

Dear LP-53 Classmates, Spouses, and Friends;

Greetings, and best wishes for all of you and your family members, from your elementary and high school friends. It is good to have life-long friends.

This issue contains a lot of words about schools. I got interested in one aspect, and then got carried away.

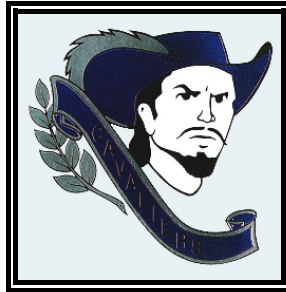
Publication of *Our Times*

If I had Buzz Byczynski's gift of gab, I could create five stories from one memory, all enjoyable, a bit exaggerated, and the reader would think five different memories were being told. But, I don't have Buzz' gift, so it is becoming more time consuming to compose a newsletter. Because of the copying and mailing costs for each newsletter (about \$160), we get more for our money if the newsletter is three pieces of paper, which also takes more time. Those are my reasons (excuses) to cut back from sending the newsletter three times each year, to two. I trust that twice-a-year mailing of a newsletter (really, intended to be a contact letter) will be sufficient for *Our Times'* purpose of keeping in touch.

Signs of the Times

The economy must be having an impact on the balance sheet of the Grand Bear Lodge. A NewsTrib article noted that Grand Bear owes the city of Utica \$156,000 for "pillow taxes" for the period August 2008 through January 2009. I hope the place doesn't go bankrupt, and become an eyesore. No sooner did I write this, than I read in another NewsTrib article that a suit has been filed against Grand Bear for racial discrimination and sexual harassment. I know that we are a litigious society, but seems to me that all is not well with the resort on the hill above Utica.

An article in the NewsTribune about Peru's elementary schools, took me to their web site. There, I learned these interesting



Class of LP 1953

facts: the principals at all three schools are female; Washington school has 4 male and 26 female staff; Northview has 2 male and 25 female staff; Roosevelt has 1 male and 24 female staff. That's 7 males of the 85 total (principals and staff). My first thought was that the few males in elementary education in Peru was an unusual sign of the

times. But, on second thought, when I was an elementary student at Lincoln school in La Salle, there was only one male teacher ... the shop teacher (I forget his name), and the janitor (Bud Diamond). His sister was one of the teachers. My mother attended an event at Lincoln school about 25 years after I graduated ...I don't remember what it was, but Bud was there and my mother asked if he remembered me? (Only mothers think that their kids are special and leave an impression wherever they walk). She was so pleased that he said; "Yes," adding some particulars to convince her. God bless him. Of course, all of those who attended catholic schools were taught by nuns ... 100 per cent female staff. I'm sure that those nuns could tell mothers something about every one of their children. All of the teaching staff at Matthiessen school, where I attended 1-4 grades, during WWII, were female. I remember several of the teachers, and the only male ... the janitor, Mr. Mauro. Interesting what one's memory holds. Maybe it is good that some insignificant trivia is retained for future, reassuring reference.

A matter concerning our scholarship took me to the high school's web site to find the email address of a staff member. Looking at the long list, I decided to count them ... about 150. The number is hard to correctly count, because of some names being listed twice (I don't know why). Then, I went to my 1953 Ell Ess Pe and counted the staff, including Mr. Dolan and Mr. Wilmot, and the office secretaries, arriving at the number of 61. So, today's staff at LP is at least double what it was in 1953. The student enrollment for the 2008-2009 school years is

approximately 1300, according to the web site. The enrollment in 1953 was about 1300. Essentially, same number of students and twice the staff. Sorry to be critical, but something doesn't add up.

I was getting my exercise the other day walking around the mall (on the inside), when two little old ladies came around a corner about 30 feet in front of me. Since I thought I was going at a good pace, it would only be a few strides and I would pass them. But, when I next looked up, they were still 30 feet, or more, in front of me. I said to myself; "Beans, you aren't getting the exercise from your walking that you think you are. Pick it up, or those old ladies will shame you, and soon be out of sight."

What's New In La Salle-Peru

The Peru School District 124, established 1840, is planning a big shuffle for the 2009-2010 school year. A new school, Parkside is under construction ... it will house grades 5-8. Washington school, now housing grades 6-8, will house grades 2-4. Northview school, now housing grades 3-5, will house Pre-K to 1. Roosevelt school, now housing grades Pre-K to 2 disappears. I didn't learn anything about the reasons for the shuffle. I was interested to know if elementary school students in Peru ride busses, as they do here in Beavercreek. The Washington school student handbook says that:
"Students who live more than 1.5 miles, or who travel across a hazardous roadway will qualify for free bus transportation. Shooting Park Road, Peoria Street, Routes 6 and 251 all qualify as hazardous roadways" Hard to believe, but good, that the Peru School District policy is that some kids can walk to school, and maybe have some efficiency in the bus routes. Not so here ... the busses run everywhere, with designated stopping points. The kids can get on the bus, walk, or have parents drive them to school; mostly, the latter. Probably the same in Peru.

Memories

I looked at what is happening with Peru schools, because I knew that all of LP-53 from

Peru graduated from Washington school, or a catholic school in Peru. Many of our class graduated from elementary catholic schools in La Salle and Oglesby, as well as Peru. Here's some names of the catholic schools: St. Hyacinth's, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's, Sacred Heart, St. Roch's, St. Valentine's, St. Joseph's. LPO each had a Washington school. The other public schools up to 8 th grade, were Jefferson, Lincoln, and McKinley. There was a Jackson school in La Salle, but, far as I can tell, it didn't go to 8 th grade. The farmer kids graduated from Dimmick Township, Funfsinn, and some others that I don't know the name...like, where did Louis Braun attend elementary school? It would not be an exaggeration to say that our class members attended more than 15 different elementary schools. I would think that our different backgrounds caused some challenges for our high school teachers in our freshman year. If you think about it, we forged a common bond pretty quick - it was good for all of us to come together. It was exciting, and kind of frightening, for all the teenagers in the township getting together in one place! We made the most of it. I wonder if the teacher days before school started, were not clandestine meetings for our elementary teachers to pass on information to our high school teachers about the character and academic potential of each of us?

I was gifted a new book; "Lunch At The Igloo, and Other Stories." The stories, with lots of pictures, are taken from memories of growing up in La Salle area, circa late 1930's to 1950's, by Don and Paul Huling. Paul is now deceased. The Huling's home was in the area of 7 th St. and Marquette in La Salle. Lots of familiar places and people are contained in the stories. If you would like to obtain a copy of the book, here's the contact and cost information:
Book cost \$17.95 each.
Shipping & Handling \$3.05
Total: \$21.00
Send check to: Donald J. Huling, 2830 Independence Drive, Peru, IL 61354. Include shipping address for where you want the book sent.

A "Donkey Basketball" game was held

at LP on February 4, 2009. I don't know if these games are an annual event, or not. But, I do remember attending a "Donkey Basketball" game one of our high school years. As I remember, the game was a fund raiser for the Student Council. I also remember a Faculty vs. Seniors game (don't remember if the students were the basketball team). In the 1953 game, Gene Vance was on the faculty team. Is there any question about who won that one?

Here's the box score for a basketball game published in the NewsTribune, January 7, 1946. Title: "Jolly Boys Nip Bluebirds 16-15." That's a helluva score for a basketball game! The article is in my scrapbook. In 1946, we were fifth or sixth graders. As I recall, the elementary schools, public and catholic, at the 5-8 grade level, played against each other. The games were played at the high school, playing across the floor to baskets on the sides, rather than full court.

Blue Birds			Jolly Boys				
	Fg	Ft	Pf		Fg	Ft	Pf
Pittman	0	1	0	Walsh	1	0	0
Neff	1	0	0	Rice	0	0	0
Kmeciak	6	0	2	Berries	3	0	0
Ravnikar	0	0	0	Baum	3	0	2
Galassi	0	0	0	Pohar	1	0	0
Ristau	0	0	0	Gorski	0	0	0
<hr/>				<hr/>			
7 1 2				8 0 2			

My nickname at the time was "Berries," not "Beans." John Schweickert still calls me "Berries." I know the first names of the Jolly Boys' team: Jim Walsh, George Rice, (yours, truly), Ken Baum, Chuck "Pokey" Pohar, and Gerald "Bears" Gorski. For the Blue Birds, I only remember Don Pittman and George Ravnikar. The Jolly Boys were from Lincoln school. The Blue Birds were from Jefferson. I don't remember the Kmeciak boy who scored 12 of the Blue Bird's 15 points.

Sheldon Raizes sent me scanned copies of pages from *The Daily Post Tribune* (predecessor of the NewsTribune), dated March 15, 1941 that his mother had cut out and kept. The article describes things going on in Washington, Jackson, and Jefferson elementary schools in La Salle. One teacher describes actions for students with vision problems ... high intensity lighting. Another, the principal

at Jefferson, mentions work she did at Campbell school. The pages include an article, "Cream Top Dairy Growing Business." The article mentions that, daily, six trucks leave the dairy from First St. in La Salle to deliver dairy products to homes in LPO. The "Cream Top" bottle is promoted, "containing a 'pitcher' of cream ... easily poured off and whipped." Kaye Harl's dad worked for Cream Top and delivered milk to our home. I don't know how many mornings I went to our back porch to bring in the bottle of milk. Some cold mornings the frozen cream had pushed the top off of the bottle. I can tell you, every morning while living with Willy Crane on his farm, was a challenge to get up in the cold weather and go to the barn to milk his 10 or 12 cows, and then get on the bus to school. The good part of the bus ride was that Arlene Smith (LP-52) rode the same bus ... I had a crush on her.

Do you remember when LPO (now the Illinois Valley Community College, IVCC) had a football team? Some of our guys played for LPO, before going on to a 4-year college. It was in 1951 or 1952 (before our guys played) that LPO played on the national stage in the National Junior College Football Championship, the Gold Dust Bowl, in Vallejo, California. I looked at the IVCC web site ... no more football. They have men's and women's basketball and tennis teams, women's volley ball, and men's golf, but no football. The IVCC campus in Oglesby does not have a football stadium, and I suppose the high school doesn't want IVCC to use Fellows Stadium. Things aren't like they were in our times, when LP and LPO shared the same facilities and staff.

The 1952 *Ell Ess Pe* includes pages of "Outstanding Seniors for '52." A few of the categories were: **Most Musical** (Joanne Lipka and Richard Baum), **Best Looking** (Sue Rabe and Gary Roach), **Most Scholastic** (Ramona Weber and Charles Frank), **Most Athletic** (Adel Lemanski and John Schweickert), **Best Dressed** (Beverly Kucy and Frank Bruder). I have no idea of the selection process for the categories. What strikes me about this is; in today's school environment it would not be allowed that any

student should receive superlative recognition. Frank Bruder was a good friend of mine, and I can tell you why he got “Best Dressed.” His after school job was at a upscale woman’s clothing store (I don’t remember the name) on the south side of First St., one or two doors west of the bank in La Salle. Frank’s boss required that he show up for work well-dressed. So, Frank had to go to school wearing his best ... no Levis and tee-shirt ... and, thus his award.

I recently saw on a Lawrence Welk rerun, an old dancer singing a song about these (his) old bones not being able to show their stuff any longer. They still filled his shoes, but the shoes didn’t dance. The song’s lyrics reminisced, concluding that the dancer would not change his past, and long years of performing, for the purpose of changing the present. When the bones can no longer dance, life’s outlook cannot be to dance again, but to be thankful for the dance to this point. I can relate. I can remember enjoying to dance the polka. Today, my old bones couldn’t dance more than 4 or 5 measures of a polka!

In Memoriam

Since the last issue of our newsletter in November, 2008, our In Memoriam list has increased to 80.

Classmates: Carol J. (Lamboley) Klieber, age 73, died November 23, 2008. Carol is survived by her husband, one daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



(Photo from 1953 Ell Ess Pe)

A Friend:

Robert “Bob” Strong, Class of LP-1950, died February 22, 2009 in McAllen, Texas. Somehow, in our freshman year, I had contact with Bob, and came to admire the senior, handsome football player.

*All those we love are part of us,
For things of beauty leave their trace.
And memories of all we've shared,
Are treasures time cannot erase.
----- Anonymous -----*

Class (and Family) Information

Golden Wedding Anniversaries

By the end of the year, 65 of our class members will have reached this milestone. I have previously noted this admirable statistic, and will continue to do so. I did a Google search and found a US Census Bureau statistic saying the 5 per cent of marriages reach the 50 th anniversary. If one assumes that 14 of our original 314 (not unrealistic .. I can name a dozen) never married, then 300 of us married. Applying the US Census Bureau statistic: 5 per cent of 300 equals 15. Our number of 65 is more than 4 times that! I am thinking of writing the census bureau to ask for an investigation. For future reference, I decided to compile a year-by-year list of those who celebrated the 50 th anniversary milestone:

Married 1951

Alice Ellerbrock Smith & Robert
Geraldine Fennessey Michael & Glen

Married 1952

Marla Lindenmeyer Zolli & Arnold
Carol Busgen Merriman & Donald
Judy Hallett Taylor* & Mervin

Married 1953

Doris Dufour Olszewski* & Joe*
Wilfred Crane* & Janet
Marilyn Raley Turczyn & Ed
Janet Baird Audo & Raymond*

Married 1954

Judy Batchelder and Jack Turner
Nancy Kibilka Silfies & Robert
Rosemary Mathey Ellis & Burt
Loretta Wojciechowski Stenbeck & John
Nancy Nelson Valesano & John
Pat Ratajczak Leonard & Michael

Married 1955

Betsy Smith Mattioda & Frank
Dan Weber & Betty*
Shirley Amsberg Harlow* & Harry
Rudy West & Jeanette
Mary J. Brennan Stuart & Jerry
Joyce Grubar Hoelzer & Marlin

Sandra Zubowski Perra & Bill
Ron Senica & Marion
Connie Hylla Marini & Bob
Betty Trillet Ristau & Earl
Art Gatza & Vi
Carol Piscitelli Schweickert & Paul

Married 1956

Kaye Harl Arkins & Bill
Florence Adamski Rodighiero & John
Darlene Rigazio Piecha & Al
Sharon Pettite Rigazio & Don
Rosemarie Geraci Wolfe & Jerry
Elaine Lodi Day & David

Married 1957

Bill Lipka & Norma
George Renkosik & Carol
Sharon Schwab Howarth & Charles
Donna Donatt Durham & Tom
James Gherardini & Nancy
Angie Brejc Troglio & Don
Lynn Sitterly and Harry Conkey
Dorothy Bacidore Lipka & Leroy
Barbara Kotecki Pyszka & Ken
Joan Lipka Prather & Tom
Jerry Hurst & Carol
Carol Lijewski Turinetti & Joe
Clyde Karlosky & Sandra
Minnie Venturelli Larson & Harold

Married 1958

Norman Taylor & Carol
Robert Kessel & Marjorie
Don Castagna & Carol
Mary Barra Rizzo & Joe
Mazie Halm Ruzic & Sam
Jerry James & Sue
Don Mayszak & Darlene
Parker Field & Andrea
Bonnie Kutter Brandenburg & Bob
James Mueller & Margaret
Jack Taylor & Alice

Married 1959

Alan Berry & Carolyn
Herb Rimmele & Leona
Rose Brinovec McLachlin & Howard
Raymond Klobucher & Judy
Eugene Beck & Dolores

* Indicates person is since deceased.

Address Changes

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Don Mayszak: mayszak@att.net

Larry Storkman: adstorkman@mchsi.com

(Please enter these changes/corrections in your
copy of the class booklet)

Earl Trobaugh Memorial Scholarship

The scholarship fund balance is:
\$11,050.70 in a certificate of deposit, plus
\$1,254.03 in the foundation's checking account.
Total amount: \$12,304.73. From this amount,
\$1,200 will be paid to IVCC in August, 2009 on
behalf of this year's scholarship recipient, to be
announced at the April 29, Awards Program.

July Gathering

Our annual gathering will be held Friday
and Saturday, July 17 and 18, 2009. Friday
evening we will gather at home of Mary Jean
and Jerry Stuart, 1645 Bucklin St., in La Salle,
at 5:30 PM. Following cocktails and hors
d'oeuvres, we will go to John's Northstar for
dinner at 7:00 PM. Saturday evening we will
have a cookout at home of Don and Carole
Haas, 2309 15 th St., in Peru, beginning at 5:30
PM. This newsletter is the only announcement
between now and the gathering, so mark your
calendar, and plan to attend. We plan to play
golf both days - information later to golfers
after coordination with the coordinators (Buzz
and Wayne). Many thanks to our hosts.

Web Site Finances

In February, Jim Brooks renewed our
web site domain name, **lpths.org**, for a period of
five years at the cost of \$105. I reimbursed him
\$75 (he contributed the difference) from the web
site account. In March, I paid \$ 89.70 for six
months (Mar-Aug) service to our Internet
Service Provider (ISP), MyHosting.com, leaving
a balance of \$168.86 in the account. We will
owe another \$89.70 come September to cover
period Sep 2009 - Feb 2010. In January or
February, 2010, I will be seeking contributions
(from those who use the internet, and from LP-
54). Don't send any money now.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Illinois was once a
county in the state of Virginia? The county of

Illinois was formed in December, 1778. It was a very large county ... all the territory between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. In March, 1784, the Commonwealth of Virginia ceded the territory to Congress, from which the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin were formed.

Nancy Nelson Valesano sent me a copy of the Open House program, held Monday, November 7, 1949 at LP. The event was held to inform the entire community about LP, with emphasis for parents of new students (they were us). The program included "Interesting Facts..." Some were:

In 1949, second languages in over 5 % of homes of students were Polish, Italian, and German. I would imagine in 2009 that none of those native tongues remain as a second language in the home, but suspect some 10 % or more of current students reside in a home with Spanish a second language.

Only 5 % of student's parents were employed in the field of agriculture (farmers). I would have thought that percentage to be higher, remembering that about 1 in 5 of my friends were sons or daughters of farmers. I wonder what that percentage is now? There is not a lot of room between 5% and 0%.

I remember seeing the movie, *Two Years Before The Mast*, released November 22, 1946, starring Alan Ladd, Brian Donlevy, and William Bendix, but I had not read the book, written by Richard Henry Dana. So, I checked the book

out of the library, and enjoyed reading it.

I gave up trying to learn the names of all the sails on the ship. What intrigued me was that on raising the anchor, the author would write that the ship sailed to the windward, or to the leeward. They didn't sail north, or south, or east, or west; it was always windward or leeward. And, they didn't turn left (port), or right (starboard), it was always windward or leeward. I finally got it into my head that windward is into the wind, and leeward is down wind.

Now, here's some trivia to learn. Discussing the above with a sailor friend, he asked if I knew the source of the terms port and starboard. I did not. Starboard is derived from a Nordic word for "steerboard." Way back when, before ships had rudders in their middle, a "steerboard" was placed on the right side (when facing forward) of the ship. To prevent damage to the "steerboard," the left side of the ship was placed against a dock (the port). Thus, port is left, and starboard is right. (Don Haas and Ken Baum already knew this stuff).

Information & Stories

Please send information, retirement activities, stories, address changes, etc. to:

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