**1950’s Reunion Plans**

**April 1 – 3, 2014**

**Every other year it seems to happen there in Texas that the classes from the 1950's get together - this time on April 1st – 3rd (10 weeks from now) at Kathy Griffith's home in Tyler, just east of Dallas. The usual suspects like Johnny Grant and Father Bill Houghton will be there, and even Deputy Headmaster Ursula Daoey from Brent hopes to be there as special emissary. The dates have just been announced, so I want to alert all Brentonians not on the 1950's list just so everyone knows about it whether or not they can, or care, to attend.**

**Dinner Plans for 2nd of April: Villa Montez Restaurant**

**This is the April 2nd restaurant dinner at the Tyler, Texas Reunion. However, the night before at Kathy Griffith's (Yelas) house dinner is free, also lunch on the 2nd and a farewell breakfast on the 3rd. I'll be doing an adobo plus Benguet red rice (that I brought back with me!) to add to the first night.**

**Attendance RSVP would be appreciated -** yelas4@suddenlink.net

**Louis Jurika**

**Menu Choices:**

* **Carne Azada -- seared skirt steak topped with salsa verde; served with beans and verde rice.**
* **Pollo Durango -- pan seared chicken, onion, mushrooms, cilantro, tomatillo cream; served with beans and rice.**
* **Margarita Shrimp -- Tequilla pesto, fresh garlic, jalapeno cream; served with beans and rice.**

**Price is $27.99 per person which includes tax, gratuity, and either iced tea or soft drink. There is a no host (cash) bar, pay as you go (no tab).**

**Brent’s Visit by Louis Jurika**

*Dear Kim, Kathy & Father Bill:*

*I am in the Philippines for six weeks on a typical semi-annual visit and just spent four nights in Baguio, two on the Brent campus in the guest quarters now located in the old infirmary built in 1959, and the rest with one of my two cousins who have homes on Ambuklao Road near the Country Club. On campus I did some organizing in what passes for alumni "archives" inasmuch as I left many old photos there when I brought Jim Halsema's ashes from Pennsylvania (that we spread around the chapel in a special ceremony) when I was here for the centennial almost five years ago. During that visit I also sneaked out to the flower garden facing the Cordillera at the US ambassador's residence (site of Yamashita's surrender) to scatter some of Jim's ashes per his last wishes to me in 2005 when I was living in Philadelphia.*

*In the registrar's office, of all surprises, from a dusty filing cabinet registrar Maggie Longid pulled out my old report card with my grades, along with the comment from your headmaster father, Kim, in his own handwriting, that my deportment needed serious improvement. Neat. But in the alumni "archives" I was unable to find anything prewar that would have documented my father (class of 1931) or my mother (1936), although the 1957 senior class photos (with Kim, Kathy, Joe Pitts, Marie Ybanez, my brother Bill, et al) are still framed on the wall of the Reflection Center that was built underneath the expanded chapel some years ago.*

*In a 1959 issue of the old "Echoes" I was reminded (from an article about the "new" infirmary) that Marilyn Simonsen and I were* ***the first patients*** *admitted to the new infirmary. I don't know what got her admitted but I was there with what was diagnosed as asthmatic bronchitis, a result of so many cold, damp nights sleeping in my fleece-lined WWII bomber jacket in a bed under a mosquito net in Ogilby Hall, only feet from one of the two fireplaces that* ***never*** *saw a fire in them because they and the dorm had by then been declared a "fire hazard". It was somewhat special to find my bed in the current guest quarters located by chance happenstance exactly where my infirmary bed had been 54 years ago. Talk about coincidence! And the first night on campus at exactly 10:47 PM I was awake, but in bed, for a fairly serious rolling earthquake which I timed shook the campus and Baguio for approximately 47 seconds. Welcome home.*

*Deputy Headmaster Mrs. Ursula Daoey, who with every visit always seems to enjoy my recollections, has forever wanted to get my reminiscences down on tape or film, so on this visit she insisted that the school's audio-visual technician Kurt Salvador (son of alum Blandina Salvador) film me walking the campus describing my "incarceration" at Brent and how I got mailed there from Cebu in 1959 for seventh grade. Filming took a combined five hours on two separate days. Also, with my white beard I suddenly got pressed into dressing up as Santa Claus to distribute candy and crayons to the kindergarteners who came by to sing Jingle Bells in the Administration offices in Ogilby Hall.*

*Ursula, a Brent alum herself, is retiring this year in June after many years at the school. She was enthused by my visit and ongoing efforts to document the school's history and she is going to ask headmaster Dick Robbins to send her to Texas for the alumni reunion you are possibly still planning for March 24-25-26. Indeed when I asked her what dates would be most convenient* ***for her****, in order to get away from school the easiest, she replied that all June would be fine, but May is out (graduation, etc.), that April 1-17 would work, but* ***the last week of March 23-31 would be absolutely ideal****. Must be Easter Week or something such that school is out. She also has a brother or sister living in the Dallas area whom she wants to visit, and she knows that Father Bill and Johnny Grant, old friends, are also in the north Texas area. Thus would you please forward this email to Johnny with her regards as I cannot seem to locate his email address.*

*I am supposed to meet with headmaster Dick Robbins while I am in Manila for Christmas with old friends from Zamboanga, and if he indeed calls me, I shall float and promote the idea of his sending Ursula to Texas to reconnect with Brent alumni. They really need to send* ***someone*** *to one of these reunions! If you settle on a reunion date, I might coordinate asking alumni to email Dick Robbins promoting the idea. Just because she is retiring as Deputy Headmaster doesn't mean she is "leaving" the school, although she may now have to vacate the old headmaster's residence that you grew up in, Kim. FYI, Ursula continues to be on the Board of Directors of Easter School, which I also visited for the usual shopping. But in the deplorable traffic it took an hour and something to get across town from Brent.*

*You can be sure that I took a lot of photos on campus, including one of the fireplace in your old house, Kim, decorated for Christmas. I just happened to be in the house one night to hear some carolers and they were really outstanding, four boys and four girls singing in four-part harmony, especially the carols written in Tagalog. I gave them P1,000 (just US$23) to email me the original Tagalog lyrics and music to learn in Texas. But I caught their Filipino carols with my camera in film mode, which if you like I can show at any reunion along with the film they shot of me walking the campus describing many of our hijinks and pranks (which film they will send me in February.)*

*Please let me know if your Texas reunion plans are still in the works so Ursula can mount a full-court press, perhaps along with our email help, to her to be sent to your Brent reunion. Unfortunately the school is so disconnected from alumni in the USA that they could not even remember if they had been informed about the Chicago reunion some months ago for alumni specifically from the 1960's, not that they would have been able to attend. But this could be the start of better relations and connections. FYI, I'll be in the country until January 11th, then to Hong kong for three nights before arriving home in Texas on the 15th. My schedule until then - off to Davao with old friends December 27th, to Zamboanga on the 3rd January for the dedication of the old Jurika House (1888) as a national historic landmark, then Cebu on the 6th and back to Manila for one night on the 10th.*

*Kim, if possible do let me hear from you at your convenience before I leave so I can proceed on this end if warranted, and feel free to pass this email along to any alumni, and last but not least, have a Maligayang Pasko at Bagong Taon.*

*Louis Lee Jurika (ex-1965)*

*"Grin like a dog and wander aimlessly"*