HUNTINGTON – Colors of the day were Orange and Black, along with a strong display of Tigers. Graduates of the former Vinson High School, class of 1966, gathered in Huntington on August 5th and 6th celebrating their 50th Class Reunion. Class members arrived from Texas, Florida, Illinois, Georgia, etc., as well as from the Tri-State area, and quickly got into a reunion mood, recalling all their good times at Vinson.

Kicking off the festivities was a Friday morning golf outing held at the Esquire Golf Course. Winners of the four-man team scramble event were Wilson Shoemaker, Jim Jordan, Gary Runyon, and Ty Tomlinson. Later that Friday, the grads, spouses, and guests gathered at the Westmoreland Womans Club for a welcoming party. Enjoying food and drink, the night was filled with look backs to those days in the 1950’s and 1960’s when Westmoreland was “their place to be”. Old friendships were quickly re-established. Greg Wheaton and Susan Killeen Conner did a “swell job” sharing memorabilia – Tiger Tales, Vinsonian Yearbooks, newspaper clippings, etc. Greg’s collection even went back to grade school days at Westmoreland and Kellogg, including pictures of mighty Little League teams, playing out of League 1 at Smith Field.

On Saturday night the Class of 1966 gathered at the Big Sandy Convention Center, Riverside room, for a dinner and dance. Once again, the group began to tell tales on each other about nights “hanging out” at the old Long’s Parkette, going to Moon Mountain, or parking with their sweethearts at the WSAZ radio towers. They revisited such events as the Band’s trip to Pasadena, California, marching in the 1963 Tournament of Roses Parade, winning the 1966 West Virginia Class AA State Basketball Championship, as well as, winning the Best Team Cheering Section trophy at the 1966 State Tournament. Retired Vinson High School science teacher, Charles Wellman, with his wife Glenna, were honored guests at the Saturday night dinner. Mr. Wellman began his first full-year of teaching in 1960 when the Class of 1966 showed up at Vinson. He served as their homeroom teacher for six years and was one of the Senior Class Sponsors. Following the dinner, the reunion turned into a 1960’s dance party, much like their Prom days. Music was provided by City Heat, filling the room with those good “oldies” dance tunes, including the ever popular “Shout” made famous by Joey Dee and the Starlifers. Several of the grads still had a few flashy steps left in them, but all there made valiant attempts at “dancing the night away”. 