

Bridges Earns Service Award

For the first time a standard of service and accountability is being offered to consumers in the area of the quality of real estate service delivery. Holly Bridges of Texas Star Realty, Columbus office, has just completed the requirements to earn Quality Service Certified® professional recognition. Holding the Quality Service Certification requires a sales agent to follow a well-

defined and prescribed process of service, to present that process in writing to every customer and client, and to guarantee its delivery.

According to Larry D. Romito, President, CEO of Quality Service Certification, Inc., "Holly Bridges has joined a growing number of real estate professionals nationwide who are committing to the delivery of a defined service process and a higher standard of accountability in service delivery and customer satisfaction. This is an industry breakthrough in the establishment of a measurable standard of care and service." An integral part of the sales agent's ability to maintain Quality Service Certified status, rests with service evaluation feedback from every buyer and seller served. Following the closing of each home purchase or home sale, an independent research company sends the consumer a Quality Service Assurance Survey asking tough questions about the details and overall satisfaction of service provided by the sales agent and broker.

"Sales associates and brokers are highly motivated to protect their Quality Service Certified status by delivering better service satisfaction, more service value and higher accountability. The Quality Service Certified total service system offers a predictable, accountable, reliable, and consistent service outcome."



Holly Bridges, Quality Service Certified professional.



Pictured are members of the 1957 Class of Eagle Lake High School who attended the reunion held recently. Back row, Gene Schmidt, Lester German, Jimmy Frnka, Billy Lee Henneke, Gary Briggs, and James Brumbelow; front row, Joyce Matthews Stancik, Pat Sheppard Seaholm, Judy Black Ten Naple, Tommy Lee Reese Herman, Ruth Ann Tate Marshall; and in the inset are Gladys B. Austin and Janice Selph Miller.

Class Of '57 Holds Reunion

The Eagle Lake High School (ELHS) Class of 1957 held its 50th Class Reunion on May 19, at the Texas Seafood and Steak House in Eagle Lake.

The classmates began arriving at 3:30 p.m. and enjoyed greeting each other and catching up on "old times." Name tags with pictures of the graduates were made by Darlene Stancik Argo, daughter of class member, Joyce Matthews Stancik.

Pat Shepherd Seaholm made a sign for the restaurant window and Joyce Stancik and Ruth Ann Tate Marshall decorated the restaurant's dining room in orange and black. Displays of old pictures from the senior trip to the Mayan Dude Ranch in Bandera, senior play and senior parties set the theme for the reunion. Music from the 50's helped to create nostalgic atmosphere. Old annuals were on display for viewing together

with other mementoes including pictures showing several views of the ELHS building.

Eleven graduates and two former classmates and spouses were in attendance. Larry Shaver and Judy Simmons Fikes, graduates, and Sandra Duty Radford and Dick Terrell, former classmates, contacted the group and expressed their regrets for not being able to attend. Classmates came from Pasadena, Lago Vista, Giddings, Lake Jackson, Spring, LaMarque, Adkins, Baytown, Canyon Lake and Eagle Lake.

After dinner the group came together and paused for a moment

of silence in honor of the deceased classmates: Vernon Miculka died in 1967, Bonnie Pearl Kohleffel Sides Manville died in 1987, Grace Adkins Self died in 2001 and former classmate, Marvin Schmidt, died in 2004.

The group was reminded of the next "Big" ELHS Reunion scheduled for October 16-18, 2010. It is hoped that all of the graduates and classmates will be able to attend that event.

The group adjourned and is looking forward to getting together again next year at the home of Clifton and Ruth Ann Marshall in Giddings.

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Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck



"Grapes want to turn to wine."
-J. Rumi
There were 75 Rice high school

students walking across Raider Stadium to receive their diplomas this past Thursday night. Seventy-

five windows of opportunity could be heard opening.

With May/June graduations come quotes and words of inspiration from commencement speakers across the country (mainly college) congratulating the recent inductees into the real world, inspiring the future leaders, warning the new and savagely independent young adults about the sometimes formidable world they will be entering.

A web site for speakers alerts writers of certain cliches NOT to use when preparing a commencement speech. In addition to those "windows of opportunity" swinging open, it predicts bad reception to anything such as "spreading your wings and flying" or "being true to yourself" or "beginning new chapters in one's life".

Honesty as the best policy seems to be the mode these past few years, as notable and celebrity commencement speakers attempt to inform the newly expectant grads of "just how it really is out there" in basic words with fewer cliches, as did Jon Stewart

at William & Mary College in May '04: "So how do you know what is the right path to choose to get the results that you desire? And the honest answer is this: you won't. And accepting that greatly eases the anxiety of your life experience."

In considering these words, certainly one must work for success, must consider the choices and challenges, but in the end, are we like those grapes turning to wine? Are we pre-destined in our talents and passions? Will we eventually, no matter what our decisions in life, return to what is our destiny?

As I followed my interest and passion for writing late in life, I considered all those people who, in mid-life, change their professions or search further for personal goals and passions in their lives. There have been numerous studies and articles telling of CEO's turning to teaching, lawyers turning to creative arts or businessmen happily entering other fields of endeavor. A quote from one of my favorite writers, George Eliot, sits atop my desk and reminds me that the goals and passions of youth can be revisited, revised, reincorporated into our middle-aged lives: "You are never too old to be what you might have been."

The open windows cliché was used at my high school graduation some 30+ too-many years ago. Today I'd tell our recent grads to certainly be aware of windows and doors opening - but beware of not taking the opportunities or of shutting any of those open portals. However, age will not - no, let's say SHOULD NOT - keep future portals from opening. We are all destined for.....what????

Rice High School is proud to note that this is the first year the school district can confirm that all students in the 2007 graduating class are eligible for enrollment at Wharton County Junior College. It's a commendable feat. That's the class's final group success and each individual graduate's first solo success in entering this new world spread out before them. Our children will have the freedom of many choices. Can't you just hear those windows opening?

"The cloud is free only to go with the wind.

The rain is free only in falling."
-Wendell Berry

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