



# Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XVIII No. 1

Spring 2004

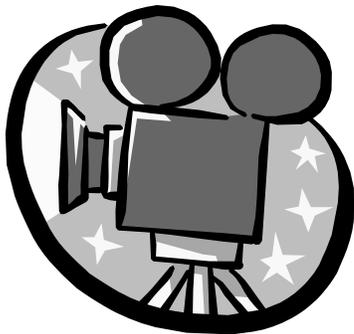
## Taft Proud

This fall marks sixty-five years since the first students walked in the doors of Taft High School in 1939, and the Taft Alumni Association is marking its own two decade mark.

Many of you attended our 50th anniversary celebration for Taft. We're making plans to mark the 65th anniversary this fall, with a weekend all-class reunion gathering at the school, and an opportunity to showcase some of the exciting programs the school has for its current student body. We're proud of our years at Taft, and this is a chance for us to meet some of our newer and future alumni.

If there are Chicago-area alumni interested in helping the planning committee over the spring and summer, please contact TAA board member Frank Heyer (June 1948) at (773) 631-4701.

More information will be included in the summer newsletter.



## East Lab Funding Approved

Last September your Taft Alumni Association board received a request for funds sufficient to enable the THS East Lab to buy two Sony camcorders at an estimated cost of \$1400 (\$700 each). When the project was approved in April, TAA board member Frank Heyer shopped around and was able to get two "floor models" and three blank tapes for a total of \$911.31. This includes \$71.40 in taxes, which will be refunded when the Taft Tax Exempt Letter is presented. We thank Circuit City for working with us on upgrading Taft East Lab's program.

Taft East Lab is a program that we hope will keep Academic Center students at Taft and promote or encourage better students in general to Taft.

See **East Lab** | page 4

## Hall of Fame / Book of Honor

It's time again for nominations for the Taft High School Alumni Hall of Fame, which installs new honorees once every five years.

We'll be inducting the next "class" at the fall reunion, so now is the time to send in names of Taft alumni who have impressed you as people who made their mark. We often get inquiries on how to make nominations, so we're offering a few ground rules:

A nominee is a graduate of Taft H.S., who exemplifies the best of Taft: someone we can be proud to hold high as a colleague and peer. Hall of Fame inductees bring honor to the name of Taft High School through their accomplishments in their careers, personal achievements, service to others, leadership and courage. And, as the Taft Loyalty Song (aka. the Taft Founders March) reminds us, they carry the standards of Taft upward through their lives.

Nominations should be submitted in writing, listing the year of graduation (and January or June class for classes up to 1966), the nominee's name (both as they were known in high school and as they are known now, if different), a current address for them and phone number and/or email contact where possible. You should make your case in your letter for the nominee, explaining what makes them special and why Taft should be proud of them. You should also include a way our Hall of Fame selection committee can contact you for more information.

One criterion is that inductees to the Hall of Fame must still be living. Those selected will be asked to attend the ceremony this fall. You do not need to be a Taft graduate to make a nomination. Family members or friends may also submit information.

See **Hall of Fame / Book of Honor** | page 4

## Winter Issue

**Please accept our apology for not issuing the winter newsletter this year. Our editor Jerry Bloom and her husband Bernie were on a well earned extended vacation.**

**Newsletter Staff**

## CLASS REUNIONS

### Third Annual all Taft Classes Reunion Picnic

Date: February 27, 2005  
Place: Fort DeSoto Park, St Petersburg, FL  
Shelter #14 (park# 727/582-2267)  
Contact: Leon Kathan (863) 655-4559  
117 Monte Real Blvd.  
Sebring, FL 33876-8056  
leonkathan@yahoo.com

### 1951 – January and June "mini-reunion"

Date: September 17 - 19, 2004  
Place: Radisson O'Hare Rosemont  
Contact: Carol or Ron Bentsen (847) 506-9488 or ahbentsens@aol.com

### 1954 - January and June

Date: Friday, September 24, 2004  
Place: Wellington of Arlington - Arlington Hts, IL  
Contact: Bob Eischen bobinskokie@comcast.net  
Or W. Keith Weiwurm weiwurm@adelphia.net

### 1955 - January

Date: October 9, 2004  
Place: Best Western Midway Hotel - Elk Grove, IL  
Contact: Walter Guyer - 847-506-9336  
wguyer1@comcast.net

### 1955 – June

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

### 1956 – January/June

Date: Volunteers needed to form committee!  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: Judith Nelson heyjudefromil@webtv.net

### 1959 – January

Date: September 2004  
Place: Wellington Restaurant – Arlington Hts., IL

Contact: Nancy (Peterson) Smith – 847-497-3911  
Or Norm Gunther – NHGunther@aol.com

### 1964 - June

Date: Volunteers needed to form committee!  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: Judy Waters Grundke PJGrundke@aol.com

### 1994

Date: TBA  
Contact: Rukiya Hammond (773) 379-0698

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REUNIONS

### 1950–Onahan Elementary School

Date: September 25, 2004  
Place: TBD  
Contact: Ron Newmann  
waterlue@voyager.net

### 1964–Ebinger Elementary School

Date: To be determined – Can we do it?  
Place: To be determined  
Contact: Yoit (Pat Stratton) Callaghan  
yoitycakes@msn.com

### All Class Reunion - 2004



Thirty-one people attended the second annual Taft all-class reunion held in St. Petersburg, FL in February. Listed here are the names and class years of the people in this photo, but not in the same order or including the names of their spouses: **Jerry (Beesley) Bloom** (June '62), **Marjorie Nehlsen** (June '56), **Claire (Johnson) Dahlquist** (January '54), **Jane Lamarche Adair** (January '52), **Herbert R. Spohnholtz** (June '50), **Jeanette (Olsen) Gilbertson** (January '63), **Judy (Olsen) Gammon** (January '60), **Evie (Fischer) Miller** (January '46), **Betty (Johnston) Adams** (June '49), **Edna (Johnston) Burkey** (June '52), **Norma (Light) Mann** (June '41), **Jim Estep** (January '58), **Nancy Scimeca** (June '59), **Rosalie (Scimeca) Feilen** (January '58), **Gordon Dahlquist** (January '52), **Phyllis Holowaty Albrecht** (January '52) and **Janet Swanson Stoffels** (January '52). Also attending was the son of graduate **George P. Fetting** (June '41), who stated that his father was on the first Taft football team. Richard Fetting moved from Taft district before graduation, so he could not claim to be from the class of 1972, but "almost". He vowed to bring his father next year!

## Letters to the Editor

WOW!

I did not realize how the time flew, and that my newsletter was expired! I just mailed my payment! Thanks!

**Nancy Rodrick Scatchell** (1972)  
nancysc@smithe.com

*[The following email was received as a response to a 'thank you' extended to Taft Alum **John Ellis** (June 1962). As you may recall, John invited all Taft Alumni to join him at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. My husband and I attended – and for two days John and his wife Danielle treated us royally. Next year, you should plan to attend, too! J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*  
Jerry and Bernie,

...I had no idea you returned the next day to the livestock show and auction. I wish I had known. I was at the auction also. We are supposed to attend all the auctions, but I was most concerned about my auction Saturday. The Steer auction raised

about \$2.3 million, with the Grand Champion going for \$250,000, which was down from last year [\$400,000] and way down from our record of \$601,000. But the next 40 champions lots went for 35% higher on average than ever before, so overall we were up about 12%. We sold 532 lots to raise the \$2.3m.

Overall attendance was up 9% and revenue was up 14%.

I was delighted that you made the effort to attend...

**John Ellis** (June '62)

To: TAA

I am sending this quick note to say "Hi" and to ask a question about the way the alumni are considered.

Do we consider the graduates of January '67 part of our class of graduates or are they considered part of the '66 graduates? ...I have

some information about one of the graduates of January '67. Her name is Sandra Kirwan (maiden name: Nichols)...

I know that she would love to hear from you guys and get herself added to the "Found" alumni list. When I started to receive the information to the reunion this last time I had been talking to her and mentioned it at which point she said she really would like to know where they are placed - "66" or "67" and would like to receive news and information.

I sure hope that I will be able to attend the reunion in 2007 for 40 years. I was not able to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> year reunion because my husband could not get time off of work and I could not come alone because of some of my disabilities (poor vision).

As you will see on the alumni sign up form that I am mailing to you today, I have moved and my email address has changed. Please be sure to make the appropriate changes on your rosters so I don't become one of the "Lost" alumni. Hope to see all of you real soon!

**Linda J. (Zoldowski) Menke**  
(June 1967) camenke@charter.net

*[Hi Linda, The January classes are always included with the June class of the same year. If you are from the January 1967 class you would be included with the June 1967 class reunions unless the June or January classes decided to have separate reunions.*

*I will see that a copy of the newsletter is sent to Sandra. Thanks for writing, Kay Kuciak, Pres. TAA]*

Hi Jerry:

Wanted to thank you for the article by Stanley Logan (June '42). In one of my Yearbooks there is a picture of Stanley. I believe he took first place in citywide drum competition. He too was a student of Mr. Widmeyer, who started the Drum Corps. Warren Webster and I were two of the first four drummers, but I think I may have told you that before.

**Bud Trick** (June 1941)



Dear Taft Alumni:

Congratulations and thanks to **Leon Kathan** for his organization of the Second Annual All Taft Reunion at DeSoto park in Florida.

Attendance must have at least tripled from last year's event. It included five of us from the premier January '52 class. We had Florida residents **Janet Swanson Stoffels** and **Janie LaMarche Adair**. And three "snow birds" Gordon **Dahlquist**, **Phyllis Holowaty Albrecht**, and me. Thank you Leon for all the hard work.

**Bill Becker** (January 1952)

To: Dominique Martin, Taft High School Music Department

Dear Dominique:

I am a graduate of Taft High (January 1949) and just read your appeal for help in the Alumni Newsletter. I hope that the enclosed check for \$250 will help in some way.

My tenure at Taft (1945-49) and my participation in much of the musical activities during that time were most memorable and important to me. I played trumpet in the Band and Orchestra under "Pops" Rapier who encouraged me to make music my career. I did, and enjoyed working here in Los Angeles as a professional musician and teacher for more than 50 years. The January 1949 Class Prophecy stated that "-----and Shelly Mehr who are now players in Gene Krupa's band are giving the Taft Band a helping hand". No, I never played with Gene Krupa but I've worked with many who did. So I would like to make the other part of the prophecy a reality, hence the check.

This is a most difficult time for music education in our schools but I encourage you to persevere. Music is, after all, the voice of the soul. Please call on me if I can be of further help.

Most Sincerely,

**Sheldon Mehr** January 1949

*Editors Note: Besides a long teaching career Sheldon has composed more than 50 works for band, orchestra, voices, chamber ensembles, jazz ensembles and piano. He is also author of 2 textbooks; Music Fundamentals, and The Music of the Media.*

See **Letters To The Editor** | page 9

Hi Jerry,

**Jack Gray** (June 1948) and I graduated from Edgebrook Grammar School in June of 1942. I went to Taft my first year then transferred to Senn, to take a technical course not offered at Taft then. I have not seen or heard from him since then. It would be great to talk to him again, just to see how his life went. I will attach a grammar school graduation picture of our class. I am in the middle row fifth from the left. Jack is standing right next to me, the sixth from the left middle row. It would be OK with me if you just forward this to him, to giving him the opportunity to see this picture.

Jack if you get this, and reply be sure in the subject heading, to put your name in caps, as I will not recognize your e-mail address. I would not want to accidentally delete it with all my junk mail. I was known as Rennie Nelson back then. My birth name is Reynold Nelson They just call me Rey these days.



To TAA,

I Got in touch with **Jack Gray** (June 1948) by telephone. It was fun. Thanks for the help.

**Rey Nelson** FORREYGLO@aol.com

### **Hall of Fame/Book of Honor** (continued from page 1)

Not everyone associated with Taft qualifies for the Hall of Fame, but there are many names which are part of our school's rich heritage which deserve recognition. The Alumni Board has agreed to establish a Book of Honor, to pay tribute to some of these other people:

- **Past faculty**, administration and staff who made Taft a special place to learn
- **Deceased graduates** (same criteria as Hall of Fame)
- **Servicemen and servicewomen**, who attended

Taft, and died in service to their country.

These nominations should be submitted with the same type of information as the Hall of Fame letters. If you know how to reach members of deceased nominees' families, please include that information.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame or the Book of Honor should be sent to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago IL 60631. Deadline for this year's entries will be August 1, 2004. Please don't wait until the last minute.

# CLASS NOTES



## 1940s

THOMAS (RON) BOYD (JANUARY 1941) graduated from Bradley BS 1949, UCLA 1962, Harvard 1969, lives in Roll-ing Hills, CA, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

RALPH LARSON (JANUARY 1941) lives in Chicago and is retired.

HARRIET (BOOS) ROGGENBUCK (JANUARY 1941) lives in San Bernardino, CA, has 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and is retired.

NANCY (GRAY) TROYER (JANUARY 1942) graduated from Chgo Art Inst BFA 1946, Natl College of Ed Med 1961, Northwestern PhD 1978, lives in Walnut Creek, CA, has 2 children and is an art historian.

ROBERT KOPP (JUNE 1943) lives in Villa Park, IL and is retired.

HOWARD LECHLER (JUNE 1943) graduated from Clarkson U BCE. MS, Hon. Dr, lives in Raleigh, NC, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is semi retired and chairman of Cives Corp.

HOWARD SCHALK (JUNE 1943) MARRIED MILDRED (TESS) (JANUARY 1943) he graduated from Bradley BA 1949, they live in Sun City West, AZ, have 3 children, 8 grandchildren and are retired.

GEORGIA (WARTON) OLSON (JUNE 1944) MARRIED Evan (JANUARY 1945) she has a BA from Mac Murray College 1948, Evan graduated from Northwestern BA 1950, they live in Prospect Hts, IL, have 4 children, 12 grandchildren and are retired.

EVELYN (EVENSEN) PINTHER (JANUARY 1945) graduated from Eastern BS

1967, MS 1971, lives in Lake Wales, FL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

JEWEL (OKON) JAACKS (JUNE 1945) lives in Naples, FL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren and is retired.

CHARLES KORBUS (JUNE 1945) lives in Canoga Park, CA and is retired.

HAROLD QUIRAM (JUNE 1945) lives in Murray, KY, has 5 children, 15 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

LAUREL (PERKINS) HOKE (JANUARY 1946) graduated from Northeastern BS 1968, Loyola MA 1980, lives in Prospect Hts, IL, has 2 children and is a retired teacher.

HELEN (JOHNSTON) AILS (JUNE 1946) graduated from Harford Community College RN 1970, lives in Joppa, MD, has 4 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT HOLMES (JUNE 1946) graduated from ITT BS 1950, Purdue PhD 1953, lives in Amherst, MA, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is a professor of chemistry at U of MA.

JEAN (WHITEHEAD) SMITH (JUNE 1946) graduated from Northwestern BSEd 1951, U of I MS 1964, lives in Delavan, WI and is a retired teacher who also spends winters in Sarasota, FL.

DORIS (HALLSTROM) WEBER (JUNE 1946) lives in Clearwater, FL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

BETTY (OLSON) ZEILSTRA (JUNE 1946) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

DICK O'CONNELL (JUNE 1947) graduated from Marquette BS 1951, MS Inst of Tech MS 1954, lives in Honolulu, HI, has 5 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

RICHAD PETERSON (JUNE 1947) graduated from IIT BSEE 1952, lives in Chicago and is in real estate.

JOHN NELSON (JANUARY 1948) graduated from Purdue BS 1952, MS 1953, U of MN PhD 1960, lives in Kingston, WA, has 3 children and is retired.

MARY (CHRISTENSEN) ENGLISH (JUNE 1948) lives in Henderson, NV, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired.

DANIEL HUBERT (JUNE 1948) lives in Round Lake Beach, IL, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

MARILYN (NEWPART) LEIS (JUNE 1948) lives in Kettering, OH. has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is a homemaker.

JOAN (BUSCH) LONG (JUNE 1948), lives in Holland, MI and Surprise, AZ, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and is retired.

JEAN (AVICHOUSER) SCHAEFER (JUNE 1948) graduated from IL College BA 1952, lives in Wilmington, NC, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

JOE STANTON (JUNE 1948) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and is retired.

PHYLLIS (LUDWIG) STRANG (JUNE 1948) lives in Merrimac, WI, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

WARREN WELLENS (1948), graduated from Northwestern DDS 1954, lives in Mead, WA, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a retired dentist.

SHERIDAN WISE (JANUARY 1949) graduated from U of I BA 1957, lives in Chicago and is an engineer.

JOEL ADAMS (JUNE 1949) graduated from Wright 1952, De Paul BS 1959, lives in Glen Ellyn, IL, has 4 children 1 grandchild and is a real estate broker.

HELEN (HAHN) CANTRELL (JUNE 1949) graduated from the American Conservatory of Music BA 1953, lives in Glenview, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

LOIS (MOLLER) LAING (JUNE 1949) lives in Amelia Island, FL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT LILLA (JUNE 1949) lives in Northbrook, IL, he is retired and recently elected to the IL Hockey Officials Assoc. Hall of Fame.

## 1950s

BILL BAUER (JUNE 1950) MARRIED DOLORES (MATHISEN) (JANUARY 1951), they live in Boerne, TX, have 5 children, 12 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and are retired.

CHARLES LINDEMAN (JUNE 1950) lives in Oak Lawn, IL, has 3 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT SIR (JUNE 1950) graduated from Lake Forest College BA, lives in Alph, GA, has 7 children, 10 grandchildren and is a custom homebuilder.

PAUL SKOGSTROM (JUNE 1950) graduated from Carthage College BA 1954, U of NE MA 1955, lives in Clarksville, OH, has 7 children, 10 grandchildren and is a Psychologist.

BARBARA (HOLLANDER) ECHEVERRI (JANUARY 1951) lives in Inglewood, CA, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

JOAN (WUCHTERL) SCHWARTZ (JANUARY 1951) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is a retired bank officer.

CAROL (VANNERSON) ALCOE (JUNE 1951) graduated from IL State BS 1955, lives in Hayward, WI, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is a retired teacher.

JOHN AUGUSTINE (JUNE 1951) graduated from Chicago Tech. College BSEE 1959, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

BILL BECKER (JANUARY 1952) graduated from U of I Bs Commerce 1957, lives in

# CLASS NOTES

Rock-ford, IL, has 3 children and is retired.

MARILYN (PAULSON) KETCHPAW (JUNE 1952) graduated from Wright AA 1956, lives in Winter Haven, FL, has 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and is retired.

CAROL (FICKETT) KLAPMEIER (JUNE 1952) graduated from St Olaf BA 1956, lives in North Freedom, WI, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

JIM TORTORELLI (JUNE 1952) graduated from Chicago State BA Ed 1956, Loyola MA Ed 1962, lives in Barrington, IL, has 6 children, 13 grandchildren and is retired.

BARBARA (STENDAHL) BEHRENS (JANUARY 1953) graduated from Chgo Teachers 1955, Harper Dental Hyg. 1978, lives in Palatine and Jensen Beach, FL, has 6 children, 16 grandchildren and is retired.

JANET (ANDERSON) MILLS (JANUARY 1953) graduated from IA State BS 1957, Cert. EL ED 1969, Maryland M Ed 1985, lives in Decatur, GA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is re-tired.

BARBARA (THOMPSON) OLSON (JANUARY 1953) graduated from St Olaf BA 1957, Mankato ST MA spec. ed, lives in Edina, MN, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

GEORGE WALLACE (JANUARY 1953) lives in Chicago, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

DONALD GALLA (JUNE 1953) lives in Dothan, AL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is re-tired.

JOHN PETRIE (JUNE 1953) graduated from Elgin Community College, lives in San Angelo, TX, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is semi retired.

WARREN SCHLUETER (JUNE 1953) lives in Santa Barbara, CA and has 4 children, 3 grandchildren.

HERMANN ANDRESEN (JANUARY 1954) graduated

from Northwestern BSME 1958, U of WI MSME 1960, lives in Phoenix, AZ, has 2 sons, 1 grand-child and is retired.

BETTE (OLIVER) KASH (JANUARY 1954) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 12 grandchildren and is a home-maker.

NANCY (JOHANSEN) KEVERIAN (JANUARY 1954) graduated from Wesley Memorial Hospital RN 1957, lives in Venice, FL, has 3 children and is an RN.

ALBERT NORDENGREN (JANUARY 1954) lives in Fox River Grove, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is in construction.

WILLIAM SMYTHE (JANUARY 1954) lives in Fridley, MN and Mission, TX, has 1 child, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

GREGORY JAEGER (JUNE 1954) graduated from Northwestern BSBA 1959, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is semi retired.

NORINE (ANDERSON) KMETT (JUNE 1954) graduated from Wittenberg U BS 1962, U of Dayton MS 1982, lives in Spring-field, OH, has 2 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

JAMES LUCZAK (JUNE 1954) MARRIED BARBARA (BAZANY) (JUNE 1954), they live in Eagle River, WI, have 5 children, 6 grandchildren and are retired.

RONALD NEWMANN (JUNE 1954) MARRIED LUELLAN (BURBANK) (JANUARY 1957) he graduated from U of I, BS, lives in East Jordan, MI, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

RAYMOND RAFFEL (JUNE 1954) lives in Marine-On-St Croix, MN, has 9 children, 18 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren and is an architect.

ROBERT ROEHL (JUNE 1954) lives in Homasassa, FL, has 2 girls, 2 granddaughters and is retired.

NORMA (GOTZ) SHAW (JUNE 1954) lives in Huntley, IL and is retired.

ERNEST STOLLE (JUNE 1954) graduated from North Park AA 1957, Northeastern BA 1972, MA 1974, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 2 children and is self employed.

KEN GRAMZA (JUNE 1955) graduated from Southern IL BA 1961, MS 1963, and lives in Potomac, MD, has 3 children and is a CPA.

JOSEPH HANKET (JUNE 1955) lives in Broomfield, CO, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

ERV JANIS (JUNE 1955) lives in Chicago, has 3 children, 3 grand-children and is a plumbing con-tractor.

JOSEPH NYKAZA (JUNE 1955) MARRIED JOANNE (ARCHIBALD) (JANUARY 1958), he graduated from Marquette DDS 1961, they live in Rancho Mirage, CA, have 5 children, 21 grandchildren and are retired.

BEVERLY (KINTZ) BARKER (JANUARY 1956) lives in Mission Viejo, CA, has 5 children, 5 grandchildren and is a secretary.

DORIS (MILLER) JOHNSON (JANUARY 1956) graduated from Elgin College, LPN 1958, Dental Asst. 1982, lives in Wonder Lake, IL, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is a dental assistant.

PAUL NEUHAUSER (JANUARY 1956) graduated from U of I BS 1960, De Paul MBA 1967, lives in South Barrington, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an auditor.

BOB CARROLL (JUNE 1956) lives in Valley Center, CA, has 3 children and is retired.

MARY ANN (KENNETT) DOHERTY (JUNE 1956) graduated from Wright AA 1958, lives in Clearwater, FL, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is an office manager.

WILLIAM LAMBERT (JUNE 1956) graduated from U of UT BA 1962, BA Architecture 1963, lives in Lake Forest, IL,

has 2 children and is an architect / project engineer.

JOAN (MAAS) PETERSEN (JUNE 1956) MARRIED CHARLES (JUNE 1954), lives in Port St Lucie, FL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a realtor.

SHARON (KELLY) THOMSON (JUNE 1956) lives in Barrington, IL and has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

GERRY (MAAS) ANDERSON (JANUARY 1957) graduated from Northeastern BA 1976, lives in Loda, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

R. BRUCE LONGMAN (JANUARY 1957) graduated from Northern BseD 1961, lives in Cape Coral, FL, has 2 children, 1 grandson and is a mfg rep for scuba equipment.

RICHARD TRAUOGOTT (JANUARY 1957) graduated from Lake Forest BA 1962, Roosevelt MA 1964, lives in Hendersonville, NC, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

SUSAN (GOETZ) ALDOUS (JUNE 1957) graduated from Northwestern Dental School, U of UT, lives in Salt Lake City, UT, has 3 children and works in public health.

ALLEN HOOKS (JUNE 1957) graduated from Western IL BA 1963, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is a warehouse manager.

CHUCK MADER (JUNE 1957) lives in Sarasota, FL, has 2 children and is a manager for TWA Aircraft Services.

JIM MC MAHON (JUNE 1957) graduated from St Josephs College BS 1961, lives in Irving, TX, has 4 children and is president of his own company.

DAVID SWANSON (JUNE 1957) graduated from Northwestern BA Biology 1961, lives in Bettendorf, IA and is retired.

WILLIAM UHL (JUNE 1957) lives in Kenosha, WI, has 4 children, 6 grandchildren and is re-tired.

# CLASS NOTES

ROSALIE (SCIEMECA) FEILEN (JANUARY 1958) lives in La Valle, WI, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

EMERY GERHARDT (JANUARY 1958) graduated from San Diego State BA 1966, lives in San Diego, CA, has 4 children and is a bakery executive.

REID LEWIS (JANUARY 1958) graduated from U of I BA 1965, U of CA, U of Paris 1963, lives in Elgin, IL, has 1 children and is a motivational lecturer, French Teacher, director of Adventure Francaise, Inc.

SUSAN (DICKINSON) SEUFE (JANUARY 1958) graduated from IL Wesleyan BA, O of CO MA, lives in Canon City, CO, has 4 children, 1 grandchild and is a college instructor.

PHILIP GANSZ (JUNE 1958) MARRIED HOLLY (ANDERSON) (JUNE 1964) he graduated from North Park, Holly graduated from Carthage BS 1967, St Xaviers MSED 1999, they live in Park Ridge, IL, have 2 children.

JUANITA (AMADO) PHILLIPS (JUNE 1958) lives in Hoffman Estates, IL, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

## 1960s

CAROL (CARLSON) COADY (JANUARY 1960) lives in Fairbanks, AK, has 3 children and is a nurse.

BARBARA (UEBEL) KINLEY (JANUARY 1960) lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

WILLIAM SCHALK (JANUARY 1960) graduated from Coe College BA 1965, Marquette JD 1989, lives in Racine, WI and is retired.

CATHY (DUVAL) DAVIES (JUNE 1960) graduated from Carroll College BA Sociology 1964, Mt Mary BS 1989, lives in Waukesha, WI, has 4 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired.

JANICE (ROSS) JOHNSON (JUNE 1960) graduated from Cornell BA 1964, lives in

Tamarac, FL, has 4 children and is a children's librarian.

RON TARICA (JUNE 1960) graduated from IIT BS Chem Engr 1964, Northwestern MS 1967, PhD 1969, lives in Muraga, CA, has 3 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

RICHARD WILLIAMS (JUNE 1960) graduated from U of ID BS 1965, Base State U MBA 1973, lives in Boise, ID, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is a consultant for small businesses.

JUDITH (ANDERSEN) MACK (JANUARY 1961) lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is an accounts clerk.

BARBARA (BUCK) THOMPSON (JANUARY 1961) graduated from U of I BS 1965, lives in Marion, IL, has 2 children and is a substitute teacher.

ROBERT BRION (JUNE 1961) lives in Richardson, TX, has 4 children and owns and operates a horse ranch in Royse City, TX.

LINDA (JACOBSSON) BUCKHARDT (JUNE 1961) graduated from Luther College BA 1965, St Mary's MA 1999, lives in St Paul, MN, has 2 children and is an ESL Teacher.

BOB TOOKEY (JUNE 1961) MARRIED DORET (CUNIS) (JUNE 1961) they both graduated from Miami of OH 1965, live in Hermitage, PA, have 3 children. Bob is a VP in sales and Doret is a high school English teacher.

DOUGLAS WITT (JUNE 1961) graduated from IIT BS 1965, MS 1971, lives in Walnut Creek, CA, has 2 children and is an engineer.

MARILYN (PROCHASKA) COPELAND (JUNE 1962) graduated from Northern AA 1965, lives in Tampa, FL, has 2 children and is an executive admin. Asst.

MICHAEL MARENO (JUNE 1962) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children and is an office manager, land surveyor and contractor.

RAY SETZKE (JUNE 1962) lives in Palm Harbor, FL, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren

and works for Ace Hardware Corp.

MAE BETH (FRAME) WILLIAMS (JUNE 1962) graduated from Wheaton College BA 1966, lives in Columbia, MD, has 4 children, 5 grandchildren and is a practice manager for a counseling group.

KENNETH CARLSON (JANUARY 1963) graduated from U of WY BS 1967, U of UT MBA 1978, lives in Bethlehem, PA, has 2 children and is a pilot for Continental Airlines.

DONALD PETERSON (JANUARY 1963) MARRIED CAROL (ZMUDA) (JANUARY 1963), they live in Arlington Hts, IL and have 2 children.

DARLENE (LOREK) FUNDANISH (JUNE 1963) graduated from U of I BA 1968, lives in Sunrise, FL and is a pharmaceutical rep.

TRUDY (DOMINICK) KAUFMAN (JUNE 1963) lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 2 children and is a learning disabilities instructional aide.

GARY PIEHL (JUNE 1963) graduated from U of I BS 1971, lives in Red Wing, MN, has 1 child and is in retail management.

JO ANN (BONDURANT) SOUKUP (JUNE 1963) lives in Willowbrook, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

RUTH ELLEN (FRAME) VAN REKEN (JUNE 1963) graduated from West Suburban Hospital RN 1977, Wheaton College BS 1969, lives in Indianapolis, IN, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is a writer/speaker.

MICHAEL WULF (JUNE 1963) graduated from Southwest TX BS 1976, Webster MS 1988, lives in Quinlan, TX, has 2 children and is a Plano ISD transition specialist.

KAREN (STAMBORSKI) YAROMA (JUNE 1963) graduated from Lorain Community College Med Asst 1985, LPN 2001, lives in N. Ridgeville, OH, has 5 children, 10 grandchildren and is an LPN/Realtor.

MARGARET (WINGERT) HARDY (JANUARY 1964), graduated from Northern BS Ed 1968, lives in Aurora, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

GEORGE KNICKERBOCKER (JUNE 1964) graduated from De Pauw BA 1968, U of I JD 1971, lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 4 children 1 grandchild and is an attorney.

MARILYN (LANGE) MAJOR (JUNE 1964) graduated from U of WI BS Ed 1970, Nat'l Lewis MS Ed 1980, lives in Chicago and is a special education teacher.

JIM (STRATTON) STRATIGAKES (JUNE 1964) graduated from U of I BA 1968, Northeastern MA 1974, Professional School of Psychological Studies PhD 1988, lives in Grass Valley, CA, has 2 children and is a Psychologist.

WILLIAM TRAUDT (JUNE 1964) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 4 children and is in transportation.

MARY (STRANDIN) GOODLOW (JUNE 1965) graduated from U of I BA 1969, lives in Cary, IL, has 4 children and is retired.

WAYNE WILLEMS (JUNE 1965) graduated from Western IL BA 1969, Northwestern MBA 1974, lives in Dallas, TX, has 2 children and is an investment counselor.

SKIP DUSIK (JUNE 1966) lives in Lakemoor, IL, has 1 child and is an Optician.

JOHN MANGIAMELI (JUNE 1966) MARRIED MAIDA (HARRIS) (JUNE 1967), he graduated from Bradley BS 1970, Maida graduated from Bradley BS 1971, they live in Hawthorn Woods, IL, have 2 children, John is a national sales manager, Maida is an administrative assistant.

JANICE (FUSICK) GLURE (JUNE 1967) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is retired.

DANIEL POPP (JUNE 1968) graduated from U of I BS Acct 1972, Roosevelt MBA 1985, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is an accountant.

# CLASS NOTES

MARGARET (KREFFT) CANNELLA (1968) graduated from Northern BS 1972, MS 1975, lives in Alto, NM, has 3 girls and is an elementary teacher.

CAROLYN (SYKES) TOERPE (JUNE 1968) graduated from Southern IL BA 1972, Northeastern MA 1980, lives in Naperville, IL, has 1 child and is a teacher.

## 1970s

RICHARD DOCTOR (1970) graduated from Northwestern 1974, lives in Lisle, IL, has 2 children and is in research and development.

JANINE (GULBRANDSON) FORNEY (1970) graduated from Lutheran Deaconess Hospital RN 1973, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children and is an RN.

RONALD KAZMAR (1970) graduated from U of I BS Acct 1974, CPA 1974, Northwestern MA 1989, lives in Plainfield, IL and is President Bd of ED Plain-field SD 202.

BRUCE TALBOT (1970) graduated from Southern IL BS 1975, Roosevelt MS 1984, lives in Bolingbrook, IL, has 2 children and is a police sergeant in Wood-ridge.

DALE DVORAK (1971) MARRIED JANE (KRUSINSK) (1971) he graduated from West Point BS 1975, Boston U MBA 1995, lives in Waco, TX, has

3 children and is a business owner.

PATTI (HANISCH) HARTNACK (1971) graduated from Western IL BS 1976, AZ State Med 1991, lives in Scotts-dale, AZ and is a special education preschool teacher.

NANCY (STEVENS) BARRY (1972) graduated from U of I BA, U of FL MS, lives in Clearwater, FL and is a high school guidance counselor.

ALAN MADER (1973) graduated from U of I BS Pharmacy 1979, Pharm D 1996, lives in Lake Zurich, IL, has 2 children and is a pharmacist.

BRUCE MOFFAT (1973) graduated from IL State BS 1977, U of I MS 1984, lives in Chicago and is a manager of transportation planning, has authored 3 books on Chicago transportation history.

SHEILA (GRANIERO) SIARKIEWICZ (1973) lives in Algonquin, IL, has 4 children, 2 grandchildren and is an office manager/bookkeeper.

NANCY (HOWARD) WALLIS (1973) graduated from Northern BS 1980, lives in Island Lake, IL and is self-employed.

CINDY BOLLMAN (1975) graduated from U of CA BA, CA School of Psychology PhD 1997, lives in Mc Lean, VA, has 1 child and is a Clinical Psychologist.

PAUL CAPUTO (1975) graduated from Northern BS 1979, U of I DDS 1983, lives in Naperville, IL, has 3 children and is a Dentist.

FAITH (SCHULTZ) KREBS (1975) graduated from U of I BS 1980, lives in Naperville, IL, has 1 child and is a director of operations for Mc Donalds Corp.

JOHN CUSSEN (1976) MARRIED LINDA (WEINDORF) (1979) they live in Streamwood, IL and have 2 children.

LINDA (RHEA) MC FARLAND (1976) lives in Durham, NC and has 2 children.

BARBARA OTAKE (1977) lives in Chicago, has 1 child and is an account rep.

PHIL PRIEST (1977) graduated from U of I AB 1981, Nat'l Lewis MAT 1992, has 3 children and is a 4th grade teacher in Lake Zurich, IL.

MICHAEL WATERS (1977) lives in Florence, WI, has 3 sons and works for the postal service.

GEORGE MILLER (1978) graduated from Northeastern BA Acct 1984, lives in Sarasota, FL, has 2 children and is self-employed.

ERIC VOGT (1979) graduated from Monmouth College BA Geology 1983, U

of I MS Geology 1988, lives in Palatine, IL and is a chemist.

## 1980s

NANCY (EAKER) SPENK (1981) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 1 child and is in purchasing.

KEN KAPELA (1982) lives in Bensenville, IL and is in outside sales.

THERESE (BRANCEWICZ) NICHOLS (1982) graduated from Northern BS 1986, U of WA MS 1988, lives in Blacksburg, VA, has 3 children and is a business owner.

ALEXANDRA (NEPERGACA) HORSCH (1984) graduated from Barat BA, De Paul MA, lives in Highwood, IL, has 1 child and is a freelance writer.

MARK NELSON (1984) graduated from Triton Heating & Air Conditioning 1987, lives in Chicago, has 2 children and is an operating engineer for the Chicago Police Department.

## 1990s

PEGGY FIORETTO (1994) lives in Chicago and is a staff account-ant.

CHARMAIN RACHEL (1995) lives in Elgin, IL and is an administrative coordinator.

GORAN DAVIDOVAC (1996) lives in Chicago and is a concert promoter/DJ.

## In Our Memories

**Warren Schneider**, class of June 1941 passed away on November 11, 2002 from Pulmonary Fibrosis.

**Frederick Johnston**, class of January 1947 passed away on November 8, 2003.

**Kenneth W Napier**, class of June 1948 died August 6, 2002

**Frank Stremmel**, class of June 1948 passed away March 20, 2004 from heart attack/collapsed lung.

**Marguerite (Madge Nicodem) Ring**, class of January 1950, died April 10, 2004

**James Alcoe**, class of 1951, died November 29, 2003 in his retirement home in Hayward, WI.

**Joanne (Matuszak) Hoffman**, class of 1952, died October 30, 2003 in Palos Heights, IL. She was senior class vice president and valedictorian of her class.

**Robin (Ruhling) Cuplin**, class of June 1953 passed away on February 27, 2004.

**John Lycos**, class of January 1953 passed away on December 22, 2003.

**James Szott**, class of June 1959, last residing in Las Vegas, NV died December 24, 2003 from brain cancer.

**Joseph Congiusti**, class of 1967, heralded by industry experts for his expertise and knowledge of spirits, died March 21, 2004 of complications after his second bone marrow transplant.

**Letters To The Editor** (Continued from page 4)

Dear Jerry and Alumni Members:

I'm so grateful that a Taft graduate, **Phyllis Brown**, told me about the Taft Alumni Newsletter a few years ago. I, too became a subscriber and almost immediately wrote to the Newsletter as a June 1940 graduate. With each issue I look for something about someone from my class. I'm sure a lot of my fellow graduates are still hanging in there, as I am at 81!

After my letter appeared I did hear from a few classmates, and from one or two from other years. I was delighted and answered each one. I also hear from **Gloria (Banner) Fitzgerald**, a Taft graduate of June 1943. Gloria and I were neighbors and playmates while growing up in Edison Park. We have since gotten together and will continue to do so. I'm enclosing a picture of the two of us, taken at my place the first time we met after some 60 years.

My husband Jack and I had the pleasure of meeting Gloria's husband, Bill, but unfortunately Bill passed away last September. They had been married one day shy of 56 years. She is thankful that she and Bill were blessed with two children, a daughter in law and one granddaughter.

On occasion my husband and I get together with **Norma (Pfeifer) Walter** in Edison Park. Norma also graduated from Taft in June 1940. I've known Norma since third grade at Ebinger School and we knew her husband, Johnny, whom she lost in his 40's. Her two girls graduated from Ebinger and from Taft.

Jack and I have been happily married for 58½ years, has three married children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Life has been good.

I wish you continued success in your endeavors and send best wishes to all Taft Alumni.

**Kathryn (Mitchell) Frost**

June 1940



**Taft graduates: Kathryn Frost (1940) and Gloria Fitzgerald (1943)**

Hi Jerry:

This picture of the Taft first Dance Band, known as the Tophatters, is [below]. I copied this picture from the first Taft Year Book, of June 1941. Actually the book was made up of copies of the bi-monthly Taft Tribunes of the school year. The Top-hatters picture was in the November 27, 1940 issue. Do you have a copy in the archives some-where?



Back row, from left to right: Charleton Bard, Charles 'Bud' Trick, Warren 'Smooch' Erickson, Bob Merivick, Elwyn Miller, and George Wise. Front row, left to right: Clifford Smith, Warren 'Condor' Webster, and Bill Bornhoff. Pianist Louise Soper.

Bob Brown, and our drummer, 'Smooches' brother [Bob Erickson] are not in the picture. They had been known to cut school at various times. There are four Doctor's degrees in this group, a successful lawyer, a school administrator, and Bill Bornhoff, who did play in the Lawrence Welk orchestra. I haven't kept in touch with all of them. If anyone knows any more details about any of the group, I would appreciate hearing from you.

At least four of the group were in the first Norwood Park Drum Bugle and Fife Corps. I have received a couple of contacts as the result of the Corps picture you published last year. Thanks for all your dedicated work. It is deeply appreciated.

**Bud (Charles) Trick** (June 1941) BudVonTrick@aol.com

*[We tried to make a clearer copy from our issue in the archives, but weren't successful. J. Bloom, TAA Newsletter Editor]*

## Scholarship Awards

All TAA scholarship applications have been received by Taft Alumni Association from the 2004 graduation class. We will finalize our decision soon and announce the recipients in our Summer issue.

## 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.

## Discovering Taft Alum

Interested in finding other Taft alumni in your part of the world?

From time to time we hear about Taftites who, growing up and moving to other cities, other states or even other countries, discover fellow alumni in their new hometowns. We've had some recent inquiries from alums who would be interested in finding Taftites in their own area.

While it's Alumni Association policy not to release names and addresses without your permission, we would be happy to print your name, hometown and a contact (phone or email) where you can be reached if you would be interested in organizing such a gathering.

We'll be listing this information in our next newsletter and on the Taft Alumni web site. Deadline for the newsletter (our annual mailing to all active alumni addresses, members or not) is June 14, 2004.

If you are interested, please send information to: Kay Kuciak at Taftalum@cox.net or mail to Taft Alumni Association, care of Taft High School, 6350 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago IL 60631.

## Crossover

Lots of memories have been rekindled in past year regarding the kids from the Norwood Park and Edison Park Drum and Bugle Corps. Possibly, as a result of this renewed interest, there was a special presentation of the Norwood Park Drum and Bugle Corps at the Noble-Seymour-Crippen House (Norwood Park Historical Society's headquarters), 5624 N. Newark Avenue in Chicago on Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

We hope some of you from the Chicago area were lucky enough to see the notice in the local paper and were able to attend. We regret we did not have enough advance notice to let alums know of the event to allow them the opportunity of attending, too.

## Lunchroom Inspection

Two weeks were spent in February scrubbing walls and equipment, plugging and sealing holes in walls, and in general, sprucing everything up in the school cafeteria kitchen to comply with a citywide mandate to do a massive cleanup operation of all Chicago public school kitchens. As a result, cold, pre-packaged lunches were all that were available to students while this process was ongoing. You should be pleased to know that Taft kitchen passed and is back in operation again.

## Lost Taft Address?

We understand your confusion about the school's address. Why did they change it AGAIN? Last fall, the Chicago Public School headquarters received permission change the official school address to

the Bryn Mawr Avenue side. This new entrance with a circular driveway allows a more efficient traffic flow of students. Now, CTA buses can pick up commuting students at the door rather than having them traverse through the neighborhood and cross train tracks as they walked to Northwest Highway.

Caution is urged when sending in your renewal dues. The US Post Office will "return to sender" any mail that is addressed to the "old" main entrances with Taft addresses on Natoma or Hurlbut Avenues. **The new address for Taft and the Alumni Association is 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631.**

The Taft Alumni Association is always looking for alumni who are not currently members of our Association. If you know any persons who came from Taft and are not members, please encourage them to join. Send us their names and addresses (and year of graduation, if known) to: Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or email us at taftalum@cox.net.

## East Lab *(continued from page 1)*

Current projects the East Lab students are working on are:

- Academic Center Promotional Video
- Taft High School promotional video
- A day in the Life - A documentary of Academic Center student life
- Football Videos - Promotional videos for Scholarship seeking athletes
- Taft vs. grade school - Informational video for incoming freshmen
- Instructional videos for Grade schools

## Baseball Team Reunion By Lynn Terry (June 1957)

The long awaited Taft baseball reunion was held on the weekend of September 12-14, 2003. While the original intent of the organizers, Denny Pickett, Lynn Terry and Gordy Lund, was to simply get together as many members of the 1957 and 1958 City Championship teams as possible, early in the planning process a decision was made to honor our late, great, coach, Jim Smilgoff, as well. From 1946 through 1958 Coach Smilgoff won 260 games and lost only 52 at Taft. During that 13 year period he guided the Eagles to three City Championships (1949, 1957 and 1958) and six North Section Championships, a record unmatched in that time frame by any other Public League school. Once it was decided to use the reunion as a

means to honor Coach Smilgoff, a number of players from some of his other teams were invited attend.

Many attendees arrived on Thursday September 11 and that evening a group of some 20-25 former Taft athletes got the reunion off to a rousing start with an informal gathering at former Eagle football star, Al MacFarlane's, "Splinters" sports club in Palatine. Scheduled activities began with a round of golf on Friday afternoon. Several foursomes of former Eagles took to the links at Buffalo Grove Golf Club, where the scores were respectable and a good time was had by all. The reunion banquet was held Friday evening at "The Wellington of Arlington Heights." Nearly 70 former players and their wives showed up for the cocktail hour, dinner and the

program that followed. While many of the attendees still live in the Chicago area, others traveled from as far away as California, Arizona, Washington, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Florida and Virginia to be there. The theme of the evening's program was, "A Celebration of Taft High School Baseball-The Smilgoff Years 1946-1958." In addition to members of the '57 and '58 championship teams, players from other outstanding Taft teams fielded by Coach Smilgoff, such as the 1949 title winners and the 1954 nine that finished 25-2 were in attendance. Three opponents from the 1957 season, two from Lane and one from Austin also joined the festivities (Taft defeated Austin 8-2 in that year's



Taft baseball reunion attendees, most of whom played in the Thillens Little and Pony Leagues during the early 1950s, pose in front of the Thillens Stadium's centerfield scoreboard. From left to right, Al Carlson, Mike Peterson, Rollie Carlson, Denny Pickett, Carl Peterson, Jim Hartzler, Ken Eeles, Lynn Terry, Tom Edmunds, Gordon Arnspiger, Gordy Lund, Bob Gunderson (peeking through), Frank Martin, Stu Crippen, Larry Marsh and Steve Regopoulos.

semi-finals and Lane 3-2 in the Championship game).

While the banquet was a huge success, a full day of activities remained on Saturday. First on the schedule was a guided tour of our old high school. Most of us had not set foot inside the hallowed halls since we graduated from Taft, so it was a real kick to find ourselves once again inside, for example, the old boy's gym, where some of us had played basketball and all of us had attended school dances. We also were able to gaze upon the swimming pool we had used and wonder why it was that we boys had been required to swim nude in those days, an activity that was universally hated. After leaving Taft we made a quick lunch stop at "Superdawg," where we paid \$3.95 for the same hot-dog I remember paying a quarter for when the place first opened. After our lunch we drove down Devon Avenue to Thillens Stadium. Many of us had played Little and Pony League baseball there before entering high school and the current owners, Mel Thillens, Jr. and his family, graciously opened the stadium for our gathering. We spent an hour or so playing softball on the baseball diamond of our youth, eating some more hot-dogs on Mel and posing all over the ball park for photographs. From Thillens we then made our way over to Wrigley Field, where the Cubs proceeded to treat

us and a sold out crowd to a 9-6 victory over the Cincinnati Reds. Later that evening the reunion came to a close at Colletti's Restaurant at Elston and Central. A room had been set aside for us by the folks from the former El Centro and, in addition to stuffing our faces one last time, we used it for a final round of photographs and reminiscing. The perfect ending to a wonderful weekend of memories.

### Remembering Our Teachers

To the Taft Alumni Association--

My mother Rita E. Hansen passed away this past year. Mrs. Hansen died from pneumonia on December 10, 2003 in Alhambra, California. She was a teacher at Taft for many years, from around 1957 through the late 1970s--I do not know the exact years she taught there. She was head of the English Department at Taft for many years.

Some of Rita's devoted students sent the family cards and emails, including Adair Linn Nagata, Ann Richards Anderson, Victoria Scanlon Crosley, and Wayne Andersen, all I believe from the class of '61. At her memorial, held on January 10, 2004 at the Sheil Catholic Center in Evanston IL, her daughter Joan Hansen gave a beautiful eulogy and read some of Rita's wonderful writings about her childhood. Her daughters Jennie Hansen and myself, Susie Hansen, played

chamber music with two retired members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, colleagues of Rita's husband, the late James R. Hansen. One of Rita's student from Taft, Wayne Andersen, spoke eloquently at the memorial of the impact Mrs. Hansen had had on his life and the lives of his fellow students.

Adair Linn Nagata emailed to me a beautiful tribute to Rita Hansen which follows:

"Mrs. Rita Hansen was my homeroom teacher at Taft High School in Chicago from 1958-1961 (as best I recall). Many years ago when I was considering my years growing up in Norwood Park, I realized that she was the first role model I had outside my family of all that a woman could be. She was an unforgettable teacher--effervescent and endless stimulating, demanding, too, in a supportive way. She could see and name things in you that you had not even suspected were there, and she expected you to live up to them. We all knew how important her family was to her, how proud she was of you all, so we realized that it was humanly possible to be a first-class educator, the wife of a highly accomplished musician, and mother of three daughters, and do it all with grace and flair. Then she began to publish on writing and receive wider recognition for her accomplishments. It was a truly wonderful gift when she and your father came to Tokyo with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and we had the treat of being able to see them and hear a concert. Whenever I was able to contact or see her, you could hear her delight. She always made me feel that there was nothing better she could imagine than spending time together on the phone or in person. What a wonderful presence and spirit she had! I have always felt happy just thinking of her, and I always will. It was truly a blessing to have her in my life."

Rita will be greatly missed, but I know she is now with God.

**Susie Hansen**

Susie@susiehansen.com



The organizers of the reunion, left to right, Denny Pickett, Gordy Lund and Lynn Terry.

## Forced Healthy

If you have ever raised any kids, you know how tough it is to get kids to eat "what's good for them". Especially, teenagers. But the Chicago Public School system, specifically, the Chicago Board of Education has sent out a mandate to all Chicago public school, including Taft that the school vending machines will no longer carry candy or chewing gum. Snacks to be offered may have no more than 30 percent calories from fat. And they may have no more than 40 percent sugar by weight. High school juice drinks cannot have less than 50 percent fruit juice. These healthy eating habits, turned into mandates will become "law" by September, 2004.

There is a "Healthy Drink Panel" within the CPS system who will work on recommending and promoting how to get and promote the different new products to students. This change in policy matches the National School Lunch and Breakfast Regulations. The CPS Bureau of Food Services is also offering help in setting up educational programs in the schools to teach parents as well as children the importance of a healthy diet and regular exercise to curb the escalating problem of childhood obesity.

## Naples Florida Get-Together

A group of former Taftites met down in Naples, Florida for an evening of jazz, dinner and fun. It was great. **Barbara Loeschen**



Back Row: **Gene Nugent** (January 1946), **Bonnie (Weidman) Nugent** (January 1946), **Evan Olson** (January 1945).

Front Row: **Barbara Loeschen** (January 1946), **Marijean (Meisner) Flom** (June 1946), **Jo (Warton) Olson** (June 1944)

## NJROTC Earns Honors

This past March, the Taft High School Naval Junior ROTC Drill Team earned 2nd place in competition of Area Three-Drill Competition. They performed at the Great Lakes Naval Base better than 15 other Navy Corps teams from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa.

## Rosetta Stone Method

Second Language classes at Taft have implemented a new, state-of-the-art World Language Computer Lab with the Rosetta Stone Method of teaching. French, Spanish and Polish language teachers were educated in this new method. It incorporated listening, speaking, writing and reading skills for these three languages. Students have accepted this new concept for teaching foreign languages and it will enhance and support first year language students, as well as help advanced students in learning a second language.

## New Members Wanted

The Taft Alumni Association is always looking for alumni who are not currently members of our Association. If you know anyone who came from Taft and is not a member, please encourage them to join. Send us their name and address (and year of graduation, if known) at:

Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or email us at [taftalum@cox.net](mailto:taftalum@cox.net).

## TAFT Alumni Association Items For Sale

**Static window stickers:** \$3.00 (plus \$1 S/H)  
"Taft High School – You Can't Hide Eagle Pride"  
(Profits go to the Taft Athletic Department)

**T-Shirts:** \$10 each (XXL & XXXL - \$12 each)  
Light grey with NEW Eagle logo silk-screened in blue. Sizes - Medium thru XXXL

**Jackets:** \$30 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!**)

**Yearbooks:** \$25.00 each. Quantity available in parentheses.

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 1971 (1)  | 1990 (44)  | 1996 (86)  |
| 1982 (5)  | 1991 (6)   | 1997 (8)   |
| 1984 (4)  | 1992 (123) | 1998 (1)   |
| 1985 (34) | 1993 (2)   | 1999 (146) |
| 1986 (70) | 1994 (29)  | 2001 (156) |
| 1987 (90) | 1995 (152) |            |

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## RENEW NOW !!

Look at your address label on the back of this page. Check your year of graduation on the lower right corner. Is it correct? The most important area is here. This is also the area with the expiration date of your current membership with the Taft Alumni Association. If the date is close or past, 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 below to fill in the latest updates in your life.

**We will remove alumni whose dues are delinquent from the mailing list for the summer newsletter.**

| <b>TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION<br/>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<br>_____   |       |                              |                        |
| Occupation:  |       | Other Interests:             |                        |
| Other News or Information:<br>_____  |       |                              |                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$_____ to defray newsletter cost.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$15. 00 for two-year membership.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$20. 00 for two-year Husband & Wife membership.<br><b>Return to: Taft Alumni Association</b><br><b>6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.</b><br><b>Chicago IL 60631</b> |       |                              |                        |
|  |       |                              | <i>Spring 2004</i>     |

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President: Kay Kuciak (1963)  
 Asst. to President Frank Heyer (1948)  
 Vice-president: Jeraldene Bloom (1962)  
 2nd Vice President: Anne Lunde (1969)  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Shirley DeWeese (1960)  
 Directors: Cliff Raiman (1947)  
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                   Joe Popp (1966)  
                   Paulette English (1967)  
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