

This week marks another personal milestone in my life - my 50th high school class reunion. Yep, the Seguin High School Class of 1967. AKA "A gift from heaven – class of '67!"

I've been taking frequent trips in the "Way-Back Machine" in my thoughts lately, as I try to remember the city, and the school back in those days – a half century in the past. I thought I'd share some of those thoughts with you this month. I know some of my classmates will be reading this, so if my memory is not terribly accurate, please let me know.

I'll start with the high school. It was on the edge of town, with farmland to the east. It wasn't air-conditioned. This would be considered cruel and unusual punishment in today's world. That's why the building had "wings" with big spaces in between to allow good air movement. Actually, most houses weren't air conditioned at the time either, including ours. There was never a thought about security at school, and there was never a police officer on campus - unless there was a reason. If a cop came on campus, it meant somebody was in big trouble.

There was a dress code. Boys had to have their shirts tucked in, and if their pants had belt loops, they had to have belts. This caused some of us to cut the belt loops off our jeans and pants, since going beltless was very cool at the time. We were also required to wear socks, since wearing penny loafers with no socks was all the rage as well. Hair had to be trimmed above the collar and the ears, and no facial hair was permitted either, but that didn't bother me, since I didn't start shaving until I was twenty!

Girls had to wear skirts or dresses – no trousers or shorts of any kind were permitted, not even culottes. Skirts also had to be no shorter than mid-knee. My, how times have changed.

There was great excitement in town in '67 about the new, modern retail space near the high school that had just opened its doors. It was called Oak Park Mall, which is now the headquarters of Seguin ISD. The Mall included Wuest's super market, Kress, JC Penny, Montgomery Ward, and several other smaller retailers. We felt so "big-city" there, as we strolled through our new mall.

Notwithstanding all this new retail development on the outskirts, downtown Seguin was still thriving at that time. I bought all my clothes from Martin Lowey at Reichman's. He was quite a character, and always made me feel special when I walked in, even though I was a relatively poor teenager with little to spend. He sold me the first suit I ever bought – it was a gray sharkskin number that I wore to the Senior Prom. You know, that suit would be totally in style today – tight fit, narrow lapels, ankle-length pants with skinny legs, and a narrow tie. I should have kept that suit. Actually, I still have the tie!

During the summer there were weekly dances on the roof of Starcke Park bathhouse. We had victory dances upstairs at the downtown Youth Center after every home football game. This was when games would end before 10:00. The Youth Center was located in the old red brick fire station on Mountain St. (That building is now home to the SSLGC, our water corporation). I'm trying to remember some of the bands... The Broken Hearts, The Speidels, The Trackers, The Chayns, and C.L. and the Teardrops. Earlier in the sixties there were The Moods, The Belmonts and The Turbans (with Doug Parker on Bass).

For our annual July 4th celebration, the city experimented with a new downtown street celebration, which is now called Freedom Fiesta.

Wow, I've just scratched the surface on this class of '67 stuff, and I'm already way past my allotted 600 words. I guess I might have to do some more of this in another column. Cheers to all my classmates!

Gosh I love this town!