

# 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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION



**My Column**

I recently had occasion to visit Chicago. It was not a fun visit but, was due to Sandy's recent loss of her brother, Gregory. I did however have several thoughts visiting the Windy City and they are listed below in no particular order. Everything was brown or grey. Green River soda is alive and well and available at any Jewel/Osco store as well as pierogi, kolatchke, potato pancakes and Krakus ham.



**Green River Soda still available.**

They serve it at Fluky's and in 2 liter bottles at all Jewel/Osco stores. Corner newspaper stands are still operating. There are many, many pot holes to keep one awake on their daily commute. Vienna hot dog stands on "every" corner... thank goodness for that.



**White Castle Burgers**

The very first place we stop whenever we get into Chicago are everywhere but we can only get them frozen at our local Publix



**O-KE-DOKE**

Not available AT ALL in south Florida. I snagged 4 giant bags to take home. They are long gone! This has become the biggest (8 pages) edition in our short history. Lots to say and show so here it goes...enjoy.

Jim Curtis  
3971 NW 108 Drive  
Coral Springs, FL 33065  
Phone 954-752-6339  
Fax 954-753-4564 (call 1st)  
email [jcurtis5@bellsouth.net](mailto:jcurtis5@bellsouth.net)

### The "Sorce" of Nostalgia

There were 4 Sorce kids who lived at 1723 N. Washtenaw. They all went to Moos. They all graduated from Moos. **Joyce and Joe June '50, Bobbie Jan. '52 and Frankie June '57.** Joyce tells me that Joe has

recently passed away last year. She presently lives in Carol Stream. Bobbie lives in Rockford and Frankie lives in Park Ridge.

### The Peppas Family...An account of the American Dream

I recently heard from **William Peppas June '45 (Von Humboldt)** and he has recounted a wonderful history of the Peppas family and it's large part of our past history of the "old" neighborhood. The following is only slightly paraphrased from his letter.

I spent the Christmas and New Years Holidays in Greece returning recently to Chicago to see my 3 sisters (**Constance June '48, Bertha June '51 and Stelia (Stella) June '54**) and their families. On January 24th I returned to my condo in Madeira Beach, Florida, on the Gulf of Mexico about 30 miles north of Tampa. 1st of all, I'm older than most of you. I went to Moos but in the summer of 1944 I attended Von Humboldt and so I skipped a half semester and received my diploma from there. Those days we had half semesters. I was friends with **Bob Rae** and his brothers and saddened by his death. Both of the brothers were stand-outs with the Chicago Fire Department. Other classmates went on to be Chicago Police Officers and I presume all have since retired. **James Sorenson, William Fett, Lt. Donald Smith and Ronald LeJune.** Some other of my male classmates, by memory, were: **Walter Plicta, Robert Crawford, Earl (Peewee) Dvorak, Charles Greer, Henry Catalaro**

(Continued Pg. 2 Column 1)

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION

(deceased about 15 years ago). Henry lived in the Austin area. Sherwin Crane---his folks owned Crane Hardware on California next to the Phillips gas station on Wabansia. Saw him a few years ago and he was the owner of Crane Galleries across from the Merchandise Mart. I was a patrol boy at the southeast corner. Some of the girls in my class, that I remember are **Mabel Hansen, Dolores Moore, Lenore Haffel and Lillian Dahlberg.** My favorite teacher, if some of you were lucky enough to have, was my English teacher, **Dolly Lee**, whom I could no no wrong for. This made it easier for my sisters, Bertha and Stella, to follow.

My Mother and Father, Marie and James Peppas, came to the Humboldt Park area from Greece in April of 1934. My Dad rented a hotel room at the old Park Gate which was located at 1535 N. California just a few doors south of the library and across from the park. The cost was \$7 for 7 days. Next, my Dad got a job as cook and dishwasher working 12 hours/day for \$1 a day. With the good Lords help my Father got better paying jobs. He detested the thought of going on welfare relief. 50 cents purchased 100 lbs. of potatoes. In those days, flank steaks were thrown away. My Mother would send me to a nice Polish butcher with 10 cents for 2 flank steaks. My Mother was smart enough to skin the back of it so we could have enough meat. 10 cents also was enough for 3 pork chops and after pointing to a big beef bone in the showcase I would get it for free and Mom cooked it for a week to make soup.

Those times were very difficult. We were very lucky that my Mother, Maria, saved the little extra money and didn't spend it foolishly and the old saying came true...saving pennies became dollars.

The year was 1939. Things had changed for the Peppas family. My Mother and Father had saved \$400 and with my uncle Pete and aunt Sophie, who had also saved \$400, they opened the very 1st Newport restaurant at 2737 W. North Avenue. There were 10 stools and 5 booths and they were open 7/24. They were noted for their sizzling prime steak platters. Mom and Uncle Pete worked days and Dad always worked nights. In this way they shared the same overcoat for 2 years. In the mean time Aunt Sophie Peppas took care of us kids. She cooked, made dresses for my sisters, taught them to sew, iron and many other things. We are blessed and honored, that with God's help she is still living with us and is still beautiful at age 94. Aunt Sophie lost her spouse in 1945 and never remarried. She was a Mother to all us kids then and since we have lost our parents she has become our Mother once again. May God bless her.

In 1944 we opened a larger and more beautiful Newport restaurant on the southeast corner of North and Fairfield. We purchased the building. 2 stores east of us was a crabby old man who operated a Carmelcorn, Popcorn and candy store. We remodeled the Newport again in 1961. Our family purchased 3 parcels of land and built, and leased, a new store for > W. Woolworth at 2739 thru 2745 W. North Avenue.

Woolworth opened October of 1966. They were previously located at North and Rockwell for 40 years. 32 years later Woolworth closed all their stores nationally. 5 years ago I rented the 11,000 sq. ft. store to Victory Outreach for 6 years. From what I understand, they purchased an old Catholic Church, in Cicero, IL. Also, in 1967, I helped a couple of Puerto Rican gentlemen open the very 1st Spanish Nite Club in the Humboldt Park area. The name is La Concha. In late November, I sold the premises and, in the near future, stores and condos will be built.

My sister, Stella (Peppas) Cocalis's son Nickolas J. Cocalis owned the Horizon Café located at 3805 N. Broadway, Chicago, IL. A tragedy occurred at the restaurant on March 7th, 2005. A fire totally destroyed the café. Hopefully, they will try to reopen a new café compared to the Phoenix Arising From The Ashes.....Bill J. Peppas

Here's a blast from the past for most of us. I remember Hollanders Music store when it was located between Leistikow's Market and the A & P near Washtenaw on North Avenue across from the Crystal. He later located to the Northeast corner of North and Talman. Many afternoons were spent in the booths listening to 45's in the anticipation that we would buy one of the "top Ten" of the day.

A nice photo of Mr. Hollander is on the next page.

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION



## Good Reading

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Chicago Historical Society store located at O'Hare airport. The store is lush with books about Chicago history. One in particular intrigued me. It is called "The Old Chicago Neighborhood...Remembering Life in the 1940's". For anyone interested in purchasing this fascinating book, which is rich with memories and photos, you can reach the Historical Society website at: [www.chicagohistoricalsociety.com](http://www.chicagohistoricalsociety.com). The price is \$35 plus postage.

## Dont forget the DILLONS

There were 5 Dillon boys. Jerry Jan. '45, Edward June '46 deceased, Bob Jan. '50 lives in Schaumburg, IL, Tom June '51 Arlington Hgts. IL, Pat 1960 or 61 who still lives where they all grew up at 1642 N. Mozart. Jerry writes: Ed and I went into the U.S.N. 1951-55 & 1955-61 resp. I worked at the Chicago Tribune as a stationary engineer and then went back to Santa Clara, California in 1961 until today. We presently live in San Jose. I worked for 34 years for Santa Clara County starting as a stationery engineer. and retiring as

heat/vent supervisor to enjoy our 4 "kids" and many garndkids. My last teacher was Ms. Daley and Ms. Hayes was considered a family friend.

Tom and Carol, his wife, have two daughters, Laura & Julie who each have two children. Tom and his wife live in south Elgin, IL. Ms. Hayes's words to him when he entered her class were "not another Dillon".

Sadly, I write that **Darrell Durec Jan. '51** has passed away succumbing to cancer. Darrell is sadly missed by his family and friends and old MossMates. He was a big part of the Jan. '51 group getting together for noshing and nostalgia in the past few years.

Betty Grant says that Joan Falkenburg Jan '53 and Mary Ann Troka Jan. '52 both passed away in Feb. of 2004.

## Get The "EL" outa' here!

It was with us from 1895 thru 1952. The Humboldt Park branch of the CTA. The western terminal was located at Lawndale Avenue and connected to the Logan Square line near Damen and North Ave. A total of 2.2 miles in total distance. There were stations at Lawndale, St. Louis, Kedzie, Humboldt Blvd., California and Western Ave. It's demise was caused by the fact it ran parallel to the North Avenue bus line by a meer 200 feet, a duplication of effort in a time when operating costs where a prime area of concern for the newly created Chicago Transit Authority. It still burns bright in my memories. Many was the day us kids would take it downtown and maybe right

back home just for the ride. I recall the one time we decided to take it all the way to the Lawndale terminal and walk home...no difficult feat for us.

Well, somehow we turned west on North Avenue after getting off the El and walked all the way to Pulaski before we realized we were going in the wrong direction. Boy, did that turn into a walk!

We never told anyone about our foolish mistake and I don't think we ever tried it again. A much more detailed article about "our" EL can be gotten from the Spring 2004 issue of First & Fastest magazine for the small cost of \$6.95. The website is: <http://www.shore-line.org/FirstAndFastest/>



Does anyone remember

**Harry Samuels** the Prudential insurance man? He went house to house in the 40's and probably the 50's collecting insurance premiums. As I recall the premiums amounted mostly to change and a dollar or so. He was a fixture in our neighborhood and would sit down and chit-chat with family members with no thought of hurrying on to the next account. He probably carried news from one family to the next about life and loves and family stuff. These days are

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION

surely gone forever. I also remember his file of accounts which show up in the table in his photo. That's where he kept all records of payments.

## **Ron Dombrowski June '49**

Ron remembers Miss Hayes, Ms. Daley and Ms. Stewart as well as the principal Mr. Lockmacher. He rang the bell for the start of classes, recess and lunch time. Ron was also captain of patrol boys and sold milk during lunch with his buddy, Ken Epstein. Chocolate was the favorite and they rolled up the pennies and took them to the Lund Coal Company in return for dollars which were handed in to the principals office. He had perfect attendance throughout Moos and was the class president of the June '49 graduating class. Ron recalls dance classes in the gym learning fox trot, waltz and other dances. Ron's brothers **Larry Dombrowski June '45** and **Robert Dombrowski 1948**. Bob remembers good times in the candy store across from Moos on California. His cousin, **Gerry Godin**, also attended Moos.

**Dixon Whitson June '51** has sent his graduation picture. See page 5. He still sees Ron Thornton and Bill & Jerry Stephansen.

**Diane Zavadil Jan. '53** keeps in touch and was recently at her daughters wedding in Hoolulu, Hawaii. Diane recalls Ms. Daley sneaking oranges onto Miss Hayes desk every St. Patrick's day. When Ms Daley retired Mrs. Hurley took over the 7th grade and what a character she was. She was kind of plump

and had red hair going grey. She wore it up with lots of hair pins (not bobby pins) and when she led us in singing she got so excited the pins would fall all over the place. Diane also remembers the Friday afternoon assemblies, movies, speakers and other school information. She especially loved the nature films.

**Loretta Wallin June '48** went to Moos from K thru graduation. They lived in Humboldt park until 1955 and then moved to Logan Square. She has lived in the lakeview area until 1998 when she retired to Downers Grove to be close to her brother in Westmont. her brother attended Moos for a while but eventually graduated from Gothe around 1959. Loretta remembers Miss Hayes (not her favorite teacher) and also remembers Donald Rae. her parents, who are both deceased, met at Moos. She keeps in touch with Barbara Monk and her siblings. Joan Monk and Loretta spent many days at Humboldt Park both winter and summer. They lived at either 1641 or 1656 N. Francisco.

**Norm Peterson June '59** tells me that **Hjalmer Amundsen June '39** was the son of the brother of his great grandfather. His uncle, Norm Amundsen, is researching the family history trying to find some of the long lost souls.

**Ron "Coyote" Thornton Jan. '50**, who was once married to **Joan "Vass" Jan. '50**, remembers **Ralph Eckardt Jan. '51**. He last saw him in the 70's. They called him the "Crazy German" because of the wild tales he told

such as him being the designer of the wide-trac for the Pontiac but, he was still a nice guy. he lived on Artesian just north of North Ave. and was sweethearts with Alice Murdoch who recently passed away as Don Rae's wife. Ron and Don are still best friends. As many of us do, he vividly remembers Ms. Hayes. She disliked Ron and his brother Melvin as they were in show business and traveled a lot doing shows with the National Barn Dance and some movies. During that time they had tutors and when they returned to class she would say "Oh, the movie stars grace us with their presence". Ron would take a gracious bow and sit down. Ms. Hayes was, Ron notes, a very accomplished piano player and she once played "Dixie" with her left hand while playing "Swanee River" with her right. Ron's favorite teacher was Mrs. Stewart the math teacher who left and went to Von Humboldt. She coordinated the assemblies and would call on Ron for the drum roll. When called from Ms. Hayes's class, she would comment "Oh, Mr. Star, they are beckoning for your presence at assembly" which always got a chuckle from the class and especially Alice Murdock. He adored Mrs. Daley who was his grad teacher. Other fond memories include Ms. Purington, the art teacher who, sadly, lost her nephew in WWII at the time. She kept pictures of him and her sister on her desk. Ron also remembers Ms. Tobin and Mrs. Vandyke our principals at that time. Ron claims that the

(Continued Pg 5 Column 1)

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION

Moos fight song was written by his class. "We're Loyal to you dear old Moos, We love love you we do, dear old Moos, We know your the best, we can beat all the rest...etc, etc. All sung to the Illini fight song melody. Memories of the Weinberg candy store just north of Moos have flooded back to Ron. Yellow gumballs with green stripes to get a free raspberry ripple ice cream cone. The sister was also involved with the Lambs Farm in Libertyville. The Crystal theater is were Ron got most of his early kisses and "other" pleasures. He mentions Jain's restaurant on the NE corner as well as Caresians Ice Cream Parlor next to the show. Lastly Ron recalls Paul "Polly" Parot the 3-wheeler cop and the big 3 in the black #51 squad car and car #16 from the North Ave. station.

**Carol Stasch 1960** says she is glad Ms. Hayes was at Roosevelt HS before Moos as she graduated from Roosevelt and would have "died" seeing her there. Carol went to Tuley for two years before attending, and graduating, from Roosevelt HS. She used to love playing baseball in the alley and spent many days at Cubs Park. Her one Cubs autograph occured when her son was working at a golf course in Crystal lake and he came home waving something in her face. It was Ernie Banks autograph.

**Diane Jabczynski Jan. '53** lived at 1648 N. Washtenaw in a 3 room flat were they had to share a bathroom with 2 other tenent families. George and Alice Murray lived across the street and **Jo's store was two doors down with all sorts of penny candy and sweet rolls.**



A familiar sight in Humboldt Park near North Ave. and Humboldt Blvd. back then. General Kosciuszko now has taken residence in Grant Park on the drive going east from Lake Shore Drive to the Planitarium.

Special thanks to **Larry Janowiak Jan. '53** and **Carol Janowiak June '57** for sharing their extensive photo history of our neighborhood with this publication.

## Moos School TODAY

The campus of Moos now extends from Wabansia on the south to the Illinois Central viaduct at Bloomingdale on the North. The only private homes still standing are 1700 and 1702 N. Fairfield. That's were Sandy Husted lived, and what used to be an auto body and fender shop behind those houses. That's were Sandy's Dad Bob, Dan the owner and Tom Foch used to repair and service cars and convert brand new Cadillacs into funeral procession cars.

They were truly amazing pieces of customization. I distinctly remember a flower car they produced. The playgrounds of Moos that face Fairfield are now parking lots for teachers and faculty and the playground on the California side is all grassed in with a beautiful stone edifice with Moos emblazoned across it at the center of the area where the flag pole used to be. Hopefully we will have some nice photos of it to share with you in the next edition.



This is **Irene of Irene and Roman's corner variety store** at Wabansia and Talman taken in 1967. Note the open Pepsi bottle on the counter at a time when you needed a bottle cap opener to get at your favorite soft drink. I used to buy huge pickles (5 cents) there from the huge barrel, as I recall.

A final thank you to all those who have submitted items which make up this newsletter. Keep those cards and letters and photos coming...please. See ya in the next edition. Jim

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION



## Class of June 1951

All Left to Right

Front Row: Charlotte Jackson, Constance Jerka, Virginia Thorpe, Elizabeth Grant, Betty Alleman, Marva Deaton, Sheila Pippit, Connie Nehnevay 2nd row: Tom Dillon, Charles Dietz, Tom Symon, Richard Lindner, Dixon Witson, Gary Rieman, Ted Tado, Robert Zimmerman, Karl Rose, Ron Renkicwicz 3rd row: Carol Meinke, Barbara Roux, Elaine McGee, Arlene Weaver, Roberta Schmitz, Bertha Peppas, La Verne Sorenson, Jeana Halter, Frances La Frana, Melinda Zick, Joan Kamka Back row: Randin Solomon, Barbara Monk, Marshall Miller, Joe Wenglarz, "Ken Jakulis, Jerry Mabus, Ronald Dvornik, Geraldine Wolnik, Arlene Tamburelli, Leo Tabert, Helen Hoch, Arnfinn Dahl Not Pictured: Clarence Cook



## More class of June '49

Front row L to R: Ronald Bolz and Ken Taylor. Back row: Ron Dombrowski with his Flag Brothers "Box Toe" shoes which he was so

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION



## Moos graduating class of January 1945 (the war years)

Top row: 3rd from left Roy Scottberg

2nd row: 1st from left Jerry Dillon, 5th over is principal Robert E. Lakemacher, 7th over is Ms. Daley.

Front row: 1st from left Helen Kouretas

I also have the 2B and 6A pictures of this class which are available upon request.



## Class of June '49

Front row: L to R 2nd over Anna Kanellas, 9th Theodora Kanellas. 2nd row: L to R, Kevin Iverson, Ronald Frelk, Melvin Thompson, ? Wellington, William Stephenson, Kent Taylor, George ?, Richard Urban, Ronald Boltz. 3rd row: 9th is Connie ?, 10th is Theodora Kanellas.

# MOOSMATES AND NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS

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

JUNE 2005

9TH EDITION



BUSHMAN

The most famous animal in the Lincoln Park Zoo. His "cage" is now smaller but he still looks as scary as



A recent get-together. L to R: Kenny Rae June '52, Judy McNulty Jan. '53, Lois (McNulty) Troka Jan. '52, Marlene (Becker) Halverson Jan. '52, Gerri (McGee) Milbratz Jan. '52, Harold Justice June '52, Tom Crook Jan. '52, Ray Sitkiewicz June '52, and Ray Hagen Jan. '52.



Mrs. Hurley and Carol Janowiak June '57



Teacher Anthony Torres and Carol 1957