

MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

A NEWSLETTER FOR & ABOUT THE KIDS IN & AROUND BERNHARD MOOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FROM THE 1930'S THRU THE 60'S

JULY 2013

33RD EDITION



My Column

Moos School seems to be safe from the mass closings of Chicago Public Schools.

My mistake. In the last issue I had erroneous instructions to get to Tommy Altenberg's biography on the web so here it is on page 3. Several new kids have come "back to school" in the following pages.

Jim Curtis at:

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God bless us everyone

Where did all the Juke boxes go?

When we had a nickel or, later on, a dime, we hit the juke box. Six plays for a quarter. There was one at the soda shop owned by the parents of **Pete and George Chresanthakes**. That was our hangout after MYF meetings on, I think, Wednesday nights. Many restaurants had individual jukes in each booth. Maybe Rembrandt's did. Anyone recall that?



Going Steady

I don't know how it worked in the 30's or the 40's but, in the 50's, your main squeeze was the gal that you were "going steady" with. If you had a school sweater it always seemed to be worn by your "gal" even if it was WAY too big for her. A huge plus was if it was a letter sweater showing you were a jock. Maybe it was a school jacket with the cool school colors. If you were a senior in high school, and had gotten your class ring, your ring was given, or coaxed from you, by your gal and she wore it either around her neck on a chain as a pendant or wrapped tape around the back side of it so it could fit one of her dainty little fingers. These were the ultimate signs of true romance and boldly said "*he's mine and she's taken*". My question is, how many guys got their rings back when the romance went the deep six? Where they ever "lost" or "stolen" by someone unknown and never returned? I had no such problem. I married my "steady" and I still have my Lane Tech. ring to prove it. How about you? Any RING stories or sweater stories or jacket stories out there? How did all this work in the 30's or the 40's?

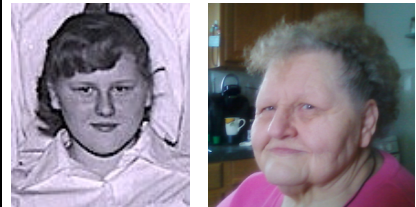
THE SOLICITORS

What ever happened to flypaper? Do you recall the produce peddler coming down the street in his open sided truck filled with fresh produce and his two, or more, walkers that preceded the truck and yelled out "FRESH PEACHES! RED, RIPE, WATER-ME-LO! SWEET GREEN GRAPES! His name was McCarthy, as I recall. We also had several different house to house vendors selling clothes, vacuum cleaners, insurance, Fuller brush men and even doctors making house calls, on occasion. Those **WERE** the days, my friend.

THE END OF AN ERA

The Tuley Review has published it's last edition recently, to the dismay of hundreds of alumni and "cousins" of which I was one. Dan "Max" & Ginni Maxine have retired from being it's producer after many great and prolific issues. It is a sad loss as we had become good friends while sharing information about the "old Neighborhood", names, mailing addresses, stories and photos thru the years.

Anyone know what happened to **Joy Thompson Jan.'53?** **Diane (Jabczynski) Flood Jan.'53** would like to know. They were close friends and classmates until Joy's family moved to the Chicago suburbs sometime after graduating from Moos.



I recently had a phone call from **Dean Frelk June'46** and he asked about others in his class. We had already found **Edward Aluzas** and **Margaret (Wenglaz) DeBartolo** so I did some research and found:

. **Thomas Feierabend** lives in Long Beach, CA. **Paul Froberg** lives in Mattoon, IL. and he is now a MoosMate in good standing, **James Mennel** lives in Slippery Rock, PA. Perhaps we'll hear from the others as I have mailed each a copy of edition #32. **Donald Modej** passed away on 5/12/2007 and is buried in Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery. He was an A2C Air Force rank who served in Korea **and, lastly, Richard Boro**, who was a Korean War Vet died on 10/15/2009 in Roselle, IL.

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As promised, here is **Tommy Altenberg's Jan. '55** bio as written in the International Polka web page.



Tommy was born and raised on the north side of Chicago near Humboldt Park. He attended Bernard Moos Grade School and Lane Technical High School. Shortly after graduating from high school, he served an apprenticeship in the lithography trade, became a journeyman and spent most of his adult life employed in that field.

Tommy's love for polka music developed and nurtured while still in grade school listening to polka artists and DJs, namely Li'l Wally, Chet Gulinski, Chet Schafer and Leon Kozicki on radio station WOPA (Oak Park, Ill).

In his early teens he took an interest in playing the concertina since he had two older cousins that played. At the age of 16 he started taking lessons from Joe Stacey, a very accomplished player and teacher. After a few years of lessons, graduating high school and purchasing a car, he was ready to start booking playing jobs. In 1962, he was approached and accepted an offer to play with Li'l Richard and the Shy Tones. That arrangement lasted about a year before Tommy decided to venture out on his own. Starting in 1964, his three piece band evolved into four and eventually a five piece group under the name of Tommy Altenburg and the Hap-E-Notes. This group progressed into playing all the major polka lounges in and around Chicago, plus weddings, anniversaries and parties to the tune of entertaining and pushing polka music three and four nights a week. This schedule continued for many years.

In the year 1970, Tommy was approached by Emily Mucha Pinter

and Carol Trebiatowski in regards to serving on the International Polka Association (IPA) Board. He accepted and served as Sergeant-at-Arms, Director and 2nd Vice President respectively for some 25 plus years.

Throughout the late 1960s and early '70s Tommy was the promoter and organizer of concertina jam sessions at various polka lounges in and around the Chicagoland area. Also in 1970, he was honored to record on the Ampol Record label along with Tommy Kula, Wally Maduzia and Casey Homel as the Chicago Concertina All Stars.

In 1972, Tommy Altenburg and the Hap-E-Notes recorded their only album on Ampol Records entitled "Come On Smiling."

In 1979, Tommy relocated to Milwaukee, Wis., however he continued traveling back to the Chicagoland area to satisfy previous bookings.

In 1982, cousin Art Altenburg established the "Concertina Bar." Tommy performed there regularly for some 22 years until retiring in 2004 and moving to Florida.

For 18 years (1985 to 2002), Tommy and his wife, Shirley, sponsored and hosted an annual bus trip from Milwaukee, Wis., to the Chicago area for the January Festival of Polka Bands to benefit the IPA.

In the year 2011, Tommy was honored with being inducted into the World Concertina Congress Hall of Fame. This event took place in Allenton, Wis.

Tommy and his wife Shirley now spend their winters in San Antonio, Fla., and summers in Slinger, Wis.



Another new kid in the fold. Ken Jakulis June '51 writes

hi Jim.... opened the package and wow..... I read about the Pappas'... I graduated with Bertha Pappas... I remember that her parents owned a restaurant (Newport) on the corner of Fairfield and North Ave. but never had the pleasure of attending... now Humboldt Park..... besides bike riding... I used to get a raw pice of liver tie it to a string ...go to the edge of the pond and throw the liver in and wait 5 minutes and start pulling it in very, very slowly like extremely slow... many times there would be a crab on it and I would attempt to capture it and a few more then go fishing at Lake Michigan.... for perch... now for Mrs Hayes... yes she was stern... but I still remember one thing she said how ever bendeth the twig so groweth the tree and you know I see that in my life and in my grandchildren...

thanks for sending this package.... God bless

Ken Jakulis

I Didn't know that

Crackerjack was introduced at the Columbian Exposition in 1892 for the very first time. That makes it 121 years old, by Jimminy.

The city of Chicago bought the Bloomingdale right of way tracks from the **Canadian Pacific Railway** for \$1. What a bargain,eh?

There used to be a **Velodrome** in Humboldt Park. The bicycle track was almost completely gutted when I discovered it back in the late 40's. It was located somewhere in the very southernmost part of the park. Does anyone, out there, have any memories of this???

And, what ever happened to **pea shooters**? A nickel bought you a shooter and a brown paper bag of "ammo".

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Babushkas

Hey, Gal, when was the last time YOU wore one? They used to be part of every chicks ensemble back in the 50's, especially during the winter, or when riding in your steadies ragtop with the top down. Mothers wore them, Grandmothers wore them. Just about every woman wore them. Now a days you never seem to see them, AT ALL!



An update on the Bloomingdale elevated train tracks

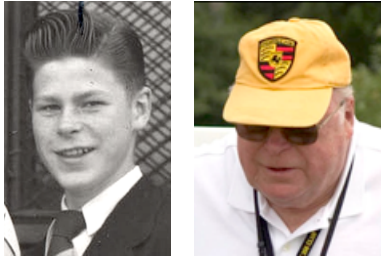
It will now be known as **The Bloomingdale Trail and Park** and will be part of a larger project to be called **"THE 606"** and open in 2015 with 6 access points which are actually parks. The closest to Moos will be between Albany and Whipple. The flora will be arranged so that they will bloom 5 weeks apart from the East end to the West end so there will be a parade of blossoming foliage along the way. Originally, in 1872, the tracks were at ground level. Due to many pedestrian vs train accidents and deaths the city ordered the tracks to be elevated to 16 feet in 1910.

Thanks to **Susan (Taylor) & Charlene (Southwell) Schwingbeck Jan.'51** and **Tom Crook Jan.'52** and his bride of many years, Joanne, for keeping the MoosMates informed about this project.

Another then & now

Ron Domkowski President of the

June'49 class



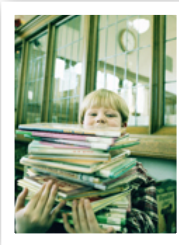
Young Ron

"Recent" Ron

HE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT!

If your peach
Keeps out
Of reach
Better practice
What we preach
Burma-Shave

ASK THE LIBRARIAN!



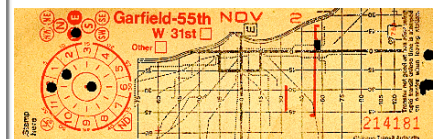
Kenneth Haag's email is
cafeharz@hotmail.com

or send your question to me and I will forward it to Ken.

Hey, Librarian, when did they switch from streetcars to buses on North Avenue?

A Bit More about the EL's.

The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) was called the Chicago Rapid Transit System until 1951 and the Humboldt Park EL spur was established on July 29th, 1895 and operated, and was privately owned, as the Rapid Transit System from 1924 to 1947 when it became the CTA so, the EL was there, even before our time. That spur ran to Lawndale and was eventually abandoned on May 4th, 1952. Tickets on the Rapid Transit were 12¢ in 1947 and 25¢ in 1957. Transfers were free until 1967 when they were 5¢. You could go just about anywhere in the city with the transfers and go to and from the EL's to surface at will.



Also, **Leo Tabert June'51**, tells us that adjacent to the streetcar barns that spanned Rockwell and Campbell and Armitage and Homer was a ball field where the girls, who made up some of the league depicted in the movie **A League of Their Own**, practiced and he remembers baseballs hitting the building where he lived. The league was established in 1943 by The Chicago Cubs owner, P.K.Wrigley and officially known as The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. It folded in 1954.

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That First Kiss...chapter IV

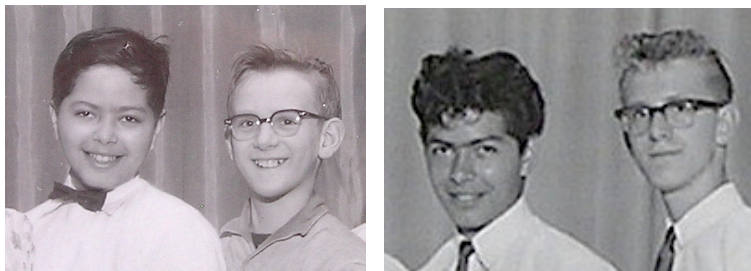
Gee, gang, looks like we ran out of first kiss tales to tell.

Don't Forget

The MoosMates is all about you and for you. Us kids started the road of life pretty nearly at the same starting place. The roads traveled have been varied and bumpy and smooth and slippery but we are all here today with lots of tales to tell. We hope you will share your travels and travails with the rest of us so, just think about it. Tell us a bit about yourself, unusual experiences, how you got to where you are. Who you have met along the way. I'm sure we are all curious.

A bit about myself? At Lane Tech, I chose the 4-A Architect course so I wouldn't have to study a language. I went from drafting to checking drawings to becoming a senior mechanical designer and spent 34 years with Motorola. Now, how about you, and you, and you?

Jim Curtis Jan.'61



Reggie Encarnacion Jr. June '62 and Keith Falkenberg June '62

The photo at left is from the 3rd or 4th grade. The photo at right is from their graduation. My, My, Reggie, looks like Keith got quite a few inches jump on you.

When did Spring Cleanup become Spring Break?

Spring cleanup used to mean getting out all the cleaning supplies and getting ready to do WORK! Cleaning wallpaper and those shiny enamel painted kitchen walls with that strange pink stuff in a jar that eventually turned black. What the heck was that stuff called, anyhow? Get out the Spic and Span and the squeegees. The paint brushes and the lysol. The Twenty Mule Team Borax Taking down the storm windows and replacing them with screens. Mending the screens. Taking down the curtains and blinds and washing them by hand and drying the curtains on those needle sharp curtain stretchers. Repairing the sash cords that held the weights to make the windows easy to open and close. Cleaning up the yards and planting new annuals or taking the bulbs out of the basement and replanting them. So much to do and only a week, as I recall it, to get it all done. Nowadays it's Spring BREAK and the kids are nowhere to be found. Off to camp or off to Ft. Lauderdale or visiting your uncle on his farm. Nowadays it's all just fun and games.



Remember Punch Boards?

They were very popular in the 30's, 40's and 50's but, eventually pretty much died out in the 70's. They could be found in the corner tavern or many of the corner grocery stores or other establishments. They were usually behind the counter as they were somewhat illegal. I remember seeing them at the Washtenaw variety Store when I was a wee lad. The one above took in \$50 and the total prizes were \$28. A neat profit of

Clayton Perry June '58 recently wondered about three old buddies of his and maybe you can help. **Alan Berglund Jan.'59, Anthony W. Plichta June '58 and Guy H. Corry June '58.** Sadly, the MoosMates has discovered that Guy is interned in Ft. Dearborn Veterans Memorial Cemetery. He was a Captain in the Army serving in Vietnam and died September 20th, 1988.



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A typical lunch counter menu of the 50's. This one was from Woolworth. Kresge's had them, also. Every dime store or, as you will, five and dime, had a lunch counter as well as all the major drug stores, such as Wallgreens. Boy, those were the days and the prices, too. In the Loop, patrons would stand in line 2 and 3 deep, to have a cheap lunch.

How Far back Can You Go?

Do you go back to when we used to have to defrost our refrigerators every so often? Do you go back to making ice cubes in those aluminum ice cube trays with the handles you pulled up to release the Cubes? Do you go farther back to the **Servel** gas refrigerators? How about the ice boxes? The ice man would deliver a block of ice the size of which was determined by what side of sign in your front window faced up and you had to empty the water tray when the ice melted or have a big puddle on the floor.



Memories of Paul Froberg June '46 during the war years.

Paul later went on to graduate high school at Lane Tech.

I was a Moos student from kindergarten to graduation, June 1946. You can see that was the entire WW II. What made that unique was that my folks were Jehovah's Witnesses and they taught us that since WW I, the world had entered the "last days" that Jesus predicted. They felt only God's kingdom would solve the world crisis. How did that affect student life for the duration of the war? Everyone was called on to donate every bit of scrap metal they could find, also jars or cans of fat for explosives. Also, all were expected to buy at least one war bond stamp a week. If your class was 100% all got a Scripto automatic lead pencil. Well, my family learned that Witnesses in Nazi Germany would not hail Hitler, whereas other Churches would hang out swastikas when he came to town. Our spiritual brothers would not fight in Hitler's armies, slaughtering brothers in allied countries, so they were put in concentration camps and executed with the Jewish people. Knowing that, we could not fight in allied armies either. In that predicament, our position was one of strict neutrality and I did not donate anything. I know the teachers and fellow students did not like that. They kept my brother and I separate in our classes so that they could still get 100% and a Scripto pencil.

We had a "museum club" in Ms. Murray's class, Ms. Daniels thought I was a non-athletic wimp in gym, which I was, Ms. Puritan was a good art teacher. Best of all my 1st grade teacher was Ms. Froberg! Her family and ours were the only two with that name in the whole city of Chicago!

Another Moos kid who just came into the fold is **Jack Bagley 3rd thru 6th grade (1970)**. He tells us his Aunt, **Erna Marie Rockel Jan.'57** passed away in Sept. of 2001. His Mother, **Roselyn Rockel June'52** lives in Lodi WI. Jack's Uncle **Donald Rockel Jan.'54** also graduated from Moos. They lived at 1628 N. Washtenaw and 1848 N. Talman. Jack visited Moos in 2000 and Ms. Wirkus remembered him.

UPDATE

Mike Figueroa and Borgny "Bubbles" (Wendland) Jastrzab, both Yates June'66, have been in touch via email.

FACT OR FICTION? YOU BE THE JUDGE!

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE WHITE CASTLE RESTAURANTS IS LOOSELY BASED ON THE WATER TOWER IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO.

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From Mary Lou (Worobey) Obos Jan.'58

Guess who surprised me with a visit a few days ago? She was at my neighbor's twin-girls' birthday party and remembered (wow what a great memory she has!) that I lived on the same block, so she rang my doorbell. Luckily, we were home.

She looks great as you can see from the pic attached. I, of course, was not in my party clothes but I thought I'd share her delightful self with all of you moosmates.

She continues to amaze me that she taught at Moos for 55 years and still does so much at her tender young age. She mentioned that she was turning 86 this month (May)! So Happy Birthday to our own legend **Vivian Wirkus!**



**PASSING SCHOOL ZONE
TAKE IT SLOW
LET OUR LITTLE
SHAVERS GROW
Burma Shave**

THE BADGE OF HONOR

Being a Patrol Boy, or, later on, a Patrol Girl was a huge honor. The first to leave class in the afternoon. The last to come to class in the morning, without being truant. A group picture of you and all your street corner warriors. We all would have liked to be considered but, the ULTIMATE honor was being Captain of the Safety Patrol. One such honored was **Walter Jabczynski June'39**, my Uncle. Below is the badge he earned which was sponsored by the Chicago Motor Club.



Do we have any other Captains out there?



Nancy (Zaehler) Jesse June'59 Graduation 1963/Engagement 1968

Nancy recently sent the MoosMates several class photos including her graduation photo, with all the faces identified, which is on the next page. You can't miss her as she is front and center and has the most gorgeous skirt. Too bad it's not a color photo.



Refreshing old acquaintances

Ron Witt Jan.'51 and his bride of 50 years, **Barbara Witt Madonna H.S.**, visited **Jim Curtis Jan.'51** (that's me) and my bride of 50 + years **Sandy (Husted) Jan.'55** recently for 3 days of fun, food and terrific old memories of Moos, Humboldt Park, bike riding adventures, pranks, street games, other "kids" remembered and the old neighborhood. Ron and Jim have been classmates since at least 6th grade, both graduated the January 1951 class from Moos, the January 1955 class from Lane Tech., attended Crane Jr. College together, were best man at each others weddings, both had a career at Motorola. Ron in Phoenix and Jim in Plantation, Florida. Ron lived on Fairfield and Jim on Washtenaw. We've been the best of friends for over 60 years. Lets keep it going!

HELP, HELP, HELP!

ANY MOOSMATE WHO STILL DOES NOT GET THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE IN PDF FORMAT AND WISHES TO DO SO, PLEASE SEND ME YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS AND AN OK TO DO SO. LESS COST FOR US AND A QUICKER, EASIER COPY FOR YOU. NO PAPER CUTS!

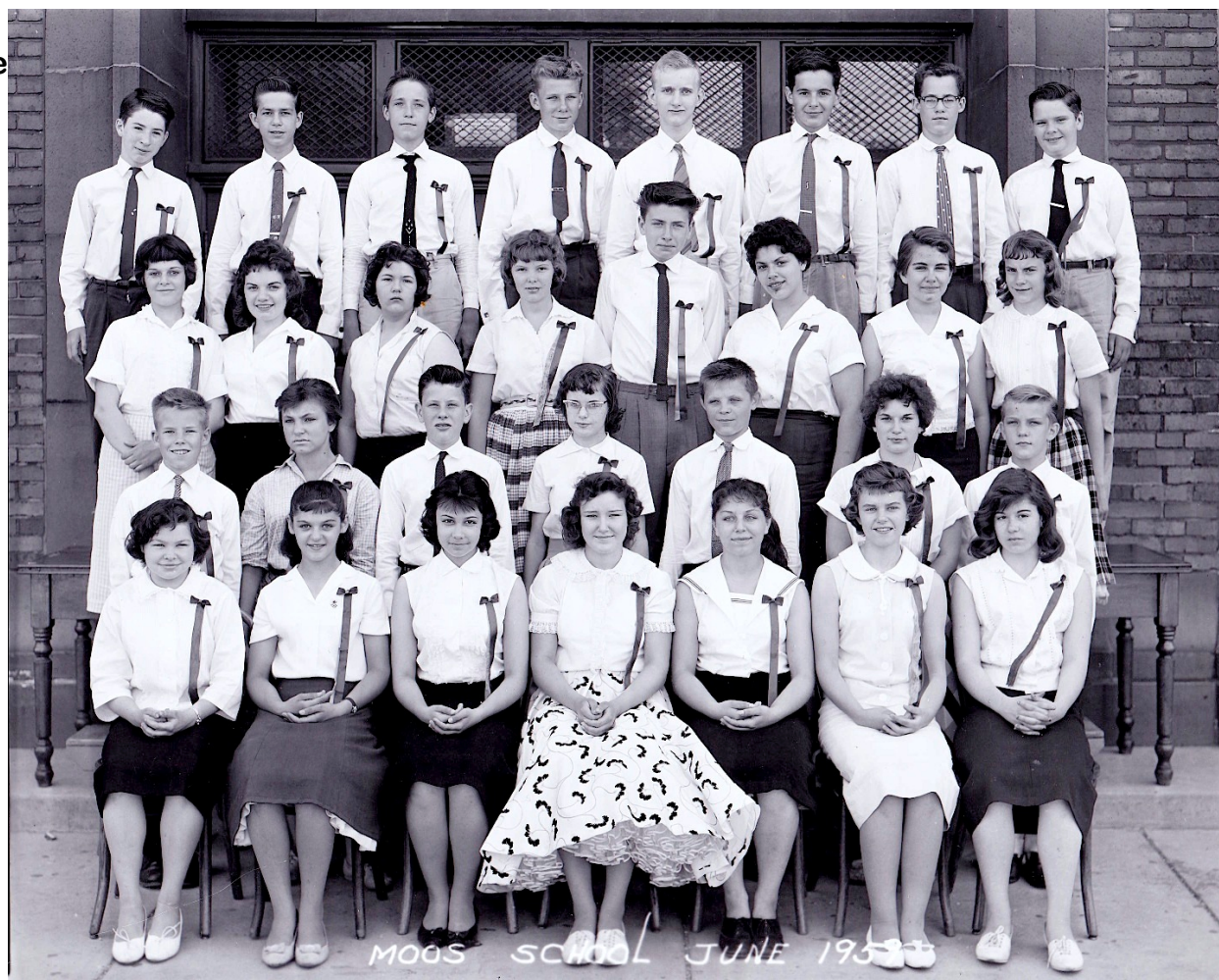
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The



Class of June, 1959

Left to right

Front row: Billie Jowers, **Anita Szatkowski**, Phyllis Roux, **Nancy (Zaehler) Jesse**, Debbie Haralambous, **Mary Hubble**.

2nd row: Norman Peterson, **Estelle Haralambous**, Dennis Holsman, **Rosemary Blum**, William "Billie" Rybaczuk, **Mary Murphy**, Waldemar "Wally" Maciejewski.

3rd row: Melanie Fletcher, **Sharon Blaze**, Alice Olsen, **Elsie Patterson**, Gary Baker, **Hannah Hoffman**, Helen Paulette "Polly" Tiedler, **Carol Briles**.

Back row: Thomas Tieffenbacher, **Raymond "Ray" Wasniewski**, James Johnson, **Erhard Gruenwald**, Harry Horodecki, **Ronald Golec**, Kenneth "Kenny" Lyall, **James Adams**.

Not pictured: Jerry Corley

Thanks to **Nancy (Zaehler) Jesse** who is sitting front and center in that lovely print skirt. How can you miss her?

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Moos School Montage

A few views of Moos School taken in 2011 during our first ever Jamboree. Some things have changed and some things are just as we remembered