



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVII No. 2

Spring 2003

## Taft Program Needs Support By Anne Lunde (1969)

*We are very lucky to have one of our alums in such a prominent position in a local newspaper. The following is an editorial that she published in the Edison-Norwood Pioneer Press, January 16, 2003 in an effort to alert friends and neighbors of Taft High School.*

"When the Northwest Side looks back on the perceived 'golden age' of Taft High School, it is to the days when Taft had significant numbers of students who achieved academically and in extracurricular activities.

The biggest challenge Taft continues to face now is turning its current melting pot of transfer students from other neighborhoods, foreign-language students, and a much smaller percentage of local students into a cohesive, well-functioning school population.

Residents on neighboring blocks were impatient with that process and forced the school to change its entrance to face Bryn Mawr Avenue, so students wouldn't walk near their houses. As a result, the school has just officially changed its address to 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., while its earlier, more familiar entrances on Natoma, Hurlbut and Northcott, are locked tight.

One of the bright lights in restoring Taft's reputation is the seventh and eighth grade Academic Center, now in its fourth year. These are smart, enthusiastic students – the sort Taft once attracted easily – and are the hope for building a strong gifted component for the ninth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. This program draws from across the North Side of the city and depends on the elementary busing program to transport its students.

The Academic Center is a program worth keeping and nurturing. However, although it is barely established, the Chicago Public Schools may sidetrack it as part of a budget proposal to cancel the transportation program. The Taft junior high program was designed to draw a limited number of students from any single feeder school – to avoid criticism it was draining too many gifted students – and that means the children are scattered in many neighborhoods, not always easily connected to Taft by public transportation and not always convenient for carpooling.

The Taft Local School Council is launching a campaign to save the busing component so the junior high center can continue to draw enough students.

Transportation hearings are planned later this month [January 22] by the School Board. Taft officials would appreciate help from the community in sending letters to board members.

For more information, contact Principal Art Tarvardian at (773) 534-1000."

*As a result of the combined efforts of Anne Lunde, 41<sup>st</sup> Alderman Brian Doherty, Community representative Jim Del Medico, Taft Academic Center Director Maria Asvos and others, the Chicago Board of Education reached a compromise decision. Instead of cutting all bus service for these students entirely, they cut bus service routes in half, causing affected students to find their own way to designated pick up points, usually a designated elementary school. Since the change doesn't take effect until the next school year, the ramifications to this change are unknown. We can only hope parents understand the importance of this valuable program to ensure they continue to get their children to the Taft Academic Center next year and beyond.*

## Iraq War Affects Taft

Aside from the expected psychological effects of the extensive coverage on the War in Iraq, local consequences have been felt. A travel ban on out-of-state trips was set March 20, 2003 as a direct result of the onset of the war. A Washington, D.C. trip was cancelled for Taft students just one day before they were to leave for a weeklong visit to our nation's capital. This ban could be in effect until the end of the school year, depending on how events go in the upcoming weeks. Even though it appears the war has shifted to being a rebuilding and cleanup effort, officials still strongly urge caution in traveling, especially to high-risk areas like Washington, D.C.

*As a result of relaxed tensions, the class trip has just been rescheduled and will have been completed by the time this newsletter is received.*

## CLASS REUNIONS

### Second Annual all Taft Classes

Date: February 29, 2004  
Place: De Soto Park, St Petersburg, FL  
Contact: **Leon Kathan**  
1729 N W Madrid Way  
Boca Raton, FL 33432  
leonkathan@yahoo.com

### 1946 – June

Date: September 26-27, 2003  
Place: Chicago Marriott O'Hare  
Contact: **Barbara (Lawton) Loeschen**  
SarasotaBarb@webtv.net

### 1948

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

### 1953 – June

Date: September 5-7, 2003  
Place: Indian Lake CC, Bloomingdale, IL  
Contact: **Frances (Marino) Hughes**  
(847) 698-5475 - 117 N. Broadway  
Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068

### 1955 – June

Date: 2005  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: **Bill and Sue Oberheide**  
(847) 823-1955

### 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 or  
**Cassie (Webber) Cerniglia**  
(847) 696-0237  
joecerniglia@waterpic.com or  
**Cathy (Cummings) Milbrandt**  
(773) 775-9997

### 1993

Date: August 9, 2003  
Place: Marriott O'Hare  
Contact: Brandee (Abbott) Taber  
BrandeeTaber@juno.com

## OTHER REUNIONS

### 1957-1958 Taft Baseball teams

Date: September 12-14, 2003  
Place: To be announced  
Contact: **Lynn Terry** (June 1957)  
(415) 751-4579  
(theterrys@earthlink.net or  
**Denny Pickett** (June 1958) –  
(815) 758-2777 dekpickett@niu.edu

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL REUNIONS

### 1958 – Hitch Grammar School (45th)

Date: June 20-22, 2003  
Place: Hitch & Paterno's Sports Bar  
Contact: **Phyllis Miller** – (386)258-6797  
phyllismiller57@earthlink.net

### 1958 – June – Norwood Park Grammar School

Date: September 12-13, 2003  
Place: Crippen House  
Norwood Historical Society Assn.  
5624 N. Newark Ave., Chicago  
Contact: **Jerry (Beesley) Bloom**  
(920) 743-8449 jbbloom@charter.net

### 1963 – Prussing Elementary

Date: June 2003  
Place: Spirit of Chicago, Navy Pier  
Contact: **Nick Varallo** – (329) 772-9166  
nvarallo@swfla.rr.com

### 1968 – Onahan Grammar School

Date: June 7, 2003  
Place: To be announced  
Contact: **Jan Busch** – (312) 577-8414  
Jan.busch@kmzr.com

### Taft Increasing Boundaries?

In an attempt to decrease overcrowding pressures at Steinmetz and Forman High Schools, the Chicago Board of Education may amend Taft's boundaries to include four additional feeder schools. They are Canty, 3740 N. Panama Ave; Bridge, 3800 N. New England Ave., Smyser, 4310 N. Melvina Ave., and O.A. Thorp Scholastic Academy, 6024 W. Warwick Ave. This change, proposed to be effective for the next school year, could push Taft's enrollment to capacity levels, thereby making it no longer available to students living outside Taft's attendance area.

Currently, Taft's enrollment is 1,760, close to what school officials say is its program capacity of 1,800. These boundary changes could put the enrollment numbers up to 2,000 by next fall. The Chicago Board of Education was also considering changing Prosser High School's selective admissions policy (similar to Lane H.S.) to return it to being a neighborhood school.

## Reminiscing with the Norwood Drum and Bugle Corps

by **Chuck Trick** (June 1941)

The photos that were published in the spring and autumn 2002 issues of the Taft Alumni Newsletter are of The Junior Corps in 1933 and 1947. They were not the famous Norwood Park Senior Corps that **John A. Will** (January 1949) was a part of. They were very good, while all of us (in the Junior Corps – “B” Corps) were just beginners.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some information regarding the history of the Norwood Park Junior, Drum, Bugle and Fife Corps.

Recently, **Douglas Small**, **Bob Kofoed**, and I had lunch together. We were all drummers in The Junior Corps. We feel that the first picture that was published was taken in 1933, or 1934. We know we marched at The Chicago Worlds Fair in both 33 and 34. Bob Kofoed says he knows we were at The Fair, because he remembers sneaking into the Sally Rand fan dance show.



**Bud Trick, Bob Kofoed and Doug Small**

We were a regular attraction of any parade we could get into. On the Fourth of July parade our Corps always ended up at The Norwood Park Old People's Home, where we gave a "concert," consisting of all of the four pieces we knew.

**Bob Crow**, was our senior drummer. I use the word "senior" because he was in the eighth grade at Onahan, while most of the rest of us were in fourth or fifth grade, or lower. One Christmas, Bob received a drum. Mr. Whidmeyer, who lived three doors from Bob on Newberg Ave., became so tired of hearing Bob just banging on the drum, that he offered to teach him how

to really play the drum. If that is what you do to, or on a drum.

The Crows, the Bornhofs, and the Trick families were all members of The Christian Science Church in Park Ridge. Like all families, our parents were looking for something for their children to do. I think our mothers met with Mr. Whidmeyer and asked him to please take these kids off our hands. Little did our parents know what they would be getting into. Somehow **Jack Bornhof** and I received drums about the same time. We also began taking drum lessons from Mr. Whidmeyer. Mr. Bornhof was a member of The Norwood Park American Legion Post. I believe he had much to do with the organizing of The Junior Corps.

The fourth drummer, to join the Corps, was **Warren Webster**. I do not know how he became involved, but "The Condor," (his nick name) played a mean alto sax in our first Taft Dance Band.

In the picture I am referring to, each of the three above named families had two children in The Corps. As I look at the picture again, I believe ten or twelve families each had two or more future famous Taft Alumni in the Junior Corps. I know the Passow family had three.

Eventually Mr. W. felt it was time we learned how to march. So, in the spring and summer, twice a week, we marched up and down Avondale Ave. There was no traffic at that time, as Avondale did not go through. In the fall and winter we practiced in The Norwood Park Field House, the drums in one room and the bugles in another room. Our parents were always there to cheer us on and to help in any way they could. We had no fancy drills or special parade formations, just staying in step and marching in the resemblance of a straight line, was a major accomplishment for us.

"In those days" we didn't have any TV to disturb our creativity. No organized soccer, baseball, swimming teams, or whatever kids have now to keep them busy. We did swim in the Norwood Park swimming pool, with its sand bottom. Of course we had no computers to mess up our games of roller skate Hockey, played on Nordica Ave. These games were made up of the kids in the neighborhood who happened to have the old metal clamp on skates with four wheels that would manage to fall off at any given moment. Also to keep us busy, many of us would religiously hurry home from school to listen on WGN to the final innings of Cub's games.

We did listen to The Lone Ranger, Dick Steel, Little Orphan Annie, and Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy. I know there were other radio shows, maybe some of you can remember them. But, the Corps was the only organized activity for grade school kids and their families, outside of church doings, and the Boy Scouts.

Little **Bill Bornhof**, was one of the two tenor drummers in the Junior Corps. A couple of years later

I gave him his first saxophone lesson. He also played with us in the early Taft dance band. that "**Pops**" **Rapier** started. Now there is a lot of Taft History. Every Friday, after school we played for dancing in the gym. I believed we charged 15 cents to get in. That income helped us to buy new music for the band. I think our loudest fastest number was, The One o'clock Jump. I am sure **Mr. Teuscher**, the assistant principle was there to supervise everything that went on.

We were a Drum and Bugle Corps until some mothers said to Mr. W., can you somehow find a way to get our daughters into the act. So Mr. W. brought in the Fifes for the girls. As soon as the Corps started we grew by leaps and bounds.

Our parents were expected to buy the instruments for us, but because we were sponsored by The American Legion Post, I don't believe any child who wanted to be in The Corps was ever turned down.

## Letters to the Editor

Trivia Questions for those from Norwood Park.

What was the name of the soda jerk that worked in the drug store at the corner of Raven and Northwest Highway [in the 40s]? Answer: It was Howard Behrens. He had a blue Plymouth, and charged us ten cents to ride with him to Schurz. What a scary ride. But we got there sooner than the bus and streetcar. Can you imagine, we paid three cents to ride public transportation for the two years I went to Schurz? Many times we would find pennies on the ground that others had dropped. That is called free transportation.

What was the name of the man who cleared the sidewalks of snow with a horse drawn V shaped contraption?

**Bud [Chuck] Trick** (June 41)

*[Bud - In response to your trivia question - that was easy, as I'm old enough to remember Cicero myself. He was still around in 1955, living in a small house on Northwest Highway when I moved into Norwood Park. My father grew up here, too in the early days of the 20s & 30s. His name was Ralph Beesley, and lived at the corner of Newark and Ardmore (red brick with green tile roof). His siblings were Eugene, Elaine, Charles and Marjorie. My father graduated from Schurz before Taft was built, but his brothers and sisters went to Taft. Jerry Bloom, TAA newsletter editor]*

Dear Jerry,

Enjoyed the newsletter. Feel so happy to give tribute to **Kenneth Reinert** (1944) and boast about the youth football at Rosedale Park. Circulated it among my brothers, and they studied it with delight. One brother had gotten an immediate call from Taft alum.

**Ed Morrissey** (Loyola, 1961)

*[Ed. Note: see Winter, 2003 issue, p. 11]*

Under the direction of Hubert Anderson's mother, our mothers made all our uniforms for us. Hubert also played with us in the Onahan School orchestra. He eventually became the lead drummer, on a full time basis, in the NBC radio orchestra.

From the picture I have in front of me (see the Spring, 2002 issue – 1933 Junior Corps), I notice our Corps did have four D-G bugles. Now that was the beginning of real marching music.

Our Junior Corps didn't last long. By the time we were in Lane, Steinmetz, or Schurz, we were no longer interested in The Corps. Taft was just being built in 1937 and 1938.

If anyone wants to make any correction or additions to this story, please feel free to do so. I am sure each of us has special memories of "those Days." I would love to hear from any one who was in the Junior Corps. Contact me at: [Budvontrick@aol.com](mailto:Budvontrick@aol.com).

Jerry...love my Taft Alumni Newsletter. My hats off to you and the gang that put in all the hard work into making the thing happen.

Slight correction if you have follow up... page 6 ... [Winter, 2003 issue] the name of the town where we live is OAK RIDGE, TN not PAK RIDGE...the place where we live, famous during WW II. The material for the first two atomic bombs was produced here under the Manhattan Project.

Only 1, 237 days till our 50-year reunion. I plan to be there.

**Hal Osucha** (January 56)  
[halosucha@aol.com](mailto:halosucha@aol.com)

Hi Jerry:

The Christmas concert article caught my eye. How can I contact **David Barth** (June 62) to learn more about his ecumenical Christian chorus? Thanks for your help.

**John Knecht** (January 63)  
[johnknecht@worldnet.att.net](mailto:johnknecht@worldnet.att.net)

*[You can contact him at [dfavidbarth@Ameritech.net](mailto:dfavidbarth@Ameritech.net).  
J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

Jerry:

I'm a 1954 Taft graduate and I have not seen anything in the new letter regarding a reunion for our 50th high school graduation in 2004. Do you have any information on this subject? Please advise via e-mail.

Thanks, **Jerry R. Iverson** (1954)  
[Jerryriverson@aol.com](mailto:Jerryriverson@aol.com)

*[OK all you 1954 classmates. The ball is now in your pocket... J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

To: Taft Alumni Association

It is always a pleasure to receive the Taft Alumni Newsletter. I admit it makes me smile and think, "It's the best \$15.00 I can spend. It is done so well!"

I am pleased to see the new Logo! It took someone like Bob, who is in the Ad Agency business to express the feelings for all of us. I have a "Life's Inspirations" card that reads:

**PRIDE IS NOT FOUND IN BEING THE BEST,  
BUT IN DOING YOUR BEST!**

And that is what "TAFT" did for us! Thank you!

**Marilyn Fisher Maxwell** (January 46)  
McKinney, TX

Dear Kay:

Please accept the enclosed check for dues, that should put me in good grace till Sept. 04; my apologies for the delay.

I've always had good intentions of writing to let you know how much I enjoy reading the "Taft Alumni Newsletter". My husband, who is not a Taft alumni, also enjoys the newsletter. The autumn 2002 issue rekindled several memories and I decided it was time

to write.

As a result of major back surgery, I wasn't able to graduate with my original class of June 1955; I graduated in January 1956. So I'm fortunate to have double memories, but most of them are from grade school and the class of 1955. Which is why the autumn issue was so interesting to me. Page three delighted me with a picture of a Taft friend, **Lois Weldon** (June 55). Reading further, was another name of someone I have often thought of, **Marlene Pawlowski** (June 55). We were not only grade school friends but we were in the Norwood Park Drum & Bugle Corps (B Corp), so of course the pictures on page 10 really brought back memories. I have old picture of us in uniform and I am in contact with only one Corp member (**Marilyn Richter**.)

Living in California for almost thirty years the Newsletter brings back special memories. Thanks to you and the staff for all your hard work. Your efforts are appreciated even, as in my case, when we don't always write to let you know.

**Joan (Denny) Sandeck** (January 56)  
SANDENIE@WorldNet.ATT.net

Dear Jerry, Kay and Tom,

In a recent issue of our Taft newsletter **Leon Kathan** (June 56) had placed information about a reunion on January 12, 2003 for all Taft classes. He received numerous responses from people, mostly via E-mail. Previously he scoured most of Florida to find the best area to hold the reunion and settled on beautiful Fort DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg. He had to drive four hours to get there and what a disappointment when only eight people showed up. We attributed the poor attendance to a Bucs playoff game and determined that if we held one next year it would be after the Super Bowl. Those of us who did attend had a wonderful picnic and became fast friends with our common bond being TAFT. Although our graduating years spanned from 1944 to 1971 many of us found we had the same teachers. A fun time was had by all.

**Evie Fischer Miller** (January 46)  
EVIEGRAMS@aol.com



(L-R: **Leon Kathan** (June 56), **Ken Gaughan** (June 71), **Evie Fischer Miller** (January 46), **Carl Read** (June 44), **Barbara Norberg** (June 50), **Betty Johnson Adams** (June 49), **Doris Meyers Witte** (June 52), **Edna Johnston Burkey** (June 52)

Paulette,

Thank you so much for your reply to my request about the yearbook. As it turns out, I must have contacted the wrong website. My father went to Taft School in Watertown, Connecticut, which at the time was an all boys' boarding school. I have since found the correct website and have contacted their office regarding my search. I do however, so much appreciate you taking the time to get back to me. Thank you again!

**Cathy Forsyth**

*[Editor's Note: This is a word of caution when using the Internet. It's a BIG world out there and you may not always be knocking on the right door. J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

Re: The Hub

I'm a lot younger than a lot of the people writing and asking about The Hub Roller Rink, but I started skating there in 1965 until they closed in the early 1980s. I also worked there in the 1970s. The building is still there, but it now houses a Jeepers playground, pizza place for kids.

Freddie Arnish played the organ during the years I was there. As far

as the pipe organ goes, I believe he has the organ.

For those who skated at Riverview, The Hub and The Axle Roller Rinks, every year since the middle 1980s there is a Reunion for all skaters. It consists of people of all ages who skated at these rinks. I go every year. It's always the first Saturday during the month of October.

It used to be held at the North Avenue Roller Rink behind Kiddieland, but that unfortunately was torn down about 4 or 5 years ago. The last few years its been at the Orbit Roller Rink out in Palatine, IL.

They play all the old time music on the organ and do all the dance numbers. I don't skate that much anymore but never miss this day every year.

**Cindy (Penesis) Fagiano** (1976)  
Firewmmom@aol.com  
Chicago, IL

Re: HUB Rink Organ

Unfortunately, the organ was not a saleable

Re: Alumni News

Nearly 60 years ago (57 to be exact) I last [saw] **Emil Meierkord**. My father was a pastor and Emil belonged to our congregation. I lost track of him after that time.



**Len Bunge & Emil Meierkord**

Some months ago, in the Alumni News, I saw Emil's name showing his new email address. I wrote to him and although we live quite a distance apart in Illinois during the summer, we discovered we were not too far apart in January. We agreed to meet at a restaurant in Bonita Springs [FL] for lunch. After 57 years, we were not certain we would recognize each other so Emil said he would be wearing a green and blue jacket. I described myself and we had no trouble identifying each other.

It was a fun afternoon with lot of talk about the past 57 years. Thanks to the Alumni News I was able to meet up with an old friend.

**Len Bunge** (January 1946)

instrument. Because of its size and magnitude, it was sold off as parts. The organ was a Wurlitzer and was built as a rink organ for the Madison Garden Rink on Chicago's west side, and later moved to the Hub. Leon C. Berry, the Hub organist, passed away on August 27th, 1996.

**Tom Gutzman** (June 1950)  
tgng@aol.com

Jerry,

I do enjoy receiving my copy of the Taft newsletter and am surprised at how few names I recognize. Maybe it is because so many years have elapsed.

**Marijean (Meisner) Flom** (June '46)  
MarijeanFlom@cs.com

Dear Ms. Bloom,

I enjoy receiving regularly the Taft Alumni newsletter. It keeps me informed, about a school and a community I attended so many years ago. I just noticed that my dues are due! I will mail them in soon.

**Ken Gaughan** (1971)  
KenGaughan@cs.com

## Classmates in the News

Chicago Sun-Times columnist Mike Houlihan recently wrote an "in your face" article highlighting the **Irv Kaage** family from Edison Park. Both father and son are Taft graduates from classes of January 1946 and 1969. They run Kaage's Korner newsstand at the corner of Oliphant and Northwest Highway and have been there since 1939. Irv Kaage I. started with the *Chicago Daily News* as a route driver and gave his two sons, Irv and George a newsstand. Irv Kaage II runs the stand now with his son Michael taking the bulk of hours. If you drive through Edison Park some day, stop and say "hello".

## Remembering Our Teachers...

### Calvin Coolidge Hall

Our special thanks to **Walter Schreiman** (retired Taft High School Science teacher 1967-1993). He made a special donation to the Taft Alumni Association "in memory of the boys (deceased) from Cal Coolidge Hall! (Faculty Men's Room)"

Letter to the Editor:

My brother, **Richard Lindquist** (1971), badgered me into paying my dues and getting my own edition of the *Taft Alumni Newsletter*. Now he won't have to send down his copy from Mora, MN for my reading pleasure.

Two thoughts upon reading the current issue: I agree with **Betty Harding** (class of 1948) that **Miss Luedemann** was indeed an excellent French teacher. The first day of class she told us, in French, that no English would be spoken during class time, unless we were translating. "Tout en Françoise, tout en Françoise," she would call out. All of us became mute. I took her

See **Teachers** | Page 11

# CLASS NOTES



## 1940s

RITA (WINKATES) CAPPELLER (JUNE 1941) graduated from Mundelein BS 1947, lives in Lake Bluff, IL, has 4 children and is retired.

WARREN SCHNEIDER (JUNE 1941) lives in Antioch, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired salesman.

BETTY (LEMKE) STEWART (JANUARY 1942) graduated from North Park 1945, lives in Chagrin Falls, OH, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

CHARLOTTE (ZIMMER) KENZEL (JUNE 1942) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren.

PAUL OLSON (JUNE 1942) lives in Sister Bay, WI and is retired.

RUTH (HARTMANN) LALISH (JANUARY 1943) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children and is retired.

DAVE WHITTIER (JANUARY 1943) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

BARBARA DAVIES (JUNE 1943) lives in Fontana, WI, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a Mary Kay Consultant.

LEONA (CABOOR) LAMCZYK (JUNE 1943) lives in Hot Springs Village, AR, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

AL GNASKI (JANUARY 1944) lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 5 children and is retired.

ROY RIIS (JANUARY 1944) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 children and is a commercial artist.

JEAN (BOYLE) STEWART (JUNE 1944) lives in Ingleside, IL, has 4 children and is a housewife.

JANE (SORENSEN) HOULBERG (JUNE 1945) lives in Santa Rosa, CA, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is a housewife.

MARILYN (FISHER) MAXWELL (JANUARY 1946) lives in Mc Kinney, TX, has 5 children and is retired.

DON NELSON (JANUARY 1947) lives in Wayzata, MN, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is a retired consultant.

SHIRLEY (MILLER) TURNER (JANUARY 1947) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren and is a housewife.

LORETTA (HOPPE) LIVERIS (JUNE 1947) lives in Peachtree City, GA, has 7 children, 19 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and is retired.

DAVE NELSEN (JUNE 1947) MARRIED MARILYN (NETT) (JUNE 1947), he graduated from U of I BS 1947, they live in Leawood, KS, have 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

EDWARD (PRZYBYLSKI) PRICE (JUNE 1947) graduated from Ohio St BA 1956, lives in Seminole, FL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

WALTER STECHER (JUNE 1947) MARRIED CARYL (ANDA) (JANUARY 1950) the live in Tarpon Springs, FL, have 4 children 8 grandchildren and are retired.

SHIRLEY (HUNTMAN) TAYLOR (JUNE 1947) lives in Holiday, FL, has 3 children and is a retired musician.

SHIRLEY (JACOBSEN) HILL (JANUARY 1948) lives in Indian Creek, IL and has 4 children, 13 grandchildren.

JAMES MAYER (JANUARY 1948) graduated from Northern BS, MS, UIC MBA, lives in Geneva, IL, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

RICHARD VLASAK (JANUARY 1948) graduated from De Paul BA 1953, MA 1961, U of I PhD 1968, lives in Ft Atkinson, WI and Largo, FL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

DONALD JACKSON (JUNE 1948) graduated from IL St BS

1956, lives in Ft Myers, FL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is retired.

MARIANNE (GOJKOVICH) STOERY (JUNE 1948) graduated from Stephens College AA 1951, lives in Northbrook, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren.

BARBARA (BURGIS) ZUEGEL (JANUARY 1949) graduated from Millikin BA 1953, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a housewife/teacher.

RAYMOND GODZICKI (JUNE 1949) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

MARILYN (SCHMIDT) TRUCKENBROD (JUNE 1949) graduated from Northern BS Ed 1963, lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 5 children, 15 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

ROBERT TURK (JUNE 1949) lives in Norridge, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a sheet metal worker.

MARVIN WEBER (JUNE 1949) graduated from MI BS 1958, MA 1958, lives in Commerce Twsp MI, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

## 1950s

GLORIA (GUERRA) CHRISTENSEN (JANUARY 1950) lives in Addison, IL, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a housewife.

RICHARD KLEMM (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Purdue BS 1954, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 7 children and owns a manufacturing company and is a recently retired State Senator.

MARLENE (DIETZEL) LAWSON (JUNE 1950) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children (both are Taft grads) and is retired.

BARBARA NORBERG (JUNE 1950) lives in Orlando, FL, has 3 daughters, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

BRUCE GEISERT (JUNE 1951) graduated from U of I BS 1956, lives in Midland, MI, has 1 child and is retired.

WILLIAM KAMMER (JUNE 1951) lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 6 children, 12 grandchildren and is retired.

BARBARA (ADAMS) MEANZA (JUNE 1951) lives in Glen Ellyn, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is semi retired.

LENORE (RAMELOW) IMONDI (JANUARY 1953) graduated from North Park 1955, U of IL 1957, U of RI 1970, lives in Hohnston, RI, has 1 son, 3 grandchildren and is a teacher/librarian.

ROBERTA (LOCKERBEE) FIALI (JUNE 1953) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren, is semi retired and also has a home in Maui HI.

ROBERT HARVEY (JUNE 1953) graduated from Wright AA 1956, lives in Schaumburg, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

VALERIE (STEKLAC) LE FEVRE (JUNE 1953) graduated from Northwestern BA 1963, lives in Rockton, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

CARLOE (GREEN) LUBECKER (JUNE 1953) graduated from Wright AA 1964, De Lourdes Bsed 1977, lives in Fox River Grove, IL, has 4 children, 11 grandchildren and is retired.

MARLEEN (MARTIN) ROMANO (JUNE 1953) MARRIED JOE (JUNE 1953), they lives in Santa Barbara, CA, have 5 children, 13 grandchildren and are retired.

CAROL (SCHEIHUNG) RUSTER (JUNE 1953) lives in Ft Wayne, IN, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

LOIS MAE (SZORC) STRACHAN (JUNE 1953) lives in Englewood, FL, has 6 children, 11 grandchildren and is a retired accountant.

MARCIA (TRIDEMY) RATAJIK (JANUARY 1954) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

LE ROY BEENING (JUNE 1954) graduated Wright AA 1959, lives in Crawfordsville, IN, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

# CLASS NOTES

ANITA (ZABEL) GRIZAFFI (JANUARY 1955) lives in River Forest, IL, has 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

MARV RICKLEFS (JANUARY 1955) lives in Wayne, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

HERB BRANT (JUNE 1955) lives in Buena Park, CA, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired Air Force.

DIANNE (KESSER) PATTERSON (JUNE 1955) graduated from U of I BSA 1959, MA 1960, lives in Elmhurst, IL and is a retired H.S. Teacher.

ARLENE (JOHNSON) SCHOESSLING (JUNE 1955) MARRIED PHILLIP (JUNE 1952), they live in Chicago, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and she is retired.

JOHN SNOW (JUNE 1955) graduated from Coe College BA 1959, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

MARLENE (CERNY) WILLIAMSON (JUNE 1955) lives in Glendale, AZ, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

CAROL (LINDQUIST) HANSON (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Northwestern BSJ 1966, MA 1990, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 daughters, 3 grandchildren and is a legal assistant.

JOAN (DENNEY) SANDECKI (JANUARY 1956) lives in La Verne, CA, has 5 stepchildren and is retired.

JERRY SCHREIBER (JANUARY 1956) graduated from U of MN BS 1961, lives in Spicewood, TX, has 1 child and is retired.

SUZANNE ANDERSON (JUNE 1956) graduated from Grant Hosp RN 1959, U Redlands BA 1977, lives in Escondido, CA and is an RN.

PATRICIA (STOETMAN) THORP (JUNE 1956) lives in Barrington, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

JAY FORBREGD (JANUARY 1957) lives in Phoenix, AZ, has 1 child and is a shop owner.

HERB PASKE (JANUARY 1957) graduated from IL ST BS

1961, Loyola MS 1965, lives in Riverwoods, IL, has 2 children and President of Glenbrook Investment Counsel.

ROBERT PHILIPP (JANUARY 1957) graduated from U of I BA 1961, College of Law 1967, lives in Vienna, VA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

BEVERLY (WALKER) TABERN (JUNE 1957) graduated from North Park Bed 1961, lives in Northbrook, IL, has 1 child and is a music teacher.

LYNN TERRY (JUNE 1957) graduated from Colorado U BA 1962, San Francisco ST MA 1971, lives in San Francisco, has 1 child and is retired.

KENT WALLACE (JUNE 1957) graduated from IL Wesleyan BS 1962, lives in Dallas, TX, has 3 children and is retired

MARILYN (PULLEY) LAPPIN (JANUARY 1958) lives in Sturgeon Bay, WI, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

BARBARA (WALLNER) MARCOTT (JANUARY 1958) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT WOLTER (JANUARY 1958) graduated from MI State BA 1962, lives in Ellenton, FL, has 5 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

LOUIS HOLIAN (JUNE 1958) graduated from De Paul BS 1965, lives in Palatine, IL, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is President of Prospect Products.

JUDY (YOUNG) HUSS (JUNE 1958) graduated from Northern BS 1962, lives in La Quinta, CA and is an office manager.

RON MAC FARLANE (JUNE 1958) graduated from Wright, U of Tampa, Northern IL, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 1 child and is a manufacturer.

JEFF ATKINSON (JANUARY 1959) graduated from Purdue BS 1963, Northwestern MBA 1968, lives in Chesterfield, MO, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is owner/publisher of Dustball, LTD.

KAREN (ANDERSON) STERBENZ (JANUARY 1959)

graduated from Denison U BA 1963, lives in St Louis, MO, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

DOROTHY ENGELS (JUNE 1959) graduated from Drake BFA 1963, lives in Chicago and is a UAL flight attendant.

JOYCE (SLOWN) STARK (JUNE 1959) lives in Blue Eye, MO, has 2 children and is a library assistant.

## 1960s

ANITA (SCHOESSLING) BARRETT (JUNE 1960) graduated from U of WI BS 1964, lives in Hot Springs, AR, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is the owner of a campground.

SHIRLEY (KALIVODA) DE WEESE (JUNE 1960) lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild, is a furniture sales consultant and secretary/treasurer of our Alumni Assoc.

MARILOU (BEAVER) EPIFANO (JUNE 1960) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is an administrative assistant.

ROGER JENSEN (JUNE 1960) graduated from St Olaf BA 1964, Valparaiso ID 1967, lives in St Paul, MN, has 2 children and is an attorney.

JUDITH (GREASLEY) MICH (JUNE 1960) graduated from Northwestern BA 1964, Cornell M Ed 1966, lives in Ann Arbor, MI and is a teacher.

STEVE REGOPOULOS (JANUARY 1961) graduated from U of I BS 1969, lives in Barrington, IL, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is a real estate developer.

MARILYN (RAFFEL) EICKELBERG (JUNE 1961) lives in Tomahawk, WI, has 5 children, 1 grandchild and is a hospitality hostess.

MARGIE (SAIGER) HALLWAS (JUNE 1961) graduated from Oakton College 1983, lives in Chicago, has 1 son (who graduated from Taft) and is a legal secretary and real estate agent.

MARGERY (MC LEAN) KULLMAN (JUNE 1961) lives

in Plymouth, MN, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

JANET (SWANSON) CNOTA (JANUARY 1962) lives in Scottsdale, AZ, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is a housewife.

NANCY (MILLER) ASHBY (JUNE 1962) lives in Linn, MO, has 3 girls, 7 grandchildren, is a baker at a local school. Her husband taught ROTC at Taft 1970-1972.

JUDY (MERRILL) RUEGSEGG (JUNE 1962) graduated from Wheaton College BA 1965, lives in Dayton, OH, has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and is a French teacher.

ROBERT SATKIEWICZ (JUNE 1962) MARRIED MARILYN (ROMANO) (JUNE 1962) they live in Lake Villa, IL, have 2 children, 1 grandchild, Bob is a truck driver, Marilyn is a human resources manager.

PHYLLIS (SHELDON) WHARTON (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northern BS 1967, MS 1977, lives in Palatine, IL, has 5 children and is a retired teacher.

RONALD CALDRON (JUNE 1963) graduated from U of WI BS 1968, WA State MBA 1969, lives in Maple Valley, WA, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

SUSAN CRANE (JUNE 1963) graduated from IL State BS 1967, Northeastern MA 1973, Kent College JD 1982, lives in Chicago and is an assistant counsel for Health Care Services.

EDMUND FELDY (JUNE 1963) graduated from IIT BSME 1968, MME 1970, U of Chgo MBA 1975, lives in Evanston, IL, has 2 children and is a mechanical engineer.

CAMILLE (SHELLY) KOSIENIAK (JUNE 1963) graduated from IIT, lives in Lexington, KY, has 5 children, 4 grandchildren and is a housewife.

GINNY (DEVEREUX) MC CARTHY (JUNE 1963) graduated from Wright AA 1966, lives in Venice, FL, has 1 child and is in customer service.

LESLEY (KRAUSE) BEST (JANUARY 1964) lives in Elk



# CLASS NOTES

Grove, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a secretary.

GLENN SKINNER (JANUARY 1964) graduated from Wright AA 1967, Northwestern BBA 1970, lives in Elmwood Park, IL, has 3 children and is a land trust officer.

KAREN (KUEHL) ADAIR (JUNE 1964) lives in Ft Wayne, IN, has 2 children and is in real estate sales.

SUSAN (ADREANI) SMITH (JUNE 1964) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is a VP at Norwood Builders.

LEE MARSH (JANUARY 1965) graduated from Purdue BS 1969, Northwestern MBA 1972, lives in Palatine, IL, has 3 children and is a director of operations.

MADONNA (PETERSEN) NILES (JANUARY 1966) graduated from U of Chgo BA 1972, lives in Chicago and is a style editor.

JUDITH (SWANSON) STONE (JANUARY 1966) graduated from Eastern IL BS 1970, Concordia MA 1994, lives in Twin Lakes, WI, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a teacher.

JUDY (ABBINANTI) OLSZOWKA (JUNE 1966) graduated from De Paul BS 1970, Loyola MBA 1982, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is a health insurance investigator.

LYNNE OSTFELD (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of I BA 1970, MA 1972, John Marshall Law JD 1985, lives in Chicago and is an attorney with her own practice.

TOM ROSE (1966) RECENTLY MARRIED VIRGINIA (CHANDLER) LORENZ (1967), they were high school sweethearts, during college went separate ways, met again a few years ago and now live in Chicago.

SUSAN (GRANDT) WERNER-RODEN (JUNE 1966) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a school secretary for District 59.

CHRISTINE LILLA (JUNE 1968) graduated from Triton LPN 1984, Harper AA Nursing 1989, AA Science 1989, lives in

Schaumburg, IL and is a cardiac RN.

LINDA (VANDLIK) MAHANEY (JUNE 1968) graduated from Northern BS 1972, lives in St Charles, IL, has 2 children and is a realtor.

GAIL (GALLA) NEHRIG (JUNE 1968) graduated from U of MO BS Ed 1978, lives in St Louis, MO, has 2 children and is a homemaker.

TRACY (NOVAK) PROSI (JUNE 1968) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children and is a housewife.

JULIE (BALODIMAS) Blake (1969) GRADUATED FROM Northern BA 1973, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a retail dept. asst. mgr for Nordstrom.

ED PRELLETZ (1969) lives in Peoria, AZ, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an American Express commercial loan officer.

## 1970s

RICH CARDELLA (1970) graduated from U of I BS 1974, MD 1978, lives in Cincinnati, OH, has 4 children and is a radiologist.

CAROL DAVIES (1970) lives in Summit, IL, has 4 children and is a homemaker and works in the produce dept. at a Dominicks.

PATRICIA (HAMMANG) MILLER (1970) lives in Chicago and is a housewife.

AVIS (SCHILLING) SORENSEN (1970) graduated from Brigham Young BS Microbiology/Medical Tech 1975, lives in Stoughton, WI, has 5 children, 2 grandchildren and is a piano teacher.

STEVEN TERLECKI (1970) graduated from U of NM, BA Geology 1974, lives in Littleton, CO, has 3 children and is a consulting petroleum geologist.

DIANE HANSEN (1971) graduated Albertus Magnus College 2002, lives in New London, CT, has 3 children and is an accounting technician.

BARBARA (MOE) LE MASTER (1971) graduated from Western BS 1975, lives in Naperville, IL, has 2 children

and is a customer service manager.

RICHARD LINDBERG (1971) graduated from Northeastern BA 1974, MA 1987, lives in Chicago and is a writer (more than 7 books published on Chicago and the White Sox), also the Chicago White Sox Historian.

CHRISTOPHER SADOWSKI (1971) graduated from U of I BA Criminal Justice 1975, lives in Westerville, OH and is a special agent.

CHRISTINE (FRASS) SPILLIOS (1971) lives in Sahuarita, AZ, has 2 children and is an account administrator.

MICHAEL WEST (1971) lives in Westchester, IL, has 2 children and is a commercial photographer.

JUST (SPIEROWSKI) KEARNEY (1972) graduated from UIC BA 1975, Wright AA 1996, lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is a CPA.

SANDY (LINDSEY) NEBE (1972) graduated from Roosevelt BGS Computer Science 1988, lives in Lake Villa, IL, has 1 child and is a partner in a communication solutions corp..

STEVE WILLIAMS (1972) graduated from Wright AA 1975, lives in Chicago, has 4 children (2 graduated from Taft) and is a newspaper distributor.

JOSEPH PECKO (1973) graduated from Loyola BS 1977, JD 1981, lives in Burr Ridge, IL and is an attorney.

NANCY (ANDERSEN) HELDT (1975) graduated from Northeastern BS 1984, UIC BS 1992, lives in Crystal Lake, IL, and is a clinical instructor at U of I.

ROBERT STUMPF (1975) lives in Crystal Lake, IL, has 2 children and is a truck driver.

CYNTHIA (PENESIS) FAGIANO (1976) graduated from Northeastern BS 1982, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is a Chicago firefighter.

GAIL (KRUSINSKI) HARNED (1972) lives in Lexington, KY, has 2 children and is director of lay ministry at St Luke United Methodist.

SANDY (MARSHALL) PAIK (1976) graduated from

Northeastern 1980 Nat'l Louis Med 1990, lives in Poway, CA, has 2 children and is a homemaker.

NICK CHIUSOLO (1977) lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 2 children and is VP division sales.

RICHARD BAKE (1978) graduated from Northeastern BA Business Mgmt, Economics 1983, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 2 children and is a chief investigator of the IL Dept of Financial Institutions.

SUSAN (MARQUARDT) MORRISON (1978) graduated from Southern IL BS Math 1982, lives in Thousand Oaks, CA and is a senior admin. Analyst and Programmer.

LINDA (FEE) STECK (1978) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a project leader.

LISA (STESSL) HANS (1979) graduated from U of WI BS 1986, lives in Breckenridge, CO, has 1 child and is a 911 dispatcher.

## 1980s

BRIAN KRATZ (1980) MARRIED NATALIA (KOZIOL) (1982) they live in Chicago and have 2 children.

RAY NELSON (1980) graduated from De Paul BS 1984, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 1 child and is an Actuary.

TERRI (DICK) HATFIELD (1982) lives in Chesapeake, VA, has 3 children and is a substitute teacher.

SANDRA (DILLON) ORZOLEK (1982) lives in St Charles, IL, has 3 children and is a homemaker.

DOUGLAS HIZEL (1983) lives in Woodstock, IL and is a pipe fitter and rehabbing a 100 year old farmhouse.

RALPH MOLLENHAUER (1983) graduated from North Park BS 1987, Northwestern MBA 2000, lives in Libertyville, IL, has 2 children and is 2<sup>nd</sup> VP benefits administration.

LINDA (CULLITON) MORGENROTH (1983) graduated from Northwestern BA Radio, TV, Film, lives in Simi Valley, CA, has 2 children and is president of E=MC Digital, provides computer

# CLASS NOTES

graphics and visual effects for TV and film, like "CSI" and "CSI Miami".

**ULKA (PATEL) GHOSH** (1986) graduated from U of I BS Electrical Engineering 1990, lives in Suffield, CT, has 2 children and is a restaurant owner.

**MELISA (LUNSFORD) OLSEN** (1987) graduated from Wheaton College BA Psychology 1998, lives in Goodyear, AZ, has 3 children and is self-employed.

**KAREN (LEPINSKI) SIDLOW** (1988) graduated from U of I BS 1992, MS 1995, lives in

Grayslake, IL, has 1 child and is a software engineer..

## 1990s

**LOUIS HALLWAS** (1991) graduated from Columbia BA 1996, lives in Chicago and is a musician.

**ELSA (MONTOTO) VEGA** (1991) graduated from UIC BSW 1995, MSW 1997, lives in Chicago, has 3 children and is a school social worker.

## In Our Memories

**Raymond (Bud) Carlson**, class of January 1948, died on August 18, 2002. He lived in Palm Desert, CA winters and Brainerd, MN in the summer months.

**Cliff Wessels**, class of June 1948, passed away March 23, 2003 from massive heart attack. Cliff was a member of the committee that established the Taft Alumni Association.

**Robert D. Schmidt**, class of June 1950, died January 21, 2003.

**Joan Stoll**, class of June 1952 died January 4, 2003 from a brain aneurysm.

**Lola (Bruhn) Keil**, class of January 1955, died February 9, 2003 of a heart attack. She worked for

many years at the family business, Keil Automotive on Northwest Highway in Norwood Park.

**Betty Jo (Pielin) Kratzer**, class of June 1957, passed away from cancer August, 2002.

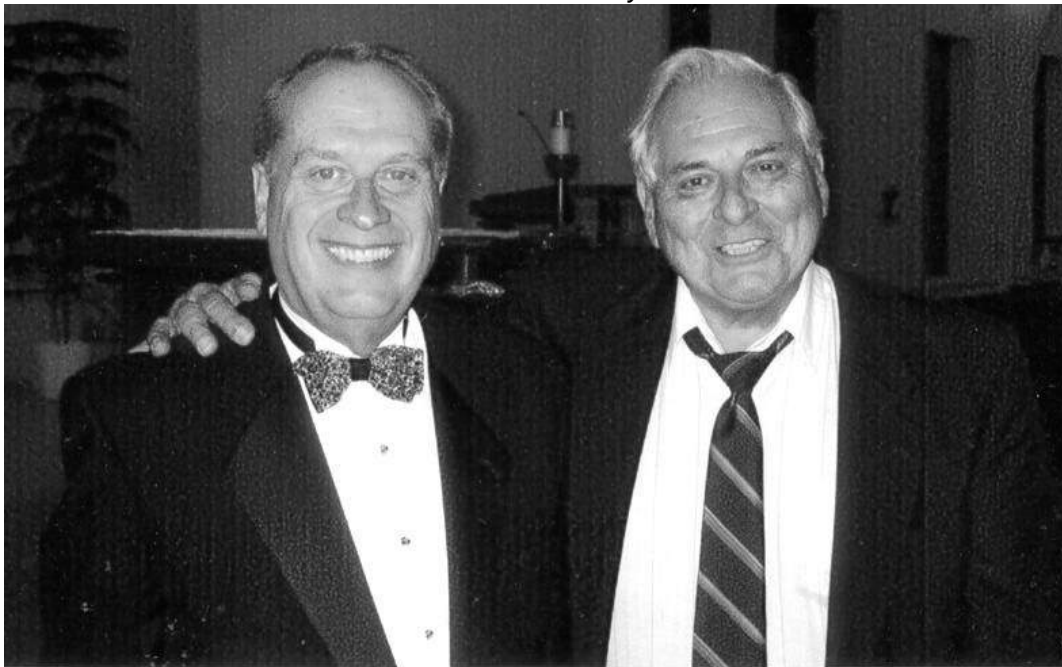
**Loretta M. Gaughan**, Class of 1973, passed away on February 28, 2003 from ovarian cancer. She was a life long resident of Chicago.

**Michael Wilson**, class of 1998, was one of the many who were crushed and perished in the E2 nightclub disaster in Chicago February 17, 2003.

**Marion Kuhlman**, Taft librarian from 1952 until 1981 passed away on April 5, 2003.

## Dave Barth & JJ Stamm

*In the Winter issue of the Newsletter this picture of Dave Barth and JJ Stamm at the SPIRIT OF LIFE Christmas Concert was inadvertently omitted.*



**Dave Barth and JJ Stamm**

## Teachers (Continued from Page 6)

classes for 3-1/2 years, until her illness and death abruptly ended her career. Many students went to her wake.

Second: Regarding Marilyn Poltzke's letter inviting alums to write to her sister-in-law Alice Press. I met Alice when my husband and I started dating in the early '60s. My husband called on Brown-Press furniture store in Edgebrook, trying to get them to buy more Clairtone hi-fi sets. We count among our best friends **Harry** and **Audrea "Babe" Brown** (the "Brown" in Brown-Press), both Taft graduates of 1940 something. We haven't seen Alice or Dick Press in many years, but get some news of their whereabouts from Harry.

**Carol Lindquist Hanson** (January 1956)

## 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, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631.

**Jack "Pops" Rapier**, Taft's first musical director, took out a road show band of his students every summer. We worked county and state fairs. We played the grandstand show at night and played between the races in the afternoon. We worked Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri fairs and were usually out for 6 to 8 weeks in the summer.



This picture was taken the summer of 1947. Shown in the photo is **Jack "Pops" Rapier**, leader and lead trumpet and left of him is **Ed Hildwein** (sax) (class of 1945), then **Bill Mathews** (sax)(class of 47?), **Art Schmidt** (sax)(class of 47?), then me, **Bob Ploetz** (tuba)(I played tuba outside instead of bass fiddle), **Dick Stahl** (drummer)(class of 45), **George Sheaver** (trombone)(class of 46), **Dick Broad** (trombone)(class of 46 or 47), **Bob Theil** (trumpet)(class of 46 or 47) and Bob Smith (trumpet). Bob [Smith] was not a Taft student. Jack told me he played in Sousa's Band when younger. Jack looks real proud of us. We were sure proud of him. I think the picture was taken at Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, MO.

**Bob Ploetz** (January 46)

## Boy, Were we Lucky!

*We received this article recently from a friend on the Internet, and wanted to pass on to you. Although it helps us remember a time BEFORE high school, the memories are still fun.*

Looking back, it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have...

Mom used to defrost hamburger on the counter AND I used to eat it raw sometimes too, but I can't remember getting E-coli.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes we had no helmets.

We played with toy guns, cowboys and Indians, Army, cops and robbers, and used our fingers to simulate guns when the toy ones or my BB gun was not available.

Some students weren't as smart as others or didn't work hard so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. That generation produced some of the greatest risk-takers and problem solvers. We had the freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), the term cell phone would have conjured up a phone in a jail cell, and a pager was the school PA system.

We all took gym, not PE... and risked permanent injury with a pair of high top Ked's (only worn in gym) instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now. Flunking gym was not an option... even for stupid kids! I guess PE must be much harder than gym.

Every year, someone taught the whole school a lesson by running in the halls with leather soles on linoleum tile and hitting the wet spot. How much better off would we be today if we only knew we could have sued the school system.

Speaking of school, we all said prayers and the pledge and stayed in detention after school and caught all sorts of negative attention for the next two weeks. We must have had horribly damaged psyches.

I can't understand it. Schools didn't offer 14 year olds an abortion or condoms (we wouldn't have known what either was anyway) but they did give us a couple of aspirin and cough syrup if we started getting the sniffles.

What an archaic health system we had then. Remember school nurses? Ours wore a hat and everything.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself.

I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, PlayStation, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital cable stations. I must be repressing that memory as I try to rationalize through the denial of the dangers could have befallen us as we trekked off each day about a mile down the road to some guy's vacant lot, built forts out of branches and pieces of plywood, made trails, and fought over who got to be the Lone Ranger. What was that property owner thinking, letting us play on that lot. He should have been locked up for not putting up a fence around the property, complete with a self-closing gate and an infrared intruder alarm.

Oh yeah... and where was the Benadryl and sterilization kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played king of the hill on piles of gravel left on vacant construction sites and when we got hurt, Mom pulled out the 48-cent bottle of mercurochrome and then we got our butt spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10-day dose of a \$49 bottle of antibiotics and then Mom calls the attorney to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We didn't act up at the neighbor's house either because if we did, we got our butt spanked (physical abuse).. and then we got our butt spanked again when we got home.

Mom invited the door-to-door salesman inside for coffee, kids choked down the dust from the gravel driveway while playing with Tonka trucks (remember why Tonka trucks were made tough... it wasn't so that they could take the rough berber in the family room, and Dad drove a car with leaded gas.

Our music had to be left inside when we went out to play and I am sure that I nearly exhausted my imagination a couple of times when we went on two week vacations. I should probably sue the folks now for the danger they put us in when we all slept in campgrounds in the family tent.

Summers were spent behind the push lawnmower and I didn't even know that mowers came with motors until I was 13 and we got one without an automatic blade-stop or an auto-drive. How sick were my parents?

Of course my parents weren't the only psychos. I recall Donny Reynolds from next-door coming over and doing his tricks on the front stoop just before he fell off. Little did his Mom know that she could have owned our house. Instead she picked him up and swatted him for being such a goof. It was a neighborhood run amuck.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have know that we needed to get into group therapy and anger management classes? We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac!

How did we survive?

## Bob Berns – Taft Alumni Logo Winner

In the last edition we regretted no picture of Bob Berns receiving his award was available. Thankfully we can provide this one to you now.



Dear Kay and Tom:

As you mentioned in the last copy of the Taft Alumni Association Newsletter, there wasn't a photographer in sight when I was presented with the glass eagle and jacket, so my son was kind enough to take one.

I want to thank everyone who was involved, and in case you want to show how happy a 75-year-old man can get, I am enclosing an image suitable for use.

My thanks to all of the people who head up the Taft Newsletter and Alumni Association for making this fine award possible.

We were quite surprised to hear how large your membership/subscription list is, in fact, it outnumbers the readership of some of the publications we do business with.

I have received calls and letters of congratulations from many of our Taft friends from around the country, and that in itself was worth the effort.

Sincerely,  
Bob Berns

## Bob Berns Biography

Bob Berns graduated from Taft in January of 1946, just as World War II was coming to an end. He immediately entered the U. S. Army and served a year-and-a-half in Japan with the army of occupation.

When he returned, he began dating a former Taftite named Doris Bockhaus and within a year, the two were married. They bought a home in suburban Morton Grove in which they still reside. In fact, Doris has lived in only two homes her entire life. They have two children; Peggy recently received her Master's Degree in business administration and Mark has taken over the family business, an advertising company located in Des Plaines, Illinois.

"When we went to the board meeting of the Taft Alumni Association, we were amazed at how much the school had changed. The first thing we saw was a large sign that read; "TAFT" with "Presented by the Taft Alumni Association" underneath. The interior has been increased considerably with every updated feature imaginable," said Bob. "My brother Harry played basketball for Taft about the same time I was there, and he was the third leading scorer in the city league. Nobody went to their home games, and it's probably a good thing, because the gym was so small that there wouldn't have been room for any of them."

I have many fond memories from my years at Taft, including sneaking into the auditorium with my friend Lenny Lewandowski on a Friday night when the cast for The Desert Song musical was putting on a final run-through, starring Danny Vrabek and a lovely young lady whose name I can't recall. To this day, I don't remember a musical I enjoyed more.

Doris Berns is a member of a Taft "girl's" club that is going into its 53rd year. They used to meet quarterly, but in recent years so many of its members have moved to remote corners of the country that they now get together only at every class reunion, some of which are held in Florida.

Bob only works three days a week now in the family business, and Doris still works there full-time as a computer specialist. The rest of Bob's time is spent doing woodcarving. He recently entered 6 of his carvings in a competition held by The Northwest Chicago Woodcarver's Association and won a total of 6 ribbons including a first, second, third and 3 honorable mentions.

## 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!

### International Fest

Friday, June 6th, 2003 & Saturday, June 7th, 2003

**Place:** In Front of Taft High School Hurlbut Entrance  
( Block Party)

**When:** Thursday, June 5 Day Program  
Friday, June 6 3pm - 9pm  
Saturday, June 7 9am - 1pm

Ethnic Groups will be performing 15 to 20 minute programs on rotating stages

Ethnic booths and Exhibits will be on display

Entrance Free!!!!

Games Free!!!!

Food - Various Prices!

Entertainment Free!!!!

**Contact Person:** Nilda Ruiz Pauley - Room 187  
Auditorium Activities Coordinator

## TAFT Alumni Order Form

Quantity Ordered	Description	Price	Extended Price
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

+ 6.00 postage/handling

TOTAL Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to: Taft Alumni Association  
6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60631

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_



### 1955 Arizona Taft Graduates

Five 1955 Taft Graduates had a couples reunion in Arizona. They are (L-R) Judy (Knatzenberg) Tonz, Sue (Unger) Oberheide, Anita (Wittenberger) Philippart, Marlow (Petrie) Sorensen and Joyce (Kiengle) Rossen.

<b>TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM</b>			
Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
Address (Home)		City	State      Zip
Address (Business)		City	State      Zip
Home Telephone No: (      )		Office Telephone No:(      )	
Name of Spouse		Year Married:	
Number of Children:	Ages:	Number of Grandchildren:	
College(s) Attended, Degree(s) Earned, Year of Graduation _____			
Occupation:		Other Interests:	
Other News or Information: _____			
<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. <b>Return to: Taft Alumni Association</b> <b>6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.</b> <b>Chicago IL 60631</b>			
			<i>Spring 2003</i>

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                   Tom Kuciak (1962)  
                   Joe Popp (1966)  
                   Paulette English (1967)  
                   Kevin Kreiger (1973)  
                   Judi Lenihan (1973)  
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                   Barbara Rodriguez (1970)

#### Newsletter Staff:

Editor - Jerry Bloom - (920) 743-8449  
                   E-mail - jbbloom@charter.net  
 Assistants: Kay / Tom Kuciak - (623) 544-0226  
                   E-mail - Taftalum@cox.net  
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