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High School grads who have remained in the Birmingham area meet for dinner once a month.

"The first Friday of the month we gather at Peabody's. There are anywhere from 20-40 of us," he said. "We do see the people that live around here."

At the reunion, Zimmerman also talked to classmates who were visiting from California, Arizona and Maine. "People moved around well," he said of the mixing and mingling that kept the party lively.

Acknowledging that it was not always easy to recognize former classmates right off the bat, he said, "The first time you see them, you think there was something familiar about them. After a few minutes, they seem to be people you knew well. They hadn't changed much. We've mostly changed in appearance. We're all bigger!"

He spoke in admiration of Margie Plant, a classmate with multiple sclerosis, from Falls Church, Va. "She wanted to come, so they flew her here and got her to the reunion. We were all glad to see her," Zimmerman said. Plant had developed MS prior to the 25th class reunion. "And she made that, too."

happened to the town?" because it was so different to them than what they remembered.

More gray hairs

Vera McCleish of Birmingham, from the Class of '42, has worked on all three reunions. She and husband Don are both Baldwin High School graduates (he is from the Class of '39), and they have lived in Birmingham 55 years. Her father owned a grocery store in Birmingham.

Looking back at the 50th reunion, she said, "We've all changed in 50 years — a few more gray hairs — but the smiles were still there. The nametags definitely helped."

She remembered being one of six classmates who had attended parochial school together before they all



Patty Burke Lewis (left) of Birmingham (Baldwin, Class of '41) chats with Marge Walton Plant of Falls Church, Va. (Baldwin, Class of '42) at reunion.

went to Baldwin High School and became part of the Class of '42. "That class came from Holy Name, Barnum, Quanton, and probably even Adams School," as well as

Barnum Junior High, she said. At that time, Baldwin was the only high school in Birmingham.

"We're already planning a 55th



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMEANS

Shirley Trump of Traverse City shares a laugh with '42 classmate Mike Carney of Brunswick, Maine.

reunion. We had such a good time. My husband enjoyed it a lot, and our daughter came to video it," McCleish said.

John Russo of Birmingham, who

was class treasurer in '42, said with a laugh, "Now I'm treasurer of the reunion — by default." He spoke highly of the 50th. "It was very well attended, and fun."

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