

Bathtub Paella and a Birthday Party! (Reprinted from Fall 2007 *Knightlines*)
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The weekend of August 3-5, 17 members of the MHS Class of 1965 attended the Overseas Brats *Homecoming 2007* so we could hold a joint 60th birthday party and thus have all the fun and do none of the planning or work - with age comes wisdom! Most everyone arrived by Friday evening and we even had a first-timer join us! Yes, we finally got Bob Westbrook to join us for an event! In fact, he said, "I have heard so many negative things about others' high school reunions that I came in with a bit of trepidation. Baseless fear - the time was so interesting and endearing that I really wished I didn't have to leave after lunch. This has satisfied a strong need of mine to reconnect with my past. I've thought for many years that this part of our lives was gone forever. It's literally like finding ones long-lost family."



(L - R) Back row: Ted Crowley, John Robinson, Bob Young, George Ulrich, Andy Figueroa, Bob Weathersby, Bob Westbrook. Front row: Don Dillin, Benita Rollins, Jacky Robin Clyman, Roger Castro, Petra Lacey, Vivian Elliott Holler.

In spite of taking advantage of all the planning done by Overseas Brats, our own Don Dillin and Roger Castro got together and orchestrated the event of the weekend. At the Dallas *el Grande* reunion in 2002, we discovered a Spanish restaurant where the whole class enjoyed *tapas* and *sangria*. At the reunion in Ft. Lauderdale in 2005, as part of our class' celebration of our 40th anniversary of graduation, Don, Roger and Ted Crowley arranged for us to have our own hospitality suite. This time in Dallas, since our class' attendance was large enough to qualify for our own real hospitality suite compliments of Overseas Brats, Ted, Don and Roger decided to expand our hospitality suite experience. Since we knew that Bob Westbrook had to leave after lunch on Saturday, it was decided to make that particular meal special.

Don contacted the restaurant where we had enjoyed *tapas in 2002*, and purchased 18 *paella* dinners. These had to be picked up on Friday because the restaurant didn't make *paella* on Saturday. The big question was, "How to keep it overnight?" Don, with great ingenuity, solved the problem by putting the *paella* in the bathtub in his room and covering it with about 100 pounds of ice! Now, if you are going to have a Spanish meal, what goes with the *paella*? Don and Roger decided that we needed an appetizer, so they fixed *gambas al ajillo*. Of course, we needed our vegetables so Andy Figueroa prepared some of the best *gazpacho* I have ever had. What to drink? Why, *sangria*, of course! How did we warm up the *paella*, make the *gazpacho*, and cook the *gambas*? Everyone pitched in, including help with *pesetas*. We purchased a small microwave oven, a crock-pot, and a blender, all of which we later gave to a local family, thanks to John Robinson, that had recently lost everything in a fire.

The entire meal was wonderful. To again quote Bob Westbrook, "As you pointed out, the meal was so like a family, and I would add, a family meal at Thanksgiving. Everybody did something to add to the meal, and while doing so, 'connected' (not fond of that word, but it really works here) with someone else. It felt like home. I think having lunch-in really made it special, and I have told Don so again and again. I think we should make it a tradition. This way, everyone can talk to everyone else, and cut oranges, chicken, cucumbers, etc. It was 1000% better than going to a restaurant."

Everyone had a wonderful time and was sorry to see the weekend come to a close. We are all planning on attending the *el Grande* in Sacramento next July and hope many, many more members of our class will join us - especially some of you who have never attended a reunion and live in that part of the USA! I promise you won't be sorry. As a final note, I want to tell everyone that, as a stand alone school that puts on its own reunions, ours are unbelievably better organized. Not only that, there were only around 500 people, total, at the Overseas Brats *Homecoming*. The alumni of MHS/THS, by ourselves, come close to matching or surpassing that number! The Overseas Brats organization could take lessons from the M/THS organization! **Our reunions ROCK!** Hope to see you there!