



We are what sociologists call Baby Boomers. We were born in a time of record births that increased by four million annually just after World War II ended. Now those sociologists have further divided us into a category called 'leading-edge boomers' who were born from 1946 to 1955 and then came of age during the Vietnam War. We are thirty eight million strong. A few of our class were born in 1946 and the majority in 1947.

Harry Truman was president having moved from the Vice Presidency after the death of Franklin Roosevelt. The annual average wage was \$2,850; a loaf of bread was 13 cents; a new car \$1,800; a gallon of gas .15 cents; and the average house price \$1824. Some significant events the year we were born was the start of the Cold War, the creation of the CIA, the landing of a UFO near Roswell, Jackie Robinson's first major league baseball game, a tornado that killed 107 persons in Woodward, Oklahoma, and the Polaroid Land Camera was invented.

There was not Pre K or Kindergarten in those days. We started our school years in the first grade at Edison School. It was the fall of 1953 with 64 total pupils in the classes of Miss Kathleen Moore and Miss Ima Foster. Our grade school years were wonderful and our lives were perfect. We were fortunate to live in families that were close, not too mobile or very far away from other family, and our parents were really like June and Ward Cleaver. We had meals together, went to church together, picnicked together, and lived an almost idyllic life. We learned from our parents and teachers values, respect, and manners. Our telephones were rotary dial and the numbers were five digits long in Mangum. Party lines were in use in the rural parts of the county. Kids did not

go first in the buffet line. Your elders and the men always went first. Kids were last and we knew our place. We had the Weekly Reader at school. Most of us can remember our first television that we saw or the first one that came into our homes. After we got our TVs we got to watch Captain Kangaroo, Miss Francis Ding Dong School, Howdy Doody, 3-D Danny, and the Mickey Mouse Club. Some of our first crushes were on Cubby or Annette. We remember the smell of a new pair of leather saddle oxfords that most of us wore. We learned the magic words were 'please' and 'thank you' and the use of 'sir' and 'ma'am' when talking to someone. President Eisenhower was in office through our grade school years and we were a country at peace. The grownups were worried about the Soviets and Communism, so the government came into Greer County and built missile shelters. They filled the basement of the Franklin Hotel with water and food supplies that we could go to in the case of a nuclear attack on our country. We felt safer and then went back to playing with our hula hoops and listening to Elvis and The Temptations and songs like, "How Much is That Doggie in the Window." And our part of the world was good and so right.

By Junior High graduation our class had increased to 74 members. The Civil Rights movement was in full swing and school integration had come to Mangum with the closure of Booker T. Washington School. The first persons of color joined our class in 7th

grade (1959) with Harold Tam' Henderson, Martha Ann Davis, Dorothy Mae King and Charles Pokey' Callins. Schools were integrated, but the Greer County Courthouse continued to have separate 'Whites Only' and 'Colored Only' drinking fountains for a long time. When we were in the 8th grade we had a presidential election and John F. Kennedy was elected. He was the youngest president ever elected up to that time and the first Catholic. If you were lucky back then, your folks would let you go to Teen Town above the City Hall. We had a wonderful swimming pool at the park. Junior Tyler watched over us at Teen Town and the City pool. He was good to us, but he also put up with no nonsense. Our summer Teen Town hosts while Junior worked the Pool were Keith and Billie Mathis. Our freshman class officers were President Charlie Hahn; Vice-President Roger Reeves; Sec/Treasurer Russell Lewis; and Reporter Carol Sue Bex. Our class sponsors were Tom Johnson, Stacy Schronk, and W.D. Hibler. We listened to Chubby Checker and stood in front of our mirrors and tried to do the newest dance craze called 'The Twist' and later, 'The Pony.' Our radios were tuned in Roy Orbison singing 'Only the Lonely' and 'Crying' or the Shirelles singing 'Dedicated to the One I Love.' Most of our grandparents thought we were lost forever to the scourge of Rock and Roll music and we knew they were right. Ben Hur, Psycho, and Can Can came to the movies. The Flintstones, Bonanza, Andy Griffith, Wagon Train, The Twilight Zone started on television about that time. The single most significant event of our Junior High years was the burning of Mangum High School in 1962 just three months before our Junior High Freshman graduation. The fire started above a class Coach John Buck was teaching. We remember him looking out in the hall and asking if anyone could smell smoke and small particles of burning ceiling began to rain down on our desks before they evacuated us. He told Miss Mary Hall to call the Fire Department. Watching from a safe location after being moved out of the school, several of us remember the explosions as the fire burned through the science lab because the smoke would turn blue, pink, or green as the different chemicals went off. Later on we were recruited to help with the cleanup and retrieval of pictures, trophies, and other items from the debris. We were blessed with good leadership in our school board and a community that rapidly came together with a plan for a new high school. We had

some shared pain and sadness at the loss of dear old Mangum High, but we began to look forward to our future as sophomores. None of us understood what it would mean to us as Junior High kids and our perfect Mangum world, that 3500 American Troops would be sent to a place in SE Asia called Vietnam as advisors at that time.

We hit the ground running our sophomore year back at old Edison school. We might have been the new kids on that block, but we were pretty full of ourselves and our new classes. The Mangum Star wrote several articles that fall going into our 2-A football season about what a difference our guys would make and help the team by adding depth and speed. That's exactly what they did. Our football players were Roger Reeves, John Price, Charles 'Pokey' Callins, Mike Thomason, Joe David Mitchell, Harold 'Tam' Henderson, Sonny Cowan, Jodie Thomas, and Russell Lewis. Winning is what they did with good 8-2 and 9-1 records. It was unheard of for the sophomore class to win the homecoming float prize, so we set about a plan to do it. Our float was titled, 'Babes in Tigerland' and we won the contest that fall. We joined Key Club, FFA, FHA, Glee Club, Pep Club or Band and broadened our horizons. In High School we had to carry four solids subjects

and two electives. Some of us took German with Bob Summers, who was also our Band Director. Stacy Schronk was an excellent music instructor and in the fall of 1962 some of us performed 'Broadway USA' in a compilation of songs from Broadway plays for the community. Nance Langdon was one of four piano accompanists for the program. Cecil Deadman was chosen to be part of the Boys Quartet with three seniors. A group of local guys formed a band (pre-Changing Times) and held Sock Hops above Anderson's grocery. This was introduction to our first electric guitars and we danced in our sock feet to songs like 'Hey Paula', 'Sugar Shack', 'Wipe Out', and 'Blue Velvet.' We had good teachers in our school years. Miss Emily Hoover taught the math classes. Monroe Chadwick taught us World History in the basement of Edison and amazed us with his stories of what was to come someday. Mr. Minyard taught us Biology and Science, Mr. W.D. Hibler was Girl's Basketball and Industrial Arts, John Buck was Football Coach, Social Studies and History, Teach Deaver was Typing and Business Classes, and Mrs. Odie Jones was Home Economics; Miss Tom Johnson was English and Literature, and Mr. Ben Sorrells was our Agriculture Education instructor. The girls' basketball team started their amazing streak of wins that year and it culminated in the win of the State Championship in the spring of 63. Our girls playing ball were Shirley Griffis, Nan Morris, Carol Sue Bex, Bette Price, LaNelda Bailey, Kyle Underwood and Sandy Mathis. Our basketball guys were LaWayne Paxton, Charles 'Pokey' Callins, Joe Ed McGuffin, and Ronnie Patton. That year the first Walmart was opened in Bentonville, Arkansas. We went to the Capital Drive Inn north of town and watched 'Spartacus' and 'The Birds.' We listened to Surfer music and sometimes we met our friends at the Temple Theater on the square to watch movies like 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' 'Cleopatra,' and 'West Side Story.' Martin Luther King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Tape cassettes and touch tone phones were invented. Lava lamps and the first pull tab cans came out and life was good in our little world.

By fall of 1963 we had it all. We put on our new penny loafers, Hush Puppies, or Keds that had replaced our saddle oxfords, and started our junior year in the brand new Mangum High School. Many today probably do not know the shape, angles and placement of the current high school

was because it was built around the old Edison building we were attending during the construction.

We had a new band director named Tubal Cain. His wife was our Speech and Drama instructor and she was Armentia 'Archie' Cain. Wendell Harris came in to lead our Science classes and was named one of our class sponsors. Football season kicked off with a bang. We had an excellent band and we learned a new style of military marching which was being used at Texas A&M. Our band members were Anne Harlan, Susie Hughes, Bernice Ward, Ginger Cypert, Carol Pankhurst, LaWayne Paxton, Larry Gilliam, Kay Morgan, Cecil Deadman, Joe Ed McGuffin, Ronnie Patton, Gary Francis, Elizabeth Stock, and Velma Wilson. Drum Majors for our class were Susie Hughes and Kay Morgan. Twirlers were Ginger Cypert, Bernice Ward and Carol Pankhurst. Throughout our school days we had a good marching band and excellent pep and stage bands which won many superior awards.

Our pep club was awesome and we liked cheering our winning teams. Our class cheerleaders were Nan Morris, Carol Sue Bex, and Barbara Propps. Pep Club members from our class were Sylvia Silk, Janie Keating, Carol Pankhurst, Judith Winters, Bette Price, Velma Wilson, Cathy Jenkins, Karen Johnson, Kyle Underwood, Kaye Wileman, Mary Kathryn Edmondson, Nance Langdon, and Sandy Mathis. One of the things you remember is the amazing smell of the big Homecoming mums and whether you need white or yellow or bronze to match your particular homecoming outfit. Archie Cain introduced us to something different that fall. We had tryouts for our junior play called 'Jane Eyre' and learned after getting our parts that it was going to be performed in the round at the new Edison elementary. A large platform had to be built and we started practices that fall so we could present our play shortly after Thanksgiving. The rural kids were helping their farmer dads finish the last of cotton harvest. And our football guys finished a terrific winning season. And all was perfect in our corner of the world.

On a Friday close to Thanksgiving a lot of us had Teach Deaver for Typing I just after lunch. She was putting us through our paces at our Royal electric typewriters and we were praying that we would just hit 40 words a minute. In between another speed test one of our classmates came walking south past our class room and stuck his head in the door. He said, "the presidents been shot." Teach, thinking he was teasing her, told him to "go on" and "quit making up stories." He said, "No, really he's been shot." We were all looking around at each other and so was Teach. Surely he was just teasing. Almost on cue our principal, Mr. Hogan, flipped on the building intercom and the radio broadcast came streaming throughout the school to all parts of our beautiful new building. Teach slowly lowered herself into her chair behind her desk facing all of us. We began listening to the news that would change our lives in many ways forever. Before the class was over they announced our young, charismatic president had died. No one cried. We were in some sort of shock probably just trying to wrap our minds around what they were saying. In 1966 Simon and Garfunkel wrote a song called 'The Sounds of Silence', but all of us in Mangum High School that day in 1963 can say is that we experienced 'the sounds of silence'. No one spoke another word the rest of the afternoon; either teacher or student. The bell rang; we went into the hall and moved to our next class. The broadcast continued over the intercoms and the only sounds in that building were the sliding of the locker doors as they were opened and then gently closed as we were going to the next class. Students walked softly and we went through our next two classes. By the time school was out we had a different president and we

had lost our innocence and we had been a part of history that was incomprehensible. This was the first national event of any kind ever broadcast without commercial interruption on television. But our TV broadcasts then were only two or three major networks and they went off at midnight. We went home for the weekend and joined our families for days of national mourning, not realizing that the rest of our lives would be affected directly by what had happened that day.

Because of the play coming up, anticipation of the upcoming holidays, and our basketball season kicking off we began to come out of our communal grief and went on with our school days. Our play was a huge success. We had several performances and the community seemed to love our 'theater in the round.' Both our basketball teams were

highly rated and winning was all they did. Our boys went to the Area Tournament and barely lost to Ft. Cobb in the Area tournament finals. In 1964 our Coach Hibler and the Tigerettes kept their winning streak alive and won back to back state championships and Carol Sue Bex was named an All State player again. As juniors we hosted the Jr-Sr Banquet at the original Quartz Mountain Lodge. And we danced to songs of a new group called the Beatles who had five of the top hits that year. Other up and coming artists were the Rolling Stones, The Supremes, the Animals, and Bob Dylan. In 1964 Cassius Clay (later to be called Muhammad Ali) defeated Sonny Liston for the heavyweight championship. The first Mustang was unveiled by Ford Motor Company. President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law in July and we looked forward to our senior year at MHS.

When our senior year started our class chant became, "We're the best class alive; we're the Class of 65." We chose Paul and LaFleta Lewis to be our Mom and Pop. We elected our Class Officers with Roger Reeves, President; Larry Gilliam, Vice-President; Carol Sue Bex, Secretary; and Sonny Cowan, Treasurer. Our sports teams again had winning seasons and we backed our teams all the way.

Our Key Club guys were LaWayne Paxton, Joe Ed McGuffin, John Price, David Uecke, Roger Reeves, Larry Gilliam, Coye Dennis, Charlie Hahn, Ronnie Paxton, and Sonny Cowan.

Spanish Club members were Theo McDuff, Steve Francis, Janie Keating and Kathy Norton. Janie was the Spanish Club queen.

Ben Sorrells had an active FFA/Industrial Arts class with John Price, Garl Mardis, Mike Thomason, Hester Bannister, Gaylord Inks, Jim Houpe, Sonny Cowan, Roger Reeves, Charles 'Pokey' Callins, Melvin Ervin, and Charlie Hahn and they placed well at the different fairs and stock shows.

The FHA (Future Homemakers of America) led by teacher Odie Jones were Nan Morris, Anne Harlan, Amma Lois Parker, Judy Brundige, Peggy Nichols, Shirley Griffis, Judith Winters, Bette Price, Bonne Bryant, Carol Sue Bex, Kay Morgan, Carol Pankhurst, Karen Johnson, Sandy Mathis, Darlia Paxton, Mary Kathryn Edmondson, Sylvia Silk, Patsy Knight, Kyle Underwood, Velma Wilson, Bernice Ward, Cathy Jenkins, LaNelda Bailey, and Kaye Wileman.

Our Vocal Music students were Susie Hughes, Barbara Propps, Darlia Paxton, Bonne Bryant, Dorothy King, Judith Winters, Nan Morris, Mary Kathryn Edmondson, Ginger Cypert, Kay Morgan, LaNelda Bailey, Kyle Underwood, Velma Wilson, Janie Keating, Nance Langdon, Kaye Wileman, Cathy Jenkins, Beverlie Inks, Joe Ed McGuffin, LaWayne Paxton, Russell Lewis, Cecil Deadman, Larry Gilliam, Coye Dennis, and Ronnie Patton.

All of our organizations competed in multiple contests throughout our school years. Many talented musicians, singers, public speakers, drama students won top awards in

various competitions. In early 1965 we won the State One Act Play contest topping all other schools statewide in the competition at Weatherford. Some of our poetry out of Miss Tom Johnson's literature class was published in the Oklahoma Anthology book which gave her great pride.

Our class royalty; Janie Keating was our FFA Sweetheart; Carol Pankhurst our Band Queen; Carol Sue Bex our Basketball Queen; Sandy Mathis our Football Queen, with Nan Morris and Carol Bex as her attendants; Glee Club Queen was Cathy Jenkins with Mary Kathryn Edmondson, Beverlie Inks, Darlia Paxton, Judith Winters, Patsy Knight, and Nance Langdon as her attendants.

We thought we were really 'Wild Things' by doing the Tarzan yell on the top steps of the Post Office. Some of us drove down the alleys in the spring in our little convertible stealing ripe plums, peaches and apricots hanging over the fences. During the holidays we knew where the single switch was on the pole north of the square and we delighted in turning off the town Christmas lights just to see how long it took the powers that be to realize they were off and flip them back on. A few hardy souls competed in drag race competitions a few times on Hwy 9. Some climbed the Vumore tower east of town. Our claim to fame or infamy was based on a song that had come out our senior year called 'Ode to the Little Brown Shack Out Back.' One night as we shot the square and the Tastee Freez, one of our classmates (nameless I guess) came up with an idea. We confess. It was us. We stole the outhouse from the country church and brought it to the Tastee Freez where we put out the call to everyone else cruising that night. We had an outhouse stuffing contest and then called KOMA radio who interviewed us live on the air. They then played the song in honor of the 27 hardy souls at Mangum that we were able to pack into it.

Across the nation, primarily on both coasts there were race riots, civil unrest and escalating protests to the war. Congress had okayed a war resolution after a US Destroyer was attacked and President Johnson sent another 125,000 troops to supplement the already 200,000 that were now there. The draft was still in existence and each time one of our male classmates turned 18 that year they had to go register for the draft at the local post office. On April 13th, 1965 a storm outbreak of 57 tornadoes went across 6 states killing 271 and injuring 1500. By the time we were seniors the average annual income was \$6450; cost of gallon of gasoline .31 cents; average cost of a new car \$2,650; and a loaf of bread .21 cents. The Jr-Sr Banquet and Prom was held at Duffer Motel in 1965. We danced to 'Louis Louis', 'My Girl', 'Woolly Bully', 'Help', and 'Unchained Melody.' Our fashions were wearing cat eye glasses, jackets and skirts made out of madras plaid, chemises, and pedal pushers which have been called clam diggers and capris in later years.

Named to the State Honor Society were Kyle Underwood, Karen Johnson, Elizabeth Stock, Anne Harlan, and Carol Pankhurst.

We had no yearbook or class trip that year and we were told by administration at school that it had something to do with actions of previous classes, but we were never able to get

the 'rest of the story.' We proudly graduated 65 in 1965 which was the largest class up to that time that had ever graduated from MHS. Anne Harlan was our Valedictorian, and our Co-Salutatorians were Elizabeth Stock and Carol Pankhurst. Our boys' quartet performed at our graduation. It consisted of Russell Lewis, LaWayne Paxton, Joe Ed McGuffin, and Larry Gilliam. Our class sponsors were Miss Tom Johnson, W.D. Hibler, and Archie Cain.

We remember going through our initiation the next morning and then attending our first alumni meeting. We were officially voted in as Mangum High School Alumni and recognized at the banquet that night. We look back now and know that we were right on the cusp of sweeping changes and a movement that was about to overtake the world through protest, dissent, war, civil unrest and non-violence. But those things were happening far away from us and had not really reached this part of the country. We had been blessed in our school days by loving families, caring faculty and a supportive hometown. We were simply the Class of 65' getting our education and continuing the standards and traditions that had been in place for a long time at Mangum High School. We knew even then that 'Once a Tiger; Always a Tiger.'