

# East High Class of '56 Link

Spring 2018

John Carr-Editor

## A Chink in the Link

As I've mentioned in the past, the computer is no more than a glorified typewriter and then it decided to "crash" on me. It wouldn't "reboot. Someone suggested hitting in on the side to revive it (I thought that was for TVs) and when I had it checked out, I was informed there was a way to save it...all it would take was about a thousand dollars. So I am starting from scratch with a different computer, all copy previously written is "in the clouds" and I've learned a new phrase..."mother board". Continuing on, I realized I don't have any back copies of the link, so I just used a single font for the masthead, my new computer has to be learned, the old one I'm using on this keeps shifting around to different lines (makes for more mistakes than usual) and keeps highlighting parts of the page and if I'm not careful, erases them and things just keep popping up on the screen and sometimes I type fast and the characters are lost, so you need to bare with me on this issue. Bob Trotter sent me an envelope that I will share and a few of you wrote me. My address it's 2317 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St. Des Moines, 50316 Bob Trotters is 5625 Lakepoint Circle, Johnston IA, 50131, for donations and information. Our next luncheon will be held on April 9, at 11:30 a.m. at:  
Montana Mike's Steakhouse  
5030 NE 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Des Moines  
It's kinda like an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration so take a lunch break with a few friends.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Notes, comments and anecdotes are what help us keep informed; contributions are what help get the newsletter to you, along with those people who picture things and those who trot back and forth to make sure it gets out and we have a number of classmates to thank:

Kay (Edwards) Alcantar  
Gene (dancing machine) Davis  
Bill Foster  
Mary Lou (Katzman) Goodman  
Jan (Holman) Green  
Rosemary (McKinley) Hazen  
Sharon (Burriss) Howze  
Lyle and Judi Norman  
Sharel (Tuers) Spendlove  
Harvey Thompson  
Larry Watkins

Thank you, we greatly appreciate it and I find it amazing that they all contribute in alphabetical order.

Another spring event is the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual All Alumni Scarlet Celebration which will be held from 6-10 pm on Friday, May 11, 2018 at Community Choice Convention Center located at 730 3rd Street, downtown. Last year the EHS Class of 56 filled one table at the annual event. Come and enjoy a fun of fellowship, food and a memorable evening

Fess up; were you one of the ones that checked to see the contributors were in alphabetical order? That's the way Bob sends them to me. And did you notice Gene (dancing machine) Davis. Gene has become a regular Tuesday dancer at Prairie Meadows but should not be confused with Gene, Gene, the dancing machine from the original "Gong Show".

## RIVERVIEW RIDES AGAIN!

The park that opened in 1915 and was modeled after Brooklyn's Coney Island and the place we all went to for fun and entertainment is looking forward to a resurgency. The Riverview Park advocates announced \$4 million in funding that will pay for an outdoor concert venue and other features. The Parks Area Foundation is a nonprofit formed by the residents of the north-side Highland Park, Oak Park and Union Park neighborhoods and has been the driving force behind the park restoration project. The group raised \$750,000 by flipping burgers and selling hot dogs during summer gatherings. It also secured financial support from the city of Des Moines, Polk County and Prairie Meadows. There has been talk of bringing some amusement rides and other concessions as well, along with the musical entertainment that has been going on there for the past few years. Saddle up!

The Polk County Senior Health Fair will be held on May 23, this year. You can come out to the Fair grounds and get free health exams from top to bottom, plus advice, information on new health items, free stuff, and if you go to one of the Senior Centers, you can get an admission ticket for a free lunch served by Polk County Supervisors. I mention this because some of you don't know about this service and this year the date has been moved back. You can get in to the event any time after 9am, but you must go to a Senior Center to get a ticket to eat and you might find some of you friends there.

Since our last newsletter we have received notification of deceased classmates:

Barbara (Elder) Bougher  
Steven McBain  
Nancy (Miller) Quillen  
Ray (Bud) Robinette, spouse of the late Shirley Grant Robinette.

Recently in the news there was a story about a High School in Illinois that had 44 sets of twins and one set of triplets attending. Let us not forget we had Ray and Roy Treadway in our classes, and I heard a story of identical twins born in Greece and separated at birth and put up for adoption. One was sent off to Saudi Arabia, and he was named Amal. The other one was sent off to Spain, and he was named Juan. Many years later their relatives arranged for a reunion. It was a big event, and everyone showed up at the airport in Greece to greet the twins. The plane from Spain landed and off came Juan, to the delight of the crowd. Then they waited for the plane from Saudi Arabia. Soon it arrived, but Amal wasn't on board, he missed the plane. One relative said to the other, "Well, they are identical twins. And if you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal".

That's ironic; I just now received a text telling me that 7.5 billion people have insecurities, now it's 7.5 billion and one because I really felt bad about telling that joke.

The man's wife was in labor with their first child. Things were going pretty well when suddenly she began to shout, "Shouldn't, didn't, couldn't, wouldn't, can't!" The man became excited, "Doctor, what's going on with my wife?" "Nothing, she's just having contractions."

Actor George Reeves needed three men to help him out of his Superman suit.

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your dedication to producing the EHS News Letter. Enclosed is a check to help with the cost of producing/ mailing of this letter. I look forward to receiving it. Harvey J. Thompson

Paraphrasing George M. Cohan,  
My mother thanked me, my father thanked me, my two brothers thanked me, but Harvey never even mentioned my name.

Bob,

Thanks for all that you and John do to keep us informed about our classmates!

Sharon Burris Howze

High from smokey California. Our forests are really ablaze, We're only 83 miles South of in both Florida and Texas who rode out the storms with little or no damage. Hearts go out to all who weren't so lucky. Hopefully our classmates are all well. Thanks for keeping all us old folks connected. Love to all  
Mary Lou (Katzman) Goodman

Bob:

I really enjoy receiving the link. I appreciate the work you and John and all the others do to keep it going. I enjoy the news and the laugh. Keep up the good work. It's appreciated.

Rosemary (McKenley) Hazen

A note on Harvey. When I started my frame shop and before the rise of the computer, I worked with the top calligraphers in the area and his is some of the finest penmanship I have seen in a long time! He can put his name on any check he wants to even if he doesn't know my name.

Once again I want to thank you for continuing the missing link.

Your comment about the noon movies stimulated another memory for me. One ear I sold candy and snacks in the hall before the movies. Oh, those delicious "Cherry Mash" sweets!

I also sold supplies at the school store in the basement – pencils and erasers were big sellers! One thing I didn't like about it was missing the morning "parade" around the main hallways before the bell for first hour. Oh well, I guess I earned a little spending money.

We have made a big move this last year. We sold our house of 40 years and are in a new Senior community. 15 building containing 4 flats (apts) each – 2 up, 2 down, elevator, terraces and our own garage for independent living. Also on the campus is a club house and dining for independent living residents. Two floors for assisted living, and a memory care unit – we truly have started a new chapter in our book of life! Oh yes, it's only a few miles from our old community, right in the center of Lakewood and our old friends.

I've always tried to come to the reunions every five years, but had to miss the 60<sup>th</sup>. Happy New Year! Sharel (Tuers) Spendlove

How many physicians does it take to change a light what bulb?  
That depends upon what kind of insurance the bulb has.

## WHAT DU YOU THUNK?

We are always trying to get you to use your "little gray matter" so this month we have some brain teasers:

A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in three years?

Which is the safest?

A man pushes a car up to a hotel and tells the owner he's bankrupt.

What's going on?

A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But five minutes later, they both go out and enjoy a wonderful dinner together.

How can this be?

Finally, this is an unusual paragraph. How quickly can you find out what is so unusual about it? It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it. It is unusual though. Study it, think about it...but you still may not find anything wrong.

(If you think we didn't give you the answers, you think wrong... they are elsewhere in this issue.)



**Myth:** Dry cleaning is dry cleaning.

**Fact:** Dry cleaning isn't really dry. The clothes are put in a large washing machine and treated with a variety of chemical solutions, after which a drier removes the solvents. Cleaned, yes. Dry, no. It's called "dry" cleaning because no water is used.

**Myth:** If you stop exercising, your muscle will turn into fat.

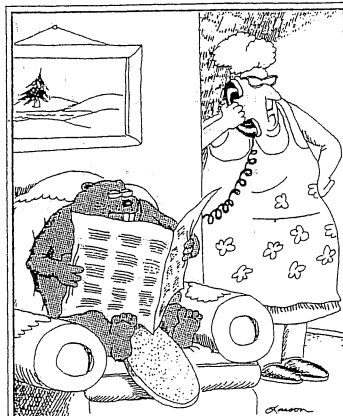
**Fact:** Muscle and fat are different tissues, one can't turn into the other. If you used to be muscular, but are getting fat, it's probably either because you're exercising less...or eating more.

**Myth:** New York is the largest city in the United States.

**Fact:** The largest city isn't New York or even Los Angeles. It's Juneau, Alaska. The city covers 3,108 square miles, making it nearly seven times larger than Los Angeles. The largest city in the contiguous 48 states is Jacksonville, Florida, which is 841 square miles, nearly twice the size of Los Angeles.

**Myth:** Jockey shorts (men's briefs) make men sterile.

**Fact:** This idea has haunted Jockey shorts since they were introduced in the 1930s. They don't...but I don't believe anyone at the center should be concerned anyway.



"No, he's just lazy...in fact that whole thing is just a myth."

**Dear Blabby:** I am writing a memoir and want to write honestly how I experienced incidents involving other persons, while including the caveat that the other persons may have felt very differently about the same incidents. I think these other people would rather I not write about them at all. Where does self-expression and one's right to tell one's memories end, and other people's right not to be included in my written memories begin?

**Dear Lost Somewhere in Space:** Say WHAT!

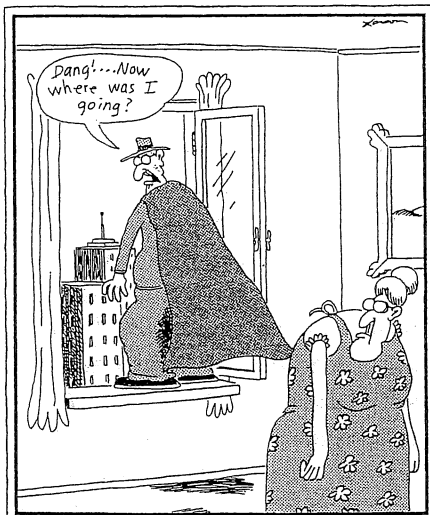
And my spell-checker informs me that you should have put do instead of does with self-expression and one's right, but that may be because it can't make sense of your inquiry either.

**Dear Blabby:** I want to be at home on Christmas. Am I so bad? Every year, his mother pushes us to be at her house on Christmas. My husband and I have even discussed this issue with a marriage counselor. I want to fix dinner and do special things in my home.

**Dear (Virginia):** Maybe there can be a Christmas after all. Unless the marriage counselor was Santa, I see no reason to get him involved. Try this: make arrangements to go to his mother's house on Christmas Eve and take along a Christmas goose. Give your mother-in-law the goose and tell her to bring it back to your house on Christmas. If she returns your goose, then perhaps she will stay for dinner. Next year she can goose you first, thus creating a whole new trend for the holidays and creating a closer bond between the two of you.

The percentage of Italian men (including Sicilians) who live with their mothers is 37. For the Italian *mammoni* the food is a lot better and you can't beat the rent.

Domestic cats can run 31 mph.



Superman in his later years

Groundhogs predicting the start of spring are wrong 72% of the time.

Well, now the physicians are saying it is good for man to have two alcoholic drinks a night—woman only one. Or both may have two glasses of wine. I believe it's an either or other choice, not both. So I got out my Spike Jones and His City Slickers rendition of "Cocktails for Two" and did some research and found all of these drinks are older than Jim Nuzum:

- Old-fashion (c. 1800)
- Whiskey Sour (c. 1850)
- Brandy Crusta (c. 1855)
- Tom Collins (c. 1875)
- Manhattan (c. 1880)
- Gin Rickey (c. 1890)
- Dry Martini (c. 1895)
- Daiquiri (c. 1900)
- Jack Rose (c. 1900)
- An Aviation (c. 1915)

(Surprisingly enough, after I made the list out, I discovered that over the years I have had seven of those cocktails forced into my system.) With an olive, it's a Martini? with an onion, it's a Gibson. An unnamed patron at the Ambassador Hotel in Chicago was the first to put a celery stick in a Bloody Mary; he grabbed the vegetable off a tray and used it as a stirrer, since his drink had arrived without one. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Mint Julep rivaled coffee as the morning beverage of choice in the American South. The late Desi Arnaz of *I Love Lucy* fame is the grandson of one of the gentlemen who founded rum-makers Bacardi & Company. Rum is naturally colorless; caramel is added to make it brown. "Whiskey" (with the letter "e") is what's made in America; "whisky" is the name for the beverage when distilled overseas. Ordering a drink "neat" is not exactly the same as ordering it "straight up." The former means the booze is poured from the bottle at room temperature; in the latter, the spirit is served chilled, but without ice. Prost!

**THE MUSIC MAN...** Mason City's Meredith Willson led a remarkable life. Just out of high school, he was selected for the John Philip Sousa Band, where he played piccolo for three years, and later joined the NBC Symphony under Arturo Toscanini. While living in New York, he was hired to play scales on his flute for Dr. Lee Deforest as he developed the talking motion picture. At 33, Willson became the youngest conductor of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra. He wrote the score for Charlie Chaplin's *The Great Dictator* and worked with George Burns and Gracie Allen, Tallulah Bankhead, Ethel Merman, and more, on the radio. He even wrote "It's Beginning to Look (a lot) Like Christmas," the only memorable tune from a failed stage adaptation of *The Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*.

But for all Willson accomplished, he's most often remembered for a single work: *The Music Man*. And well he should be; it's one of the greatest musicals ever written. Willson even started off big. Born in Mason City on May 18, 1902, he weighed 14 pounds, 6 ounces.

Mason City was originally named Shibboleth.

How many county employees does it take to change a lightbulb?

It should only take five: One to write up the lightbulb removal request, one to write up the lightbulb insertion request, and one to act as a lightbulb administrator to make sure nobody else tries to change the lightbulb at the same time. Then there's the two that actually come and change the bulb. If the initial request should get misplaced, (as if that would ever happen in the county's system) there could be upwards of twenty or more people involved in changing a lightbulb.

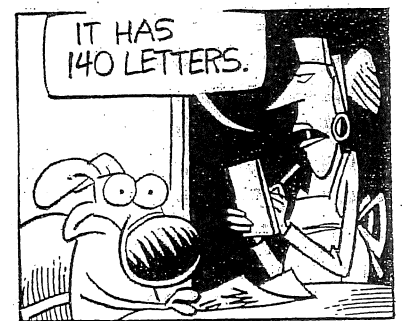
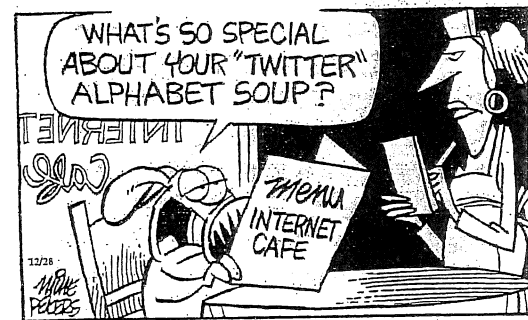
You think you found the answers? In the first brainteaser, the answer would be room #3. The lions that haven't eaten in three years would already be dead.

The second answer is that it's a game on Monopoly.

The third answer: The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.

The last answer: The letter e, the most common letter in the English language, does not appear once in the entire paragraph.

"The Great Gatsby" has no e's in the entire book of 50,000 words.



**Spit the seeds or plant 'em?**

Around the Mississippi River floodplains around Muscatine by a town called Melon City west on Route 61 is a spot in the road known as Fruitland; there you'll find the World's Largest Watermelon Slice. The wedge was not cut from an actual melon, but built using particle board. Had the watermelon been real, it would have measured 12 feet in diameter.