Letter Received

The following communication was received in response to the article in the 2008 Magazine, "Arlington's Night of Gang Warfare," by Charles S. Clark (pp. 5–16):

I knew many of the guys that called themselves Avengers. Wayne Hager was the toughest, most fearless guy I've known. He was a lot older. I was near that fight and was glad I didn't get involved. It became very hard to ride my Triumph after that because of police harassment. They kept asking me join their group [that became the Avengers] since I had a bike, but I resisted because I was nervous about their behavior and I thought they were too reckless for me. Good choice!

I also found it amusing to read about the various police officers, several of which I had been ticketed by, especially "Muffler" Metz and Charles Mackey. They both had 406 Fords you could hear a mile away because of their high performance engines. They were always on the case of racers and bikers.

The judges and politicians brought back memories, especially Ken Haggerty, who was a dentist many of my friends went to. Judge Embry was tough in court and was well known for his tough sentences, although the sentences in these cases were light in my opinion. Commonwealth Attorney Hassan was also a tough guy that was feared by many.

All in all, an excellent telling of the big incident of my senior high school summer. I was, after all, a 'collegiate' and at the end of the summer I was off to the USC. In retrospect, these guys were angry and viewed themselves as out of the game of life. I hung around them because of my love of all things mechanical, but that could have been disastrous. Glad Mom and Dad insisted on college and sacrificed enough to send me. I much prefer my business career to what would have happened had I stayed in Arlington after high school.

— Bill Ingram