



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XV No. 2

Autumn 2002

J. J. Stamm Revisited

As the founder and director of "Spirit of Life", a 90-voice ecumenical Christian chorus located in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, David Barth (January 1962) has really enjoyed his love of music. His mentor, J.J. Stamm has resurfaced in Dave's life recently. In Dave's words, he says, "I found him in Florida and while down there on business, we had dinner together one evening. What a great evening it was! For those of you wondering, he's still the same JJ. Maybe a little older and little rounder (aren't we all?), but that twinkle is still in his eyes and his memory has not faded a bit. I told him about SPIRIT and to my surprise, he not only said he would like to hear us, but followed that up with making a trip to Chicago in December of last year to attend our final concert of the season at St. Walter Catholic Church in Roselle. That was a day I will never forget, and for his memories and mine, we video taped the concert including a special tribute I paid to him at the conclusion of the program. I even had the chorus sing "Christmas Was Meant for Children" in his honor. He received a standing ovation from the 900+ people in attendance. He and I have since struck up an active telephone and letter relationship.

"...After dinner at my [Dave Barth's] home the evening before the concert, [JJ] played the piano and sang for the better part of an hour. Believe me when I say he has lost nothing. He still has that rich and full baritone voice and if the piano would have had one hundred keys, he would have used all of them."

If you missed seeing him then, you have another chance. He's coming up again and will be at the St. Walter's concert on Sunday, December 8th. It starts at 4:30 p.m. and is free to the public. A free will offering will be taken during the 1-1/2 hour performance. If you need directions, send e-mail to: davidbarth@ameritech.net. If enough former chorus members respond, perhaps a brief reception could be put together afterwards.

Dave thanks Kay Kuciak and the TAA for assistance in contacting Mr. Stamm. Dave sang with the Mixed Chorus under JJ's direction for 3-1/2 years (1958-1962). He says, "Thanks Kay! You have helped make the music part of my life complete."

Alumni Association Logo Contest

We have a winner!!

Good news – the TAA board of directors voted on the numerous submittals at their recent board meeting. They came up with a good choice.

Bad news – we can't show it to you this issue...

A "winner" was selected for the Logo contest BUT the actual logo submitted needs a slight revision and we will be in contact with the prospective winner to make the changes. We plan to announce the name of the winner at our annual TAA meeting, which is scheduled for November 7, 2002 at Taft.

The winner, of course, will be invited and will be presented with the Crystal Eagle and an alumni jacket.



New Football Conference

Effective this fall, the Chicago Public Schools have changed the playing schedules for the Chicago high schools. We are now in the new Illini Land of Lincoln Conference.

We are lumped in with Harper, Prosser, Westinghouse, Crane and Marshall High Schools. No longer are we scheduled to play our longtime traditional rivals of Lane, Steinmetz and Schurz! This is upsetting to the team and Coach Cliff Wagner. They feel it will be very difficult to get into playoffs with the new format. Time will tell...

CLASS REUNIONS

All Taft Classes

Date: Sunday January 12, 2003
Place: Fort DeSoto Park, St. Petersburg Fl.
Shelter number 14 available 8AM-5PM
Park # 727/582-2267
Lunch: Reunion picnic, covered dish
Contact: Leon Kathan (June '56)
1729 N.W. Madrid Way
Boca Raton, Fl. 33432
(561) 367-8945
leonkathan@yahoo.com

1948

Date: September 20, 2003
Place: O'Hare Marriott
Contact: Frank Heyer (773) 631-4701
frankheyer@email.msn.com

1953 - January

Date: May 31, 2003
Place: Westin - O'Hare, Rosemont
Contact: Valerie (Zetek) Blaue
(847) 824-5577, FAX (847) 298-4689
valerieblaue@aol.com

1953 - June

Date: September 5,6 & 7, 2003
Place: Indian Lakes CC, Bloomingdale IL
Contact: Frances (Marino) Hughes
117 N. Broadway Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068
(847) 698-5475
bowlingbabe1@msn.com

1963 - January/June

Date: October 11, 2003
Place: Holiday Inn - O'Hare
Contact: Kay Kuciak - Kayariz@cox.net
17667 N Estrella Vista Dr
Surprise, AZ 85374

1983

Date: July 26, 2003
Place: Edison Park Inn
Contact: Laura (Fiore) McGrady
(847) 318-0769
tmcgrady@excite.com
Cassie (Webber) Cerniglia
(847) 696-0237
joecerniglia@waterpic.com
Cathy (Cummings) Milbrandt
(773) 775-9997

50th Reunion Wanted

Jan/June 1954. Has anyone thought about having a 50th Reunion? Lois (January 1954), Betty, Gloria, Margie, Pat and Rosalie (June 1954) enjoyed doing reunions 35 and 45... but feel someone else should now have the pleasure.

Considering the compliments we received on the Wellington Restaurant's "Wellington" Banquet Room, the food, etc. we do have updated information and prices if interested. Contact me.

Margie Nugent Claeson (June 1954)
2182 Freeman Court, Inverness, IL 60067-4573
Phone (business w/24 hr. v.m.) 1-847-359-7230

Grammar School Reunions

1967 - Edison Grammar School (35th)

Date: to be decided
Place: to be decided
Contact: Barb (Carson) Thayer
bncthay@aol.com with ideas,
suggestions, etc.

1958 - June - Norwood Park

Date: Summer 2003
Place: Door County, WI (?)
Contact: Jerry (Beesley) Bloom -
Phone: (920) 743-8449
E-mail: jbbloom@doorpi.net

1963 - Prussing Elementary

Date: June 2003
Contact: Nick Varallo - (329) 772-9166
E-mail: nvarallo@swfla.rr.com

Anyone interested in working on future reunions for Norwood Park, please contact me at 847-506-9488 or ahbentsen@aol.com.

Ron Bensen, NP 1947, Taft 1951

Lost Classmates

Searching for old classmates for whom you've lost touch? The Taft Alumni Association does not provide names or addresses of alumni from our records other than for legitimate class reunions. However, we will help you in your search by publishing the name(s) in this newsletter. If that party responds to us, we forward that person's name and address to you.

The suggested donation for this service is \$5.00 per name. Send your request and/or response to Taft Alumni Association, c/o Taft High School, 6545 W. Hurlbut Ave., Chicago, IL 60631.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Tarvardian:

On behalf of the 55th Reunion Committee and classmates of the 1947 Taft graduating classes, may I express our profound appreciation for the time you took to introduce us to the "new" Taft High School?

We were astounded and impressed with the changes that have taken place, and most certainly gratified to understand what you have accomplished in the past three years.

Many thanks for being there for us, and for the tremendous contribution you have made in the lives of today's young people. We all wish you continued success.

Grace (Haglund) M. Hansen
(January 1947)
Secretary for the 55th Reunion
Committee

Dear Frank [Heyer]:

The January and June classes of 1947 had a highly successful 55th Reunion at The Holiday Inn in Rosemont, Illinois, the weekend of June 21—23, 2002!

We thoroughly enjoyed and very much appreciated the tour of Taft on Saturday, which was graciously conducted by you and Taft's new Principal, Dr. Arthur N. Tarvardian.

In appreciation for your kindness and assistance in our planning, our committee is forwarding a \$200.00 check to be used for the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund.

Again, our sincere thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Grace (Haglund) M. Hansen
January 1947
Secretary 55th Reunion Committee

Dear Jerry,

I just re-read about [your] Norwood Park Grammar School reunion in the Taft Alumni newsletter. We have relatives in Door County, WI. I guess your reunion is just for the 1958 class. I'm an oldie, from June

Dear Alumni:

Enclosed is a picture of a get-together, which we do annually with June '55 classmates, taken at Janet's home in Schaumburg in July Of 2001. We are planning another barbeque at F & M Farms (Mary & Fred's Farm in Ivanhoe) on August 13, 2002.

Mary (Pastuszka) Sikorski (June 1955)
Mundelein, IL



L-R: **Marlene (Cerny) Williamson, Julie (Mimi Madro) Salcione, Elaine (Salat) Eddy, Janet (Tootsie Madro) Swiontek, Mary (Pastuszka) Sikorski and Lois (Weldon) Doud** (all June 1955)

1938! My dear school chum has family in the Minneapolis area and **Lois Varnell Balzer** (June 1942) still lives in Norwood Park on Circle Ave., but travels up this way to visit. We've attended a few class reunions in the Chicago area. I ...attended both Norwood Park school and Taft [and] lived at 5731 New Hampshire Ave. We knew a Beesley family on Newark and Ardmore Ave. Are you any relation to them? I remember **Charles, Marge & Elaine Beesley**. I had three older brothers, all have passed on. Was there Eugene [Beesley]? My oldest brother George knew Ralph and I thought Eugene. My sister Betty, Park Ridge, IL still keeps in touch with Marge.

...Six of my grammar school pals keep in touch, AZ, FL and three in Chicago area. I did a lot of baby sitting at Crippens! I did housework and baby sitting for the

Paul & Mae Crippens, occasionally for the Stuart C. [Crippen]. Several years ago I got **Joan Crippen Parker's** address from a Norwood Park Historical Society member. I wrote to her at the address in KS or OK but it came back – no forwarding. The two boys are Harvey & David.

Vera (Obosla) Frano Kovach
(June 1938)
Menomonie, WI

[Editor's comments: Yes, Vera, the Beesley family you mentioned is related to me. See letter from my Aunt Marj below. My Uncle Gene Beesley and my father – Ralph – were older and graduated from Schurz before Taft was constructed. I lived next door to the Crippen house for several years, including my first 3 years at Taft, then moved to Gladstone Park. I

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had to get special permission to complete my senior year at Taft, since we moved just outside the school boundary. Jerry (Beesley) Bloom, Editor]

Hi Jerry,

I graduated with [your Aunt] Sue

(Harper) Beesley [wife of Chuck] and the reason my picture was not in the [year] book as I went to summer school for three years so I could graduate in June of 1945 as otherwise I would have graduated in the fall of that year. Elaine [Beesley Schmook] did not graduate from Taft as she would

have been the first graduation class to graduate from Taft so she decided to stay at the school she was going to. She graduated in 1939, I think. And Chuck graduated in 1941.

Vera Obosla Kovach had a sister Betty and she and I were good friends and still to this day we e-mail back and forth and she was at our place when we were in AZ and then she and her husband Carl came to ...my house in Lynnwood. I really did not know Vera too well; I do know though that they had three brothers or four not sure and two died in the service. I knew their youngest brother who was Bob and I do not think he was in the service...

Marj (Beesley) Pelton Anderson
(June 1945)
beesley01@yahoo.com

[Editor's note: Sandy (Schmook) Jones (June '62) is daughter to Elaine. She remembers her mother having gone to both Schurz and Taft, but couldn't locate her papers to confirm the dates. Elaine passed away a couple years ago. J. Bloom.]

Subject: Alumni sightings (two)

The old friends pictured here got together recently for lunch and to keep memories of their BEST YEARS alive. This year's meeting took place on August 8th at Rolling Green CC in Arlington Heights, IL.



Clockwise from top left: Dan Novak (Jan. '42); Warren Grant (Schurz, Jan. '42); Ross Whitney (June '43); Roy Riis (Jan. '44), Dick Parigini (June '42) and Ralph Capparelli (Jan. '42)

Photo #2

Almost exactly one year ago (August '01), Roy, Dan and their wives Joan and Bette met with Al Rettenmier (June '43), (pictured on the left in photo #2) and his wife Betty. Al and Betty traveled to Chicago from Everett, WA to visit his sister Martha Fess-Murray, also a Taft grad, June '44.

Dan Novak (January 1942)



Dear Kay,

The membership keeps growing. It is enjoyable to read of all the accomplishments of our Taft alumni. Thank you and the staff for all your hard work.

Irene Wells King (1941)
Madison, WI

Dear Jerry,

It was February 2001 that Bob Hanssen, Taft class of 1962, was arrested for espionage by giving the USSR and later Russia significant amounts of sensitive U.S. Government information.

In the months following, he eventually pleaded guilty and negotiated a life sentence without any chance of parole in lieu of standing trial and facing a possible death sentence.

Even though I was in the class of 1963, I did not know Bob at Taft.

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CLASS NOTES



1940s

RALPH CAPPARELLI (JANUARY 1942) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is our State Representative, 13th district. The new exercise room at the Norwood Home was recently named after Ralph.

SELMA (WIEGEL) HOPPE (JANUARY 1942) lives in Peachtree, GA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and is retired.

PHYLLIS (LARSON) LARSON (JANUARY 1942) graduated from U of MI 1950, lives in Belvidere, IL, has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

MARILYN (IZARD) WEBER (JANUARY 1943) graduated from U of I 1947, lives in Lakeland, FL, has 5 sons, 17 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild.

MARJORIE (SOPER) HELDT (JUNE 1944) graduated from Wright AA 1946, lives in Bay Village, OH, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

ART HILL (JANUARY 1944) graduated from U of I BS 1979, lives in Plantation, FL, has 3 children and is retired from law enforcement.

HOMER LEMKE (JANUARY 1944) graduated from U of I BS 1951, lives in Portland, OR, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

HAROLD TERSCH (JANUARY 1944) MARRIED **BETTY (GRABOWSKI)** (JANUARY 1944), they live in Plano, TX, have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are retired.

VIRGINIA (KISSEL) ANDERSON (JUNE 1944) graduated from Lake Forest College 1948, lives in Kenosha, WI, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

TOM CRAFT (JANUARY 1945) GRADUATED FROM Purdue BSME 1950 lives in Napa, CA, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

EDMUND MAZUR (JUNE 1945) graduated from U of I BS 1952, U of WI MS 1972, lives in Edgewater, FL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

MARIANN (LEVERSON) ERLBACH (JANUARY 1946) lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

LORRAYNE (WEBER) RAIMAN (JANUARY 1946) lives in Chicago, spends summers in Cambridge, WI, has 7 children, 17 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren. Lorraine was one of our founders and our first treasurer.

CHARMAINE (PLANERT) RUUD (JANUARY 1946) graduated from Carthage BA 1950, lives in San Diego, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

CHARLES BANKS (JUNE 1946) MARRIED **MARIAN (ERICKSON)** (JUNE 1946), he graduated from U of I BS Architecture, Marian graduated from U of I BS Ed, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and are retired.

ELAINE (CHAMBERS) HAWTHORNE (JUNE 1946) lives in Katy, TX, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

LORRAINE (BARRY) LATORIA (JUNE 1946) lives in Bartlett, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

THOMAS ROESER (JUNE 1946) graduated from St Johns U BA 1950, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 4 children, 13 grandchildren, is president of a govt relations firm, writes a weekly column for the Chicago Sun Times and has a weekly show on WLS .

RON DAUBE (JANUARY 1947) MARRIED **MAE (SUCHAK)**, they live in Houston, TX, have 5 children, 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and are retired.

LAVERNE (HUDSON) WALKER (JANUARY 1947) lives in Poway, CA, has 2 children and is retired.

JOHN BOOTH (JUNE 1947) lives in Bartlett, IL and is a retired photoengraver.

JEANNE (HALVORSEN) DOST (JUNE 1947) lives in Seneca, SC, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

NANCY (HARRINGTON) FARMER (JUNE 1947) lives in Muskegon, MI, has 4 children and is a tour leader.

ELSIE (GAYDOS) PENNINO (JUNE 1947) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

GLORIA (ROSENOW) VOGEL (JUNE 1947) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a housewife.

GERALD WARTON (JUNE 1947) graduated from Mc Kendree College BS Chemistry 1951, Central Oregon Comm. College AS 1985, lives in Meridian, ID, has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

CAROL (LARSON) LOEW-KALBAS (JANUARY 1948) MARRIED **WILLIAM** (JANUARY 1948) they live in Twin Bridges, MT, have 4 children, 15 grandchildren and are retired.

FRANK HEYER (JUNE 1948) lives in Chicago, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, is retired spending his time being our Alumni Liaison with Taft.

ROSEMARY (MARTIN) WEBER (JUNE 1948) graduated from IL College BA 1953, Northern 1955, lives in Kingwood, TX, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a retired teacher.

1950s

ARTHUR LARSON (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Lake Forest College 1957, has 1 child, splits his time between Fontana, WI and Hobe Sound, FL and is retired.

JAMES OFENLOCH (JANUARY 1950) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 9 children, 15 grandchildren and is retired.

VELNA (LEWIS) KOLODZIEJ (JUNE 1950) lives in Oak Park, IL across from Frank Lloyd Wright's house, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

DORAL ROSE (JUNE 1950) graduated from Northern BS 1955, U of I MS 1958, lives in Edgerton, WI and is a retired teacher.

MONETTE (PROBANDT) ROWAN (JUNE 1950) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

LEONA (WATSON) CORDUAN (JUNE 1951) lives in Trevor, WI, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

PAT (DOLESH) KUBIAK (JUNE 1951) graduated from St Elizabeth School of Nursing RN 1954, lives in Itasca, IL, has 3 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

MARILYN (JONES) SCHNUR (JUNE 1951) graduated from U of AZ BS & Med, lives in Tucson, AZ, has 1 child and is retired.

ANN (TALAZUS) BRANDT (JUNE 1952) graduated from U of AZ BA Eng 1986, MA Eng 1989, lives in Broomfield, CO, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired teacher and a free lance writer.

PATRICIA (SCHUESSLER) HAASE (JUNE 1952) lives in Rolling Meadows, IL, has 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

ARTHUR EICHLIN (JANUARY 1953) MARRIED **MARIAN (HEINZ)** (1968), he graduated from Loyola Med & PhD 1974, they live in Billings, MT, have 1 child, Art is a retired college administrator and Marian is an office manager.

JORGEN JACOBSEN (JANUARY 1953) graduated from IL Wesleyan BS 1957, lives in Leawood, KS, has 4 children and is retired.

RONALD KLEZEK (JANUARY 1953) graduated from Valparaiso 1961, Nat'l College MA 1977, lives in Glenview, IL, has 1 child and is a retired teacher.

MATT JOSWICK (JUNE 1953) graduated from IL Benedictine College BS 1970,

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lives in Glen Ellyn, IL, has 1 child and is retired.

HENRY WEBER (JUNE 1953) lives in Santa Teresa, NM, has 2 children and is retired.

THOMAS WALLNER (JANUARY 1954) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired lithographer.

GEORGE KLIER (JUNE 1954) graduated from Wright and U of MD, lives in Niles, IL, has 4 sons and is retired.

TED MADEJ (JUNE 1954) graduated from UCLA BA Business, Roosevelt MA Business, lives in Miami, FL and is the owner of T & M Automotive Training Center.

MELVIN BEAVER (JUNE 1955) was living in Golden Valley, MN, now looking to settle in either AZ or TN, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

RONALD GOTTFRED (JUNE 1955) graduated from Western IL BA 1960, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 4 children and is owner of G & O Thermal Supply Co.

MARY (PASTUSZKA) SIKORSKI (JUNE 1955) lives in Mundelein, IL, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

MARLOWE (PETRIE) SORENSEN (JUNE 1955) graduated from U of WI BA 1978, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

MARLENE (PAWLOWSKI) SULLIVAN (JUNE 1955) lives in Ocean Pines, MD and is retired.

PAULA (MEYER) HOVLAND (JANUARY 1956) lives in Island Lake, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

MARY (MURPHY) RICHARDS (JANUARY 1956) LIVES IN Pana, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

BEN CAMPANELLA (JUNE 1956) lives in Hendersonville, NC, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

LUCILLE (NUTI) KRUCZEK (JUNE 1956) lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

JOANN (SEARS) WILLIAMS (JUNE 1956) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a part time administrative clerk.

CAROLE (LEWIS) LANKA (JANUARY 1957) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

GAIL (SCHAEFER) STAPERT (JANUARY 1957) graduated from Cornell College, lives in Pequannock, NJ, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a human resource manager.

ROBERT HRYCYK (JUNE 1958) graduated from Wright AA 1960, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 5 children, 3 grandchildren and is in customer service for ITW Industrial.

TOM CROSTON (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Coe BA 1963, lives in Wheeling, IL, has 1 child who graduated from Taft in 1987 and is retired.

ALLAN LAROCCO (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Monmouth College BA 1963, U of I Med 1967, lives in Morton, IL, has 3 children and is an elementary school principal.

DONA (OLSON) MC LAUGHLIN (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Millikin U BFA 1963, Northern IL MS 1990, lives in Algonquin, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a 4th grade teacher.

BARBARA (WALDEN) CULVER (JUNE 1959) lives in Birnamwood, WI has 6 children, 16 grandchildren and is retired.

ANNETTE (ROOS) ONDRAKA (JUNE 1959) MARRIED JOSEPH (JANUARY 1954), she graduated from Andrews U BA Eng & Psychology 1987, they live in Steenville, MI, have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is VP of Accu-Spec, Inc.

1960s

SANDIE (MAU) ANDERSEN (JANUARY 1960) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is an executive assistant.

ROBERT SPECKMAN (JANUARY 1960) MARRIED JUDY (KOLPEK) (JANUARY 1960) he graduated from U of I BS Architecture 1965, the live in Deerfield, IL have 3 children, 2 grandchildren and he is facility development manager at Lake County Forest Preserve District.

BARB (NOON) BLITZEN (JUNE 1960) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

NANCY CROLL (JUNE 1960) MARRIED JOHN (JUNE 1958) , he graduated from U of I BS 1963 they live in Western Springs, IL and have 1 child and 2 grandchildren , John is in software sales.

WILLIAM LAPIETRA (JUNE 1960) MARRIED BETTY JEAN (HERZ) (JUNE 1960) he graduated from U of I BS 1964, MS 1965, they live in Lake Forest, IL, have 2 children 2 grandchildren and he is self employed.

CAROL (HILLIS) GELLER (JANUARY 1961) graduated from Southern IL BS 1969, VA Tech EdD 1978, lives in Newport, VA, has 2 children and is a Professor in Special Education at Radford U.

EVELYN (KUEHN) KUZNICKI (JANUARY 1961) graduated from Roosevelt BA 1966, lives in Franklin, NC, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

JANET (BELTLE) ZOFKIE (JUNE 1961) lives in Leland, IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is a campground owner.

WENDY (THORNTON) DAVIDSON (JANUARY 1962) graduated from Western IL BS 1966, lives in East Peoria, IL and is a rural outreach coordinator for Hemophilia center.

FRANCES (ABBORENO) DE WILKINS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Wright AA 1964, Northeastern BA 1974,

lives in Chicago and is a retired teacher.

SUSAN (LUCAS) SCHMID (JUNE 1962) lives in Lodi, CA, has 3 children, works at Home Depot as a designer flooring specialist.

EDWARD PARQUETTE (JUNE 1962) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

JEANETTE (OLSON) GILBERTSON (JANUARY 1963, graduated from Northeastern BA 1965, lives in Tampa, FL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a retired 5th grade teacher.

RON HAGEMAN (JANUARY 1963) lives in Long Beach, CA, has 2 children, spent 3 years in the US Army, 22 years in the US Navy and is an equipment specialist, electronic.

DARLENE (LEFF) POLZIN (JANUARY 1963) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children and is semi retired.

MICHAEL BIENIK (JUNE 1963) LIVES IN palatine, IL, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a mold maker.

RANDALL FISCHER (JUNE 1963) graduated from De Paul BSA, Walton BA, U of I CPA, lives in Medinah, IL, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is a CPA.

LINDA (BILLESBACH) KEATING (JUNE 1963) graduated from Roosevelt BGS 1985, MBA 1988, lives in Ft Myers, FL and is a college professor.

BRIAN DU FOUR (JUNE 1964) graduated from Wright AA Law Enforcement 1974, U of I BA 1977, Northwestern Traffic Institute, Police Adm Training 1993, lives in Peoria, AZ, has 3 children, is a retired Chgo Police Sgt now senior medical investigator, AZ Board of Medical Examiners, recalled to active duty US Navy Counter Terrorist Unit of Offutt AFB, NE.

JUDY (WATERS) GRUNDKE (JUNE 1964) lives in Arlington Hts, IL and has 2 children.

NANCY (CAIRO) LEONETTI (JUNE 1964) lives in Libertyville, IL, has 1 child, 4 grandchildren, works for her

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husbands business and oil paints with showing in 3 galleries.

SUSAN (WOLAVKA) RIGGS (JUNE 1964) graduated from Butler U BS 1969, MS 1982, lives in Brownsburg, IN, has 2 children and is a teacher.

ROBERT ROZYCKI (JUNE 1964) graduated from U of I BA 1968, Northeastern MA 1973, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

GLENN SZURGOT (JUNE 1964) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children and is a wallpaper and painting contractor.

EDWARD TYMITZ (JUNE 1964) graduated from Southern IL BS 1971, lives in Canyon Country, CA, has 3 children and is a mfg engineer.

JAMES BATOR (JUNE 1965) graduated from North Park, lives in Westmont, IL, has 1 child and is an insurance/consulting cash flow broker.

THOMAS MIROCHA (JUNE 1965) MARRIED PATRICIA (POWERS) (JUNE 1966), they live in Lake Zurich, IL and have 2 children.

DAVID DAVIES (JANUARY 1966) graduated from Northern BS mkgmt 1971, has 3 children, lives in Chicago and is an insurance broker.

JOHN JACKANICZ (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of I BA 1970, lives in Chicago and is a ballpark vendor and dock worker.

DARINA (CHLEBOUN) LICHNER (JUNE 1966) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is an executive assistant.

ROBERT ELEZIAN (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Southern IL BA Computer Science 1976, lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 2 children and is a senior advisory systems engineer and free lance flight instructor.

HOLLY (GUNDLACH) MIHALOVICH (JANUARY 1967) lives in Charlotte, NC, has 1 child and is a housewife.

THEODORE PAPPAS (JANUARY 1967) graduated

from U of NM 1972, lives in Itasca, IL and is a sales rep.

PHILIP DEETJEN (JUNE 1967) MARRIED SUSAN (EGGERS) (1969), he graduated from College of Du Page AA 1975, they live in Addison, IL, have 3 children, 1 grandchild and he is a distribution general manager.

PAULETTE (ZEMAITIS) ENGLISH (JUNE 1967) lives in Mishawaka, IN, has 1 child, is an application specialist and an Alumni Board Member.

FREDRIC LIND (JUNE 1967) graduated from Lewis Institute 1968, lives in Park Ridge, IL and is a regional parts/service manager.

ROBERT NAATZ (JUNE 1967) graduated from U of I BA 1971, CPA 1972, CPCU 1985, lives in Bartlett, IL, has 2 children and is an account manager.

KAREN FLYNN (1968) graduated from Northern Bsed 1972, lives in Chicago and is a teacher at Steinmetz.

THOMAS MULARZ (JUNE 1968) graduated from U of I BA 1972, MA 1974, Northwestern MBA 1980, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 5 children and is a marketing director.

NANCY (ENDERSON) SHAFFER (JUNE 1968) GRADUATED FROM northern Bsed, Msed, lives in Elgin, IL, has 7 children and is a reading teacher.

MILDRED (REYNOLDS) ZASADIL (1968) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 1 child, 1 grandchild and is a retired dance instructor.

NANCY AHL (1969) lives in Evanston, IL and is a senior financial analyst.

TRUDY (STROMQUIST) CALEF (1969) lives in Lake Forest, IL and has 2 children.

GAIL (SHELLABARGER) DIEHL (1969) graduated from Northern Bsed 1974, MS Reading 1998, lives in Sycamore, IL, has 3 children and is a reading specialist.

MARC ERLANDSON (JUNE 1969) MARRIED KATHE (SHOWALTER (1973) ,

graduated from Northeastern BS Gas Chromatography 1977, Kathy graduated from Northeastern BA Elem Ed 1977, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 2 children and Marc is a production supervisor, Kathy is a teacher.

EMIL KANE (1969) lives in Oak Park, IL, has 2 children and is an aluminum broker.

VALERIE (STEWART) SOSNOWSKI (1969) graduated from Ravenswood RN 1973, Certified operating room 1991, lives in Lindenhurst, IL, has 1 child and is RN Directory of surgical services.

1970s

JUDY MAGNOWSKI (1970) lives in Arlington Hts, IL and is a dietary specialist.

RICHARD ANDERSON (1971) graduated from SIU BS Fire Dept Mgmt, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 4 children and is Battalion Chief in Schaumburg.

SANDRA (BAKANOWICZ) DAVIDSON (1972) lives in Mt Pleasant, MI, has 3 children and is a receptionist.

JANINE (KLICH) KLICH-JENSEN (1972) graduated from U of I 1976, lives in Chicago and is president of a mortgage company.

JULIE (MUELLER) MARTIN (1972) LIVES IN Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children and is a sales associate.

DIANE (MAHERAS) PARKS (1972) graduated from Ohio Wesleyan BA Music 1976, Northwestern MA Music 1978, lives in Elkhorn, WI and has 2 children.

LARRY BOYSON (1973) MARRIED PEGGY (Cole) 1973, Larry graduated from ISU BS 1977, Peggy graduated from Northern IL BS Ed 1976, MS Ed 1985, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 3 children, Larry is a CPA, Peggy is a teacher.

DEBRA (STRZELECKI) MITCHELL (1973) lives in Escondido, CA and is a retired 747 Airline Pilot and flight

instructor, now a CPA, consultant.

MARK WIKLUND (1973) graduated from De Paul BSC 1977, MBA 1979, lives in Hinsdale, IL, has 3 children and is a commodity trader.

JUDITH MACIOR (1974) graduated from Northeastern BA 1978, John Marshall Law JD 1981, lives in Chicago and is an attorney.

BOB UHLAR (1974) graduated from Drake BA 1978, Northwestern MS 1981 and lives in Kansas City, MO.

DENISE CAMILLO (1975) graduated from Oakton Community College AA 1977, Nat'l College of Ed BA, lives in Chicago and is a flight attendant for United.

BETTY JAYKO (1975) lives in Chicago and is an office manager for a dental practice.

JUDY (JACOBUCCI) CONNELL (1977) lives in Glenview, IL., has 3 children and is a dental lab tech.

MARYANNE (NORUM) JONES (1979) lives in Brookfield, IL and is an executive assistant.

1980s

JEANNINE (BENSEN) LAFIN (1980) MARRIED THOMAS (1977), they live in Flower Mound, TX and have 2 children.

LISA (CLEMENTS) LIESZ (1981) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 3 children and is an instructional assistant SD 54 and involved with Special Olympics

CAROL BJANKINI (1984) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 1 child and is an executive secretary.

BRYAN HOLMAN (1985) MARRIED KIM (TABAKA) (1986) they live in Buffalo Grove, IL, have 1 child and Bryan is a carpenter.

2000s

RACHAEL BROCKMAN (2000) Lives in Milwaukee, WI and is a student.

In Our Memories

Louise Ochsner, 99, of the Sauganash community died August 26, 2002. She was a physical education teacher in the "early days" at Taft.

Richard Dolezal, class of 1941 passed away in January 2002.

Gerald Kelder, class of June 1945 died on May 10, 2002 of lung cancer.

Thomas Mills, class of June 1948 passed away on June 25, 2001.

Carolyn (Johnson) Peterson, class of January 1949, died on April 7, 2002.

Madalyn (Fortunato) Kleiner, class of January 1949, died in August, 2001.

Steve Nozek, class of January 1949, died on July 2, 2002.

Joanne (Herschbach) Dilsaver, class of June 1949, died on April 23, 2002.

Robert Specht, class of June 1950 passed away on August 9, 2002.

Robin (Ebersole) Anderson, class of June 1958, died on January 15, 2002 of breast cancer.

Joan (Pfeffer) Olsen, class of 1959 passed away on August, 7, 2002.

Nancy Wiesen Montgomery, Class of June, 1960 died 9/30/02.

Donald Kamradt, class of 1967 died on July 3, 1999.

Thomas Naatz, class of 1974 died in January 1993 of cancer.

Daniel Bauer, class of 1992, died on December 2, 2001 of injuries from an auto accident.

Remembering Our Teachers...

Dear Editor:

One more addition about Dr. Buchwalter; I can recall so well her reciting a poem, whenever she caught someone chewing gum. It was:

"The gum-chewing girl and the cud chewing cow

There is a difference; I see it now

The intelligent look on the face of the cow."

This [poem] was recited with a twinkle of her eye, of course.

I would like very much to get in touch with Shirley Ford Wilson, listed in your last issue as being in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. Do you forward requests like this, or give addresses? Thank you for your help (and also work on the newsletter).

Maralyn Ellis Tomas (June 1943)
Dunedin, FL

[Maralyn, Thanks for the compliments. If you wish TAA help with finding Shirley, please see "Lost Classmates" article elsewhere in this issue. J. Bloom, Editor]

To: Taft Alumni Association,

Do you remember the English teacher (can't remember her name, maybe Mrs. Bruckner??), who was so fed up trying to read our handwriting that she decreed that ALL written assignments (in my Senior English Class) has to be hand PRINTED in ink? (Few of us had access to typewriters for high school work in those days). To this day my longhand writing is a funny mixture of cursive and printed letters because of all those Senior year English papers.

My letter was printed in the Spring 2002 issue and my email address was wrong, it should be ALLaseke@juno.com.

Beverly (Sprecker) Laseke
(June 1957)

Correction

In regards to the death notice in the Summer 2002 Taft Alumni Newsletter, **Nina (Christensen) Hansen** graduated from Norwood Park Grammar School, class of 1937. She was active in organizing reunions for Norwood Park, not Ebinger.

Taft Academic Center

In its third year in existence, the success of Dr. Tarvardian's "brain child" is quite evident. This fall, there are nearly 80 eighth graders from neighborhood schools and applicants from the Decatur Classical School attending the Taft Academic Center. It is a junior high program that has tripled in attendance, thanks to the highly successful achievements of the graduates from this honors program. In the June commencement exercise of the latest graduating class, Dr. Tarvardian told the parents, "Thank you for maintaining your faith in the public schools." Many of these special eighth grade graduates will continue at Taft in the honors high school curriculum.

Letters from Page 4

Bob was a very good student but very, very shy in high school. I met him in the early 1980s when we were both FBI agents in Washington, DC. We became good friends primarily because of our common roots through Taft. So, when his arrest was announced I was dumbfounded and felt as though someone hit me

in the stomach full force. While I have spent considerable time since the arrest trying to figure out why my friend would do such a thing, no clear-cut, easy-to-understand answer emerged. During the past year I have talked to more reporters than I ever thought I would. I have talked to Monica Davey of the Chicago Tribune, who interestingly enough tracked me

down when she read the Taft Alumni Newsletter back issues and saw that in one letter Bob wrote to the Editor he mentioned my name and the fact we were both in the FBI. I have also met with Norman Mailer and Larry Schiller who have been commissioned to do a two-part mini-series for CBS to air in November 2002. They wrote the screenplay and selected William Hurt (Oscar for his role in Kiss of the Spider Woman) to play Hanssen. The screenplay will deal with Taft albeit very briefly.

There have been four books published to date on this case and one more scheduled for fall release. The upcoming book is by

See **Letters** Page 11

Dear Kay and Jerry,

Thank you for the photo of the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corp. It brought back happy memories at Norwood Park School (grad. 1939) and Taft High School (grad. 1943).

Here are some of the memories: **Bill Bornhoft** and I tried to catch pollywogs on our way home from school. **Alan Sampson** belonged to the Presbyterian Sunday night youth group and he delivered my fourth son at the La Grange, IL hospital in 1957.

I [enclose] a clipping from the "Taft Tribune" from 1943, 59 years ago! [It shows] the Senior Girls' officers... On the back of the photo, there is an interesting article titled, "Taftites to be Supermen with Victory Diet". (See article.) The teachers are listed from that time. The World War II was in full swing 1943 and 59 years later we are still fighting another king of war for our freedom!

Someone in the spring issue was looking for 1940 Taft graduates. My sister, **Darlene Izard-Simpson**, lives in Americus, GA. She graduated from the Univ. of Michigan, married a friend from Schurz, Tom Simpson. They have five children.

I think that the education and stability we received as young people at Norwood Park School and the Taft High School has served us well.

Marilyn (Izard) Weber (1943)
Lakeland, FL



L-R: Marilyn Izard-Weber, vice-president, Mary Jane Caboor-Cinelli, President; Joan Carpenter, secretary; Marilyn "Sis" Holden-Harris, treasurer

Taftites to Be Supermen With Victory Diet

The new nutritional defense program will soon be in effect at Taft to make the Taft students diet conscious. The ideal is to get the students in a fine physical state and keep them there. This drive is being sponsored by the Board of Education and the Civil Defense board. The entire nation is asked to cooperate so that all Americans will be strong and fit.

Miss Ruth Straight, household arts teacher, has already put the Vitamin for Victory plan into effect in her classes.

Teachers on the committee are Chairman, Mr. Hoefer; Physical Education department, Miss Walker and Mr. Kupcinet; Lunchroom, Miss Smith; Household Arts, Miss Straight; Personnel dept., Mrs. Farrel, Miss McCue, and Miss Capron; Art Department, Miss Unseth; Clean-Up Campaign, Mrs. Holterhoff; Adviser, Mr. Seyller; Science, Miss Mueller.

When this program has been put into effect, every Taftite will have learned how to select the right foods and how to evaluate their diets.

Reprinted from Taft Trib 1943.

See letter at left.

Subject: The Spirit of Norwood

I read the letter from **Ken Kaitschuck** in the Summer issue. Brought back lots of memories. I also was a member of the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps from 1943 until 1949. I have attached some JPEGs; Norwood1 which is the Junior Achievement Company Plasta-Gems, circa 1949; Norwood 2 which are two pictures of me in uniform for the Corps, and Norwood 3 which is a photo of the entire Corps in 1957. I am the person on the drum major's right (he is in the white uniform); **Richard Murdoch** is above me just to my right, others I am not sure about. I do not remember who else was in the Corps, but I know there were other Taftites. Norwood1 includes **Jim Stromayer, Norm Johnson, Ron Ewald, Ron Workman, Rose Matayka** (I think on the far left), and my high school sweet heart from Steinmetz High, **Camille Jarzemi** (seated far right). I do not remember the name of the others, though the faces are very familiar.

One correction, however. Douglas Field and the production facility there were building DC-3s, not B-17s. And there was a very large painting on the side of the building (where the bank now stands on that corner was at that time, a vacant lot), celebrating the "Spirit of Norwood Park".

Walt "Wally" Wolf (January, 1950)



Walt (Wally) Wolf



Junior Achievement Company Plasta-Gems, circa 1949



Norwood Park Drum & Bugle Corps (1957)

Letters from Page 9

David Wise and I predict it will be the best of all the books in the depth of coverage and analysis. I find the case extraordinarily sad on many dimensions. It is sad that he allowed himself to betray his country in the way he did. It is sad to see the effects on his most gracious wife and six children. And it is sad to think he will end his life in a prison cell because of his actions.

I have nothing but the best of memories from my time at Taft (1959 to 1963) and even though my close friend, Taft grad Bob Hanssen, now will spend his remaining days in jail, I will always think of Taft in a positive way.

Most tragically,
Jim Ohlson (January 1963)
JimOhlson@Prodigy.net

Subject: Spirit of Norwood

Ken Kaitschuck's (June 1948) letter in the latest Taft Alumni Newsletter certainly tickled my memories. He tells of the Douglas airplane that Norwood Park citizens helped finance during the war, and of the big mural of the craft that was painted on the side of the big building at Raven and Northwest Highway. I was in the crowd of hundreds who showed up for the unveiling of the mural. The Chicago Tribune sent a photographer to capture the scene and I still have the clipping of the large picture the paper printed the next day of the mural and the throng. I circled my face--at least what I THOUGHT was my face. (The plane, though, was a Douglas C-54 transport, not a B-17, a bomber built by Boeing.)

Our moms would pack us lunches and we kids would ride our bikes out to Higgins and Mannheim, sit by the side of the road and watch the new, silver planes being rolled out of the factory. Can you imagine anybody riding a bike in that area today?

Art Nauman (June 1952)
Artnauman@aol.com

Subject: The Spirit of Norwood

Dear Editor,

Enclosed please find a snap of 5 of us who attended class reunion of June 1944. The reunion was held at the Club Hotel by Double Tree on Touhy and Mannheim in Des Plaines on Wednesday 1/12/00. There were 39 of us in attendance; it was a great happy experience. Four of us do get together about once a month for lunch; life is good!

Elaine Kucera Lovelady (June 1944)



L+R Elynor (Igas) Dencker, Jean (Novak) Smith, Lorraine (Kostelny) Drbull, Elaine (Kucera) Lovelady, Maryjean (Plato) Cebulski

It was good to see an old playmate from pre-Taft days--**Ken Kaitschuck**, June '48-- make comment on the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps, and The Spirit of Norwood in the Summer 2002 issue of TAN. However, I must make a slight correction to his letter. Douglas aircraft made C-54's at that plant (my Mom and Dad both worked there), not B-17's. The C-54 was a 4-engine cargo plane, and could be outfitted as a hospital ship, which ours was. Was also pleased to see a letter from **Barb Roess** (June '53) whom I had the pleasure of escorting to her senior prom. It's good to see names of old friends in just about every issue of the Taft Alumni Newsletter, and to read of the current events at Taft. Keep up the good work.

Bob Winkelman (June 1951)
rpwinkie@rcnchicago.com

Dear Kay,

Wow! I was beginning to think that there wasn't anyone from my days at Taft until I read the Alumni Newsletter for Summer 2002. Much to my delightful surprise, I recognized such names as **Barb**

Topczewski Martini and **Dorothy Teufel Wenzel**. Hurrah for the graduates of 1954, and thanks again to Dorothy for her letter. Remember me? I reside in Chicago again on Naper Av where I was raised. Health and happiness to all of us.

Marie Valenziano (June 1954)

Dear Staff –

Thanks a heap for sending my lost Alumni Newsletter – hate to miss a single one!

Many thanks to **Bud Trick** for his 30s band picture. Great memories, and **Jean Koefed**, bless her heart for her endeavors. There are two mistakes in names. My brother Jim Holden, and myself, Marian Holden-Webb was used instead of Holden. And our pretty majorette was Maxine Merta, not mentioned.

“Praise” is all I can say in describing your efforts, for the terrific job you all do on our alumni paper. You have restored so many memories, which have been long forgotten. A heartfelt thank you.

Marianne (Holden) Harris
(January 1943)

Classmates in the News

Snappy Tappers are a group of folk around Wheaton, IL who have the privilege of learning from master tapper, **George Zima** (1945). George was, as you may recall, inducted into the Taft Alumni Hall of Fame a couple years ago. He was recently highlighted in the Daily Herald newspaper "50 Plus" Special Section showing him leading a local group of "senior" students through a tap routine during a show at the Wheaton Community Center. Although George only started teaching tap there three years ago, he does it all. He uses his past experiences from dancing professionally on Broadway in shows such as "Gypsy", "Pal Joey" and "Lil' Abner". He now serves as instructor, choreographer and performer with the Wheaton Snappy Tappers, bringing fun and stylish exercise to various public performances throughout the DuPage area.



Photo by Marcelle Bright/Daily Herald

George Zima leads the Snappy Tappers through a tap routine.

John Paszkiet (June 1951) has a love for motorcycles that doesn't quit. In Walneck's Classic Cycle Trader, July 2002 issue John's photos are seen on various bikes from the 50s to the present. As a founding member and president of the Illinois Motorcycle Association (IMA) and president of the Chicago chapter of the American Federation of Motorcyclists, he was influential in promoting biking while running his cycle dealership in Chicago in the 50s and 60s. He was instrumental in promoting several events racing cycles in the 60s at Soldier Field, Raceway Park and O'Hare Stadium.

Working with his Edgebrook Lutheran Eagle Scout Troop 957, scoutmaster **Wayne Schimpff** (January 1958) collected 412 used and worn American flags. Eagle

Scout Pete Schnakenberg's special project took these flags and respectfully retired them in a respectful burning ceremony this past June.



Photo by Rob Hart/Pioneer Press

Congratulations to **Anne Lunde** (1969), who was honored at the recent Edison Park Fest parade Grand Marshall. She is currently Managing Editor of the Edison-Norwood Times Review as well as 2nd Vice President of your Taft Alumni Association.

Dear Kay & Tom,

Enclosed is a photo I received yesterday from my cousin the Reverend **Ken Mortonson** who now resides in Green Bay, WI. He and his wife **Betty (Thompson)** are both alumni of Taft.

This photo was taken on VE Day and shows the students leisurely leaving Taft. Despite seeing a lot of familiar faces, I have been able to identify only 4 of the 19 that are identifiable in the picture. Maybe your readers will be able to come up with a few more.

Robert Berns (January 1946)



it's end of the line for last man in city to drive steam train

Union Pacific engineer celebrates his 53-year ride

By BRENDA WARNER Rorzou.
STAFF Reporter/Chicago Sun-Times

Hot Chicago nights in the days before air conditioning young Ed Yost would lie with his bedroom window open, listening to the faraway whistles of steam locomotives.

He'd spend his 10 cents a week allowance taking the United Motor Coach bus from his Edison Park home to Des Plaines to spend the day watching freight trains go past. He'd sit near the Deval Tower that controlled comings and goings on tracks used by three rail lines: the Soo Line, the Milwaukee Road and the Chicago & North Western Railway.

"That was my boyhood dream," to work the big steam locomotives, he said.

Work them he did, until steam disappeared and he had to settle for driving the diesel locomotives that took over on commuter, freight and passenger trains running in and out of Chicago.

Yost was the last man left on the Union Pacific's Chicago work roster to have operated steam locomotives.

Today his railroad pals will get together at the Ogilvie Transportation Center—the North Western depot to old-timers—for a farewell celebration marking his retirement. He spent 53 years with first the North Western and then the Union Pacific after the lines merged March 17, 1995.

"Talk about romance of the rails," Yost said. "I used to love to just sit there and watch a train go by at night. When the fire doors opened up you'd see the flash of light in the sky and you'd know the fireman was putting coal in the fire."

His father didn't want him shoveling coal and said he should be a surveyor. But when Yost graduated from Taft High School in 1949, he took the streetcar downtown and asked for a job with the North Western. He really wanted to run freight trains for the Soo Line. but he didn't have a car to get to Bensenville for an interview.

He started as a section hand repairing tracks and roadbed. After a year he joined the engineering service. He began as a fireman and shoveled coal for

18 years before he had enough seniority to become a full-time engineer. He'd barely started when he had to



Photo by Scott Stewart/Sun-Times

Taftite Ed Yost sits at the controls of a diesel commuter train one last time.

take two years out to serve in the Korean War.

The suburban trains converted to diesel by 1957, but there still was steam on some passenger trains and on freights.

Soon after he started as a fireman Yost began the three years of training needed to become an engineer.

Then, besides working as a fireman, he went on the "extra board" and was called to fill in when more engineers were needed. In 1969 he became a full-time engineer.

He pulled a lot of commuter duty but found the flat tracks and steady speeds boring. His favorite run was Chicago to Fond du Lac,

"Once you left Milwaukee there wasn't a straight or a level piece of track. It was uphill, downhill, around a curve to the left, to the right, and that made it more interesting," he said.

Yost pulled a lot of commuter trains, but he preferred freights drawn by steam locomotives.

"YOU had a train about a mile long and sometimes two miles long. It was always different." he said. "I'd like to see them back. It was more challenging."



TAFT Alumni Bargains

Jackets: \$30.00 each

Special purchase blue nylon windbreakers with a white flannel lining and snap front with a drawstring bottom. The silver emblem on the left breast area reads "TAFT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI" with an eagle in the center: M (38-40), L (42-44) only. (XL **SOLD OUT!**)

Look for new Taft merchandise with our new logo in our next issue of TAA newsletter!

TAFT Alumni Order Form

Quantity Ordered	Description	Price	Extended Price
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Send check to: Taft Alumni Association
6545 W. Hurlbut St.
Chicago, IL 60631

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Month/Year of Graduation _____

NOW THAT I'M OLDER, HERE'S WHAT I'VE DISCOVERED:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
3. I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded...
5. All reports are in; life is now officially unfair.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few...
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
12. Only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
13. If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.
14. When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone decide to play chess?
15. It's not hard to meet expenses...they're everywhere.
16. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
17. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter... I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.

THE SENILITY PRAYER

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Be sure to add \$6 for postage and handling for each order **to the same address**. Use separate sheet of paper for orders to different addresses.

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM			
Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
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<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$ _____ to defray newsletter cost. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$15. 00 for two-year membership. <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$20. 00 for two-year Husband & Wife membership. Return to: Taft Alumni Association 6545 W. Hurlbut St. Chicago IL 60631			
			<i>Autumn 2002</i>

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RENEW NOW !!

Look at your address label on the back of this page. Check your year of graduation on the upper left corner. Is it correct? The most important area is on the **top right** corner. This is the expiration date of your current membership status of the Taft Alumni Association. If the date is close, the TIME is **NOW** to sit down and write out a check for \$15. Not one, but TWO full years of newsletters with opportunities to learn about classmates, reunions, school events and alumni programs. Be sure to use the application form above to fill in the latest updates in your life.

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