

## Class of 1972 Update Archive 01\_10

01/31/10 **Random Classmate Encounters:** Someone said the other day that they wonder if everybody they see that is our age is an AHS Classmate. I find myself doing the same thing. We've all aged, most of us have put on a few pounds, and glasses and gray hair will definitely camouflage that 16 year-old you remember. I make a point of looking at people's eyes, because the eyes don't seem to change as much as the rest of us does over time. The other night I saw a woman at the Super Wal-Mart on Panama Lane and when I saw her eyes, I knew it was our classmate **Mary Espinoza**. Mary and I went through Lamont schools and **Arvin High School together**. It took a couple of minutes for Mary to recognize me, but it was well worth the effort to stop her and talk with her for a few minutes. Mary still lives in Bakersfield and like most of us her kids are grown and she has grandkids. She works for a doctor out near CSUB and has for many years. I shared with her that we have regular class lunches and an annual get together and that we'd try to have a class lunch out in that area if it would make it easier for her to attend. She promised to try. I hadn't seen Mary in almost 38 years, but I may have passed her many times over the decades and just never looked up. Take the time to look around when your out and about and if you see someone you think is an old classmate, it won't hurt to ask, and if it is, you'll have recaptured a piece of your youth, if even for a few minutes.

01/25/10 **Steve Hallum Health Update:** James Williams and I went by today and were able to spend a half hour with Steve in the activities room at the skilled nursing facility where he is currently resident. Ken Randolph was there when we arrived and when we were leaving, Don Burkett showed up to visit as well. Steve reports that he is getting a lot of company and it helps pass the day better that way. He is in good spirits and grateful that the heart scan shows that he will not need any kind of by-pass. The need to clear his carotid arteries is still present and the doctors have promised to deal with that as part of his recuperation and rehab. Steve told us that his Uncle is taking care of his garage right now and that is a great help and a load off his mind. He emphasized two or three times what a great blessing his family has been and how his wife has made every effort to be at his side when she is not at work. If you want to visit, Steve is in room 118C at Corinthian Gardens in Bakersfield. If you want to send flowers or cards they should be directed to **Steve Hallum: C/O Corinthian Gardens, 1611 Height Street, Bakersfield, CA 93305**. Steve has a long road ahead of him to full recovery, but he is on his way. He can use all the prayers and positive thoughts you have to spare.

01/23/10 **Class of 72' Lunches For 2010 Are Underway:** We held our first class lunch of 2010 yesterday at Anita's Mexican Grill & Cantina on California Avenue and the turnout was our best since we started over a year ago now. Those in attendance included Marlene 'Leary' Baughman, Cyndi Blankenship, Judy Busby, Jayne 'Deaver' Laughlin, Jolene 'Harris' Mendoza, Art McCombs, Farrell Neeley, Nancy 'Velasco' Raymond, and James Williams. You missed a great time if you weren't able to be there. We'll post the date, time and place for next month's luncheon soon, so keep watching this update page and our Facebook page for information. This year we are moving around the Arvin/Bakersfield/Lamont areas with the lunches so that those of you who work in different parts of the county have a chance to attend if you want too. Make up your mind now to come out and see your classmates while you still can. None of us are getting any younger...

01/17/10 **January Class of 72' Lunch Set For This Friday:** Our monthly class lunches get underway again for 2010 with our first one being this Friday at Anita's Mexican Grill on California Avenue. Anita's is located right next to the CVS (Long's) pharmacy in the old Mervyn's shopping center. Lunch is at noon and Anita's has both a full menu, a buffet, and a full bar. Some of us will be there early and some of us will stay late, so anytime between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. you should be able to see old classmates. We are meeting in this downtown

location so that those of you who work in Bakersfield have a chance to be part of this gathering. Make plans now to attend...

01/15/10 **Steve Hallum Health Update:** A report today from Cyndi Blankenship that Steve Hallum was scheduled for an angiogram this morning and he continues to improve and may soon be moved to skilled nursing at Corinthian Gardens in NE Bakersfield. Cyndi saw Steve on Wednesday and said his coloring and speech are good and he is alert. Keep praying for his recovery, he's not out of the woods yet!

01/13/10 **The Count Down Is Now On:** Today marks the start of our countdown to the annual get together; it is exactly five months out. This year it's on June 12, 2010 and being held in Bakersfield, CA at Marlene 'Leary' Baughman's home. Mark that date down on your calendar. If you were on last year's mailing, you are still on the list. If you were not on last year's mailing list, then I need your address. Send me an email at [farrellneeley@aol.com](mailto:farrellneeley@aol.com) and I'll make sure you get the details on time, date, location, and cost. We look forward to seeing everyone that was there last year and many more...Tell a friend!

01/10/10 **Steve Hallum Continues To Recuperate:** Both Randy Thompson and James Williams have been in contact with members of Steve's family this week and they both report that Steve's health continues to improve. Steve has been moved at last report to The Bakersfield Heart Hospital for additional treatment and rehabilitation therapy. Please keep Steve and his family in your prayers and if anyone gets new information, pass it along so we can all know how he's doing. [farrellneeley@aol.com](mailto:farrellneeley@aol.com)

01/03/10 **Become A Facebook Fan of The Arvin High School Class of 1972:** For the past seven months we have been building our class page on **Facebook** and want you to drop by whenever you are there. It's '**Arvin High Class of 1972**' and we want you to become a fan so you can receive updates as soon as they post here on our website. Be sure to let other classmates and other AHS alums know about it because it's such a good way to stay connected.

If you haven't already joined **Facebook**, you should at least consider it. It's fun, it's free, and it's a great way to keep up with old classmates, their kids, and grandkids. Currently there are about 1,700 active Arvin High School alumni on Facebook and about 30 of those now are from our own class. The number creeps up a few each month. We have been adding a couple every two weeks and we need to pick up that pace. If you find you don't like Facebook after you try it, you can always disconnect... [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)