

In Line With The Class of 59 The

Volume 1

April 2000

It is hard to believe that just one short year ago the reunion committee was hard at work planning our fabulous fortieth reunion. At the same time many others were searching for lost classmates. The culmination of all that work reunited the largest group ever for a wonderful weekend of rekindling long forgotten memories and friendships. In an effort to continue the ties that were renewed last August, this is the first issue of a planned annual West High Class of 59 newsletter.

MINI REUNION

JULY 22

Mark July 22, 2000 on your calendar and plan to attend the mini reunion for our class. A great time will be had by all. The day's events begin at noon, with a picnic at Sinnissippi Park, Shelter House Number 1 (across from the Golf Course Starter's Building). This is a bring your own lunch, including drink event. Be as fancy or as plain with your food as you want to be. Charcoal will be provided for anyone who might wish to cook a hot dog or a steak! ☺ No reservations necessary. Just come and enjoy! Bring your cameras, frisbees, photos from the reunion, boom boxes, whatever. Stay as long as you like!

The fun continues that evening with a casual dinner at Lino's on East State Street, beginning at 6:30 PM with dinner served at 7:30 PM. Come early and have more time to see and talk to your friends! Pete Zammuto has reserved a private room, and made arrangements for the Pasta Fest meal to be served to all. The Pasta Fest meal includes relishes, Lino's special salad, a variety of pasta, meat balls, coffee, and spumoni, all served family style. The cost is \$11.00 per person. Drinks, of course, are extra. Be sure to get your reservation AND your CHECK to Pete no later than Monday, July 17, 2000. Send to: Pete Zammuto, 5182 Welsh Road, Rockford, IL 61107, phone: 1-815-282-8288

HELP!!!!

If anyone moves, changes email addresses, phone numbers, or names, etc, PLEASE notify either Marilyn Triebel Burgoyne or Gordon Hall. Changes will be entered into the database and used for future mailings and reunions. So much time and energy by so many people was put into finding the class of 59 for our 40th reunion. Let's not "misplace" any of us for our 45th!

E-Mail Changes

Ted Mazoratti

thm2442@aol.com

Gloria Shafer Pillmore

Gloriuos9741@aol.com

It's a Small World

Two of our female classmates, who shall remain anonymous, were best friends throughout high school. When Senior Prom rolled around, the two double-dated, and had a wonderful time. They, of course, took the usual compliment of prom photos. After graduation the girls went their separate ways, married and did not see each. The years went by, and eventually, each girl went to work in the same office building, but for different employers. The girls "met", struck up a friendship, and spent many lunch hours and breaks enjoying each other's company. They did not realize that they were each other's best high school friend.

Then one day, one girl made a comment to the other about her prom. That statement made the second girl realize that her "new" friend was in fact her best friend from high school! That night after work, she found her high school prom photos. The next day she secretly placed a prom photo on the desk of her "new" friend. Imagine the shock and surprise of these girls. They had become good friends once again, never knowing that they had been best friends at West High!

A DAY WITHOUT A SMILE IS WASTED

Cruise Anyone?

Chris Mattison Kordash recently returned from her first cruise. Now that in itself certainly is not worthy of being included in this newsletter. However, she had such a marvelous time that she wanted to do it again. Chris decided the way to really have fun would be to plan a cruise with friends, and what better way to do that than to include her classmates in her dream. She would like to know if there are any members of the class of 59 who would like to go on a cruise in the next three or four years (that way she'll have time to save the money for it). Her dream is to zero in on a particular ship going on a specific cruise, at a specified time. Then anyone in the class who is interested could sign themselves up for the same cruise. Anyone who is interested, please contact Chris through her sister Lyn Mattison Allison at 2724 Country Club Terrace, Rockford, IL 61103.

LIVE. LAUGH. LOVE. BE HAPPY!

One-List

Want to keep in touch with classmates all year? Since March 1999 we have had classmates talking to each other through email on a list for members of our class only.

We have done a lot of sharing. One of our most recent postings was about the daffodils blooming in Memphis while those of us in Rockford were experiencing a 9-½ inch snowfall. From the South to Alaska we all experienced a little spring that day. It is a place we can talk about great things that are happening to us as well as passing on news of deaths and illness of classmates or their mates.

Our list is free and you can join only by invitation. In this way we are assured that our group is for members of West High School Class of '59 only. You can receive messages as they come in, or you can sign up for digest. Digest sends you all of the day's postings in one message at the end of the day.

Interested? We would love to have you join us. Just e-mail Earlynne Morris Desmond that you want an invitation to join and you will soon receive your invitation to join. Earlynne can be reached at Dademd@megsinet.net

RockfordClassof59@egroup.com

Regional Reports

CALIFORNIA

From barbecued tri-tip to tiramisu, from old acquaintances to newly re-kindled friendships, it was a glorious day at the Bob Quest home in San Juan Capistrano, for many Class of '59 Southern Californians and visitors from the Mid-West. March 4th was bathed in a gentle shower, but, for the folks who attended, it was a very cheery day. Bob and Leslie Quest hosted Chuck and Karen Wolfe, Lynn Blair, Jim and Mary Lou (Spinello) White, Jerry and Doris Sundly, Gordon Hall and Meimei Chang, Pat Corirossi and her sister. Dick Greenberg wimped out at the last minute, citing family-business-national security concerns as his reason for not making the paltry 450 mile journey from his home.

Since this was California we all thought the whole day would be spent enjoying drugs, sex, and rock-n-roll, but the truth is that IRA's, places to retire, and "isn't it strange when your last parent dies" were more commonly heard around the estate. The almost surreal connection to people not seen for forty years is very powerful, and the emotion felt as we all counted our blessings for having survived to see the year 2000 was very genuine.

What does it all mean? Well, it seems that when our connection to the generation ahead is broken with our parent's deaths, and when our children reach adulthood and redirect their focus on their own families, we tend to migrate back to our cohorts for validation of our lives, dreams, fears, and memories. Bonds, which seemed so fragile a decade or two ago, are proving to be quite strong today. The bottom line is that we must all make the effort to foster these

bonds formed some four decades ago. The reward is very gratifying.

COLORADO

The Colorado inhabitants are planning a mini reunion to be held in Breckenridge, sometime during the month of July, although no specific date yet has been decided. There was some talk about planning it for the middle of the month, when several visitors from out-of-state might be able to join the festivities. Those of you who are interested, contact Sharyn and Gary Sbraglia at PO Box 8176, 62 Reiling Road, Breckenridge, CO, 80424, or call 1-970-453-7902. Their home email address is: art@brecknet.com

1955-56 State Championship Basketball

On November 20, 1999 a ribbon cutting ceremony to the newly re-decorated West High School Sports room was held. Among the notable dignitaries present was Alice Saudargas. The event concluded several months of planning and hard work by Alice and Rex Parker, just to name a few. The room is lovely, much nicer than when we toured the school last August. It now houses many of our sports trophies, including both state championship basketball trophies. All are attractively displayed in large trophy cases.

An entrance fee was collected from all who attended. That money was then added to the Alex Saudargas Scholarship fund. The evening culminated with the inaugural viewing of the Rockford Sports Coalition's videotape of the 1955 West High School State Championship basketball game. Tom Olson, Rex Parker, (and Rex Parker's parents, who were soon to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary), Rod Coffman (and his brother Chad), all basketball players on that championship team, were in attendance. At the conclusion of the video, these men answered questions from the audience and autographed copies of the videos.

Since the original audio of the championship game had been lost, the production of the video was a veritable challenge. Using the original video and splicing in original audio from other sources produced it. Several of the living players from the team were interviewed, and their interviews appear on the tape. The tape was enjoyed by all who viewed it. If anyone is interesting in purchasing a copy, contact the Rockford Sport's Coalition, c/o Steve Showers, 2018 Clinton St, Rockford, IL 61103. Each video costs \$20.00 with the profits helping to support athletics in all the Rockford schools.



Be Cheerful!

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

Missing Classmates

Are you the ONE who has some information about these "missing classmates"?

Raymond	Charles	Babb
Michael	Dee	Bible
Phyllis	Ann	Book
Lucy	Louise	Bowen
Margaret	Louise	Cannon
Michael	Anthony	Carroll
Phillip	John	Cimino
Diane	Susie	Clark
Donald	Eugene	Clark
Robert	James	Connors
Rita	May	Cruz
Robert	Lee	Dull
Clifford	Stanley	Gardner
Jerry	Allen	Gray
Bonnie	Lee	Hale
Sandra	Lee	Hall
Larry	John	Hamill
Terrence	R.J.	Hickey
Carol	Lavine	Jackson
David	Ellsworth	Johnson
Jerry	Thomas	Jones
Charles	Augustus	Jordan
James	Preston	Joyce
Portia	Ann	Kafar
Bonnie	Ann	Kiesbuy
Linda	Jean	Kincade
Ella	Frances	Lane
Richard	Arnold	Lawson
Peter	Timothy	Meckel
Gerald	Paul	Moore
James	Ford	Perry
JoAnn	Theresa	Piper
Jacqueline	Marie	Ragen
Robert	Stewart	Sanders
Donald	John	Selski
John	Steven	Skopinski
Joe	Dale	Smith
Patricia	Ann	Snee
Judith	Joy	Stonewall
Charles	Craig	Swanson
Michael	Matt	Thomas
Frederick	Leroy	Weitl
Joanne	Marie	Whitlow
Judith	Eileen	Wishart
Neil	Thomas	Wolfe
Lyle	Thomas	Wright
Donald	George	Yakel

UPDATE

Sadly, as of April 5th we have lost three more of our classmates.

On December 4, 1999, Delores Corirossi Mazorati passed away in Omaha, Nebraska of a short illness. Her parents, three children, and six grandchildren survive her.

On January 9, 2000 Dwayne Dhuse died in Rockford. His daughter and two granddaughters survive him. Many of you may remember seeing Dwayne at our 40th reunion. He later told Dee Lind Kudzma that he hadn't had so much fun in many years.

On January 29, 2000 Judy Erickson Penrose passed away in Columbus, Ohio Rehabilitation and Sub-Acute Institute after a long illness. In 1990 Judy had undergone a successful liver transplant in Baylor Hospital in Dallas, Texas. She then founded the "Lively Livers" transplant support group in Dallas. Survivors include her husband of 38 years, three daughters, and three grandchildren. A memorial scholarship in her name has been established at the Notre Dame Law School.

Pikes Peak or Bust

In celebration of turning 60 years old, next year, Lyle Clugg is planning on running the 13-mile Pikes Peak Ascent to the top. The date is August 2001 for all thousand or so crazy runners. Lyle would be delighted make this a class project and have all you 59er runners join him. Better start getting into shape!

A SMILE IS A WRINKLE THAT SHOULDN'T BE REMOVED.

If you purchased a '99 yearbook last summer, you should be receiving in this mailing Ron Arnold's bio, which arrived after the book had gone to press. If you purchased a book and did not receive Ron's bio, please notify Marilyn Triebel Burgoyne.

Nothing is more quiet than hair going gray!



If anyone knows of their whereabouts, would they please notify Gordon Hall and/or Marilyn Triebel Burgoyne.

Birthdays

Since there was no way any of us can fudge on our ages, we may as well sit back and enjoy the big day. Thus, several classmates have divulged just when the momentous event took place. Then when the big day arrives, birthday greetings are received from classmates. Hearing from long ago friends helps to make the advancing years more palatable. Please notify Gloria Shafer Pillmore as to the date of your birth, and she will be deeeeeeighted to add your name to the ever-growing list.

January 16 Earlynne Morris Desmond

February 3 Howard Partch
12 Helen Hopkins
18 Al Acker

March 30 Ella Cavitt Frese

April 13 Lyle Clugg

May 14 Beth Pease Wycoff

July 13 Sharyn Simpson Sbragia
16 Dick Greenberg
17 Chris Mattison Kordash

August 8 John Dowling
22 Lynne Walther
25 Gary Sbragia

September 7 Gloria Shafer Pillmore
10 Donna Shultz Altman

October 2 Joan Picken Bailey-Murray
12 Ted Hollander

November 15 Marilyn Triebel Burgoyne
18 Pete Zammuto, Jim Davis
22 Mike Meeker

PIECES OF MY LIFE

This doesn't make sense
Why did it happen to me?

I don't understand and
Yet I can't wait to see-

Will the pieces of my life
Someday come to be-

Like a lovely picture puzzle
Fitting together perfectly?

Each piece is essential
For completion of the picture.

Just as each piece of my life
Makes me stronger and richer.

So disappointments and defeats
Must not discourage my heart-

For they're not the total picture-
Just a very small part!!

Someday I'll see it all clearly
And my questions I can ask-

As I reflect and remember the
Years that have passed.

So this is my life and each day is a gift-
And I wasn't put on this earth to aimlessly drift-

I'll patiently wait as the pieces come together
Completing my "puzzle" from now into forever.

Linda Grosinske

Contributors

This newsletter could not have been without numerous contributors.

Contributing information and articles:

Lyle Clugg
Gordon Hall
Earlynne Morris Desmond

Gloria Shafer Pillmore
Phyllis Taylor Peters
Marilyn Triebel Burgoyne

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Lyle Clugg
John Contarino
Nancy Ghent Donohue
Dick Greenberg
Ted Hollander

Chris Mattison Kordash
Howard Partch
Donna Schultz Altman
Gloria Shafer Pillmore
Pete Zammuto

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Ella Cavitt Frese.

The money collected will be used solely to cover the cost of the newsletter, including postage, mailing labels, paper supplies. It should be noted that the newsletter is sent first class because according to the Post Office, that is the best way to insure address corrections. Since part of the purpose of this newsletter is to keep apprised of any address changes, first class is the way to go. If there is any left over money, it will be applied towards the next newsletter. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newsletter fund, please make the check out to Marilyn Triebel Burgoyne (she promises not to go shopping or take any vacations), and send to: 2604 Chickadee Trail, Rockford, IL, 61107-1075. All contributions gratefully accepted.