



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XXI No. 3

Summer 2005

Retiring Teachers

We welcome into the ranks of the "leisure class" the following Taft teachers who are retiring this year:

Jeffery Carlson -- Special Education
Sandra DeBartolo -- Foreign Languages
Kenneth Gould -- Special Education
Harry Kall, Ph.D. -- School Psychologist
Linda Kerby -- Special Education
Mary Messer - Keil -- Physical Education

2005 TAA Scholarship Recipients

At the commencement exercises for Taft High Schools class of 2005, the Taft Alumni Association presented scholarships to three members of the class.

The \$1,000 **Robert W. "Bill" Hendrickson** memorial scholarship program, remembering this Taft 1960 graduate who became a success in the tree care business, is funded by his family but selected from among our applicants. **Agnieszka Gula**, GPA 4.4615, was active in the bowling team, debate team, book club, student government, National Honor Society. She hopes to become a math teacher at the high school level.

Receiving \$500 scholarships from the Taft Alumni Association were **Kristin Day**, GPA 4.94 who was active in frosh/soph basketball, varsity softball, Know Your Heritage Game Show, Problem Solving, National Honor Society, International Baccalaureate Program, Black History Bowl, CAS program and hopes to have a career in marketing. Also receiving a \$500 scholarship was **Ann Achufusi**, GPA 4.8, was active in cross country, National Honor Society, Know Your Heritage Game Show, track & field, college bridge program, problem solving, yearbook. She hopes to become a physician in family practice.

Congratulations to all three girls.

Welcome Class of 2005

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2005! You are now part of a special group of men and women known as alumni of Taft High School.

The purpose of the Taft Alumni Association is to provide means for Taft alumni to continue or renew friendships begun at Taft, provide service to the school and most importantly to preserve its history. We publish a newsletter four times a year to let you know what other alumni are doing, keep you informed of activities affecting the Taft community and to invite you to special events at Taft.

As you continue your education, work a full-time job, or get married, remember us. Drop a line to let us know your new name or address and what you have been doing since graduation. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion five or ten years from now.

An application form to join the Association is on the last page of this newsletter. The membership fee is only \$15 - which covers two years of membership. Considering the rising costs of printing and postage of these newsletters, that's a pretty nice bargain! We wish the best of luck to you. Hold your head high and be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

Special Wedding

On July 16, 2005 **Rick Winge** (1970) married **Arlene Kaell** (1971) in Napa Valley, CA.

Mr J.J. Stamm, Mixed Chorus Director from Taft during the 1950 through the 1980's officiated at the wedding ceremony. Arlene and Rick met in 1969 while they were in Mixed Chorus at Taft. In California, the state allows for an individual to receive a one-day license to perform marriage ceremonies.

Gary Richert, class of 1970, **Mike Costanzo** (1970), **Jane (Intermill) Black** (1971), **Susie Weinstein** (1971) were in the wedding party.

CLASS REUNIONS

June 1955

Date: October 1, 2005
Place: Rosemont Convention Center
Contact: Bill & Sue Oberheide (847) 823-1955
Boberheide@aol.com

June 1960

Date: September 24, 2005 - 7pm
Place: Dirty Nellie's - Palatine, IL
Contact: Charles D. Williams, Jr.

January 1965

Date: October/November 2005
Contact: **Lee Marsh** - 847-359-1115 (lmarsh14@yahoo.com) or **Bob Johnson** 847-870-7047 (Rbengrguy@aol.com)

January/June 1956

Date: September 8, 2006
Place: The Wellington/ Arlington Hts
Contact: **Judy (Herud) Nelson**
heyjudefromil@webtv.net

All Taft Classes - 4th Annual Reunion Picnic

Date: Sunday, February 26, 2006
Place: Ft De Soto Park, St Petersburg, FL
Shelter number 14 - 11AM to 5PM
(park phone number 727-582-2267)
Contact: **Leon Kathan**
117 Monte Real Blvd
Sebring, FL 33876-8056
863-655-4559 (leonkathan@yahoo.com)

GRAMMAR SCHOOL REUNIONS

1955 - Oriole Park Elementary School

Contact: Anne K. McManus (630) 584-9194 Have located all classmates except:

John Harvey
Roy Smith
Bette Lusader

EDISON SCHOOL WANTS YOU!!

Did you - or your parents - or your children - attend (or work for) Edison School?

Is Edison part of your family's history?

Thomas Edison School seeks alumni & former teachers, staff & administrators who attended or worked at Edison to and made Edison's History

As Edison reaches an historic milestone, its fiftieth anniversary, the school hopes to celebrate all those who have been a part of its history. Though Edison school has had many incarnations; first as a neighborhood school, then as a classical school & now as a gifted center, it is the completion of the building we now see (excluding the recently added elevator) that marks 2006 as the 50th anniversary of the school.

Edison seeks photos, class lists, memorabilia, stories, and the addresses, phone numbers and emails of anyone who went to Edison. Edison hopes the school year 2005-2006 will be a year of inclusive neighborhood and community events, as we celebrate your role in Edison's history.

Please share your history and your address with:
Anne Calcagno (LSC representative)

5956 N. Kilpatrick Avenue/ Chicago, IL 60646
(773) 545-9245 Email: acalcagno@depaul.edu

Or, if you prefer, directly with the school:

Attn: Saundra Gray, Principal -- (773) 534-1209, (773) 534-1207 FAX

Edison School, 6220 North Olcott Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631

WWII vet gets long-delayed diploma

BY MATT ARADO

Daily Herald Staff Writer

Kathy Beck was doing some routine research when she stumbled on something that would ease a regret her father has carried inside him for 60 years.

Beck, a secretary who works for River Trails Elementary District 26, noticed that the Illinois school code says that veterans of World War II and the Korean War who left high school to serve their country can receive honorary diplomas.

Her dad, Chicago resident Jim Pieroni, left William Howard Taft High.

See **WWII Vet** Page 10



Jim Pieroni stands with his wife, Lill after receiving an honorary high school diploma in march.

Letters to the Editor

Hi,
Until a few days ago, I wasn't aware that there was a Taft Alumni newsletter. Thanks to a friend of my mother's, **Shirley Oscarson**, I was surprised and pleased to see the article and pictures that Sgt. Ashby shared regarding the ROTC sword. "Sarge" and I have already exchanged long e-mails catching up on the last 33 years. Without the search for the sword, that probably never would have happened. So I am very grateful to the Alumni Association and to Shirley Oscarson for helping to make that happen.

I'd like to add a little more ROTC history if I could. Nobody knew for sure what was going to happen to the Taft ROTC after the class of 1972. As it turns out the ROTC corps did go on for one more year, 1972-73. As I recall, there were somewhere between 60 and 70 cadets. The senior military instructor was 1/SGT Fogt, and the corps commander was Paul Haynes. That year, the corps wasn't large enough to have a lieutenant colonel as commander, so Paul held the rank of major. Paul was actually the last corps commander. For what it's worth, I was the last corps commander to hold the rank of lieutenant colonel. Paul would have as well if there had been more than 100 cadets participating. He was an excellent commander.

I noticed in Sarge's letter to you that the last name engraved on the sword was that of **Emmett O'Neill**. After him came **Al Schlenker**, Paul Haynes, and myself. I would like to offer to donate the engraving to add the last three names to the sword in order to "complete" the record. I also have my old "saucer" cap that I was wearing in one of the pictures if you would like to have that as well. Please contact me if you are interested in any of this.

Thanks again for bringing back some fond memories... I will be sending in my application to the alumni association so I can get on the mailing list.

Tom Holler (1972)
Des Plaines, IL
tfholler@ameritech.net

To: taftalum@cox.net

You have some idea by now of the appreciation we grads of old have for your work and persistence. I, Jack Redden graduated in June 1945, although my parents had to get the diploma for me since I had, in the month prior to graduation been taken into the Navy along with a ton of other guys since we had in mind the task of invading Japan some time in the near future... In the interim between that time and the dropping of two atom bombs in August of '45 the USA landed at Okinawa in preparation for the Japanese invasion. The two bombs dropped convinced the Japs that time was ripe for surrender and on August 14, 1945 they did just that, unconditionally. So I went to Drake after I got out of service in the late summer of '46 via Wright Jr. College.

After earning a degree in Political Science at Drake, I later earned a master's in counseling psychology and am still in private practice in Memphis, Tennessee.

I married twice, the last time 10 years ago and have two kids and 4 grandchildren, not to mention two step kids and another two grandchildren and another on the way. My two sisters, **Lois Redden** and **Eleanor Redden** also graduated from Taft. Eleanor in 1942, I think, and Lois likely in 1944. Lois passed away in California in about 1985 and Eleanor is alive and kicking in Mureitta Hot Springs California. Email for her is ronela1@verison.com.

Thanx again for the fun you make available to weuns.

Jack Redden (June 1945)
jackcredden@aol.com

Jerry,
Attached is a picture taken [recently]. Larry and his wife, Barbara, stopped by at our home while on their way to a family gathering in Michigan. In all of our conversation and catching up, we were all wondering if anyone from our class in the Chicago area is talking or thinking about a class reunion; say, in 2009???

Carole (Mommsen) & Kent Meyer
(June 1959)
Crawfordsville, IN
clmokm@comcast.net



(L to R): **Kent, Carole (Mommsen) Meyer, Larry Marsh** (all June '59)

Dear Taft Alumni Newsletter:
Great feature on the found ROTC sword from the 1970's. I saw **Emmett (Kevin) O'Neil** listed as the last cadet commander's name on the sword. Over the years I have stayed in close touch with Kevin. I was his "number 2" during the 1969-1970 school year and I recall that all the cadet officers were given ceremonial swords to use during special events like the annual military ball. My younger brother **Mark W. Talbot** (1972) is the second cadet standing at attention next to cadet commander **Thomas Holler** (pictured on the first page of the Spring 2005 newsletter) as Mark was his "number 2." Although very tempting, we never tried sword fights with them for fear Sgt. **Howard Dill** (the military instructor in 1969-1970) would have our tails on fire.

(continued on page 7)

CLASS NOTES



1940s

MARGARET (BRYSON) WEBSTER (JANUARY 1941) lives in Vancouver, WA, has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

DON LEUTZ (JUNE 1941) lives in Daytona Beach, FL, has 3 children and is retired.

LOUISE (SOPER) MC CULLOUGH (JUNE 1941) graduated from Wright AA 1943, lives in Potomac Falls, VA, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

DONALD JIRKA (JUNE 1942), graduated from Northern BS 1945, lives in Glenview, IL, has 1 child and is retired.

JAMES BOARINI (JUNE 1943) graduated from U of WI AA 1949, lives in Mc Henry, IL, has 6 children, 17 grandchildren and is retired.

DOROTHY (SCHREIBER) BASKO (JANUARY 1944) lives in Huntley, IL, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

ERNA BONE (JANUARY 1944) graduated from U of WI BS 1951, lives in Fox River Grove, IL and is a retired teacher.

IRENE (ROSS) FRANSEN (JANUARY 1944) lives in Huntley, IL, has 8 children, 2 grandchildren and is retired.

CLAY MOTT (JANUARY 1944) graduated from Northern BS 1949, lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren, is retired and a Taft Alumni Hall of Famer.

PHILIP NELSON (JUNE 1944) lives in Elm Grove,

WI, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired, JOHN O'CONNELL (JUNE 1944) lives in Glenview, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

WARD DONOHUE (JANUARY 1945) lives in Sarasota, FL, has 3 sons and is retired.

DEAN BURTON (JUNE 1945) graduated from U of I BS 1950, lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

DOLORES (KOCH) REICHERT (JUNE 1945) graduated from Wright AA 1948, lives in Arroyo Grande, CA, has 4 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

DORIS (GILSON) GUNDERSON (JANUARY 1946) lives in Palatine, IL, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

PAT (MILLER) BUGER (JUNE 1946) graduated from Harper AS 1970, Northeastern BA 1974, lives in Temecula, CA, has 2 children, 2 grandchildren and is an International dental lecturer.

JAMES GEISLER (JANUARY 1947) MARRIED MARGE (KAULFUSS (JUNE 1949), he lives in Brewsterr, MA, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and owns Ocean Gold B & B.

LOIS (SCHUMACHER) BEARD (JUNE 1948) lives in Lake Zurich, IL, has 4 children, 10 grandchildren and is retired.

MYRTLE (TRIEGER) SUMMERFORD (JUNE 1948) graduated from Knox College BA 1952, Central WA Med 1979, lives in Bellevue, WA, has 5 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

JOAN (BACKER) WESSELS (JUNE 1948)

lives in Lisle, IL and is retired.

LOLA (TELLSCHOW) MARKUS (JUNE 1949) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren, is a legal secretary and ranked #1 nationally in Racquetball for 70+ woman also in the Racquetball Hall of Fame.

JEANNE (WASCHOW) WEAD (JUNE 1949) lives in Sun City West, AZ, has 3 children, 9 grandchildren and is retired.

1950s

BETSEY PACKARD (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Lawrence BA 1954, lives in Sarasota, FL and is retired.

MARSHALL ZUGEHR (JANUARY 1950) graduated from Rochester Tech BS 1969, lives in Salisbury, MD, has 3 children, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

LALIA (MAIWORM) BERGREN (JUNE 1950) MARRIED JACK (JUNE 1948) they lives in Trinity, FL, have 4 children, 5 grandchildren and are retired.

JOAN (PFLUG) EURICH (JUNE 1950) lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children and is a housewife.

RAYMOND KRUTWIG (JUNE 1950) lives in Arlington Hts, IL, has 2 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

JOHN ANDERSON (JUNE 1951) graduated from MO Valleyt BA 1958, lives in Kouts, IN, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

THEODORE VOSS (JUNE 1951) lives in Union, IL, has 7 children, 20 grandchildren and is retired.

BOB WINKATES (JANUARY 1952) graduated from Northwestern BS 1968, MARRIED NANCY (ZUEHLKE) (JANUARY 1952), they live in Mt Prospect, IL, have 5 children, 12 grandchildren and are retired.

FRED SEAGEL (JUNE 1952) MARRIED ANN (ELLEFSON) (JUNE 1952), Ann graduated from IL Masonic Hospital RN

1955, they live in Gulf Breeze, FL, have 2 children, 5 grandchildren and are retired.

VALERIE (ZETEK) BLAUE (JANUARY 1953) lives in Des Plaines, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is retired.

JANE (MEADOWS)(ABRAMCHIK (JUNE 1953) graduated from Northern BS 1957, lives in Skokie, IL and is retired.

RICH ALBRECHT (JUNE 1953) graduated from Beloit College BA 1957, lives in Salem, SC and is retired.

BARBARA (EDWARDS) FREITAG (JUNE 1953) lives in Poplar Grove, IL, has 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild and is retired.

RUTH (MAEGDLIN) TINGSTON (JUNE 1953) lives in Peoria, AZ and is retired.

LOIS (WELDON) DOWD (JUNE 1955) lives in Nokomis, FL, has 4 children, 15 grandchildren and is retired.

DAVID FREEZE (JUNE 1956) lives in Chicago and is an IDOT Supervisor.

NANCY (HAANING) JOHNSON (JUNE 1956) lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 5 grandchildren and is retired.

ROBERT KARGER (JUNE 1956) graduated from U of NY AS 1978, lives in La Vergne, TN, has 1 child, 3 grandchildren and is retired.

MARION (SPIERLING) LEAVY (JUNE 1956) graduated from Wright AA 1988, lives in Chicago, has 4 children, 3 grandchildren and is a U of I residency coordinator.

BARBARA (GROMKE) STEPHENS (JUNE 1956) graduated from U of I 1957, U of WI 1961, U of IA 1985, lives in Solon, IA, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is an artist.

ALVIRA (KOHNE) SOBIESKI (JANUARY 1957) lives in Grove City, FL, has 3 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

HERB KORFF (JUNE 1957) graduated from Southern IL 1961, lives in Albuquerque, NM, has 2 children and is retired.

NANCY (GERACI) TRUTWIN (JUNE 1957) graduated from

CLASS NOTES

Wright AA 1959, lives in Mt Prospect, IL, has 3 children, 8 grandchildren and is retired.

JOHN GRUD (JUNE 1958) graduated from Marquette BS 1962, De Paul MBA 1971, lives in Lake Geneva, WI, has 1 child and is retired.

EDWARD RODIEK (JANUARY 1959) lives in Garden, MI, has 3 children, 7 grandchildren and is retired.

LARRY MARSH (JUNE 1959) graduated from U S Naval Academy BS 1963, American U 1968, U of Munich 1970, lives in Great Falls, VA, retired Rear Admiral US Navy submarines, now president of a non profit foundation.

1960s

SUSAN (STOLTMAN) KING (JANUARY 1960), lives in Danville, CA, has 1 child and is retired.

BILL SCHALK (JANUARY 1960) in 4/05 was elected to a third term as trustee in Wind Point WI, 5/05 received Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce Community Leader of the Year award in education.

RICHARD SWANSON (JANUARY 1960) graduated from IIT BS 1964, Northeastern MA 1968, lives in Liverpool, NJ, has 1 child, in 2004 received distinguished service award and is retired.

CAROLYN (BARNES) SMITH (JUNE 1960) lives in Cary, NC, has 5 children, 6 grandchildren and is retired.

HANS KNOFF (JUNE 1960) graduated from Columbus College BS 1974, GA State MBA 1976, lives in Union City, TN, has 2 children and is a human resources director in the Department of Army at Ft Benning.

KAREN (KELLY) SUTHERLAND (JUNE 1960) lives in Vancouver, WA, has 4 children, 16 grandchildren and is retired.

JOYCE BAXTER (JANUARY 1961) lives in New Port Richey, FL and is retired.

ALICE (EASTMAN) HEYDEN (JUNE 1961) graduated from

Marquette BS, lives in Park Ridge, IL, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is a medical technologist.

MARY (PAPCIAK) SAMBORSKI (JUNE 1961) MARRIED DARRYL (JUNE 1962), both graduated from Northeastern BA 1966, Darryl also Northern MS, they live in Schaumburg, IL, have 2 children, Mary is a teachers aide, Darryl is a science teacher.

ELLEN (ISAACSON) ARNOLD (JANUARY 1962) graduated from U of MI BA 1965, Duke Med 1968, Nova EdD 1992, lives in Rochester, NY, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is an author and educational consultant.

KATHEE (ANDERSEN) HOUSER (JUNE 1962) graduated from U of CO BA 1966, lives in Ft Collins, CO, has 2 children and is a member of co-op fiber artist and teaches sewing.

KAREN (RINKACH) JOHNSON (JUNE 1962) lives in Fox River Grove, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is retired.

JUDY (LOWING) VAN HORN (JUNE 1962) lives in Bend, OR, has 1 child and is a bookkeeper.

LINDA (STOLL) KUDELKA (JANUARY 1963) lives in Elk Grove, IL, has 2 children, 1 grandchild and is a bakeshop manager.

PHYLLIS (BELTLE) BROWN (JUNE 1963) graduated from Northeastern BA 1967, lives in Bartlett, IL, has 1 child and is an insurance reviewer.

CAROL (THORSON) HILDEBRAND (JUNE 1963) graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College BA 1967, Nat'l U MeD 1981, lives in Poinciana, FL, has 2 children and is a retired USN Commander.

ROBERT B. JOHNSON (JANUARY 1965) graduated from IIT BS 1969, MS 1971, lives in Buffalo Grove, IL, has 2 children and is a senior structural engineer.

CHARLES MUGNOLO (JANUARY 1965) graduated

from Northern BS 1969, lives in Fenton, MI and is retired.

RITA (GOLTERMAN) BARTH (JUNE 1965) lives in Park Ridge and is retired.

JOHN BULATEK (JUNE 1965) graduated from U of I 1972, lives in Montgomery, IL, has 2 children and is retired.

CHRISTINE (MOTZNY) NELSON (JUNE 1965) graduated from Loyola BSN 1969, lives in Elk Grove, CA, has 2 children, 3 grandchildren and is an RN.

SANDI (LANE) BRUST (JUNE 1966) graduated from Augustana BA 1970, lives in Palatine, IL, has 2 children and is a data analyst.

MICHAEL MEGARIS (JUNE 1966) graduated from U of MO BBA 1988, MBA 1990, lives in Overland Park, KS, has 3 children, 4 grandchildren and is in real estate investing.

EDWARD KRZEMINSKI (JUNE 1967) lives in Countryside, IL, has 2 children and is a facility maintenance assistant manager.

FRED GARZINO (JUNE 1968) MARRIED MARY (STECKIEWICZ) (JUNE 1968), he graduated from Drake BA 1968, U of NC MA 1974, Northwestern MA 1980, De Paul JD 1998, Mary graduated from De Paul BS 1972, Loyola Med 1976, they live in Chicago and she is an educational writer, Fred is an attorney.

1970s

BARBARA (HEINZ) RODRIGUEZ (1970) graduated from U of I BS 1975, MS 1989, lives in West Chicago, IL and is an occupational therapist.

MONICA (SAPA) NETKOW (1970) lives in West Dundee, IL and has 2 children.

CARLENE (WEGELT) SHULTZ (1970) graduated from IL State BS 1973, MS 1976, and Forest Institute of Professional Psychology PSY.D 1990, lives in Salem, OR, has 3 children and is a clinical psychologist.

KENNETH GAUGHAN (1971) graduated from Northeastern BS

1974, Loyola MSW 1977, EdD 2004, lives in Bradon, FL, has 1 child and is a supervisor, school social work services.

DAGMAR (STANKOVSKY) KLOS (1971) lives in Chicago teaches natural dye classes and wrote "The Dyers Companion" just realised in 2005.

HOWARD NEBECK (1971) graduated from U of I BS 1975, U of AZ MS 1983, lives in Redmond, WA, has 2 children and is an engineer at Boeing.

CHRISTINE (AHL) DURBIN (1972) graduated from U of FL BS 1976, U of CA MSW 1982, lives in West Lafayette, IN, has 2 children and is a social worker who was social worker of the year in Indiana in 2004.

CAROL OVERHULS (1972) lives in Niles, IL, has 2 children and is a real estate broker.

JUDY (TREDER) GOTZ (1973) graduated from Northern BS 1993, Loyola Med 1999, lives in Pleasant Prairie, WI, has 2 children. 1 grandchild and is a High School English Teacher.

MARY (REYNEN) BART (1974) lives in Chicago and has 2 children.

ELAINE (DOMKOWSKI) MONCRIEFF (1975), graduated from U of IL BS 1979, lives in Hawthorn Woods, IL, has 2 children and is a member of technical staff.

BARBARA ADAMS (1976) graduated from Knox College BS 1980, Northwestern Law, JD 1983, lives in Park Ridge, IL and is an attorney.

KATHY AX (1976) lives in Round Lake, IL and is a SNOMED analyst/customer service.

1980s

KENNETH NEHLSSEN (1980) graduated from Northern BS Acct 1984, U of Chicago MBA 2000, lives in Mahopac, NY, has 3 children and is a chief investment officer.

RON OLLE (1985) lives in West Chicago, IL and is a land surveyor.

In Our Memories

John Padgitt, class of June 1941 passed away on January 5, 2005.

Carl English, Class of June 1942 passed away on May 15, 2005.

Jim Downing, class of 1943, passed away on February 13, 2005. He had been actively involved while a student at Taft, and was proud of his Taft connections.

Ken Davis, class of June 1943 died January 21, 2005.

Robert Paddi, class of June 1945 died in October 2003.

Barbara (Mc Donald) Adams, class of June 1946 died in June 2004

Bill Mertens, class of 1948 died on July 22, 2003 in Tucson, Arizona.

Rosalind (Peggy La Marche) Moore, class of January 1957 died April 25, 2005 from cancer. She was the sister of **Jane (LaMarche) Adair**, class of January 1952.

Nancy (France) O'Bradovich, class of June 1957 died from drowning, no date given (wife of former Bears player Ed O'Bradovich).

Kathleen A. (Bach) Moczarny, class of 1968, died on May 3, 2005.

Jeffrey Zeppiero, class of 1975 died on January 10, 2004. Note: This is a correction to Jeffrey's name from our Winter 2005 newsletter notice.

Why Pay Dues?

The Taft Alumni Association is run by a group of dedicated volunteers who continue to hold a special attachment to Taft, even years after graduation. The membership dues are used to cover costs of maintaining alumni records, publishing quarterly newsletters and coordinating reunion plans. We endeavor to furnish annual scholarships to deserving seniors financed through special donations. Through membership dues, fund-raisers and donations, we've sponsored productions at Taft over the past 20 years to encourage continuing interest in the drama department, including "Mame" (1991), "Play On" (Fall 1991), "Bye, Bye Birdie" (1992), and "The Dining Room" (1993). A special drama workshop headed by a Taft alumnus and Taft students performed a specially written play in 1994.

Also, more recently we have provided funds for buying hats and overlays for the marching band, provided funds to refurbish the practice field and a laser printer for the journalism department. Four new trophy cases sit in the Hall of Fame area just off the front entrance of the school (Hurlbut Avenue side) with our support. The free-standing sign at the corner of Hurlbut and Northcott Avenues is also a new addition, thanks to "your" funding through dues.

It is an advantage to have your name listed in our alumni file, so it will be available for a class reunion

when one of your class members (or even you!) decide to probe such a possibility. With Alumni Association guidelines and assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange. Membership dues to become a member of the Taft Alumni Association are \$15, which covers two years. Why bother? What do I get from it? Yes, I'm already an alumnus, so why do I need a "membership card"?

As "Sponsoring Alumni" you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high school alumni in the area. It is a fact that Taft graduates are dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition with which few other high schools can compare. We got our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring. Any non-paying Taftites reading this are invited and encouraged to join the 3,500+ supporting Eagles. We endeavor to continue to provide the best service for the lowest cost possible allowing more alumni to continue to participate.

We go forward with pride and determination. Helping where needed, the TAA works closely with the PTA and Local School Council. Your financial aid strengthens our treasury and gives additional confidence to our alumni volunteers. You were an Eagle in high school. Now join the Alumni Association and soar like an Eagle for the rest of your life!

Letters To The Editor (Continued from page 3)

Some of that Taft ROTC must have stayed with me, as today I am presenting awards to deserving high school ROTC cadets as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. This past year I attended seven military awards ceremonies at Chicago area high schools presenting a bronze JROTC medal to an outstanding cadet selected by the high school's military instructor. This picture is of Lockport High School JROTC Cadet Robert Chulum receiving the SAR award from me this past April.



It's a shame Taft doesn't offer the program as the lessons learned have stayed with me during my adult life.

Bruce (Buzz) Talbot (1970)
BruceRTalbot@aol.com

[Editor's Note: Yes, it does. See the NJROTC. J. Bloom, TAA newsletter editor]

ATTN.: KAY KUCIAK

I have received the Winter Edition of the Eagle [Taft Alumni Newsletter] from a number of my Taft friends who were in the Norwood Drum and Bugle Corps. I was in Norwood from 1938 through 1950. You can get an idea of the age group. I also went to Schurz, but spent much of my time with my Taft friends. I have shared some of these memories with Jerry Bloom as I was trying to locate **Arlene "Lee" (Sawusch) Faehnrich** (June '46). On page 10 of the Eagle she outlined an interesting story and was probably in the Corps with her for some period of time, but I do not remember her nor do my friends. I have a picture or two that she might be on and a number of pictures from the old days which [some] might enjoy seeing.

Last April I made a presentation with another member of Norwood (Dave Borck) to the Norwood Park Historical Society and we wrote the history of The Norwood Park Fife, Drum and Bugle Corps and the original copy was presented to Sue Kroll, the President. We donated some of the old uniforms, pictures and many other memorabilia items to the Society, which are now on display. We even had a picture of the C-54 "Spirit of Norwood" airplane which was converted into a hospital transport. We even have the picture of the two test pilots. We covered the years from 1928-1984. Jerry Bloom asked that I write to you Kay and see if you can put Arlene in touch with me through E-mail, Snail-

mail or the good old land based telephone.

Wayne Mounsey
Roselle, IL - wjmoun@cs.com

Hello,

I heard of a new website at TaftAlumni.net. What happened to taftalumni.org? It seems when I tried to go the .org address I kept getting the message "Page Cannot be Displayed". I didn't see a change in the newsletter, unless I missed it.

What's up?

Carol Mondel (January 1960)
carol511@sbcglobal.net

Carol, I can understand your confusion. I believe that the TAA website (www.taftalumni.org) was down temporarily for routine maintenance. This is the only official website of the Taft Alumni Association.

I recently received an email from another alumnus alerting us to the "taftalumni.net" website. That appears to be hosted by one of the mass-market online reunion organizations, and has absolutely no affiliation to our TAA. There is no fee to access our website or to register your email address. The .net website is charging \$8 per year.

Please check with us online--The official TAA website is back up.

Paulette
eagleemail@taftalumni.org

Lost Classmates

Are you looking for old classmates you've lost touch with? The Taft Alumni Association doesn't 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 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 or email us at taftalum@cox.net.

This issue, Wayne Mounsey is looking for **Arlene "Lee" (Sawusch) Faehnrich** (June '46).

"The Hub" Memories

by Charles D. Williams, Jr. (June 1960)

After reading all of the past comments and experiences about "the Hub" Roller Rink, it just got to me how great the good old days really were. They were the best of the best of times that we had. It's just too bad that when we were going through those days we did not understand or feel how great those good old days really were. I just had to sit down and write about [some of those times].

My family moved from Michigan to Chicago in the fall of 1954. We lived on New England Avenue between Higgins Road and Forster Avenue. A neighbor, Rob, came over and asked me to play with him, which I did. Then he asked me to go rollerskating on the following Saturday at "The Hub". This was the first time I had ever rollerskated or went to a roller rink. We went to the hub by CTA bus, Foster Avenue to Harlem Avenue. After we got there we went in. There was a very large room inside of the ticket office and in the center of the room was a large oval concession stand. Around this area of the east wall was a regular dance floor and juke box. In the South East corner was the skate repair shop.

The South West wall had a room for coats and skate cases. The East corner was the skate repair shop. The North West wall had the retail skate sales and other items. The North wall had the skate rentals. All of these items were in separate rooms. The entire area was carpeted with a roller skating custom design in the rug. I rented skates. Then on the west wall, in the center, was a larger doorway that went to the large roller skating wood floor. Over the years, I have been to many roller skating rinks but this was by far the largest roller skating floor I have ever seen. When you did the dance numbers, you had to do two sets towards the center of the floor in order to go the full length of the floor. Not one set that's in the book.

As I went through the large doorway (about 12 feet across by about 15 feet deep) was the very large wood roller skating floor. On the south wall was a mezz that had a very large pipe organ on it with some of the pipes for the organ. On the north wall was also a mezz with the rest of the pipes for the organ and all of the other instruments to go with it and were operated by the organ. I skated that day a little and sat around the outside of the floor on benches during the dance numbers. During that day I learned that they had free roller skating lessons on Saturdays from 12:30 to 1:30. The next week I went for the lessons and Murphy was the instructor. If you ever met Murphy you would never forget her. She was about 6'3" tall; I was 6' and I had to look up to her all of the time. She had large bones and was a big woman with a loud and deep voice. You could hear her across the floor when she talked. The skates she had on were precision with black men's boots. I believe her feet were too large for any regular women's boots. Anyway, I took lessons from her for about a year and became quite good. Then Murphy asked me to help her teach in the classes. I said yes, so I could get in for free on Saturdays, since I was helping out.

Then in June of 1956 I graduated from Garvey grammar school. I still have the entire class graduation picture (8-1/2" x 11") in the original cardboard frame it came in. I had all of the graduates sign their entire name on the inside cover of the folder opposite their picture. This included Jimmy Jacobs of "Grease" fame. With the money I got from

graduation, I bought my first pair of roller skates. They had wood wheels with basic boots. From 1957 to 1960 I continued to help Murphy instruct on Saturdays and also went to the Hub on Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons. My mother went to the Hub to pick me up some times and she would come in early to hear the pipe organ. She also met the other parents of the girls I would skate with and it turned out that a number of their parents also skated on Thursday nights. So my mom became a regular on Thursday night's roller skating too.

In about 1958 I bought a set of plastic wheels to put on my roller skates. The plastic wheels would hold the floor better in the corners than the wooden wheels because they didn't slide out as much on the wood floor. During the spring, summer and falls, when it was warm outside, they would keep the windows open for cool air to flow in. There was no air-conditioning in those days. Many of the older people would park their cars outside of the rink on the north side and listen to the Pipe organ music. Some of them would get a free pass and come into the Hub roller rink and listen to the pipe organ music being played by Leon Barry all year round. He was really great. During the later part of his career, in the 1980s we went to the Cary Country Club in Cary, IL for dinner. Leon Barry was playing a regular organ there for dinner music. He still sounded as great as ever though he was not playing the big pipe organ. He had a pipe organ in the basement of his house about a mile south of the Hub Roller Rink. He had built the pipes up in the rafters of the basement to conserve space. On the warm days or nights, while you were roller skating, you could "smell" the Maurice Lennel Cookies being baked in the factory just south of the Hub roller rink. The "smells" were great while you were skating. On our way home on Saturdays we would stop and buy a bag of broken cookies to take home with us.

I attended Taft High School from 1956 to 1960 and graduated in June. Again, Jimmy Jacobs of "Grease" fame and any others were in the same graduating class. In fact, the "Grease" play and movie was based on those years at Taft. Maybe that is why "Grease" has remained so popular with the public over the years. And, yes the guys did swim in the nude and the gals wore tank suits. In the winter on Monday mornings at the 8:00 am period the water was very, very cold.

My graduating class of June 1960 set many milestones in Chicago High School education. Of the 450 something freshman students that started out, 98% graduated from Taft High School. That was a record for Chicago High Schools and we got a letter from the Mayor of Chicago stating so. I still have it. Of those who graduated from high school, about 95% went on to college. That was also a record for Chicago education. Later I got a BS at NIU, MBA at NIU and a Master's Certificate from DePaul. Looking back, we were really a great bunch of kids and not many of us ever got into any trouble.

By the way, there is also going to be a "45 year" class reunion for the graduating Class of June 1960. See the details in the Reunion section on page 2 of this newsletter. It should be a big blast. Those were really the great OLD days.

Subject: I Like Being Old

Old age, I've decided, is a gift. I am now, probably for the first time in my life, the person I have always wanted to be. Oh, not my body! I sometime despair over my body--but I don't agonize over it for long.

I would never trade my amazing friends, my wonderful life, my family for less gray hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or for not making my bed, or for buying that silly cement gecko that I didn't need, but looks so avante garde on my patio.

I am entitled to overeat, to be messy, to be extravagant. I have seen too many dear friends leave this world too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it if I decide to read until 4 a.m., and sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50's & 60's, and if I at the same time wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten - and I eventually remember the important things. Sure, over the years my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers?

But broken hearts are what give us strength and understanding and compassion. A heart never broken is pristine and sterile and will never know the joy of being imperfect. I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn gray, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face.

So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver. I can say "no", and mean it. I can say "yes", and mean it. As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore.

I've even earned the right to be wrong. So, to answer the question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. For the first time in my life, I don't have to

have a reason to do the things I want to do. If I want to play games on the computer all day, lay on the couch and watch old movie or if I don't want to go to the beach or a movie, I have earned that right. I have put in my time doing everything for others, so now I can be a bit selfish without feeling guilty.

I sometimes feel sorry for the young. They face a far different world than I knew growing up, where we feared the law, respected the old, the flag, our country. I never felt the need to use filthy language in order to express myself. And they too will grow old someday.

I am grateful to have been born when I was, into a kinder, gentler world. Yes, I like being old!

Thanks to an anonymous donor from the Internet for this submission.



2005 Taft Football Schedule

Two games will be played before the fall session begins. Come join and feel the spirit!

Date	Time	Visiting Team	Home Team	Stadium
8/27	11 am	Taft	Brooks CP	Gately
9/3	11 am	Tinley Park	Taft	Winnemac
9/10	3 pm	Taft	Sullivan	Winnemac
9/15	3:30	Amundsen	Taft	Winnemac
9/23	3:30	Roosevelt	Taft (HC)	Winnemac
9/30	3:30	Taft	Gage Park	Rockne
10/6	3:30	Taft	Senn	Winnemac
10/15	3 pm	Washington	Taft	Winnemac

Notice - Former Taft Athletes

Taft is still looking for former Taft athletes who earned all-state, all-section or all-conference honors who have photos of themselves in action, for placement in the Sports Hall of Fame.

The photos should be sent to coach Kirk Vidas, c/o Taft High School, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr, Chicago, IL. 60631. For more information call coach Vidas at 773-534-1000.

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 him/her to join. Send us their name and address (and the year of graduation, if known) at:

Taft Alumni Association, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or email us at taftalum@cox.net.

WWII Vet continued from page 3

School in 1942 to fight overseas during World War II. He was never able to get his diploma after receiving an honorable discharge in 1945.

Beck contacted the Chicago Board of Education and filled out the necessary paperwork. In late March, the Chicago Public Schools presented Pieroni, now 80, with his diploma. Beck bought her father a cap and gown for the occasion.

"He was so happy," Beck said. "He joked that his next step would be Harvard. I'm so glad we were able to do this for him."

Beck said she hopes other veterans of World War II and the Korean War take advantage of the diploma law, which was passed in 2002.

"I found out about it totally by accident," Beck said. "I'm not sure how many people know that the provision is there."

Pieroni joined the Army when he left school, and spent three years fighting in Europe. When he was discharged, the passage of time and the experiences of war made finishing high school a low priority for him.

But in the years since then, Pieroni's lack of a high school diploma nagged at him, Beck said.

"He would always tell us how important it is to get an education and how lucky we were to be finishing high school," she said. "He'd say that he could have done better with a diploma of his own."

"It's sad because I know there are a lot of veterans out there who gave up school to fight for this country. When they got out, they were more concerned with getting jobs or raising families than finishing high school. Now they have a chance to make up for lost time, in a sense," she said.

Submitted by Linda (Stoll) Kudelka, January 1963

TAFT Alumni Bargains

Static Window Stickers: \$3.00 ea. (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 gray with NEW Eagle logo silk-screened in blue.
Sizes - Medium through XXXL

Baseball Caps: \$15 each

Royal Blue with NEW Eagle logo in gray/black stitched emblem on front. Adjustable buckle tab - one size fits all.

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!)

Yearbooks: Suggested donation \$30

1940 June (1), 1941 Jan (3), 1942 Jan (1) June (1), 1944 Jan (1) June (1), 1945 Jan (2) June (1), 1946 Jan (1) June (1), 1947 Jan (1) June (1), 1948 Jan (1) June (1), 1949 Jan (1), 1950 Jan (2) June (1), 1951 Jan (1) June (1), 1952 Jan (1), 1953 Jan (2) June (2), 1954 Jan (1) June (1), 1955 Jan (1), 1974 (5), 1975 (2), 1976 (2), 1977 (4), 1978 (3), 1979 (4), 1980 (2), 1981 (2), 1982 (12), 1983 (6), 1984 (6), 1985 (32), 1986 (59), 1987 (90), 1988 (1), 1990 (50), 1991 (25), 1992 (134), 1993 (6), 1994 (47), 1995 (186), 1996 (65), 1997 (50), 1998 (152), 1999 (147), 2000 (349), 2001 (122), 2003 (17), 2004 (17) and 2005 (16).

TAFT Alumni Order Form

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

+ 6.00 postage/handling

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Month/Year of Graduation _____

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM			
Name		Maiden Name	Month & Year Graduated
Address (Home)		City	State Zip
Address (Business)		City	State Zip
Home Telephone No: ()		E-mail Address	
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. Return to: Taft Alumni Association 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago IL 60631			
			<i>Summer 2005</i>

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RENEW NOW !!

Look at your address label on the back of this page. Check your year of graduation on the 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, 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.

The Taft Alumni Association publishes the Taft Alumni Newsletter quarterly. Send all general correspondence and changes of address: **Taft Alumni Association**, 6530 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 or
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