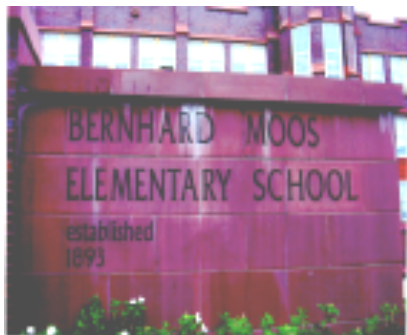


# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE KIDS IN AND AROUND MOOS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FROM THE 30'S THRU THE '60'S

MARCH 2009

20TH EDITION



## My Column

Thank You!

A milestone of sorts. The 20th edition of what started as a short little news bit about my Moos class of January 1951. It grows and grows and each new issue seems to find more and more "kids" from the old neighborhood and old photos to nourish our memories of days gone by but not forgotten by any means. Thanks to all who contribute and thanks to all who are just out there and still enjoy remembering those fantastic years of our youth. God bless us everyone!

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**Pete Samorez (St. Fidelis)** who was a neighborhood kid on Washtenaw Ave. and now owns "My Honey Co." in Richmond, IL has put together a really neat booklet of 292 lyrics from our past musical memories. Pete used to play the harmonica for us kids back then and does it to this day but to a "different" crowd.  
continued next column

Same kind of kids but they are a tad older.

The offer is that if you send a \$25 contribution to OUR Moos library fund you will not only receive a really neat T shirt but we will make sure you receive a copy of Pete's book which is titled "We can Hum like a bee, but to sing like the birds you will need the words". It contains just about every song you can think of and he promises that if there are any missing lyrics he will publish a second edition.

When you send your contribution and, I hope you will, let me or our Moos principal know you would like a copy of the lyrics and we will make sure you receive them with the utmost haste.

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Heard from **Pat (Lasota) Kleinfeldt**: Talk about old friends, we were at our daughter's house for the holiday and telling her father-in-law about you and he pulled out one of your newsletters. He is **Leo June '51 Tabert - Small world!**

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Our iconic Moos teacher is back in the news. It's not the cover of The Rolling Stones but it is the cover of the Chicago Teachers Pension Fund. See page 4. **Ms. Vivian Wirkus** has been a Moos 1st grade teacher since shortly after WWII and still teaches part-time. She actually retired in 2003 but her substitute teaching certificate runs thru 2012. She says "I miss the emotional contact with the children" and "The children keep me young". Two of her former students, pictured with her, went on to teach in the Chicago school system and much of what they learned from Ms. Wirkus went into their teaching careers.

She enjoys reading the MoosMates newsletter and hearing of many of her former students. Ms. Wirkus still often visits Moos and also enjoys weekly line dancing, traveling, and living every minute to the fullest. **GOD BLESS YOU Ms. Vivian Wirkus** from all your former students and from us that have recently found out about your career at Moos School.

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What happened to Sky Blue, Jacks, flying paper and string kites, making paper airplanes (by the way, I can still make those great paper airplanes), hop scotch, statues, blind man's bluff, hide and seek, tag "your it" and all the rest of our street games? Gone long ago but not forgotten by us. Today's kids have no clue as to what we are talking about and what they are missing.

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"Five fat turkeys are we. We slept all night in a tree. The cook came around but, we couldn't be found and that's why we're here, you see". A memory of an **Alice Hayes** musically instructed endeavor. The "5 turkeys" where on the auditorium stage as part of some sort of assembly but the only "turkey" I remember was **Henry Pollack**. I don't think I was one of the turkeys but my memory fades.

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**Faye (Samorez) Steward** sends a really neat picture of her "1952ish" birthday party guests which appears on page 5. She remembers **Dickie Adorjan's dog, Prince**, as "a mean dog". He always growled and barked at me, too, as I passed their house. Maybe you can help us out with some missing or possibly incorrect names?



**Mickie (Honey Murray Jan. '53) and Jerry Wiecek** on the very first day of their life together. See page 8 for their picture today.

## REPORTING IN

**Tanya (Halley) Berley Jan. '51** tells us about her 2008. She did a lot of traveling. An Alaska cruise which included a float plane trip to where she saw a mother black bear and 2 cubs waiting nearby to get salmon scraps from an outdoor grille. She also visited Canyonlands and stayed at Nat'l Parks in Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion.

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The hoodoos were awesome. (Hoodoos are rock formations that take on fascinating shapes and structures) Tanya is into friends, family, the local garden club, playing bridge and is now the President of the DuPage County Art League in Wheaton. She wishes us all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful 2009.

**Dorothy Nix**, (do you remember her?) a former Moos teacher would like to visit or correspond with students or other teachers. Her address is:

13 Crossbow Ct., Palm Coast, Florida 32137. **Audrey (Rokke) Smanda** is wondering about a Jan. and June 1959 reunion. Is anyone out there taking the reins? She would like to be a part of it. **Joy (Panko) Donovan** is present and is getting the latest MoosMates. All this from **Vivian Wirkus**. Bless you Vivian.

## Toot, Whistle, Ding-Dong

Back in the 40's and 50's and, I'm sure, before then and maybe afterwards the old neighborhood was filled with vendors, tradesmen and house to house sales persons. On any given day you could hear sounds that alerted you to the Good Humor man (the jingle bells), the waffle man (a high pitched whistle), the guy who sharpened knives and scissors (a ding dong bell) on a large wheel which was foot pedal driven, the vegetable & fruit guy (McCarthy, I believe) who chanted things like "watermeelo...fresh, ripe, watermeelo"

continued next column

and occasionally the guy with a Shetland pony who took your picture. The "rag picker" who drove up and down the alleys with his horse drawn wagon yelling "rags and old iron". The mothers and grandmothers came out and mingled with each other telling of the latest family events and who's kid was seen doing what evil deed and where he, or she, was spotted the other night. Everyone knew everyone else it seems. We also had Harry Samuels the insurance man (Prudential Insurance, as I recall) and another guy who sold clothing that came to the house weekly with a large display of goods. They all passed neighborhood chit-chat from home to home while selling products and services. It was one of our ways of communicating back then. Actually face to face. We had few cars and fewer supermarkets. The A & P was there on North Ave. as was all sorts of other stores and shops but the neighborhood and side streets were alive with activity on almost every day. Those were the days of our lives. Do you remember? I sure do.

## Victoria (Siber) Rose

is looking for a photo of herself from long ago. She was registered at Moos on 11/14/61 so we probably are looking for a Jan. '62 class photo. I don't have one but someone out there might. If you do please send me a copy or the original. I'll send back any thing received. Please see if you can help.

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Victoria was a MoosMate for just a short time but would sure appreciate seeing a photo from those good old days gone by. She lived in the 1600 block of Mozart.

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## More MoosMates Appear

**Ron Gregrow** has somehow found us. Ron attended Moos from 1942 thru 1949 and remembers Lund Coal Co., Mrs. Hayes, Mrs. Lee and Ms. Murray (librarian?). He also recalls the YMCA across the street from Moos which stills stands but became part of the Methodist church in the early 1950's. Ron now lives in Florida. Welcome aboard, Ron. As he recalls: I also spent a bit of time at the "Y" on Fairfield. I lived at 1653 Washtenaw, which no longer stands, along like many other houses. On my last visit to the area the apartment building and corner store were still there. that would be the building across from the fire station on the corner of Washtenaw and Wabansia..

When we lived on Washtenaw in the summer we would jump on the street car on North Ave heading East to North Avenue beach. Upon arrival some times we would walk South to the rocks to dive and swim. Park and rent a row boat at the boat house once or twice then they closed that part, soon after. I still remember the steeply banked, burnt out bike track that was used for bicycle races, there in the park.

Also we would head to Humboldt Park and rent a row boat at the boat house once or twice then they closed that part, soon after. I still remember the steeply banked, burnt out bike track that was used for

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bicycle races, there in the park. An armory use to be on the corner of North Ave and Kedzie. Don't know if it is still there and standing, or is something else...

I liked playing 16" ball at the park, some times in the Moos school yard using the fence on California ave. as right field.

I and my younger brother, attended Moos, I from 1942 until the seventh grade in 1949, when our folks bought a new house, just inside of the western border of Chicago, at Harlem and Irving area...

I then was transferred and attended, Norman Bridge, school for the last part of my elementary education until 1950, when I graduated, with a small class size at that time of 17 kids? and then went on Lane Tech High School.

I was married for many years, to my wife Rita. We were blessed with 6 children through the years and we made our home for most of those years in a western town from Chicago. called Wood Dale, Illinois for over 30 years. The children have grown and moved on. only two live in the western Chicago suburbs. The four other children are in four different states than Illinois. I also did work for Jewel Tea, in the transportation department, for 37 years .First from 36th and Ashland, on the south side of Chicago, after which we were transferred to Melrose Park, Illinois. 1955 W. North Ave Rita and I would travel down to Florida, several weeks each of those years looking here and there, starting from North Florida down to where we would retire and be

continued next column

together. All the while staying a week or two in one city or another on the next trip down. All along we were what was known as snow birds. We purchased this home here in the city of North Fort Myers I believe in the start 2000. Even after we purchased this home we still were snow birding for a few years. Sold our home up north and then we made this our permanent residence. My beloved Rita, passed away from cancer in August of 2006, and since then life has been quite lonely, along with a large struggle amongst other things. You don't realize what you have until you don't have it any longer.

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Also **MaryAnn (Makela) Kornatowski Jan. '60** has a web page on FaceBook. For those not on a computer, FaceBook is a internet page where a person can show themselves to other "Friends" and send messages and photos back and forth. She still lives in Chicago. She would like to find **Maxine Johnson** who graduated from Moos and then Tuley. They lost contact after shortly after graduation. MaryAnn says Maxine was really a sweet girlfriend. Maxine had a brother named Edddie or Edward. If anyone can help, let me know Her son rides the Metra and he met some girls on the train that he has known for a little over a year. they were talking and it turns out one girls is the daughter of the late **Karen Fleischhacker** and she hangs out with **Pat Carstensen's daughter**. What a small world we live in, eh?

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Our very own celebrity. **Ms. Vivian Wirkus** and 2 of her grown-up pupils, **Yvonne Perez (left)**, **who was her 1st grade student in 1958**, and **Joy Panko-Donovan (right)**. Ms. Wirkus has been teaching at Moos since shortly after WW11 and after retiring in 2003 she still substitute teaches and will do so until 2012. Both Yvonne and Joy have eventually become teachers thanks in great part to Ms. Wirkus. Ms. Wirkus says "I love that place (Moos) and can't stay away from it". She has so many great memories and that includes many of us.



The softball team that was sponsored by Evelyn and Ed's Tap on the corner of Washtenaw and Wabansia. Any familiar faces? I recognize my uncle Ike Jones 3rd from left standing and Kenny ??? at the end. ??? O'Shea is 4th over in the front.



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Another rare photo of **Ms. Hayes** sent by her "favorite" student, among many, **Leo Tabert June '51**. Picture was taken circa 1949 in room 37.



**The Class of January 1949.**

One of the few class photos that includes the 8th grade teacher, in this case it is **Ms. Daley**. Thanks to **Larry Janowiak** for providing this photo and the one on the next page from his archives.

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June '47 8-A Nice Class! Look at all the ties.



**The Office!**

Memories of days gone by. It's still an imposing sight when you were asked to "go to the office!"

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Another View of the Office



Today's Classroom