

**SJHClassof64Reunion50@cox.net**

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**From:** "St James High School Class of 1964 50th Reunion" <SJHClassof64Reunion50@cox.net>  
**Date:** Friday, July 25, 2014 5:59 AM  
**To:** "John" <SJHClassof64Reunion50@cox.net>  
**Subject:** Here's Your Copy of the St James HS Class of 1964 Morning Star Redux Newsletter

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This issue includes a special announcement as well as information on our 50th Reunion



**Greetings Classmates!**

**July 2014 Vol. 1 No. 7**

This is the seventh issue of the 50th Reunion newsletter. The clock is ticking and the deadline to register is drawing near. If you have not done so already, now it is time you register to attend the 50th Reunion on August 24 & 25, 2014 in Grand Forks, ND. You will find instructions how to do so in this month's newsletter. You don't want to miss it!

**Announcing - "The Coachmen" to Reunite  
For One Performance Only !!!**

# THE COACHMEN !



**52ND ANNIVERSARY APPEARANCE!**

**ONE NIGHT ONLY -**

**DON'T MISS IT!**

**APPEARING AT THE ST JAMES HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1964 - 50TH REUNION DINNER**

**AUGUST 25, 2014 CANAD INN . GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA**

**PERHAPS PERFORMING SOME OF THESE HIT SONGS:**

**RAKE & RAMBLIN' BOY**

**HANG DOWN YOUR HEAD TOM DOOLEY**

**SLOPE JOHN B**

**WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE**

**MICHAEL ROW YOUR BOAT ASHORE**

**THERE'S A MEETING HERE TONIGHT....OR OTHERS**



Fifty-two years have passed since six St James Junior Classmen, all former members of the St Michael's Boys Choir, got together under the guidance of Father Martin Cullen and formed a singing group they called ***The Coachmen***. Folk groups were the rage in early 1963 and the six thought it would be fun to give it a try themselves. Pat Curran, Chuck Pelzl, Jim Farmer, Mike Blackmun, Tim Hjelmstad and John Wavra, all St Mike's grads, got together in the basement of St Michael's Church and started to sing folk songs together for the first time. At the start, Pat Curran was the only member who could play a musical instrument or read music. Eventually Farmer and Blackmun took up the guitar and banjo, which added to the group's sound and Pelzl and Wava continued to contribute with their "great voices".

After the first couple of singing gigs, Tim Hjelmstad decided he did not have the time to learn new songs or to practice regularly and dropped out of the group. The remaining five continued to sing together at senior living centers, St Michael's Altar Society, the Westward Ho, the Grand Forks Country Club and school events or any other venue they could find over the next year or more. A few were even paying gigs! With the rising popularity of the Beatles and rock music, the public soon lost its taste for folk music. The members of the group eventually decided to break up the group and after graduation in 1964 never sang together again.



(L-R) Chuck Pelzl, John Wavra, Pat Curran, Tim Hjelmstad, Jim Farmer & Mike Blackmun

Now, after 50 years, the 50th Reunion Committee "talked" the five Coachmen into reforming the group to make just one more appearance at the 50th Reunion of the St James Class of 1964 dinner. The former Coachmen joked that the notice of their appearance might cause some classmates to cancel their reservations to attend the dinner. They all agreed that unless we have at least 75 classmates and/or guests at the reunion dinner, counting themselves, they will refuse to perform. Let's all hope they have at least one opportunity meet before the dinner for a quick rehearsal!

As with all our classmates, life has taken the five remaining Coachmen in many different directions. Chuck Pelzl and John Wavra, both retired, live in Omaha, NE and see each other regularly. Pat Curran lives in Moorhead, MN and is retired. Jim Farmer, retired after many years working at casinos and lives In South Lake Tahoe, CA and teaches grade school part-time. Mike Blackmun teaches aviation at UND in Grand Forks and continues to perform in a band at a drinking establishment he co-owns in Grand Forks. The five have remained friends for the last fifty years. The last news of Tim Hjelmstad was that he was living in British Columbia, Canada. Tim is one of our "Lost" classmates as a recent mailing to his last known address was returned.

## Classmate Contributes Excerpts from the Original Morning Stars



St James Classmate Gloria Birkholtz, Senior Year Co-Editor of the original St. James Morning Star newspaper, recently contributed copies of all excerpted articles and photos from 1960 to 1964 that included a Class of 1964 classmate . Her collection of past issues was not quite complete, so she contacted the University of Northa Dakota, Elwyn B. Robinson Department of Special Collections, Chester Fritz Library to check their St James School Documents Collection to complete the collection. Fortunately, they had the missing issues she needed and sent them to her. The articles are now on the website by school year for download in the PDF format. You could easily kill an hour or more of your time if you want to read them.



You can find them by [Clicking Here](#).



Thank you Gloria for sharing! And thank you for all of your hard work on The Morning Star all those years ago!

Gloria Birkholtz at left

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## 50th Reunion Class Book

We still are looking for many of you to complete the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Class Book survey. <http://sjh64reunion50.com/ClassBook/ClassSurveyLinkPage.htm>. The information you submit, along with a current photo of yourself, will be used to complete your page in the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Digital Class Book.

Even if you are unable to attend the reunion you can still let your classmates learn where life has taken you these last 50 years. By completing the survey and sending a current photo you will be sent a copy of the digital class book, in PDF file format, so you can learn where life has taken your fellow classmates. The digital class book will be password protected and only your classmates who completed the survey will have access to it.

Everyone will be sent a copy of the digital 50th Reunion Class Book after the reunion, whether you attend the reunion or not. The 50th Reunion Class book will let you learn where life has taken your classmates over the last fifty years. If you want to receive a copy of the completed digital 50th Reunion Class Book you must complete the survey. Now Get Busy! [Visit the online survey to complete it now and enter to win.](#)"

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## Reunion Registration - It Could Not Be Easier!

The clock is ticking and the time is here for you to register for the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. We have tried to make the process simple and easy. Here's what you need to do. Print and complete the Reunion Registration Form found here:

<http://sjh64reunion50.com/Registration/StJamesReunionRegistration%20Form.pdf>

Mail it as instructed along with your check made out to Chuck Pelzl. That's it!

If you do not live in the Grand Forks Area we have negotiated favorable room rates for August 24 & 25, 2014 at the Canad Inn which include a hot breakfast in their restaurant. Click here for information how to reserve a room at the Canad Inn.

<http://sjh64reunion50.com/Registration/Canad%20Inn%20Reservations%20Instructions.pdf>

The following 57 classmates and spouses/guests have already registered and hope you will join them at the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion:

*Chuck & Janet (LeBlanc) Pelzl*  
*Jim & Mary Dale (Youngern) Hansen*  
*Mary Jo Huard*  
*John Wavra & Marion Fortin-Wavra*  
*Dave & Barb Risky*  
*Mike & Paulette (Painter) Schaefer*  
*Dan & Mary (Ullrich) Robinson*  
*George & Lois Widman*  
*Ron & Ginger Boom*  
*Rob & Evie (Adams) McCollough*  
*John & Karen (Erickson) Langerud*  
*Gloria Birkholz & Robin Gaupp*  
*Marlene (Fayette) Hill*  
*Gary & Cheryl Lemieux*  
*Monte and Deb Wittmann*  
*Mikal (Meyers) Meyer*  
*Paul and Juli (Phelps) Kerstein*  
*James and Sharon Lunski*  
*Jim & Cindy Farmer*  
*Ray & Cathy (Platz) Kotta*  
*Lance & Liz (Plattes) Morque*  
*Tim & Bonnie Lane*  
*Warren & Mae Aaberg*  
*Bill & Judi McKinnon*  
*Frank & Cindy (Hauser) Schulte*  
*Patrick Curran & Nancy Kraft*

Dale & Duanna Gonsorowski  
 Francis Fiest  
 Marilyn (Dailey) O'gorden  
 Toni (Hagen) Bergeman & Marti Williams  
 Phillip & Carol (Tinnies) Benning

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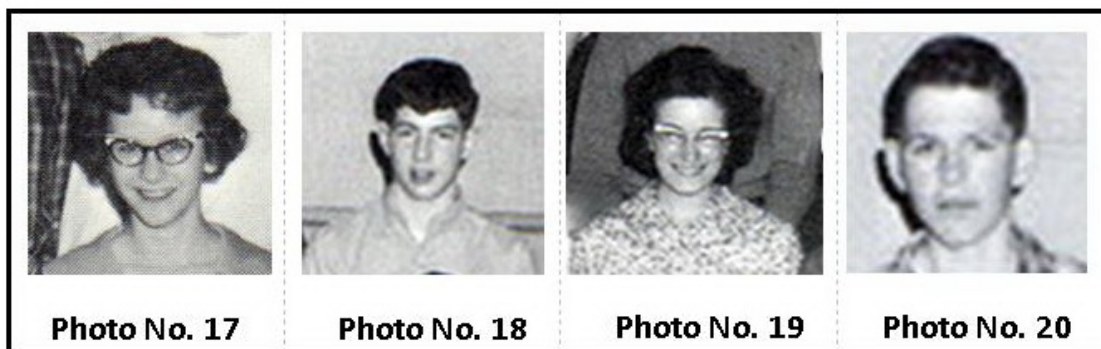
## Memory Test

In the June issue of this Reunion newsletter we asked you "Can you name these Classmates?" Once again, four of the classmates who submitted entries got them all correct. Here are the answers:



### Can You Name These Classmates?

How good is your memory? They say it's your short-term memory that goes as you get older. This should be easy for you then as these are photos of your classmates from over 50 years ago. Can you name them? Each month until the 50th Reunion we will include four classmate photos. Send us an email and tell us who they are. We will score the entries and keep a running tab and declare The Classmate With the Best Memory at the 50th Reunion in August. No cheating now! [Send us an Email](#) giving full names for each classmate.




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**Until Next Month - John Wavra, Editor** If you have any photos, clippings, stories, old newsletters, etc., you would like to contribute to a future newsletter - [email us](#). Now get busy and make your reservations at the Canad Inn in Grand Forks if you are traveling back and complete the [Registration](#)

[forms](#) and mail in your check today!

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