics tank to retrieve a pen.

Ron Cinq-Mars with wife Gladys have four children and 4 grandkids. One of the Montreal

invaders, with Liquid Carbonic in Scarborough. Looks too young to even think of retirement.

Ed Czaja is in Calgary with Shell Canada. He was unable to attend due to committments with United Way.

Hy Dashevsky with wife Esther hosted our wine and cheese party. Both looking good. Hy retired 4 years ago from his consulting practice. We regret that Dean Shields and his Pulitzer Prize winning wife Carol were not at the W&C. However there was lots of class present anyway.

Wrally Dutkiewicz didn't make it and we have no recent news.

Wayne Fraser couldn't come but we understand he lives on the side of the mountain in North Vancouver with a beautiful garden and cedar view from the back deck.

Terry Hanna expected to be in Europe while we partied in Winnipeg. He sent along some beer money for the committee as well as regards to everyone. Still with Industrial Combustion.

Ross Henderson lives in Winnipeg. He is retired from the UofM Faculty of Management.

Gerry Jansen and wife Anne have 4 children, 3 girls and one boy. Hey, you're badly outnumbered! Was at the Bison reunion in '94 and reports that he is semi-retired, loves it, and gets to play lots of golf.

Ted Jerome is retired from Manitoba Hydro. He and Lorraine have 3 children and thoroughly enjoyed the reunion. Although a mechanical engineer, Ted worked mainly on civil projects.

John Karpa made it to the party along with his fiancée Iris. John lives high on Grouse Mountain overlooking Burrard Inlet and the city of Vancouver. Still working at BC Hydro.

Bill Lockhart is with IMP Aerospace in B.C. He and wife Kathy have 3 children.

Gerry Maguet is retired. He and Eva have 5 children. Both looked great. By the way, Gerry's idea of retirement is to travel all over the world for Wardrop & Associates.

William Millar was not heard from. We hope you are well and make it to the next one.

Alphonse Morin attended our party and really enjoyed getting together with everyone. He and wife Ida have six children. He teaches at Seneca College and remembers being in the 1st class to use the "New" engineering building, driving to the Power Prom in his '48 Plymouth and has a very fond memory of studying at Jack Yellowlees' home where he really enjoyed Jack's beautiful dog. Alphonse looks great.

Irvin Olafson and wife Lois have 5 children and live in a beautiful old home on River Road near Lockport, just South of Lower Fort Garry. Getting Irv to a reunion is like pulling teeth. He misses hunting trips with Trevor Piper.

Mike Olynyk wrote to tell us he and wife Lily have two daughters, one a Mechanical Engineer and the other is foreign student co-ordinator at a California college. Mike is still working. Remembers Jack Yellowlees getting a water bomb in the eye and the big 6-man football win.

Gord Palmer and wife Alice were here, they have 3 children. Gord is still working and

mentioned he still curls after Don Eby and Ross Scrase introduced him to the game.

Trevor Piper and wife Anne have 2 daughters and still live in Calgary. Trev is employed by Atcor Ltd. and considers himself an oil patch survivor.

Rev. Bob Reed lives in Stonewall and that is a long way away so we weren't able to contact him. In 1980 he was in Calgary.

John Rudan and Doreen (another pair of Montreal invaders). John was at all the functions. Doreen is a '55 Home Ec grad, so they had a very busy few days. They have 3 kids, John is Director of Information Services at Cornell. They really like Ithaca.

Carl Rufelds was here with his wife Helen. Rufe is a Canadian Foreign Services Officer (retired) -- he says he was a diplomat but Fred thinks with his build and presence everybody he dealt with was diplomatic. He's been from Beijing to Beirut.

Grant Sims was an active reunionist and helped Don Elliott rope in the rest of the committee. His wife Carol passed away a few years ago. They have 4 children, one of whom (Laura) took the photos at the wine & cheese. Grant is teaching at the U of M.

Brian Stewart moved to Ontario just before the 25th reunion but no word since -- probably on the seniors golf tour.

Herb Till and Karen have 3 children. They, Herb and Karen, were here for the festivities. Herb says he'd come every year to a reunion. Loves his job -- travels to foreign lands -- Latin America, Canada, Africa. Can't retire 'cause it's too much fun.

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Baldwin Thorsteinson, as noted on page 4, has gone missing. Can anyone help us find him?

Len Walker, another Montreal invader in '55, and wife Anne have 2 children, one in B.C. and one in Nova Scotia (they probably should live in Winnipeg). Has had his own firm ATEC Engineering since '83. Likes the grandkids and wind surfing.

Les Wasilewski is retired from Ontario Hydro and wasn't able to attend. He says hello to the rest of the guys.

Walt Weir and wife Barbara were here. He's retired since '92 and looking good. They have seven children. Still busy gliding (while the rest of us are coasting).

Walter Wynne is, we think, in Mississauga but no info was sent on his status.

Ed Yates is retired (Feb/95), but couldn't be at reunion due to family commitments.

Jack Yellowlees, a committee stalwart and chauffeur, and his wife Joyce attended this super reunion. Jack is retired from Manitoba Highways and spends his time carving ducks and shooting geese. I think Joyce carves the geese.

Ralph Yetman and his wife Beth were not able to make it. Still working, living in Delta B.C.

Garry Zimmerman and wife Carol are retired and still living in B.C. Couldn't get to the reunion.

Nick Zubrycki came to see us and attend the parties ... even the Homecoming football game.

Wife Margaret stayed home or went to visit their 3 kids in Ont., B.C. and California. Nick is still thin and looking good. As an empty-nester he hopes for more golf and travel.

Before proceeding to the Civils, as a kind of aside, we'd like to call your attention to the continued use of the word "children". These are in reality "offspring", many of whom are parents and in the thirty-something range. Another rather obvious comment is that none of the activities were long enough for the class to soak up all the feelings associated with a 40th reunion. The looks given and received when all the mental gears had turned to bring back memories and recognition were wonderful.

The odd note about white or grey hair forces the comment that many classmates would have less grey hair if they had not grown beards! A comment was overheard that suggested failure to grow hair on top had prompted the move to the chin.

Now here are the Civils:

Jim Anderson and wife Edith have two children and still live in Regina. Jim has been ill recently and we wish him better times.

Gord Bandola and family live in Calgary where Gord is working on his golf game. Says he is coming to the next reunion. Loves the bookends but missed out on a picture pin because he was camera shy.

Morris Block and Clara were at the reunion. They have six kids. Morris said age and maturity have created a philosophical approach to engineering, producing a more refined report with compassion and understanding.

Pat Carr and Joyce are in Victoria (living on the golf course most of the time). Pat is now retired from B.C.Highways.

Harry Cochrane and Sheila have 2 kids and 4 grandkids. Harry is semi-retired (2 days/ week with Reid Crowther) and now living in Winnipeg. They attended the big events.

Gord Cumming and wife Marion are living in Burnaby. No update on work or family.

Mac Curry and Gwendolyn were here. He has a nice beard and still lots of energy. They have 3 kids. Now retired or, as he says, became unemployed in 1983.

Ted Dillistone couldn't make it but sent a complete resume of his activities. He and Audrey have 3 kids and six grandkids. They live in Campbell River B.C. and he writes "nasty" political poems. They run a bed and breakfast establishment (with special rates for '55 grads?).

Alf Dyregrov and wife Reenie have 6 kids. Alf says he is having too much fun to retire, but did find time from his consulting practice to work on the reunion committee. The picture buttons were his doing.

Don Elliott lost his wife a few years ago. They have 3 kids (and a dog) and Don works for himself (BDI). Has computer, cellular phone, truck and trailer and will travel. Big push for the reunion, including harassing us, hosting meetings and all the typewritten stuff (and restrained himself from editing this down while typing). Enjoyed the back-row view and the stag views as well as surveying in snow.

Luc Fouillard and Lucille, retired in '92 and enjoying life, particularly likes reunions. Don't

know if he has caught any pucks since '79-'80, but will miss the Jets games.

Reg Fox and Dorothea could not be contacted in time for the reunion. Both are experiencing some health problems.

Tom Godfrey and Florence came in for the reunion. Both looking great. They support the saying "if we had known how much fun grandchildren are, we would have had them first". Tom was flooded with memories. He is retired but still teaching (?).

Joe Gurowka and Shirley got here for our reunion and the Home Ec get-together. Joe retired but went back to work. He was in the '66 and '76 Briar, seniors in '86, '89 and '92 as well as CCA President '88-'89. Doesn't look old enough for "seniors".

Jim (J.J.) Hamilton flew in from Fort McMurray to the Dean's reception. looking good, too young to retire. He and Sharee have 4 children. He consults out of Calgary. Remembers golf in the fall instead of labs, ankle hockey, solving world's problems at the frat house and his summer job experiences.

Ron Lazar was unable to attend due to ill health. He and Rhona have 5 children.

Angus MacLeod and wife Lorraine were unable to attend. Angus is retired and he and his wife are active in golf.

Clyde McBain and Vickie have 2 children and the family owns and operates Ancast, the biggest bottle opener manufacturer in the world. Also the heaviest bookend makers. As usual, great support for the reunion. Clyde is now, sort of, retired but busy.

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Merv Mindess has 2 kids and still consults out of Minneapolis. Hasn't changed a bit -- great supporter of reunions.

Jack Moore and Betty have 7 children. Still live in Regina. Jack is retired and had hoped to get here but health reasons kept him at home.

Roy Nizalik also hoped to attend but didn't make it. No update on the "Count". Wonder if he still plays trumpet?

Ken Peaker couldn't get here due to a business commitment in Alberta. We have no update on him.

Bob Sandberg, a late graduate, is retired from Manitoba Hydro.

Michael Schioler and Phyllis have 5 children. Phyllis unable to attend for health reasons -- get better soon Phyl. Mike was the tallest member of the committee and an 'outstanding' treasurer. Retired and spending lots of time at the cottage and reunion meetings.

Ross Scrase is regional Director for Highways out of Brandon. He and Joan have 3 children and attended their class reunions (Joan - class of '55 Home Ec.). Ross is the last of 7 classmates who ran Man. Hwys. for decades.

Chris Stieda and wife Agnes were unable to attend since they were on a post-retirement sabbatical in Italy. They have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Wants to thank all those who helped the scrawny kid from Germany settle into Canada in the early '50s.

Dick Vopni has 2 "great" sons and is still working as a commodities broker. (We engineers can do anything.) Dick is unchanged, appreciated the committee's work and enjoyed

seeing everyone. Fiancée Lyn Bailey came along for the parties.

Fred Young and wife Kay have 3 sons and still miss Montreal. Fred is retired and too busy -- thinking of getting a job. Kay was unable to attend this time for health reasons. Fred got bullied onto the committee after telling Ross Scrase "no way" for 15 years.

Ron Youngberg got to the shindig. He and Ethel have 3 kids. Still consulting in B.C., he remembers Rocky Russell, the stolen gold sample and the question about protecting a dwelling from a lava flow. Also recalls joining the smokers between lectures and Morris Block digging a sandwich out of his enormous briefcase. Also remembers the guy who was always out of cigarette papers who was offered a tailor-made (Overstreet?).

Oscar Zaretsky and wife Ruth have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Couldn't get to the reunion but sent regards to "all those vigorous men" he spent time with from '51 to '55. He was reluctant to see how we've changed and vice versa.

Some other memories came back for those who were at the banquet -- a group photo was taken by none other than Barney Charach! (but we chose to use Laura's since there were more classmates present and it was Charach quality too).

All in all it was a swell time. No one drank forty beers but most were intoxicated with the camaraderie, memories and just plain old fellowship. It was, for many, the best of times. We remembered each other and remembered professors, lab work, the "New" building, survey school, Power Proms and Grads' Farewell.

We tired a little sooner, drank a little less, thought a little longer, talked a great deal and found the time far too short. We enjoyed each other's company and missed the absent classmates. The most common phrase heard was "Do you remember the time when . . . ?" Many would like annual reunions but it takes a year to get everything together -- maybe in 2005. Why not volunteer?

It was noted there were fewer smokers. This came as a surprise since it has become known that the enforced fresh air (since most buildings are 'smoke free') has improved the health of this ostracized group.

The committee wants to thank everyone who participated by sending in information, contributing to the scholarship/bursary fund and, particularly those who attended.

The Engineering '55 Scholarship/Bursary Fund was initiated with this reunion. Support was fantastic. We have raised \$ 7,573 at the time this report is written and, while this was short of our objective, contributions can be sent in any time to increase this amount in future years. This will permit a larger scholarship for some deserving student in subsequent years.

Clyde McBain again gets a great big thanks for the super bookends and his usual great presentation. And thanks again to Hy and Esther Dashevsky, our gracious host and hostess for the Wine and Cheese.

Special thanks to Don Elliott for getting, and keeping us going along with Grant Sims and his promise of beer. We spent many sleepless nights due to Don's insistence that we drink all the coffee.

We'd also like to recognize the Alumni Association for their assistance (particularly Karen Ransby, now living in Ottawa, and Mary Beth Taylor).

It might be a good idea for each of us to ponder another reunion and we'd like your suggestions. Also please let us know if you can locate the missing classmates (page 4).

Before we say good-bye, please take a moment to remember our departed class members (listed on page 2) and to wish better health to ailing grads and their families.

The Reunion Committee
Engineering Class of '55
University of Manitoba

Alf Dyregrov
Don Elliott
Mike Schioler
Grant Sims
Jack Yellowlees
Fred Young



Our gracious hostess, Esther Dashevsky