

## Who Started Our Alumni Association?

Before you heard about our alumni association, did you ever wish for a reunion with old BHS friends? Did you ever look through an old high school yearbook and wonder whatever became of your classmates? “Yes,” you probably answer. But how do you find people you haven't seen or heard from in nearly two decades?

An insurmountable task? Not for Teresa “Terry” Hill '67. Thanks to her commitment to finding alums. Our association began evolving in 1984.

The seed for our organization had been planted by Terry and Jane Nicola Mathis, who often talked about having a BHS reunion like most high schools do. Tony Alves had had the same notion. In fact, he had visited Bitburg a couple times seeking information about alums.



Terry's old Bitburg friends-alums with whom she still corresponded included Bob '65, and Sharon Hill, '68; Chuck, '66, and Jane Nicola, '68; Mike Morales, '67, and Tony Alves, '67. Their enthusiasm and unflinching efforts resulted in a Dallas reunion in the summer of 1985.

It took Terry and company eight months to organize the event. Tony says “Teresa” handled not only the newsletter, flyers, and putting together the reunion package, but also acted as treasurer. She should really be congratulated for formulating what has turned into a great organization.

“From that initial group of eight people.” Tony reports, “we found 142 people before the first reunion.

The summer Dallas heat and humidity could do nothing to dampen the uncontained anticipation and disbelief everyone felt at being reunited back in '85.

Did anyone sleep? They don't remember. There were too many years to catch up on! Too many old memories to be relived. Yes, time travel was possible—at least for the 105 Bitburg alums in Texas that very special July weekend!!

Those of us who didn't attend Dallas experienced the same great emotions at the Vail Reunion in 1987. After the '85 gathering, Cam Strong '66, had agreed to head up reunion efforts. He, and a dedicated group of alums, continued and enlarged upon what Terry had started. We became an organization, incorporated and structured, with guidelines for others of us to follow. After coming this far, we didn't want to lose what we worked so hard to establish.

After Dallas and after Vail, words like “unforgettable” linger. Now we're looking forward to Phoenix and rekindling those friendships made during a precious time in our lives. For a brief spell, we'll be young again.