***A Brief History***

***Of the***

***1976-77 U. S. Jaycee Executive Board***

***Reunions***

In 1987, the U. S. Jaycee Convention was held in Reno, NV. Two years before that, the Jaycee convention was held in Indianapolis, IN, and the group of Jaycee Presidents that served with the 76-77 National President, Frank Ziebell, held a 10 year reunion in conjunction with the Jaycee convention. Three State Presidents from the 76-77 group attended the 74-75 Presidents reunion in Indy (once again serving our guys for old times sake as their “Hey Boy’s”). The three, Blackwell of IN, Harger of AL and Hanks of TX, all agreed that our group could do a better job of a reunion, and they went to work to prove it at the Reno convention. Thus began what now stands as 11 reunions of the 76-77 Exec. Board. Almost from the beginning, others have been added to our rolls. The original 74-75 Presidents Group that started it all in Indianapolis joined our group at the suggestion of our fearless leader, President Frank Ziebell. Various politicos, U. S. Jaycee Staff members, State Presidents and National Officers have been added through the years. Many have had family members join the festivities, and family is always welcome. One member of our group went on to serve as U. S. Jaycee President in 1978-79, Barry Kennedy of Nebraska. Barry was elected easily since he had no creditable opponents (right Hawkins?). Some members of Barry’s Exec. Committee have joined our group, but there is a new push to get a lot of that group to join and overwhelm the rest of us. If you were part of Barry’s team, we hope you will join and enjoy our gatherings beginning with Memphis in 2018 if you have not already joined us. The primary requirement for additions is that they served on the national Jaycee scene in the same general time frame as our group, and there were some relationships with some of our group. If any of you know of folks that should be added, let us know. Good folks are still being added.

***1987 Reno (Sparks), NV***

The first reunion was put together by Harger of AL, Strouse of MD and Hanks of TX. There were a couple of really serious committee meetings that resulted in very few decisions being made. When Hanks traveled to Reno to finalize reunion plans with a host property, it was discovered that a very nice hotel, John Ascuaga’s Nugget, in Sparks, NV (next to Reno) was open to negotiations since they were not booked for the Jaycee convention by any state. That bit of luck led to a couple of discoveries for future reunions. First, consider some out of the box options for a host property, and second, the suite is the key to spending quality time together as a group. We also learned that a banquet on the last night of the gathering was a great way to wrap things up and start plans for the next time. The first effort must have been O.K. since the group voted to gather again in 5 years in New Orleans and not worry about meeting in conjunction with a U. S. Jaycee function.

***1992 New Orleans, LA***

The second reunion effort in NOLA was put together by Harger and Hanks. Several properties were considered, and representatives of one introduced H & H to the Acme Oyster Bar. That is still a regular stop in NOLA for both. After quite a bit of time spent, the property with the best deal for the group was the Pontchartrain Hotel on St. Charles Street in the Garden District. Room rates, banquet arrangements and use of their Penthouse for our hospitality suite were the winning combo. The streetcar runs down St. Charles just in front of the hotel. This second reunion saw Don Mauney add awards for the final night banquet. These awards were anything but serious, but they certainly added some fun to the “business meeting”, and the awards continue to be a part of the “business meeting”. The site selected for 1997 was Nashville, TN, but some wanted to get together before that, so Jim & Corky Hyatt volunteered to host all that wanted to come to an extra reunion in Kansas City in 1995.

***1995 Kansas City, KS***

Round three in KC was planned, organized and hosted by Jim & Corky Hyatt with communication to the group through Hanks. Once again, the hospitality suite was a prime objective in property selection, and the Hyatt’s found a nice large suite that worked great. They also arranged a great visit to one of the best KC steak house restaurants. A great time was had by all in attendance, and all looked forward to gathering once more in Nashville.

***1997 Nashville, TN***

Next up was Nashville. Dave Williams and Steve Hewlett co-hosted this one, and the personal relationship Steve had with the Gaylord family made the property selection very easy. Steve got our group a better deal than much larger groups could get because of his relationship with the Gaylord family. Part of the deal at The Gaylord Opryland was a hospitality suite with a large parlor area just right for our group. We also had a dinner show on the General Jackson on the river, and everything was great for a good time. Dinner at a local BBQ place gave us a chance to meet Tommy Lasorda, manager of the LA Dodgers and a character. San Antonio, TX was selected for the 2002 Reunion.

***2002 San Antonio, TX***

On to San Antone where Dock and Debbie Hanks hosted with help from daughter Mandi as well as a lot of help from Kenny and Roseanne Mayer, Jim Hyatt and Glenn Harger. Kenny and Roseanne joined Dock for the site inspection, property negotiations and final selections in San Antonio. The La Mansion Del Rio was the winner based on combination of rates and facilities. The Hospitality suite could have been a bit larger, but the balconies certainly helped for space. The river cruise and local site seeing seemed to be hits, and we had so much fun at the “business meeting” that Miss San Antonio stayed after her welcome because she wanted to see the show!! It was decided that 5 years between reunions was too long, so, Next up --- Sun Valley, ID, “Alive in ’05!!”

***2005 Sun Valley, ID***

While there was no host for Sun Valley, Dave Bennion provided some local help for Hyatt and Hanks when they made the site inspection and negotiating session with Sun Valley Resort. The Hospitality Home (a four bedroom home with a large common area and a great view) made up for any size challenge in San Antone. The area was great, the property was great and the “business meeting” was great. We could have used more folks. In an effort to attract more folks with location, price and variety of attractions, Branson, MO. was up as our next site.

***2007 Branson, MO***

Jim and Corky Hyatt have a relationship with a great Inn in Branson, The Bradford Guest House. Hanks met with them and the owners in Branson. It turned out to be ideal for our group. The owners were skeptical about us, but we won them over. This reunion was our 30th anniversary, so we decided to roll out the States Party for Friday night. Big hit, lots of fun but lots of work and probably the last of the States Party for us. Lake cruise with dinner show, lots of local attractions, great facility for the “business meeting” and one of our largest reunions. The Watkins volunteered (Maybe Kaye volunteered both of them!) to host the group in Charleston in 2010.

***2010 Charleston, SC***

Cecil and Kaye Watkins put together a detailed planning binder for the Harger’s and Hyatt’s as they did a site inspection in Charleston. There were multiple properties for consideration as our host property; all came to the same choice. Embassy Suites free full to-order breakfast was a big hit along with rates, hospitality suite, “business meeting” facility and menu, etc. The Watkins threw in a “Low Country Boil” for all as well as a nice horse drawn carriage tour of Charleston. Lots to see and do. One more great time for all, and Longmont, CO was chosen as our site for 2012.

***2012 Longmont, CO***

Phil and Jane Marti were our hosts in Longmont. The site selection and their hosting had very little to do with the fact that Phil’s family owned the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, our host property. Right!! Once again, our hosts working with Hanks, Hyatt, Harger and Bill Porter provided great facilities for the Hospitality, favorable room rates, great “business meeting” arrangements along with many site seeing opportunities in the area. Thanks to Hanks, there was a Friday night road trip to Elk Meadow Lodge in Estes Park, CO for drinks, fellowship and the chance to hear a guy talk about working with Roy Rogers -- a lot. He was supposed to sing, and he did sing but not as much as he reminisced!!

***2014 Lexington, KY***

Dave and Janie Williams hosted us in Lexington, and they really did host us at a reception at their home. They also arranged a tour of a KY horse farm, a lunch at Boon Tavern, a great pizza place, a day at the horse races at Keenland Race Track (in the club area) and lots of local attractions. The Clarion had good rates for us and good “business meeting” arrangements, but their hospitality suite was under renovation. We improvised and made it work. Dave and Janie helped us emphasize more time together, and they did a great job. Next up, NH.

***2016 Waterville Valley, NH***

Ken and Joyce Hawkins hosted us and worked with Hanks (as Hanks worked from Texas!) on selection of host property and activities. Waterville Valley Resort was a great property with a complete village for our tourist activities, and other local attractions were very convenient. Pizza night included a majority of the group; the tram ride with a terrific view from the top included all the group; the hospitality room reflected all the work Ken and Joyce had done to get ready for us; the breakfasts and “business meeting” facilities were great, and a great time was had by all.

***2018 Memphis, TN***

Join us and help us write the story of one more reunion. You will be glad you made the effort.