

# 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

NOVEMBER 2010

25TH EDITION



## My Column

### Have we made the big time?

The Chicago B. of E. has requested all issues of the MoosMates newsletter for their archives. Thanks to all of you kids, we have become a part of Chicago history. I couldn't have done it without your help so, keep'em comin'.

The First Day of Summer

Pencil in June 21st for the 1st day of our...

### Moos Jamboree 2011

A neighborhood tour and Moos tour are planned for that day with a dinner & reception party for Wednesday the 22nd at La Villa restaurant. Cost of the tour will be about \$25 per seat and an 8 course family style dinner will be about \$30 - \$35 per person

with a cash bar. All the details, exact costs, times and method of payment will be sent out at a later date.

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**God bless us everyone!**

## MOOS NEWS from

### Principal Maria Cruz

The Moos Building is now being occupied by Mirta Ramirez High School and I am in the addition. We had to give up the space because of the drop in enrollment.

It was a difficult transition for the community and although it has been 2 years it hurts to see they painted the walls orange and blue. We are still located on the 3rd. floor and use the gym and auditorium but other than that we are in the addition which as you know is BEAUTIFUL!

### Our Movie Houses

A short history of the movies where we hung out and made out.

#### Crystal Theater

The closest to Moos and where many of us spent a whole day watching a double feature plus coming attractions and maybe a few cartoons. It was built around 1917 and closed in the mid 60's and was razed soon after. It seated 1,860. Some of us kids even worked there.

#### Queen Theater

Next closest on North Ave. between Rockwell and Maplewood. It was built around 1910 and closed around 1950. It seated just 295 and after it closed became a grocery store.

#### Oak Theater

Built in 1910 and remodeled in 1930 it featured an art deco theme and a balcony and seated 848. During the 70's and 80's it was an adult theater and in 1992 featured concert venues. It finally shut down in 1995 and was demolished to be replaced by a drive-in bank.

continued next column

## Congress Theater

Congress opened on Sept. 5th, 1926. The 1st movie shown was Rolling Home a Reginald Denny comedy. In 1929 it became a Balaban & Katz theater. On July 10th, 2002 it became a Chicago City Landmark and today offers up concerts and other live entertainment. The Congress seats 2,890. A few of what pictures that are available are on pages 5 & 6.

## A sad and very personal note



**Gerald (Jerry) Mabus** passed away on April 10th, 2010. Jerry lived down the block from me and we spent a lot of time at the Humboldt Park MYF together. We had a basketball team and Jerry played well and I just managed to hang in there. We both dated the same girl but NOT at the same time. It was just about 2 years ago when I finally found him and added him to the MoosMates "found" kids. He graduated Moos in June of 51 just after I did. He attended Tuley and really enjoyed basketball.

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The following is from his sister **Vivian (Mabus) Greene June'52:**



We moved to the area of Lincoln, Irving and Damen Avenues when I was about 14 or 15 and I transferred to Lake View HS. Jerry was still at Tuley but Dad became ill and told Jerry he had to quit the basketball team and get a part time job to help out. Jerry loved basketball and because of his height (6'8 1/2") I'm sure he had big dreams and was very unhappy about quitting the team. I don't remember his graduation so he may have quit, there was so much going on in our lives at that time. Dad passed away just before my 17th birthday and I know Jerry was working full time at Teletype. While he was there (over 22 years) he went to college and graduated with a degree, I believe in business. When he moved to Florida he became very active in politics and was very successful in commercial real estate. He also had a radio program called "Monday's with Mabus", where he interviewed politician's, educators, and many others. At his memorial there were three long tables with awards he had gotten through the years, and

## A True Fairy Tale

Once upon a time a hundred, or so, years ago, in a land, let's call it Chicago, there lived two young girls. Let's call them Ramona and Vivian. They both attended an elementary school. Let's call it Moos Elementary. Ramona had lived in Chicago for quite some time but Vivian was a new arrival. One day they cross paths and Ramona said "what's the matter with you, you look like you came out of a dill pickle jar". After that was when she challenged Vivian to a brawl in the school yard. Vivian met Ramona's challenge and showed up for it but lo and behold Ramona was all powerful & mighty but Vivian was fleet of foot and could run like the wind and the tiff never occurred. Many years later, there was a handsome, youthful, sorcerer, lets call him Jim. By chance, Jim made contact with the speedy Vivian and conversed with her. Whilst conversing, the fair Vivian inquired of the powerful Ramona. Jim did indeed have knowledge of Ramona thru her silver haired sister whom we shall call Connie. Jim inquired if Ramona recalled the past event, which she had. Thru a sorcerers magic potion the two, by now, adult women felt not a bit of animosity toward each other and even spoke well of each other and conversed about their lives and fortunes and all was well and all were pleased and so it is true to this day.

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This being a **TRUE fairy tale** the players are as follows:

The Mighty and powerful ...**Ramona (Medina) Lorenz School & date unknown**

The Swift of Foot...**Vivian (Mabus) Greene Moos June'52**

The Silver Haired sister...**Connie (Medina) Gubler Moos June'49**

The Handsome, Youthful Sorcerer...**Jim Curtis Moos Jan.'51**

ED.note Handsome & Youthful? Of course! I wrote the story.

## IRONY

Is this the definition of irony? Of all the pages that I printed (960) and collated and sent out of the 24th MoosMates newsletter the single complaint I received of a missing page came from **Bea (Benson) Insko Jan.'49**. Bea called and asked "where's my page 2"? Bea spent most of her working live as a proof reader for the RR Donnelly Press in Chicago. How ironic is that? I have since, humbly, sent her a brand new copy and I was sure to check each side of each page beforehand.

I just found out, thru her BEST friend **Barbara (Monk) Mosley June'51** that **Geraldine (Wolnik) Rampala June'51** is an accomplished pianist.

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## Joe (Sunny) Lasota

went to Moos in '53, K-1st, and St.Fidelis Catholic Elementary after that. Joe has "the best job in the world". He owns Honeymoon Travel & Destination Weddings and the website is:

[www.Honeymoonshowcase.com](http://www.Honeymoonshowcase.com)

## Being of assistance

Thru the MoosMates newsletter, **Barbara (Monk) Mosely June'51 and Geraldine (Wolnik) Rempala June'51** have been chi-chatting as have **Joyce (Wasielewski) Mioducki Jan.'58 and Nancy (Zaehler) Jesse June'59. Reggie Encarnacion June'62 has made contact with Nancy (Zaeler) Jesse June'59 and Linda (Falkenberg) Malecki Jan.'58** and Nancy has found **Sharon (Blaze) Water and Norm Peterson.**

## He Got Around

**Fred Helle Chase'55** sure got around. He spent grades 2 thru 5 at Moos in 1949 thru 52 and eventually graduated 8th grade from Chase and on to Lane Tech.. His family lived at 1716 N. Rockwell, moved to Florida, then back to 1905 N. California Ave. Fred is a nephew of Ralph Jan.'51 and Don Eckardt Jan.'46 as well as Shirley (Saandergard) Eckardt Yates Jan.'51. He now lives in Florida. His grandmother used to gut, clean, prepare and pack fish products, which included being a pickle packer, for Leistikows, from the 2nd floor area, and Fred often helped. Many of the gallon pickle jars in the Mom and Pop grocery stores in the area were supplied by Fred & his Gramma. **continued next column**

She was German and had some difficulty reading English but never mis-labeled a jar. He also had 3 paper routes out of the store front on Washtenaw and Wabansia. delivering The Trib, Sun -Times and Abendpost. 2 am in the morning and 1 pm in the afternoon. The agency was run by Morrie. The routes covered the 1800 & 1900 blocks of Rockwell, Talman and Washtenaw between Cortland and Homan Ave's. He was also a big help at the Chresanthakes Ice Cream & Candy shop where he occasionally helped "Mom" make candy and delivered eggs from the Mid-City Dairy for "Pop" which he would add to milk shakes on request. Fred has also offered many of the photos included in this newsletter.

**THANKS, FRED!**

## SAY HELLO!

To 3 chicks who recently held their own mini-reunion of 1959-60 Moos graduates. **Gladys Ashley, Ada (Phelan) Scalise and Helen (Zawlik) Moyot.** They searched the internet and found Wayne Straight's June'60 website [www.moos57.com](http://www.moos57.com) and he, in turn, forwarded their email to me. As a result Ada's childhood friend, **Theresa (Kocol) Kippschull June'60** sent me a request to be on our mailing list.

## WANTED

Some time ago someone sent me a copy of the 8-A graduation photo of Jan.'55 which is very fuzzy. If anyone has an original or digital copy I would really appreciate it. All photos returned UN-harmed.

## History of Maplewood Playground

It started as a school named Maplewood Ave. School and the address was 1638 N. Maplewood Ave. It was renamed Bancroft Elementary School in 1891. The school opened for classes on Feb. 3, 1892 and remained that way until the summer of 1931 when all the classes were transferred to Moos except K and 1st grade and the building was named Branch #1 of Moos. It re-opened as Tuley Senior High School Branch in 1934 and was closed in 1942. On July 1, 1942 it reopened with classes of the National Defense Training Program for the exclusive use of the U.S. Signal Corp. 24/6. There was a minor fire there, circa 1945-46 at which time the firemen tossed out pencils, papers, rulers and other school supplies from the 4th floor windows as they were no doubt supplies left over when the school was active. The building was torn down in 1947 and became Maplewood Playground where most of us spent hours upon hours playing games, ice skating, climbing monkey bars, basketball, baseball, playing tag and just hanging out. By the way, it's now called Maplewood park and it is now more park than playground.

**Thanks to the several kids who's tidbits help piece this together including Ron Gregrow, Ron Domkowski June'49 and especially Ken Iverson June'49, who's memory is OLDER THAN DIRT, and the folks at the Chicago Public Schools Archives.**

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## Teachers remembered From Ron

### Witt Jan.'51

Jan'44 K Margaret Wilson  
June'44 1B Mrs Keating  
(Skipped 1A D/P'ed)  
Feb'45 2B L Daniel  
June'44 2A Gertrude E Johnson  
Jan'46 3B Florence G North  
June'46 3A Mrs E Carlson  
Feb'47 4B Aura Labus  
(Skipped 4A D/P'ed )  
June'47 5B Dolly D Lee  
Jan'48 5A Dolly D Lee  
June'48 6B Mary L Hickey  
Feb'49 6A Gladys Purinton  
June'49 7B Virginia G Hurley  
Jan'50 7A Alice Hayes  
June'50 8B Gladys Purinton  
Jan'51 8A Ellen A Daly



Recently **Harold Justice June'52** told me his sister **Ruby Jane Justice Jan.'48** had passed away due to cancer in Feb. of 1983 at the age of 48. Ruby attended William Woods College in Missouri for 2 years, married and was living in California and had a son and an adopted daughter. Our deepest sympathy goes out for this tragic loss of a young woman in the prime of her life.



### 1746 N. Campbell

where **ElwoodH.(Woody) Vockeroth Jan.'47** lived. He has since traveled to all 7 continents and plans to attend the MoosMates Jamboree 2011 as well as Israel, Panama Canal, Dubai and the Mediterranean. Found, thanks to **Diane (Frelk) Rife June'47.**

### Tis a wee world after all

**Judy (Kunz) Anderson Jan.'57** was handing out tickets at a dinner theater in Ft. Atkinson, WI and ran across tickets for **Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lebetski**. She asked **Mrs. Lebetski** if she ever taught at Moos Elementary School. She responded yes, her 1st teaching assignment was there in 1948. She was Judy's Kindergarten teacher. They are now fast friends. Mrs. Lebetski lives in River Forest, IL.

### Class Photos

All class photos received are being archived in the Chicago Public Schools Archive website by myself along with as many identifying names as possible so PLEASE check it out and proof-read what I have posted to ensure accuracy.

continued next column

Hard to believe but, I have been known to make a mistake or 2, now and then. Their website is

[www.CPSAlumni.org](http://www.CPSAlumni.org)

and go to the Moos School page. You can also register for free. I also desperately need your help in matching names to the photos.



### At Long Last

We have found the elusive **Tommy Beattner Jan.55**. He is retired, as most of us are, and lives in Chicago. Tommy has been married for 47 years and has 2 daughters and a grandson entering college at 18 yrs. of age.

### New MoosMates

**Wayne Straight** has found **Yvonne (Torres) Perez Yates '65** who went to Moos 1 year w/ **Miss Wirkus** and still lives in the Chicago area. **Theresa (Kocol) Kippschull June'61** lives in Colorado. **Brian Regnier '57** spent up to 5th grade at Moos and now lives in California.

**Don Kunz Jan.'46** just checked in. Hi, Don!

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Gorgeous photo of the old boat house in Humboldt Park taken from the island.



The Queen Theater 1982. After it was converted into a grocery store.  
Was this the 2nd location of Luigi's restaurant?



The Forbidden Trail

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Congress Theater 1987



April 10th, 2002

**The Congress Theater** opened on Sept. 5, 1926 showing *Rolling Home*, which was a comedy starring Reginald Denny. It seated 2,890 and was bought by Balaban & Katz in 1929. On 7/10/2002 it became a Chicago City Landmark.



American Classic Images

**The Oak Theater at night with Margie's Candies in the background.**

Opened in 1910 and remodeled in 1930 in art deco style. It became an adult theater during the 70's and 80's. It became a concert venue in 1992 and was demolished in 1995. It seated 848.

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North East Corner of Cortland and California



White Sox autographed ticket June 19th, 19???



Class of June '58 & Aug. '58 & Jan. '59

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View of Bancroft School looking south down Maplewood taken from near Wabansia Ave.



Class of Jan. & June '56 7A & 8B  
Thanks to Pat (ME above) Carstensen Jan. '56.