

At Brockton High, 'it was the greatest time'

Michaela Christensen; Enterprise Staff Writer

BROCKTON - They held their senior prom in the school auditorium and ate lunch in the school's cramped cellar.

But for Lawrence Siskind, "it was the greatest time to go to **high** school." Siskind and about 200 of his **Brockton High** Class of 1960 classmates will gather Saturday at the Plymouth Radisson Hotel for their 50th **reunion**. The class, once 670 strong, attended school when Dwight D. Eisenhower was president. People like Thomas Edison and Andrew Carnegie had made their marks on **Brockton** in earlier years.

In 1955, city native Rocky Marciano had become the only world heavyweight boxing champion to retire undefeated, putting **Brockton** on the map. Elvis Presley was all the rage, and the average car cost \$2,600. "I looked forward to going to **Brockton High** School every day," said Joseph Barbour. Diane Barbour said it was a time when kids feared authority and people didn't feel the need to lock their doors. "And it wouldn't be unusual for a family to sit down and eat every meal together," said Diane Barbour. Diane Barbour met her husband in her homeroom class at **Brockton High** School.

When they were in **high** school, the city held huge parades for servicemen with colorful balloons and you could buy a bag of popcorn with butter dripping through the bag for a nickel. "**Brockton** was a great place," said Siskind, an attorney. "We were a hodgepodge of people, but we all got along." Many of the classmates have remained close through the years through a newsletter and quarterly informal **reunions**. Ninety-four members have died, and the **reunion** committee was searching for 60 others. Diane Barbour said it is advantageous to stay in touch with former classmates. "Some people you never associated with in **high** school you become really good friends with," said Barbour.

Thomas Chew, a **reunion** committee member, said he is expecting the event to be an exciting time for many who have not seen each other in many years. Many in the class who have never attended a **reunion** before have signed up to come to this **reunion**. "There's a whole lot to learn about the people we attended **high** school with," said Chew.

Exemplifying this statement, Chew said, in their search for their missing classmates they found an internationally known sculptor, Tony Long, who is now deceased. "Nobody even remembered him," said Chew, adding the committee found that Long had been living in Paris. Even though nobody remembered him, however, there was a special showing of his artwork for the class on Thursday night in **Brockton**, a few days before the **reunion**.

The last official **reunion**, the 45th, was attended by about 90 people. The **reunion** committee said they try to have a mini-**reunion** every six months. Other events planned for this weekend include a brunch and a "memory walk" speech by Joseph Barbour, aided by a DVD from the **Brockton** Historical Society, showing downtown **Brockton** during the 1950s. This **reunion** is expected by the committee to be very special because of its milestone nature and the large number of classmates it is expected to draw. "We're all terribly excited," said Siskind. "Our **reunion** committee has been working together for 12 years."

BYRON SMITH/THE ENTERPRISE Organizers of the **Brockton High** School Class of 1960 **reunion** meet at the law office of Larry Siskind. From left are Lois Berman, Nick Camillone, Siskind, Viola (Marrese) White and Judy (Paulding) Armstrong.