

Bob Alexander –

After reviewing the BHS Class of '66 "In Memoriam" list, I was surprised to see that there was no known obituary for our classmate Bob Alexander. With his outgoing personality and great sense of humor, Bob always had a positive effect on his classmates.

In February 2016, fellow classmate Eddie C. Morton contacted me with the following information: "Bob Alexander died in the late sixties in a traffic accident in Burbank, California. You might find more info in the old Burbank Daily Review."

With that information, I searched for an obituary on Bob Alexander, but did not find one.

Over the years, I had classes with Bob Alexander, always appreciating his energy, joy of life and great sense of humor. During the winter of 1966, Bob and I agreed to go skiing together at the old Holiday Hill (now Mountain High) ski area. After a winter storm passed by, Bob picked me up early at my house on Andover Drive.

There may have been others in the back seat, but if so, they must have slept most of the way. I remember riding shotgun in some old station wagon as Bob drove up the 14 Freeway. Near the top of the pass, there was snow a foot deep on either side of the freeway. Although the freeway was clear, overall conditions looked a bit treacherous to me.

I recall that Bob Alexander was an animated talker, gesturing for emphasis as he told one story after another. Although tempted to tell Bob he might want to pay more attention to road conditions, I became engrossed in his stories and put my fate in his hands.

When we arrived at the ski area, some of the best snow I had ever seen in Southern California greeted us. After a great day of skiing, we piled into the car and reversed course back to Burbank. Luckily, the roads were clear and we were both more subdued. In the end, we had a great day skiing and I enjoyed getting to know Bob Alexander better than ever before.

After my initial Facebook posting, other BHS Class of '66 members posted memories and tributes there to Bob Alexander. Following are a few of those messages:

Peggy Melton Cyphers - "I remember (Bob's death). In fact, I think my brother and I went to his funeral. There is something else I 'think' I remember. Bob was a yell leader along with Dave Nash and two others. My memory is not so good nowadays. I believe we lost three of these people right after graduation. I hope I am wrong - just something that has stuck with me. Oh, Bob Romanski he was one we lost right after we graduated. Bob was a great guy. You always knew you could count on him to pick you up when you were down."

Cathy Emmett Palmer (Class of '67) - "So sad... Linda Mustion posted Bob's obituary back in 2010 here at: <http://bhsinmemoriam.blogspot.com/2010/08/robert-nelson-alexander-bhs-1966.html>."

Bruce C Keswick – “Jim, so glad you did that. Bob was one of those unforgettable guys that was so full of life and made everyone he came into contact with feel special. I believe that he and his fellow cheerleader Bob Romanisky were both killed on motorcycles.”

Joseph Baldino - Bob Romanski & Dexter Decker were the other yell leaders, Romanski died within a month of Bob, if I remember correctly.”

Peggy Melton Cyphers - “So very sad - two great guys. I would have loved seeing how their lives would unfold.”

Virginia Schweninger – “Bob was always Bobby to me. We were born in the same hospital room and our mothers were "roomies" so to speak. Thereafter, our families spent every Christmas together. He tried to pay me a quarter for a kiss once. Wish I'd taken him up on it. When I was down, he'd show up and take me for a crazy ride in his VW, literally driving up the sidewalk on Walnut! I miss him to this day and will NEVER NEVER NEVER forget his good cheer!”

Thanks to all for remembering Bob Alexander. – Jim McGillis, June 2016