

# 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

JULY 2010

24TH EDITION



## My Column

Summer issue is in your hands. News of Moos Jamboree is on page 3. Lots of neat stuff to get those memory juices flowing. Thanks to everyone for all the help in putting this together and supporting it. God bless us everyone!

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### Actually, he found me

**Len Mueller June '50** found me thru FaceBook. And he lived at 1702 N. Fairfield just a short time before my wife, Sandra (Husted) Curtis and family moved in. Len moved to the Austin area in 1952. He spent 2 years at Lane Tech and 2 years at Austin High. He was married in 1957. He now has 6 kids and 12 grandkids raising his tribe in south Oak Park.

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Len got a summer home in 1991 on Lake Koshgonong, near Edgerton, WI, which burnt down in '96. He rebuilt it and doubled it's size to 4,000 + square feet and retired in 2000. His wife passed away in Feb. of 2005. Len ran for the office of town supervisor and WON by 4 votes. He asks about any other found kids from the class of June '50.

## Proud as Punch

**Carol (Stasch) Nielsen** couldn't be any prouder of her son, Larry Nielsen, who was part of the team that won an Oscar for Best Cinematography for the blockbuster movie Avatar. Larry has many credits to his work in cinematography and a complete list can be found at

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0630901/>



### Cinder-girl Carol Mitchell June '47

writes:

Hi Jim,

I love the picture of Moos from a long time ago. I do not remember it like this. The bldg. is the same but nothing else is.

continued next column

We had no bushes, the fence was much taller and green metal. The trees at the curb were cut down many years ago to make the street wider. At the north end where it looks like a house, was a brick bldg. for **Lund Coal Co.** Much different sized coal on the inside and many trucks going in and out. The large sign near the fence was not

there. I never did see it and wondered where you got the pic of it. I think the flag pole came much later. We had no grass only cinders, not good for falling down I found out. Thanks for including this in the MoosMates. I spent some years at 1742 N. Calif. then on to 1801 N. Calif. The cinders got me on one side of my face after trying to tight'rope' an iron or metal fence about 1ft off the ground. Later the fence was taken out. So it's now they have grass?? I thought it was before my time. I did graduate June 1947. I guess that is a lifetime ago. Next month I make it to 77 years.

### More Recently found kids

**Barbara (Monk) Mosley Jan. '51** has passed along the names of the **Fulton kids** who lived next door to her at 1654 N. Francisco. All went to Moos. They attended at the time when the Chicago school district went to a middle school format and wound up graduating from Yates. There are **Mata, Billy, Howard and Robert Fulton**. Welcome to the fold, gang and thanks, Barbara, for the donation.

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## A Mystery UNSolved

Years ago **Jim Tuohy**, the husband of **Donna (Badovinac) Tuohy Jan. '51**, bought a set of 18 metal baseball player figurines at a garage sale. The uniforms of the players depicted were early 1900 era. Photos are on pages 6. The only information on the figurines are the positions of each figure i.e. pitcher, catcher, umpire, etc. No name or other indications of when or by whom they were created. He has searched for the source several times and even brought them to the Antiques Roadshow with no luck. Eventually their son , Brian, contacted the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown, New York, and offered them the set which they gladly accepted. Jim, their sons and grandsons went to Cooperstown and were given a private tour and a beautiful plaque showing the donation in the name of the Tuohy family. The source of the figures still remains a mystery.

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## Linda (Falkenberg) Malecki recalls Sam's Hot Dogs.

I'm sure we have had hot dogs from Sam's as it looks somewhat familiar, (see photo on page 7) but we moved in '68 and it's been so long. I'm going to double-check with Rich and see how his memory is. I remember being pregnant with my first son and having a hot dog craving at 10:00 pm and sending Rich for a hot dog. The place was called something like Moishe Pippic's.

continued next column

The hot dogs were wrapped with the fries just like Sam's does and absolutely delicious. The place was on Western Avenue near Division, very close to Tuley.

Speaking further of hot dogs -- I bugged Portillo's on-line for a place closer to us. I wrote to them for over a year and said we had a Portillo's in Buena Park (near Disneyland) but it was too far to travel and all my Chicago friends and those not from Chicago wanted a Portillo's closer to us. They sent me an e-mail informing us they were opening a Portillo's in Moreno Valley (about 20 minutes from us). They opened over a year ago and the joint is jumping even in these hard-hit recession days. I even met Dick Portillo and may have sent you my pictures with him. Gee, we even compared scars from our knee implant surgeries. lol He is so down to earth and likable. Funny story: It was the first day Portillo's opened and for their grand opening they had a local radio station asking people to spin and try to win something or other. We walked out with a box as we bought beef to take home, etc. The gal from the radio station asked if I wanted to spin and I said yes. We got to talking and then she asked me if I would say something about our lunch at Portillo's on the phone and it would be patched to the radio station. I said sure and when when she was interviewing me as to what I had eaten for lunch I said: "the Maxwell House Polish Dog and it was absolutely delicious."

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After getting off the phone my husband started laughing and told me it was called the "Maxwell Street Polish Dog." I told him that's what I said and he said that no, I had said the coffee brand. We had a good laugh over that and that is how I met Dick Portillo.

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## In Case You Didn't Know

Bernhard Moos is a magnet cluster school. Reading is the fundamental focus of Moos's program and the school integrates math, science and social studies into it's curriculum thru it's thematic planning of instruction. It's students are pre-K thru 8 grades.

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## It's PIZZA Time!

Where did you taste your 1st pizza? Luigi's? Father and Son? Congress Pizza? As I recall my 1st pizza was at Luigi's in the 2600 block of North Ave. but eventually we seemed to always go to or have delivered from Father and Son. Well they are still in business at 2475 N. Milwaukee Ave. and have been since 1963. They originated in 1947 and have two other locations. They are now called Marcello's A Father and Son Restaurant. Congress Pizzeria is still located at 2033 Milwaukee Ave. Luigi's seems to be long gone or at least moved out of the neighborhood. Photos of Father and Son Restaurant and Congress Pizzeria are on page 8.

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## Another Mom & Pop Store

Hi, I just received the newsletter about the Jubilee Reunion.

I am **Nancy (Zaehler) Jesse June '59**. I lived at 1758 N. Talman and attended Moos for my entire 8 years. My parents owned a small grocery store at the same address. I also have a brother **LeRoy Zaehler Aug. '55** and a sister **Dorothy Zaehler '61** who attended the school. My sister passed away last year but my brother lives in Streamwood. I just thought I'd give you a little of my background.

I live in Arizona but would love to attend a dinner and reception, see the school, and travel the old neighborhoods with old classmates. There would be 2 attending and I think that 2 days would be ample time to achieve our goals.

I have not see or heard of any of my old classmates since graduation as I attended Josephinum High school and most of the others attended Tuley. My folks had a flood when we moved and we lost pictures but I will scout mine and see what I can find. Thanks so much I really am looking forward to this happening.

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### Nancy Jesse (Zaehler)

Very sad to say **Nancy Potter June '58** passed away in May of this year. She was the cousin of **Kathy (Naydenoff) Rivetna Jan. '58**.

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Our most recent "kid" found actually found me. One day I saw an email that asked if I was the **Jim Curtis** who married **Sandy Husted Jan. '55**. His name was **Donnie Corley Yates '70**. It turns out he was the very best friend of Sandy's brother **Bob Husted Yates '68**. They hadn't made contact in over 40 years. Donnie, or as he now is called Don, didn't graduate Moos because Moos became a K-6 school. He graduated from Yates, as did Bob, and went on to Lane Tech H.S. Don has been married for 30 years to his wife Karen and lives in Indiana. His working years have been spent in the printing industry. Bob and Don have made contact and both think it's pretty cool. Donnie also remembers Mr. Vickas, the popular P.E. teacher who was in charge of the patrol boys, Mrs. Wirkus, Mrs. Kedzie, Mrs. DeMars and Mrs. Wolfson. He still has his orange patrol belt from when he was patrol captain. The same time when girls were first allowed to be patrol "Persons". His first year at Lane Tech. was also the first year they allowed girls to attend classes there. Technically, girls had attended classes at Lane long before that. I had to take a summer class one year at Lane, around 1953 or 54, and it was full of girls. Donnie remembers Mrs. Wolfson (6th grade) taking him and a friend to a Cubs game during the summer break. He lived in Algonquin from 1980 thru 1998

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## Moos Jamboree 2011

We have received 49 responses to our special edition questions which represent 77 kids. Most prefer a 2 day event and 23 prefer summer or fall. No one opted for Winter...I wonder why? Most everyone would attend a dinner reception and about 64 are interested in a tour of Moos so we are pushing forward. Exact dates and times still need to be worked out. Most who have a preference would like to have the dinner/reception at **Przybylo's White Eagle Restaurant** located at 6939 N. Milwaukee Ave in Niles. They serve Polish family style dinners and, for those with internet access, see [www.whiteeaglebanquets.com](http://www.whiteeaglebanquets.com). **Mrs. Wirkus** will be there. **Principal Maria Cruz** has been invited and a couple other teachers on my mailing list have also been invited. There is also the possibility of an organized tour of the old neighborhood including Humboldt Park. Costs and full details will be sent to everyone when they are finalized.

## TOPS!

There was always a season for tops. It was either in the spring or during summer break and lasted 3 or 4 weeks and then woosh it was gone. I remember 4 distinct types. 1. was the standard wooden top with a ball shaped base we called a traveler. 2 had a sharp base sort of like an 8 penny nail which we would try to sharpen further on the sidewalk as this was called a spiker.

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Number 3 was a whistler made out of plastic and the prey of all the spikers. Occasionally one would get smashed to bits. Lastly was one with a ball bearing tip. This was the REAL traveler and seemed to be able to spin for the longest. Of course that had to do with mostly with the ability of the guy or gal spinning the top. Most games were "can you "tag" me" or "who's top could spin the longest" or "who could spike who". There were two ways to string a top. The basic way was to run the string down the side of the top and wind it from bottom up. The other way was to start at the top, run a loop at the top ridge catching the knot at the end then running the string down the side and proceeding as in the basic way. There were many discussions as to which procedure worked best. Think you can still spin a top?

## ***I wonder?***



## ***Tops of old***

Left one shows "advanced" stringing



Basic top unpainted w/ traveler tip

Chicago Public Schools Website  
There is a site, on the internet, where you can open graduation lists of every school and every year in Chicago's public schools and much, much more. Moos has a page where you can register for free and have full access to everything there as well as entering your own comments and/or photos. I have started to add all the Moos class photos that have been sent to me thru the years and there are over 70 of them. It's all free. Funding is provided by a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan foundation. The website is [www.cpsalumni.org](http://www.cpsalumni.org). There is all sorts of history. We already have 25 MoosMates that have registered. Check it out. It's loaded with information and has links to a few other "Moos" websites. You don't have to register but there are additional benefits if you do.

## **Down the Block**

A recent phone call found me talking to a new "down the block" MoosMate named **Pat (Nelsen) Tank June '47** and she lived at 1740 N. Washtenaw. Our paths probably cross several times but I was 4 years her junior and outa her league, if you know what I mean. She has fond memories of Mrs. Hayes especially when the class was required to write all 3 stanzas of the Star Spangled Banner 10 times for homework because they got noisy and boisterous when she had to leave the room for a short time. Pat now spends her time between Florida and Wisconsin. Door county, no less!



**Congress Theater  
taken in 1987.**

The glitzy "Congress" sign is not there but it has been redone and houses main stream live entertainment. I'm still looking for any photos showing some of our neighborhood stomping grounds. Crystal Theater, Queen Theater, Newport Restaurant, the Soda Shop, Humboldt Grill, Mid-City Dairy, Oak Theater. Even photos where one of these were merely the backdrop of a family picture. Anything sent to me will be returned quickly and safely.

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**That Great Class of June 1950**

**1st row L to R:** ??, ??, Marshall Kolbert, ??, **Richard Tado**, ??.

**2nd row:** Kay Rocho, **Audrey Refsnes**, Kay Boldt, **Marilyn Mahler**, Patsy Lowry, **Antoinette Maiorino**, Barbara Kupferschmidt, ??, **Pat Tvaroh**.

**3rd row:** David Mullan, **Guy Mueller**, Kenneth Phelan, **Larry Wells**, Jerry "Babe" Knoblock, **Lenard Mueller**, Donald Mattson, **Joe Sorce**, Richard Nelson, **Jim Burton**, Robert Carroll, **Donald Lowe**.

**Back row:** Virginia Mikieta, **Barbara Johnson**, Geraldine Moll, ??, ??, **Joyce Sorce**, Joan Mehrdorf, **Marie Risor**, Joan Szwankowski, **Helene Yde**, ??, ??, ??, Pat Northern.



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The Class of June '49 when they were in 7A

**L to R Front row:** George Moore, **Ronald Bolz**, Richard Urban, **William Stephensen**, Wellmer Sefton, **Ken Taylor**.

**2nd row:** Jeanette Stanley, **Jacqueline Tustin**, Anna Kanellos, **Patricia Voltmer**, Caroline Lang, **Theodora Kanellos**, Betty Wiseborn, **Joan Angelloti**, Georgianne Wallace, **Shirley Zeck**.

**3rd row:** Melvin Thompson, **Reed Emerson**, Raymond Jenowich, **Ronald Frelk**, Ken Iverson, **Steve Benda**, Dick Paris, **Henry Krist**, Kent Epstein, **Ron Domkowski**, Carol Duncern, **Channing Goodlake**.

**Back row:** Donna Shram, **Connie Strahl**, Connie Medina, **Shirley Gitman**, Luella Lang, **Kathryn Ostram**, Joan Moe, **Joan Lansing**, Charla Metz, **Susan Murray**, Loretta Sternal, **Arlene Dahl**, Marion Swankowski, **Louise Dahl**, Lillian Hanson.

Names courtesy of Ron Dombrowski and Charla (Metz) Schlesinger



Mysterious baseball players figurines. They are now in the Cooperstown Hall of Fame but the source is unknown. Sent in by **Donna (Badovinac) and Jim Tuohy**.

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Here it is!

Thanks to **Pete Samorez**, who owns My Honey Co., I am now the proud possessor of a Whizzing Hummer. The toy, from way back when, that I couldn't remember the name of. We had lots of fun with these when times were so much simpler. This Hummer comes in 4 different styles. Humming Bird, Rocket Ship, Bee (as shown) and Mother Goose. My wife remembers it with a long tail of crepe paper. Do you? This ought to bring back some fun time memories.



Thanks to **Mary Lou (Woroby) Obos** we now know it is called **Sam's Red Hots**. Located on Armitage just East of Western.



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**Father and Son Restaurant...Today**



**Congress Pizza...Today**



**Kathy Opalinski** lived here. As it looks today.  
Southwest corner of California and Wabansia.



The gangway where Kathy used to play.