

*Jane & Henry*

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News Note12

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To: Relatives and Friends We went to Texas A&M for the Oceanography Department 50th anniversary. It was a great event so this will be a Texas news note. Daughter Janet from Eugene, Oregon met us in Austin and drove us the 100 miles to College Station, roomed with us at the Student Center and ferried us around. It was a real treat to spend three days with her. There are few opportunities like that.

On the way from Austin I had forgotten how beautiful Texas was. The homes along the road were set back and had big fields or well kept yards. The homes and surroundings were neat, no junk around them.

And then the campus, 43,000 students, a truly great university in quality as well as size. A&M has a lot of ground. The old Aggie spirit is still there. Everyone is friendly. The Corps is still evident but is only one out of every ten students or so. The women in the Corps wearing their beautiful khaki uniforms, dresses, were a pleasant sight.

The drill field in front of our old two buildings was still intact but Goodwin Hall is gone and replaced by a parking lot. Our "new" (1974) Oceanography and Meteorology seventeen story Building is still a dominant feature. However, the new structures such as the Student Center, the Rudder Tower, the George Bush Library and its grounds are really examples of modern architecture. Remember George parachuted in to it? The Rudder Tower is the only place on the campus where receptions or anything else involving mixed drinks can be held. The big Mall in the center of the campus is a buzz of activity. The mood of the students seemed very good, happy rather than burdened. In the Student Center there are many places where you can sit and talk in luxury. Some even catch naps there. Our President's Endowed Fellowship plaque is on the wall there (with many others).

At the banquet I took advantage of my talk to reminisce for 40 minutes or so, pretty much off the cuff. Among the 350 folks there were some pretty impressive graduates such as Dr. Donald Durham who is Technical Director for Navy Oceanography and Department friend Dr. D. James Baker who is national Administrator of NOAA. We have some follow ups going with Dr. Durham. Also, I received an E-mail from Dr. Baker

"Dear Dale: It was a pleasure to see you at the 50th anniversary and to hear your account of the history of this very successful part of the University.--- Jim Baker."

A highlight of the 50th was the reception given by Dr. Worth Nowlin and his wife Laura for the "founders" of the Department. There were about 20 there, some of whom I had not seen for 30 years. We had good talks with Reids and Hoods. Those were two of the four couples that I brought to the Department in 1949-50. Reid's have been there ever since, Hoods left after about 15 years to start things in Alaska. All three of us are still in the business after 50 years. Lots more to say, but some other time. We hope to get to Betabel next month. Did you know your phone company can get your friends E-mail usage without them having computer worries?

Since part of IBM has merged our E-mail is <dalelr@attglobal.net>