

MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE KIDS OF MOOS SCHOOL DURING THE '50S

DECEMBER 2002

2ND EDITION

My Column

We have had lots of emails and correspondence concerning our 1st MoosMates newsletter. This 2nd issue contains more bio's. and info. about the kids from the OLD neighborhood. An article about Humboldt Park can be found elsewhere in this tabloid. There are still many "kids" we have not found. Any help or clues will be most appreciative. Let me know if there are other items you would like to see here. I publish this for you guys and gals out there so let me know how I can make this a fun thing for you....Jim Curtis



Ida (Hansen) Mullan

David graduated Moos in 1950 so many of the same people might remember him. He was good friends with Larry Wells, Jerry Knobloch, and Guy Mueller. We got married in 57' and had two children David who will be 45 in Nov. He works for IBM and Chris who just turned 43. She's our schoolteacher. We've lived in Park Ridge for 33 years and we have 7 grandchildren Chris has 4, ages 20, 19, 18, and 14. Dave has 3, ages 19, 18, and 8. This Sept, four will be in college, one a senior two in high school, one freshie, and one grammar school. I worked for City Hall for just a while after I graduated from Jones Commercial HS and, when the kids got older, I took temp work and then full time with IBM for 10 years. I hurt my back and left. I spent the last years just being grandma. Taking them for swimming lessons, sleep overs, play school then to preschool, lots of vacations to Disneyworld. It seemed at times they were at my house more then theirs. Dave retired 4 years ago at 62 and we've done some traveling.

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We were thinking of moving to Hawaii because we just love it there but the kids could never afford to come see us so that was out. Then we thought of Florida because the warm weather seems to help all our aches and pains but then we come home and the family is only 10 minutes away and we can walk from our house to the library, doctors and grocery stores or one of the grandkids calls and says, Grandma can you help me with this then it's hard to make the change. It's funny but David remembers more about MYF than I do. I know I played baseball with Nancy Paul at Maplewood Playground and Pat Leverenz was my best friend but I went to Von Humboldt and I didn't have much to do with anyone except at MYF.



Diane (Zavadil) Dussault

Diane took early retired from Rush-Presbyterian St. Lukes after 28 years and is now working part time in a doctors office. She is currently going back to school at Oakton Community College and slowly getting the credits she needs for a degree. She has a proud 3.57 GPA. Her family, on her Mother's side (Louds), has published their family history and it is now in the Library of Congress. The Russians have suppressed the records of her Dad's family history since they razed the town where he came from. From that they received an invitation from the DAR to come to tea. We also were contacted by the Civil War ladies to meet with them.

We have recently heard of **John Modrzejewski**. John has passed away some time ago according to **Ron Olson**. Also passed away are: **Laverne Heft, Bruce Sallaz, Henry Pollack & Ronald Vaneck** (see page 2).



Edgar Christianson

We don't know much about Edgar after Moos. I know he didn't graduate from Lane Tech. and doubt if he enrolled there at all. As many of you already know, Edgar became a petty criminal and burglar at some point in his life and, as I have pieced the story together, Edgar burgled an apartment where he stole, among other items, a handgun. He used this handgun in two business robberies on Sheridan Road. He executed two store clerks, shooting them in the back of the head after they were forced to kneel before him. Edgar was arrested and convicted of 30 counts of criminal activity including murder, armed robbery, armed violence, unlawful restraint, burglary and felony theft. The victims were 20 and 18 years old. Edgar was eventually executed by the state of Illinois. I have a copy of the newspaper article if anyone is interested. Darrell Durec says his trial defense was based on drinking copious amounts of sugar laden Kool-Aid.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW???

This is the class of '51 we haven't found yet.

Ralph Eckardt...???
Nancy Gilbertson...???
Marilyn Jacobson...???
Audena Ann Kessler...???
Eleanor Meissner...???
Eva Lou Refsnes...???
Gloria Scott...???
Marilyn Skoblin...???

Old Photos

I now have photos of several Moos classes. If you are interested, I can fax or email or snail mail you any or all of the following.

Moos 5A class of 1948.
Moos 6B class of 1948
Moos 7B class of 3/8/1949
Moos 8B class of 3/8/1950
Moos 8A class of Jan.1951
Kindergarden (am)

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Marlene(Becker) Halverson

I graduated Tuley High in 1956 and married Leonard Halverson, Jr. the same year. We met at a gas station in DesPlaines in 1955 when I had a flat tire. Sometimes he'd sit with me on hall guard duty or fill in for a classmate who wanted to cut class when we had a substitute teacher (lol). We have 5 children. Mike born in 1958, Sharon 1959, Thomas 1962, Paul 1963 and Steven in 1965. With 5 children I only have 2 grandchildren, Holly 18 and Alan 14. These are Paul's children. He joined the Air Force at age 18 and has been stationed in S. Dakota, Greece, and Iceland, Montana and for the last 4 years Alaska. I haven't seen the grandkids in 6 years and not much of them before that. Paul is now stationed in San Antonio for a year. The family staid in Alaska till he gets out after having put in his 20 years next year. We lived in Chicago, Wheeling and Crystal Lake. While living in Crystal Lake I worked part-time for Sears. While living in Wheeling, through the kids, I discovered that Dickie Gilbert lived a couple of blocks away and our kids were attending the same school. Small world I guess. On Christmas Eve, 1979 my husband was killed in an auto accident coming home from work. I then went to work for the City of Crystal Lake in accounts payable. Worked there for 13 years. Mike is single and lives in Crystal Lake, Sharon is divorced and lives in Lindenhurst. Tom is married and resides in Great Falls, Mt.. Steven moved to Carson City, NV last year and is single. After 25 years in Crystal Lake and the children on their own I retired and bought a home on Little Green Lake in Markesan, Wi. I've been here 3 years now, but I miss my close friends. The area is very nice and the fishing is good but I've decided to sell and move back (continued column 2)

to Illinois. You can't pick up the phone and say on the spur of the moment "meet me for lunch" or "let's take in a movie". I'm still in touch with Ray Hagen, Richard Stopka, Gerri McGee and Donna Badovinac. One year, when the children were small, my family and Ray's family went on vacation to Michigan. My interests are fishing, crocheting, working jigsaw puzzles and going to concerts. I'm a big fan of country music and the computer. Also love to travel but I'm limited to the U.S., as I won't fly. There's plenty here I haven't seen yet. I want to thank Jim for this newsletter. It's great. Looking forward to more.



The Original Bulls
Humboldt Park

This was a cornerstone of my universe back in the old days. The largest park West of the city. The local library faced it on the East and Mid-City Dairy faced it on the North. Does anyone remember the row boats that were deleted in the late 40's? The rec house w/ pool, billiards, ping pong, craft classes and other activities was once the boat house and casino. I'm not sure what they meant by casino. This was before my time. Sledding or skating down Bunker Hill or Baby Bunker in the winter and freezing our tushies off on the way home? How about the playground where they had water sprinklers during the summer and trying to go horizontal on the swings? Many a Saturday was spent going to Mid-City Dairy for a ten cent ice cream cone, riding our bikes across to the park and dribbling melted ice cream on our shirts and then biking along the Indian trail to it's end near Humboldt Park Blvd. and just south of Division Street. The Rose garden and the Buffalos at the entrance? Does everyone have a

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picture atop one of the buffalo? Originally they were bulls but very early on they were replaced by bronze Buffalo. How about Sunday afternoons at the softball field? I don't recall ever swimming at the pool at Whipple and Augusta but I do recall going to Springfield tank to swim. The Polish parade on one Sunday followed by the Scandinavian parade a few Sundays later? I understand that part of the lagoon has been turned into a beach area with swimming and the statue of Koziokow has been moved to another Chicago park. I would love to stroll thru the park and become awash with fond memories. There are several books available that include the history of Humboldt Park and I have many graphics taken from old post cards which I would be happy to share with anyone who is interested.

Maplewood Avenue

So called for the early maple trees planted there. Originally there was a school (Brentano) where the Maplewood playground now stands. The playground was a meeting place for so many of us. The school burned down some time in the 40's. I vaguely remember climbing over the rubble before it was carted away.

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Contributions to future issues of this newsletter are greatly appreciated

Ronald Vaneck

Passed away around 1996-97 at the age of 59. He lived in Arlington Heights. Married to Joan (Rago). Children are Ronald Jr., Lawrence and Richard. He has been interned at St. Joseph Cemetery.

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June 5th get-together

Left to right...**Pat Leverenz, Donna Badovinac, Susan Taylor, Tanya (Toni) Halley, Charlene Southwell**

From Donna Badovinac.

Well, we had our get together and it was great!! After 50 years we met like we had seen each other just yesterday. believe it or not the gals all look good and recognizable. They were all fascinated with the list of students found and were especially sad about those that have passed away. Someone mentioned that they thought I was wrong about Henry Pollack and a drug connection with his death. Perhaps I was wrong and my recall was in error. I sincerely apologize if that was the case. Sometimes my recollection is not that good. All together there were 12 gals from the graduating class of January 1951 except one. She being a friend of Bridgette Barton. She graduated in June of '55. Her name was Betty Grant. Of course, they are planning another get together soon.



Darrell Dureck (Tuley), Susan Taylor (Moos), Charlene Southwell (Tuley), Bridgette Barton (Tuley)

A recent reunion event of some Moos kids. How did Darrell get so lucky???????????



Mi Casa

1718 N. Washtenaw Avenue
This house was built in 1886 and owned by my family from 1922 thru 2001. This is the place where I lived and have the fondest family memories. I grew up "Polish" although my father was Irish, Scotch and French. My parents were divorced early in my life and so I was raised in the Polish household of my Mother. Homemade kielbasa, pierogi, kapusta, mmmmm!!!

Hollander's Music Store

Originally located next to Liestekow's market on North Ave. near Washtenaw they moved to the NE corner of Rockwell and North. Remember the booths were you could take several 45's and listen to them before buying? The father had a little mustache and his son always watched us kids carefully and made you feel like you HAD to buy a record. I went there often as I was really into music. I still have an am only portable radio that my Mom **bought from them and paid** with weekly payments. The radio actually still plays. Do you have a store, place or event that brings back a flood of memories? Would you like to share it with us? I will be glad to add it to future mailings of the MoosMates.



Ronald Eugene Olsen

After my 8 years at Moos school I attended Lane Tech for 4 years, played football for the 4 years I went there. After graduation from Lane I started in the electrical business. I joined the local union of the I.B.E.W. and served a 4 year apprenticeship for them, Over the next 43 years I worked on many of the big construction jobs in Chicago. They were good years. Married my wife, Betty, in June of 1958. We were blessed with 4 great children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Lived most of our married lives in Melrose Park, Illinois. We have the honor of being grandparents to 12 (count em' 12) grandchildren, 7 boys and 5 girls. They range in age from 19 years to 1 year.

On January 1st, 1999 I retired from work. We decided to look for a small town to retire to. We found Byron, Illinois. We are about 20 miles SW of Rockford. Our population is about 3,000 people and we are located on the Rock River.

Editors Note:

Ron keeps in contact with Burt Olson and Darrell Durec and says it is nice to share the past with others. I guess he is one happy fella.

This has turned out to be a Holiday season newsletter so, Happy Holidays to you and yours from us and ours. Keep in touch and keep this newsletter alive. JHC

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Moos School graduating class (8A) of January 1951



Early Humboldt Park Photos