



TOM TANKSLEY now lives in Las Vegas. He writes: "Your latest probe hit me at a time when I had already been thinking about the past and feeling very fortunate. I want to take this opportunity, probably long overdue, to express my gratitude to the class of '68 and to Burbank itself for what it meant in that part of my life. I transferred in the middle of sophomore year from a Seminary (live-in). (I later learned that 90% of my class at St. Vincent's eventually dropped out.) Having fully "pubertized", I could not see myself as a Catholic priest (*i.e.* no access to Females). But that didn't mean I wasn't painfully shy and socially inept when I came to BHS. And being an awkward feeling "beanpole", who couldn't find cool clothes that fit, didn't help. On top of that, I actually lived in an edgy part of Sun Valley (with six younger siblings) and was only able to get into BHS due to it offering Latin courses, which I could continue with. **In short, it was a tough transition, but being able to go to a classy place like BHS with the CLASSY kids that were there was a lifesaver for me at the time.** After graduating, I continued my "late blooming" at CSUN and then for six years in the Navy as the war wound down. Then, 12 weeks in New Zealand to transition from the navy, law school at Arizona, a career in Las Vegas, and now mostly retired and trying to write novels. (A crazy challenge, but I can't help myself.) Not sure if I will make it to 50+ but will try (did 40+)."

Tom has been married to wife Kathy for over 35 years. She was working her way through college as a part-time runner at the first law firm he worked. They have three adult children who are "doing great," and two grandkids, ages 2 and 5, "much smarter than I was at those ages." He graduated with honors in law school at the University of Arizona.

Tom is 2/3 retired; and plays tennis and golf, works out and is trying to write more novels, although the first one took over 20 years. The other 1/3 of the time is works as a mediator and arbitrator for courts, which is "less stress than being an attorney, for sure."

Right out of college, he was most proud of getting through Navy OCS (Marine DIs) and Navy Pilot School with no prior flying experience.

His favorite memory at Burbank High was of Mr. Fecht's Frog Room and attending one football game which was the huge upset of Burroughs.

