



East High "Class of '56"



55th Reunion Information Edition

The particulars and registration form for the 55th Reunion will be at the end of this NewsLink. I have heard from the following so far that they are coming : *John & Donna (Turner) Beal - Carol (Graney) Dechant - Kathleen (Graney) Finkannauer - Tom & Marj Fjelde - Mary Lou (Weisbrod) Nicholson - Sherry (Lair) Northcutt - Denny & Diana Parker - Dick & Elaine Smith.* That's not a bad start. .

Trotter - Larry D. Hockersmith - Larry & Margaret Fogelson.

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ONE AND ALL!!

There will be no local dinner get-together in the fall. You will have to come to the 55th reunion on September 2nd & 3rd.

DINNER GET-TOGETHER A SUCCESS

We got together at Hilltop, which appears to be one of our favorite meeting places. We had 39 in attendance that night. As always, mostly reliable faces, a few new faces. This time we had one that we had not seen for years. That happens once in a while. We just need to keep them all coming at the same times. Wow, what a turnout that would be. If you are local, and have not been coming, you are really missing out on a lot of great conversation, reminiscing, and the rebirth of old friendships.

Those in attendance this time were:

Bob McAfee - Glenn & Janet (Bales) Douglas - Tom & Roberta Abbott - Barbara (Lowe) Penn - Jerry & Becky Smith - Nancy (Lund) Belluchi - Janeene (Miller) Carlisle - Bill Foster & Shirley Selover - Don Spaw - Janice Webber - Pat (Birmingham) Pauscher - Marlene (Roberts) & Dale Wheeler - JoAnn (Brady) Wilson & Ray Myers - Larry & Jackie Soloman - Norma (Treanor) & Bill Burke - Kay (Edwards) & Chico Alcantar - Jerry Hall - Carl & Pat Little - Tom Norris - Johnnie & Shirley Johnson - Steve Larson - Tom & Linda (White) Towers - Bob & Connie

THE BEALS ARE THE PERFECT HOSTS



John & Donna (Turner) Beal invited the wife and myself, and our daughter and son-in-law to their home on Palos Verde. Our daughter and her husband live about 15 minutes away from the Beals, and can see the Palos Verde peninsula from their balcony.

John worked for the Airlines Industry for many years, and Donna taught Special Needs children.

When John retired from the Airlines Industry in the early nineties, he applied for and received a Coors Beer Distributorship Franchise. The Beals enjoy visits from their grandchildren who live nearby.

We spent several hours conversing, reminiscing, and enjoying the exceptional Brunch that Donna had prepared. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

John has promised that “God willing and the creek doesn’t rise”, we will see them at the 55th.

ALUMNI HELPS EAST MARK 150 YEARS

More than 1,000 Alumni from across the country gathered May 12, to celebrate the schools 150th anniversary during the 134th annual Alumni Dinner and Reunion.

They showed a video of the parade of champions from past to present. Then they served birthday cupcakes and we all sang Happy Birthday to East High School. There were six living former principles in attendance who served from 1970 to the present.

The School Alumni Foundation awarded almost \$125,000 in scholarships to 65 graduating seniors. The scholarship program began in 1970 with one person donating two \$500 scholarships. It has grown over the years with assets exceeding \$2 million dollars.

The alumni also inducted four alumni into the East High School Hall of Fame for exemplifying the school motto “For Service to Humanity”. **Dennis C. Ross** from our own Class of 1956 was one of the four.



Denny attended Phillips Elementary and Woodrow Wilson Jr. High. Denny was active in sports at East

excelling in football, baseball, and track. He was elected Student Council President.

After graduation Denny attended Drake University on a football scholarship. He went on to become a Des Moines Firefighter and had to retire in 1973 due to an injury received in the line of duty.

Denny then worked for Bob Brown Chevrolet. He later purchased a dealership in Ames, and then in Clearwater, Florida.

During his time in Florida Denny was instrumental in the development of the Clearwater Christian Center for Underprivileged Children where he served on the board of directors until his retirement. His return to Iowa in 2007 allowed him to work with special needs children in the Ankeny area. He volunteered as a short term missionary to Africa, and has tried to fulfill our motto “For the Service of Humanity”.

THIS COULDN’T BE A LEE TOWNSHIPPER

(This article was sent to me by Bill Foster & Shirley Selover from a March 2007 issue of Reminisce magazine)

There were several large movie theaters in downtown Des Moines up through the 60’s. Two of them were the Paramount and the Des Moines which were across the alley from each other.

I was watching a colorful musical in one in 1959 and had to dash out to put another nickel in the meter, and then dashed back in. After bewilderingly watching a black-and-white cowboy film for about 10 minutes, I asked the ticket taker, “What happened to South Pacific”?

She smiled and pointed to the theater next door, and I sheepishly went back and finished watching the musical.

Steve Larson *(Could this be our Steve Larson?)*
*(Besides the Des Moines and Paramount, the editor remembers the RKO Orpheum on 8th St.-The Strand on Locust which always advertised 20 degrees cooler on the inside - The Rocket/Garden theater across the street - and three lesser known theaters on the east side of the river. The Iowa on E. 5th - The Amuzu on E. Locust - and the Grand on E. 6th and Grand. There were a total of eight theaters in the downtown area back then. And now there are **NONE**.*

GLAD 2010 IS IN THE BOOKS

Denny Parker reported that his wife Diana had a pretty rough year, but things are starting to look up for 2011, but she requires lots of rest at times.

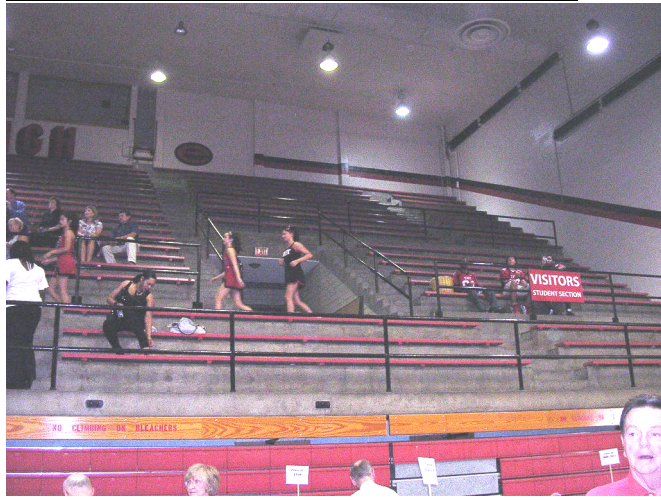
Diana reports Denny built a new room for his “Mancave” where he makes decorations out of mahogany and sells them at various arts and crafts shows. You can see his work on ETSY.com and click on greybeardcrafts. See ya at the 55th.

UPDATE NOTE ON ALUMNI MEETING

I reported in the article on the Alumni Meeting that helped East High celebrate it’s 150th birthday that there were 6 living former principals in attendance, starting with 1970 until the present. However, the current principal Dan Conner, who was appointed to the position in 2010 was not in attendance.

I just read an article in this morning’s paper where Mr Conner has tendered his resignation effective with the end of this school year in June. Connie Boesen School Board President said that Mr Conner, whose salary was about \$119,000 annually was leaving for personal reasons.

PICTURES FROM ALUMNI MEETING



Cheerleaders in Balcony



Looking forward to Stage

A FEW PICTURES FROM APRIL DINNER



*Don Spaw-Larry Hockersmith-Bill Foster-Shirley Selover-
Jan Webber-Pat (Birmingham) Pauscher-Ray Myers-Dale
Wheeler-Larry Soloman*



Margaret Fogelson-Bob McAfee-Roberta & Tom Abbott—
Steve Larson-Glen & Janet (Bales) Douglas



Pat & Carl Little-Jerry Hall-Chico & Kay (Edwards)
Alcantar- Norma(Treanor) & Bill Burke

IN MEMORIAM TO OUR DECEASED CLASSMATES

<i>John Moody</i>	4-23-11
<i>Deloras Pink</i>	3-18-11
<i>Richard Wheeler</i>	3-??-11
<i>Teacher Bill Neal</i>	12-3-10

Ruth Savage (widow of Bob Savage) 02-14-11

Arlene Spaw 02-28-11
(wife of Don Spaw-Arlene was active on call committee)

They answer to a higher roll call now, but will remain in our hearts forever.

I received several contacts in regards to John Moody. Most of them were in regards to the fact that John was a “matter of fact guy”, he knew his time was limited, and he was at peace with himself. As several said “his heart was truly in Des Moines”.

DONATIONS TOWARD NEWSLINK

Thank you for your donations to keep the NewsLink coming. Without your contributions this would not be possible. Latest contributors were:
Carol (Graney) DeChant - Jan J. Green - Mary Lou (Weisbrod) Nicholson - Sherry (Lair) Northcutt - Donald Stevens - Art Wittern

ALL DONATIONS TO TREASURE

Robert Trotter
5625 Lakepoint Circle
Johnston, IA 50131

ARTICLES FOR NEWSLINK & ADDRESS CHANGES

Larry Fogelson
3121 - Twana Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310
chieffog@mchsi.com
(515) 279-0013 (April – November)
(480) 357-8427 (November – April)

VISIT LETTINGTONS WEBSITE

Go to Tom Lettington’s Website and see all the EHS things he has posted on there. Pictures, articles, Ouills, NewsLinks, past Reunions, etc. Many are now in color.
www.ehs56.org Great Job Tom

See ya'll in the Fall!!!!!!

REUNION COMMITTEE

A committee consisting of : Kay (Edwards) & Chico Alcantar – Janeene (Miller) Carlisle – Janet (Bales) Douglas – Larry Fogelson – Larry Soloman Ray Robinette – Linda (White) Towers – Robert Trotter – and LaVae (Konz) Willson have held several meetings to bring together what they hope will be a suitable environment for the Class of 1956 to have and enjoy our 55th Class Reunion.

About 15 locations and food vendors were contacted, with locations, pricing, and comfort being prime concerns for our class.

Prices have skyrocketed in the past few years even though the economy has seen a real downturn.

In a determined effort to make this reunion as affordable as possible for our class, we have dispensed with a sit down catered dinner. Instead we will be having two buffets with no loss in atmosphere or quality.

Friday Night Sept. 2nd will be at Prairie Meadows in the Meadows C ballroom. The buffet entrée's will consist of *Asiago Chicken, and Pot Roast with preset mixed green salad and a choice of dressing, garlic or regular mashed potatoes and gravy, seasonal vegetable, rolls, butter, coffee, ice tea, and regular water service.*

Saturday Night Sept. 3rd will be at the Elks Lodge with a buffet catered by Great Caterers of Iowa, which enjoys a superb reputation.

The buffet will consist of: *Oven roasted Pork Loin – Cavatelli Casserole – Roasted New Potatoes with Garlic Herbed Butter – Cognac Glazed Carrots – Mixed Green Salad with coice of two Dressing – Apple or Cherry crisp – Coffee & Iced Tea.*

The cost of both nights for rental, cash bar and the buffets and all gratuities will be \$49.00 per person, and that includes entertainment.

This is figured down to about as bare bone as we can make it. So, if there are any magnanimous people out there who would like to make a financial donation toward the reunion, we would most happily accept it. Please identify the donation for such when you send it in.

East High School Class of 1956
55th Reunion

Dear Classmates,

We have concluded for the most part our planning for the 55th reunion for the Class of 1956. We hope this will be the biggest and best one yet, filled with memories and renewed friendships.

Lodging Accomadations

Holiday Inn Express
165 Adventureland Drive NW
Altoona, Iowa 50009
(515) 967-1855
Check in time is 3:00 PM - Check out time is 12:00 noon.

Run of House Room \$109.00
Suite with King Bed \$129.00
A block of 20 rooms will be held for the Class of 56 until 08/12/11
After this date the rooms will be released to the General Public.

Friday Night September 2rd, 2011

Prairie Meadows - 6:00Pm
Meadows Room C
1 Prairie Meadows Drive
Altoona, IA 50009

Saturday Night September 3rd, 2001

Elks Lodge # 98
5400 NE 12th Ave.

Pleasant Hill, IA 50327**MAIL IN RESERVATION FORM TO:**

Robert Trotter – 5625 Lakepoint Circle – Johnston, IA 50131

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1ST ACCOMPAINED BY PAYMENT IN FULL

Either Cash or Check

NAME _____ x \$49.00 = \$-----
(please print)

Spouse or other _____ x \$49.00 = \$-----
(please print)

Enclosed payment for a total of: \$-----



1. Prairie Meadows
1 Prairie Meadows Drive
Altoona, IA 50009

2. Holiday Inn Express
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Altoona, IA 50009

3. Elks Lodge #98
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