

EHS Missing Links of '56

Spring 2016

Editor: John Carr

I was terrified. I mean that terror, as an emotion, as a prevailing mood, had overtaken my life. I woke in the night gulping for air, my heart going faster than ever. Why? Another bad dream. It was 3:21 a. m. There was no going back to sleep. In that dark and terrible hour, I thought dire things. From where did all this terror spring? How could I put it back in the bottle? I didn't know. I couldn't trace it back to any one thing. All I ask was for someone to write and send in stories, little anecdotes, and trivial things about themselves, jokes; anything...had they all gone deaf and weren't listening to my written pleas? A text, a phone call...even heavy breathing...just something to let me know you're alive.

Send a limerick:

As a child he wasn't the baddest,
He tried to preach what he practiced.
Lived in a house called Hill's Nook,
In College, took up the **good book**;
Now he's Rev. John, the Baptist.
Or a Haiku:

We dream when we're young
Then life takes us by the hand
We reflect when we're old

Or send a joke about someone:

"Isn't that nice after all these years
Bob Trotter still holds his wife's hand
when they go out."

"He has to. If he lets go, Connie
goes shopping."

You all have something to say and
it's a way we can try to put some of
those missing links together.

Did you know Cloris Leachman
went to East before she transferred
to Roosevelt?

We ran a special one page of *the links* for the dinner guests at Hilltop in October. Maybe someone sent it along to you, if not it still may be still available through our web site thanks to Tom Lettington. Our web site is WWW.ehs56.org.

If you didn't get a chance to read it, this should be new, if not, you will find some repeats. I wasn't trying to exclude those outside of Lee Township (or those who didn't come to dinner), it was attempt to bring us a little closer as there are only two official publications a year and we eat three times a year.

What's happened since the last time we spoke:

We had a record-breaking Iowa State fair, although I find it strange that so many days of attendance were the exact same as last year except for the "big show" days.

Harold Olsen is still very frugal during the holidays; he puts three of his monogrammed towels in several windows, so they read "HO HO HO".

Among the donations to *the link* was a check from Ed and Nancy McCartney. They live in Cleveland, TN, so out of their account, the check was a with(a)drawl.

Filet mignon is a steak cut of beef taken from the smaller end and if you don't send in items, you will be getting 'filler mignon': bits taken from the smaller end of my brain.

'56-60 REUNION

As our 60th reunion comes upon us your committee is offering you plans, in addition to the EHS reunion, which is on May 6th. (Alumni Association will send details.)

Our function will be held Saturday, the 7th at Grand View Golf, which has been remodeled (not necessarily for us). We will have a social hour at 5:30, followed by dinner at 6:15 (details on reservations and lodging to follow) and a take-home gift (if they allow it on airplanes) for all.

I finally got to attend the October dinner and it was nice to feel so welcome and accepted by 'friends' that I hadn't seen for almost 60 years. Bob Trotter tried to get back at me for some of the things I say about him. He had a story about me and yo-yos, but it turned out to be John O. Carr that the joke was on, so he had no story. I, however, did have an opportunity to give Tommy Smothers a special Yo-yo when the Smothers Brothers were at Osceola a few years back.

I sat with Bill Foster and Shirley Seloun and Bill and Norma Burke. Norma kept looking at me and said, "You're John Carr." I was impressed that she remembered me from Harding and Room 201; when her name was Treanor. I said, "How did you remember me? Was it my smile or my profile or my charm?" She said, "No, you've still got your name tag on."

This is our dining-pre hallo-thanks-holi-eve edition, so we will be covering anything and everything, including invites to the 60th.

Letters, we get letters, stacks and stacks of letters...does anyone else remember The Perry Como Show? We didn't get stacks, but we did get some response to the newsletter. Bob Trotter wrote and thanked me for stepping up and filling in. It would have felt more sincere and heart-felt if he hadn't have borrowed the envelope and stamp to write me.

Got a phone call from Tom Fjelde (up in Edina, MN) thanking me for taking over the "link" and we talked for a bit. Sounds like he's coming to the 60th reunion.

The first column of the "missing links" caught Bette Lou Neal's attention. She read it and wondered who had written it and realized it was me and she called because even though we help teach dancing through Adult Education, she didn't know I could write. (Joke's on her...I can't dance either.)

I accidentally moved the icon and it indicated that if I entered Control + and click the web site entry would turn from blue to black...it did.

(A 30-year mystery solved!)

Inventor George Washington Carver was the first African American to enroll at Iowa State University (called Iowa Agricultural College and Model Farm at the time), as well as the first African American graduate student, and the first African American faculty member. And if it hadn't have been for him we probably wouldn't be able to enjoy the well known peanut butter and jelly sandwich. (And what about Elvis?)

SMALL TOWN

I've always thought of Des Moines as a town rather than a city because things are more connected.

I had a disc jockey job at Illahee Retirement (just south of 86th and Douglas) on July 24th. Before the music, I sat down with a couple who came early and we started talking. They both graduated from East (there's a story there), he went to Woodrow Wilson with Wes Redhead (who goes to North Side Senior Center with me.) The Redheads lived close by Mevelyn Wooderson. The couple used to travel to dance to Lawrence Welk. The Activity Director at Illahee was in the last class at Woodrow before it was torn down. And after I quit playing music, one of the other residents came over to me; told me he was from southeast Iowa, and as a teen-ager used to travel to dance to Lawrence. My mother worked for Tom Archer (ValAir and Tromar ballrooms.), who put Lawrence Welk in the ballroom circuit so we could watch him on Saturday nights on re-runs. (I used to park cars at the ValAir and check coats at the Tromar on the weekends when I first started at East in 1953, before I moved on to ushering at the Paramount, which is where I first met "Ruthie" who lived in Pleasant Hill next door to Dick Witzenburg (East grad. Card playing buddy), who as an adult worked at Riverview Park. Some of the memorabilia from the park is on display at Park Fair, which is where I started from on that Friday. (Easy connection.)

A lot of us have gone to cell phones and no longer have land lines and some of those are no longer listed in the phone book. If you can be of any help... We want to try and get as many possible to be here for our 60th class reunion.

Tid Bits

Those of you who went to Harding should remember Harold Cassidy who taught there and everyone should remember Lozier the Florist. During World War II, Dick Lozier and Harold Cassidy served together in the O.S.S., which later became the C.I.A.

If you have any items that you feel might be of interest, please send them to me.

Even with today's modern conveniences, I think that home economics should be a required course for boys in high school. I know it would have been a great help to some of our classmates:



"Oh, wait! Wait, Cory!... Add the cereal first and then the milk!"

Do you remember in Des Moines on Christmas Eve when people would take the trolley or bus or drive downtown to see the lights and all the store fronts? Each store would try to out do the other with decorations. (It seemed Younkers Department Store was always the best.) There were lights strung across the streets and Christmas music was everywhere. It seemed magical. Going into the stores and going to different floors so you could see things from a different view added to the excitement.

I found an interesting article in a Bottom Line Health issue about how to screen for Colon Cancer without having a Colonoscopy. There's no prepping, no anesthesia, no poking or prodding. All you have to do is take a stool sample at home and send it to a lab. It's called a fecal immunochemical test (FIT) and supposed to be 94% accurate. That's great news, but what I found ironic was the photo with the article of a woman holding two thumbs up. I don't know if they meant that to be funny or it is just my warped sense of humor.

Speaking of which, some people seem to think I come up with a great deal of innuendos in my conversation and may carry over into my writing, however, I have come up with my own definition of an innuendo. An innuendo is like a piece of glass being looked at from both sides and having two different views. So if you happen to take something wrong, check the mirror, it may not be me.

You can't change your actions, but you can change your heart.

I had always considered us a part of the Dick Clark/American Bandstand era, but it wasn't until late in 1955 that Clark substituted as host of the TV Bandstand for the first time. On Monday, July 9, 1956 he became the permanent host. Now that I realize I wasn't part of that, it makes me want to quit watching Soul Train.

An elderly gentleman, well dressed, well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, presenting a well looked-after image, walks into an upscale cocktail lounge. Sees an elderly looking lady, walks over, sits along side of her, orders a drink, takes a sip turns to her and says, "So tell me, do I come here often?"

JACK HARTUNG

Ames
formerly of Des Moines



He wasn't a classmate of our, but he was a childhood friend of mine. We went to the same church, played the same sports and hung out as kids. Many of knew him. Jack Hartung attended East High and graduated valedictorian in 1955. He had a degree in physics from Iowa State, worked with NASA helping plan the first mission into space; helped research the first lunar samples, and was one of the world's foremost geophysics experts in the world. He passed away in Ames on August 28th.

Ironically, Sally Rees, who went to church with us, came in with a copy of the Union Park United Methodist Church centennial book and there was a picture of Jack in his confirmation class (April 1949), along with John Hill, and mine on the next page (April 1952); Bing Kinney & Larry Watkins (March 1951), Bill Foster (April 1953). That brought back memories.

I read this the other day and it gave me pause for thought:

"What if you *wake up*
TODAY with only what you
thanked God for
Yesterday?"

You can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Tom Lettington sent a text from his cell in Rancho Bernardo, CA with thanks and wanted a digital copy of the "links" for our web site. (What's a digital copy? I was lucky to find the flashing light on the message panel on my cell.) Our web site is WWW.ehs56.org.

Just like the color of the ties on a loaf of bread tells you what day it was baked, most packaged foods have dates on them to indicate their 'health' life.

"**Use by**" is used on a variety of foods and indicates when the food will remain at its best quality. After this date the quality may change but it is still safe to eat.

"**Best by**" is mainly used on shelf-stable food such as peanut butter and mustard. This date is how long the product will remain at its best quality while unopened. After the date, small quality changes may occur but you can usually still consume it past this date. Always follow package instructions after opening the product.

"**Sell by**" is found on perishable food such as meat and milk. After this date, stores should not display the product. Always buy foods before the date and keep them refrigerated. Most can last 1-2 days beyond the date and milk will last for about a week.

"**Expiration**" dates specify when foods will go bad, and should be eaten before the date.

There are no expiration dates on sending donations to help put the **link** out for you to hopefully enjoy, and we are thankful that you support it:

DONATIONS: Please make all donations payable to:
East High School "Class of 1956"
and mail to:

Robert Trotter
5625 Lakepoint Circle
Johnston, IA 50131

In our October special, we thanked Carol DeChant and Barb Plew for their contributions to our cause and we wish to add these names.

Kay (Sullivan) Kloppenberg
 Ruth (Thompson) Kramme
 Kay (Edwards) Alcantar
 Lois (Bingston) Thompson
 Roy Treadway
 Art Wittern
 Larry Solomon
 Don Spaw
 Lyle Simson

Carol also wrote a contribution.

Here are the names of the people who attended our October meal: Larry, Jan, Tom, Roberta, Mary, Don, Chico, Kay, JoAnn, Marlene, Dale, Larry, Jackie, Glenn, Janet, John, Florita, Bill, Norma, Janeene, George, Nancy, Carol, John, Bill, Shirley, John, Bob, Connie, Don, Jerry, Carole, Jerry, Barbara, and Cindy.

If you were there, you know who you are and if you weren't, you can just try and guess their last names. (Check out web site for photos.)

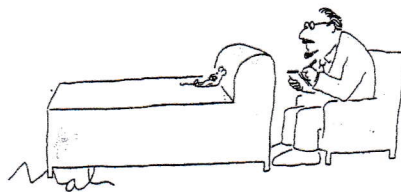
Is there a height requirement for a short-order cook?

As of July, East High has a new principal. She is Leslie Morris and has been a teacher and administrator at elementary, middle and high school levels throughout her career. She also spent several years working on corporate wellness programs for a Florida hospital.

Three things you may not know about "Twas the Night Before Christmas":

The name "Santa Clause" is not mentioned anywhere in the text. When first published in 1823, the list of reindeer ended with Dunber and Blixem, not Donner and Blitzen.

The poem's proper title is "A Visit from Saint Nicholas."



"I have this overwhelming desire to stir on Christmas Eve!"

So far, this is the oldest I am.

Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife with which he could share his fortune. One evening at an investment meeting he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away. "I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years my father will die, and I'll inherit \$65 million." Impressed, the woman obtained his business card and three days later, she became his stepmother. (Women are so much better at financial planning than men.)

In a recent article, it was reported that "No Black Friday offer is worth the time spent standing in line", however here is an offer to come to our 60th reunion; you don't have to stand in line, but it is a one-time offer that will never be repeated, so make plans to be here.

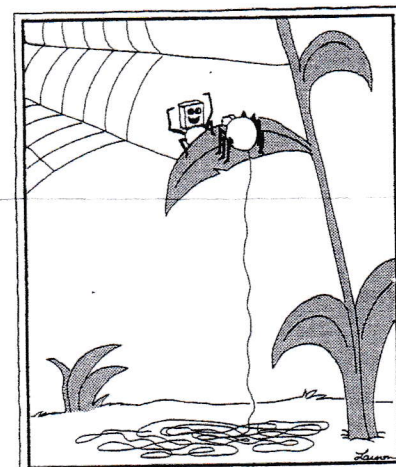
...and the young prayed on:

Three-year old: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some E-mail."

Four-year old: "And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

SPECIAL NOTE

We are cancelling our April dinner because it was close to our 60th celebration. So since we've saved you some shekels you can spend some and come to our reunion on Saturday, May 7th and be with some classmates who are already planning to join in the festivities.



"Hey, Bob ... did I scare you or what?"

It's 1957, and Bobby goes to pick up his date, Peggy Sue. Peggy Sue's father answers the door and invites him in. He asks Bobby what they're planning to do on the date. Bobby tells him that they'll probably go to the malt shop or a drive-in movie. Peggy Sue's father suggests, "Why don't you kids go out and screw? I hear all of the kids are doing it." Bobby is shocked. "Excuse me, sir?" "Oh yes," he replies, "Peggy Sue really likes to screw. She'll screw all night if we let her." Peggy Sue comes downstairs and announces that she's read to go. About twenty minutes later, Peggy Sue rushes back into the house, slams the door behind her and screams, "Dad! The Twist! It's called the Twist!"

If things get better with age I'm nearing perfection.

**EHS class of '56
60th Reunion
Saturday
May 7, 2016
Grand View Golf**

(Do you get the hint yet?)

Do You Remember?... The hit singles of 1954

ANSWER ME MY LOVE – Nat King Cole
CARA MIA – David Whitfield
CHANGING PARTNERS – Patti Page
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS – Eddie Fisher
CRAZY 'BOUT YOU BABY – Crew Cuts
CROSS OVER THE BRIDGE – Patti Page
EBB TIDE – Frank Chacksfield
FROM THE VINE CAME THE GRAPE – Gaylords
GIRL, A GIRL – Eddie Fisher
GOODNIGHT, SWEETHEART – McGuire Sisters
HAPPY WANDERER – Henri Rene & Frank Weir
HEART OF MY HEART – Four Aces
HEART OF STONE – Fontane Sisters
HERE – Tony Martin
HERNANDO'S HIDEAWAY – Archie Bleyer
HEY THERE – Rosemary Clooney
HIGH AND THE MIGHTY - Les Baxter & Leroy Holmes & Victor Young
HOLD MY HAND – Don Cornell
IF I GIVE MY HEART TO YOU – Doris Day
IF YOU LOVE ME (REALLY LOVE ME) – Kay Starr
I'M A FOOL TO CARE – Les Paul/Mary Ford
I NEED YOU NOW – Eddie Fisher
IN THE CHAPEL IN THE MOONLIGHT – Kitty Kalen
I UNDERSTAND JUST HOW YOU FEEL – Four Tunes
LET ME GO, LOVER – Joan Weber
LITTLE SHOEMAKER – Gaylords & Hugo Winterhalter
LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT – Kitty Kalen
MAKE LOVE TO ME – Jo Stafford
MAMBO ITALIANO – Rosemary Clooney
MAN UPSTAIRS – Kay Starr
MAN WITH THE BANJO – Ames Brothers
MR. SANDMAN – Chordettes & Four Aces
NAUGHTY LADY OF SHADY LANE – Ames Brothers
(OH BABY MINE) I GET SO LONELY – Four Knights
OH, MEIN PAPA – Eddie Calvert
OH! MY PA-PA – Eddie Fisher
PAPA LOVES MAMBO – Perry Como
RAGS TO RICHES – Tony Bennett
RICHOCHET – Teresa Brewer
SANTA BABY – Eartha Kitt
SECRET LOVE – Doris Day
SHAKE, RATTLE, AND ROLL – Bill Haley/Comets
SH-BOOM – Chords & Crew Cuts
SKOKIAAN – Four Lads & Ralph Marterie
STRANGER IN PARADISE – Tony Bennett & Four Aces & Tony Martin
TEACH ME TONIGHT – DeCastro Sisters
THAT'S AMORE – Dean Martin
THIS OLE HOUSE – Rosemary Clooney
THREE COINS IN THE FOUNTAIN – Four Aces & Frank Sinatra
TILL THEN – Hilltoppers
TILL WE TWO ARE ONE – Georgie Shaw WANTED – Perry Como
WHAT IT WAS, WAS FOOTBALL – Andy Griffith YOUNG AT HEART – Frank Sinatra