

# Remembering MHS 50-Plus Years Later

By Judy Mizell & Steve Shields

While reading Bill O'Reilly's *Killing Kennedy* this summer, I (Judy Mizell) was reminded that many of the events he wrote about were happening during our senior year at Maryville High School. Then I found some notes in an old MHS reunion folder I pulled out while we were planning this year's festivities. Apparently, I had gone through old *Red and Black* newspapers and my old diaries and had made notes. What a contrast to see what was important enough to write about in our school newspaper and my personal diary while all around us the world was changing. So, I've jotted down some random notes to share about the world we lived in 50 years ago. Unbeknownst to me, our class president Steve Shields was also making notes on what happened in the world during our high school years. So, I've incorporated his notes into mine and added a few more details. Here's our walk down memory lane.

## 1960 (June-December) – 1st half of Sophomore Year

June 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> Domino's Pizza opened in Michigan.

Aug. 1 – Chubby Checker recorded and released "The Twist."

August – Echo I, 1st communications satellite, was launched.

Oct. 3 – *The Andy Griffith Show* debuted on television.

Nov. 8 – John F. Kennedy was elected president.

Oscars – Best Actor: Burt Lancaster, *Elmer Gantry*; Best Actress: Elizabeth Taylor, *Butterfield 8*;  
Best Picture: *The Apartment*

Grammys – Record of the Year: Percy Faith's "Theme from a Summer Place"; Album of the Year:  
The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart; Song of the Year: "The Theme from Exodus"

Emmys – Art Carney Special; Playhouse 90; The Garry Moore Show

AFL was formed with 8 teams.

There were 900 U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam.

## 1961 – 2nd half of Sophomore & 1st half of Junior Years

Jan. 1 – 1st AFL championship game: Oilers

March 29 – 23rd Amendment, giving Washington, D.C., representation in Congress and letting D.C. citizens vote in presidential elections, was ratified by the states (had been proposed June 17, 1960).

April 17 – Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba to overthrow Fidel Castro's government began. The invading force, trained & funded by U.S.'s Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was defeated within 3 days.

May 5 – Astronaut Alan B. Shepard became 1st U.S. man in space (rocketed 116.5 miles up in a 302-mile trip).

Aug. 13 – Berlin Wall was built.

Sept. 21 – Peace Corps was established.

Oct. 1 – Roger Maris broke the single season homerun record, hitting no. 61 in 4th inning of season's last game.

Ray Kroc bought out the original McDonald Brothers and began the McDonald's as we know it today. (In 1962 he introduced the Golden Arches and in 1963 Ronald McDonald, the red-haired clown.)

Sprite was introduced to compete with 7Up; Coffee-Mate non-dairy creamer was introduced; Adult Tylenol was introduced.

Oscars – Best Actor: Maximilian Schell, Judgment at Nuremberg; Best Actress: Sophia Loren, Two Women; Best Picture: West Side Story

Grammys – Album: Judy (Garland) At Carnegie Hall; Song: “Moon River” & Record: “Moon River”

Emmys – The Jack Benny Show, Hallmark Hall of Fame’s Macbeth, Astaire Time

Dec. 24 – 2<sup>nd</sup> AFL championship game: Oilers

## 1962 – 2nd half of Junior and 1st half of Senior Years

February – Francis Gary Powers, whose U-2 Spy plane had been shot down over Russia on May 1, 1960, and who had been sentenced to 10 years in prison, was freed in exchange for a Soviet spy.

Feb. 20 – Astronaut John Glenn became 1st American to orbit the Earth, made 3 orbits in 4 hours, 55 minutes.

March 1 – 1st Kmart opened in Garden City, Michigan.

March – Wilt “The Stilt” Chamberlain scored 100 points.

March 31 – Cesar Chavez resigned from Community Service Organization to begin organizing farm workers.

Boston Celtics won 4th NBA crown in a row.

April 26 – Ranger 4 touched Moon for 1st time.

July 2 – 1st WalMart opened in Rogers, Ark.

Aug. 5 – Marilyn Monroe died.

ABC & NBC started partial color broadcast.

Oscars – Best Actor: Gregory Peck, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Best Actress: Anne Bancroft, *The Miracle Worker*; Best Picture: *Lawrence of Arabia*

Emmys – *The Defenders*; *The Bob Newhart Show*; *The Garry Moore Show*

Grammys – Album: Vaughn Meader’s *The First Family*; Record of the Year: “I Left My Heart in San Francisco”; Song of the Year: “What Kind of Fool Am I”

When we started our senior year, our class had a member who was the second best golfer in the nation. Our Melissa Ann Baker was runner up in the finals of the U.S. Women’s Amateur Golf Tournament at the Country Club of Rochester in New York in August 1962.

Aug. 27 – 24<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which allowed all citizens to vote without restriction, was approved by Congress and sent to the states for approval. It was ratified Jan. 23, 1964.

Aug. 31 – Football Rebels beat Lenoir City 28-6.

Sept. 4 – Embarked on our senior year and we worried about getting a good seat in assembly, talking on the phone, going to slumber parties, hearing the boys’ band play (Brickey Sturgeon, Butch McDade, John Kerr, who else?), rolling yards with toilet paper, cruising The Dwarf (meant more than Snow White) and Glco’s and Zesto’s, doing parallel readings and taking 6-weeks tests and other fun activities. **Ours was the last segregated class at MHS.**

Sept. 7 – Beat Holston 21-0 in football.

Sept. 10 – Received class rings (which, I discovered, after our reunion, featured a Rebel flag on one side).

Band won a 1st place Blue Ribbon in competition

Other football scores: Beat Madisonville 21-7, lost to Porter 7-20, lost to Morristown 0-20, lost 0-19 to Sevierville, beat Everett 14-7, beat Fulton 13-0, lost to Loudon 18-20 and lost to Alcoa 14-19 for a 5-5 record for the year.

Sept. 30 – 1st convention of Cesar Chavez’ National Farm Workers Association convened in Fresno, Calif.

Oct. 1 – 1st black student James Meredith enrolled at Ole Miss.

Oct. 3 – Astronaut Walter “Wally” Schirra became the 5th American in space, orbited the Earth six times.

Oct. 5 – The Beatles released first single in the UK: “I Want To Hold Your Hand/Saw Her Standing There” and “Meet the Beatles.” Beatlemania was born (but didn’t take hold in the U.S. until after appearing on The Ed Sullivan Show in February 1964).

Oct. 6 – Band received Number II rating – Excellent – at Bristol Marching Festival.

Oct. 13 – Band earned Number I rating – Superior – at Tri-State Marching Festival.

Oct. 14 – U-2 Spy Plane photographed Soviet nuclear missile sites in Cuba.

Oct. 16 – San Francisco Giants, who had won the National League Pennant, lost to the American League New York Yankees in the World Series.

Oct. 19 – Homecoming at MHS. The senior float lost to the junior class and a sophomore got Homecoming Queen. But we beat Fulton, so all was not lost.

Oct. 22 – President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation on television about potentially lethal weapons in Cuba (MRBM — Medium Range Ballistic Missiles) and announced the U.S. was going to search all ships going to Cuba and intercept any offensive weapons. The blockade of Cuba lasted until The Cuban Missile Crisis ended Oct. 28 when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev announced he would remove missiles from Cuba.

Nov. 7 – Eleanor Roosevelt died.

Baseball teams the Mets and Colt 45s were formed.

Henry Ross Perot founded Electric Data Systems, a data processing firm

Nov. 9 – TWIRP Dance with theme Surfin’ Safari. Joe Eldridge was crowned TWIRP King.

Nov. 10 – ACT test (4 hours at UTK)

Nov. 17 – Band & choir taped the “Talent Showcase” TV show at WATE Channel 6 in Knoxville.

Nov. 27 – Men’s and women’s basketball teams went to Pikeville, Tenn., to play Bledsoe County and won both games: Men, 72-41 and women, 65-38.

Dec. 7 – Beat Alcoa 3 games in basketball (B-team, girls and varsity)

Dec. 11 – Snowed 2-4 inches; got out of school at 2 p.m.

Dec. 17 – Macbeth test

Dec. 19—Classes ended.

Dec. 24 – 3-5 or 6 inches of snow—a white Christmas

Dec. 28 – Lost to Knox Young 51-60 in Maryville Alcoa Jaycee Invitational Basketball Tournament

Dec. 31 – U.S. Military Personnel in South Vietnam: 11,300 (From 1960 to 1963, U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam rose from 900 to 15,000.)

## **1963 – 2nd half of Senior Year**

Jan. 2 – ARVN units equipped with U.S. helicopters and armored personnel carriers suffered first major pitched battle defeat by the Viet Cong forces.

Jan. 2 – School began at MHS.

Jan. 8 – Football Banquet

Jan. 22 – Got measured for our caps & gowns

Jan. 25 – Sock hop

February – Began making college decisions

Feb. 19 – Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique*, which played a key role in the women's liberation movement, was published. (Marty L. Black told me that she and her Dad had to go to Nashville to find a copy of the book to buy for her summer reading prior to entering college.)

March 2 – Men's Basketball team lost consolation game, and finished fourth in tournament.

March 5 – Choir sang in the East Tennessee Chorus festival at UTK and got a I rating – Superior – and it rained continuously. At the Solo Festival on March 4-5, Bonnie Jane Jackson, accompanied by Suzanne Campbell, got a Superior rating.

March 12 – English speeches began!

March 14-16 – Band participated in the East Tennessee Band & Orchestra Festival.

March 18 – Annuals came.

March 29 – Basketball banquet

Oscars – Best Actor: Sidney Poitier, *Lilies of the Field*; Best Actress: Patricia Neal, *Hud*; Best Picture: *Tom Jones*

Grammys – Record of the Year: "Days of Wine & Roses"; Album: The Barbra Streisand Album; Song of the Year: "Days of Wine & Roses"

Emmys – *The Defenders*; *The Dick Van Dyke Show*; *The Andy Williams Show*

April 1 – Tryouts for senior play

April 5 – Spring break began.

April 5-6 – At the Tenn. High School Press Association meeting in Memphis, the Red & Black newspaper was awarded a rating of Excellent.

April 11 – Nuclear submarine USS Thresher was lost in the Atlantic Ocean, feared sunk; 129 lives lost.

April 12 – Martin Luther King was arrested in Birmingham and held for a week. While there, he wrote his Letter from Birmingham Jail.

April 21 – Dr. Michael DeBakey implanted artificial heart in a human for the first time at a Houston Hospital.

April 27 – 56 MHS band members participated in the Solo & Ensemble Festival at Maryville College, earning 17 Superior and 6 Excellent ratings.

Also in April, Civil Rights activists in Birmingham were sprayed with high powered water hoses and attacked by police dogs.

May – Coca Cola rolled out its newest product, TaB, the first sugar-free diet soda (had bottled it first on Feb. 14 to be test marketed). Also this year, Weight Watchers was founded.

May 2 – Teenagers and children as young as 6 years old marched in Birmingham to protest segregation in what became known as the Children's Crusade March. They returned the next day to protest and white policemen, under the leadership of Bull Connor, ordered the fire hoses turned on the children and released attack dogs.

May 3 – Senior Play, *The Campbells Are Coming*

May 4 – Band Banquet at Green Meadow Country Club

May 8 – Buddhists in Hue demonstrated against recently imposed ban on public display of religious flags. When government troops failed to disperse the crowd, they fired on protestors, killing 9 and wounding 14.

May 10 – Junior-Senior Prom; Patsy Birdwell reigned as Prom Queen.

May 14 – Seniors had pictures made for the newspaper.

May 15 – Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper orbited the Earth 22 times.

May 28 – Classes ended.

May 31 – Senior banquet at Holiday Inn Chapman Highway

June 2 – Baccalaureate service First Baptist Church

June 3 – Senior Day program at 9 a.m. in the MHS Auditorium

June 3 – Commencement Exercises at 8 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium

**After graduation, the MHS Class of 1963 went off to college or to pursue jobs and life after high school.**

June 11 – Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace stood in the schoolhouse door opposed to integration. Under orders of the President of the United States, he stepped aside and the University of Alabama was successfully integrated.

June 11 – Thich Quang Duc, a Buddhist monk, burned himself to death to protest the Diem government of South Vietnam. Soon more U.S. military advisors would be sent to South Vietnam and the war there would escalate.

June 17 – Supreme Court ruled prayer in public schools was unconstitutional.

June 22 – Martin Luther King Jr. met with President Kennedy in the White House.

July – U.S. Postal Service introduced the Zip Code. First Class postage cost 5 cents. Gasoline was about 29 cents a gallon. New Hampshire established the 1st state lottery.

Aug. 28 – Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech at a Civil Rights Rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., before 200,000 blacks and whites.

November – AT&T introduced touch-tone telephones.

Nov. 22, 1963 – President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. I was a freshman at UTK and just walked out of the P.E. Building heading for my English class when Kristine Lakey, my MHS classmate, told me the president had been shot. Ironically, we were studying Lincoln in my English class and all the similarities of those two assassinations were in the forefront that day and for days to come.

50-plus years ago, but it seems like only yesterday in so many ways.