

EHS Missing Link '56

Sometime in 2021
John Carr Editor

Website
www.ehs56.org

I'm for a joke as much as anyone, but for over a year now it's been the same one. "Knock, knock" "Who's there?" "Covid 19"

At this point, I want to comment on a lot of things but it is not my job, I am merely here to report what information I get from you and the people who are in charge of our class projects, but I feel like sticking my head out the window and shouting, "I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!", but I don't believe it would do any good, however, what the hell is Rex Morgan, M.D. doing dressed up as Dick Tracy???

New York and New Mexico are legalizing recreational drugs that will bring in revenue; Illinois is adding 16% tax to theirs. They interviewed a woman in Colorado on drug sales and she replied, "About \$185,000." "A year?" "A month." (And all I ever did was mow grass!)

The urologist is done with me, the heart doctor doesn't want to see me for a year, my PHC doesn't want to see me for six months, and rather than a knee replacement, I went for 'Vitality', which was a series of five weekly injections behind the knee and recover. So far it is working, but I need to remind myself I am healing and to take it easy.

Bette Lou took her grandchildren for a ride and was coming back 63rd, when a policeman stopped her. "I wasn't speeding officer; I was going 5 miles per hour". "That's not the speed limit, that's the highway marker". He looked in the back and the kids were white as sheets. "We just got off Highway 141!"

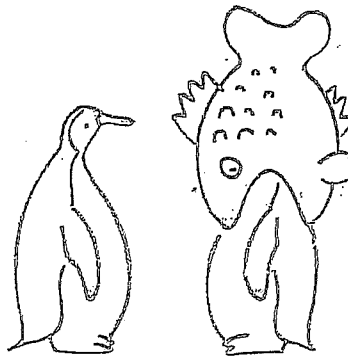
We have lost more classmates:
Sharon Lee (Gentry) Janssen (2017)
Joyce (Baker) Doyle 1-2020
Barbara (Rose) Harlan 3-2020
Diane (Ballinger) Ott 3-2020
Mary Kay Peacock Sampson
March 16, 2021
Tom Pierick Mach, 2021

Newsletter Contributors

Mevelyn (Wooderson) Richardson
Carol DeChant
Norma (Treanor) Burke
Doris (Rasmussen) Richards
Tom Lettington
Ray Treadway
Harold Olson
John Carr

Tom Lettington is our west coast correspondent who keeps it all on file for us, his address is 17055 Oculito Court, San Diego, CA 92127; his email is tlettington@san.rr.com.

And he has everything under control wherever he is...
Just ask him:



Is everything under control?

If you have anything to submit to the newsletter, contact me:
John Carr
2317 E. 11th St

Ray Treadway: Celebrated 60th wedding anniversary here in Greensboro NC (Oct 2020)

Tom Lettington: Bob, Thanks for your work with John to produce the "Missing Link". This check is to help with mailing and paper expenses.

Bob Trotter: The pandemic has taken its toll on a lot of us seniors, a few things that come to mind.. postponing our semi-annual Class of 56 luncheons, cancellation of the All EHS Class reunion, seeing family and friends, attending grandchildren's school and sporting activities, travel restrictions and numerous other what use to be "normal" activities!

Change of address, phone numbers or updates its still Janeene Carlisle. She moved to:

1201 SE Mill Pond Ct Unit 147
Ankeny IA 50021-6568

It's ironic, she hardly moved in and they locked her up. (Covid humor)

And the man who may have called you up and said he was from the IRS and you may be in trouble with your taxes if you don't send a donation,

Bob Trotter
5625 Lakepoint Circle
Johnston IA 50131

The following pages were sent by Bob to help keep you in the loop.

EHS Alumni Foundation & Association News

From: East High School Alumni Association <info@desmoinesehsalumni.com>

To: trctrotter@aol.com

Date: Tue, Mar 2, 2021 3:01 pm

EHS Alumni Foundation & Association News

Fellow Scarlets,

The year is off to a strong and busy start for East High School Alumni, and we are excited to share our progress with you. We are all part of the most active high school alumni base in the world and agree there is something special about being a Scarlet. We have a scholarship endowment of more than \$4.5 million, and we are able to award more than \$185,000 in annual scholarships to deserving East High students for college, trade school and career training. We have a lot to be proud of, and over the past few months, the East High School Alumni Foundation and Association Boards have been moving various things forward that best position us for even greater success.

- Our **Capital Campaign to raise \$5 million** for scholarships and improved facilities is well underway. Campaign Co-Chairs Dr. Steve Taylor and Tim Pearson are leading a volunteer committee, and thanks to robust early donations and pledges, we are more than a quarter toward our goal. In fact, some funds have already been spent for much-needed improvements to athletic facilities, and our scholarship endowment is growing.
- The East High School Alumni Foundation and Association have **newly updated bylaws**, and we are improving our focus for each organization. The law firm of Nyemaster Goode consulted us through the bylaws updates and new articles of incorporation, providing better definition for the two: The East High School Foundation is charged with fundraising for scholarships, programs and facilities. The East High School Alumni Association engages alumni and students, and facilitates the lifetime connection of Scarlets with one another and our alma mater through different events and programs. This year, Connie Fulk Boesen (Foundation President), Kris Miller Young (Association President) and Jeff White (Foundation Vice-President) are leading the charge, and as we formalize the updates and restructure the boards, we are looking for volunteer board and committee members to help further the organizations' initiatives.
- We have hired a **financial services firm** for the East High School Alumni Foundation and Association. Following a search this winter, the firm of

McGowan, Hurst, Clark & Smith has been retained to handle financial management of both groups, with oversight from our volunteer treasurers and a financials committee. Our endowment and financial needs have increased to the point a professional firm was warranted to help ensure we are being as responsible as possible with our investments and use of funds. All of our finances reside in the Iowa State Bank Trust and the Community Foundation of Iowa. Donations made to the Community Foundation by Iowans may qualify for tax exemptions. Please contact Connie Boesen at boesendmia@aol.com for more information.

- We are planning a **virtual Scarlet Celebration** for June 4. We wish we could all come together in-person but believe it is best for this year to gather online. A benefit of virtual is that alumni and friends from anywhere in the world can join, and even as we get back together in-person next year, the online element may remain so we can attract as many out-of-town participants as possible. We plan to have the same energy as usual as we celebrate everything East High School and hope you will all take part. Meanwhile, the **East High Golf Classic** is scheduled for the weekend of May 15 – a wonderful outdoor opportunity to see everyone in-person!
- We are in the midst of an **East High Alumni Association membership push** themed “\$20 for 2021.” All new memberships and renewals receive a commemorative East High School coin. Get yours today and please renew each year! These funds go toward administration costs for the EHS Alumni Foundation and Association.
- We believe these efforts and others help make the East High School Alumni Foundation and Association stronger than ever, and we hope you will engage one way or another. Be proud and be active ... Our students and fellow alumni need us. For more information on these groups and the initiatives, visit www.desmoinesehsalumni.com. And please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Connie Fulk Boesen, Foundation President
Kris (Miller) Young, Association President
Jeff White, Foundation Vice-President

State Fair not always in D.M.



The midway at the Iowa State Fair was just as crowded in 1912 as it is today.

First of two parts.

By RUTH GATTI

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

The Iowa State Fair, in its 135th year, is almost as old as Des Moines itself and is one of the oldest expositions of its kind in the country.

The first state fair was held in Fairfield, on Oct. 25-27, 1854, on six acres of ground surrounded by a 10-foot high wooden fence. Highlights of that fair included "an assortment of more than 100 varieties of snakes and lizards preserved in alcohol," and Governor James Grimes' being presented with a 360-pound cheese from his "friends in Lee County."

Cost of the first fair was \$320, and the highest daily attendance was between 7,000-10,000.

After its second year, the fair traveled from city to city. It was held in Muscatine from 1856-57, Oskaloosa, 1858-59, Iowa City, 1860-61, Dubuque, 1862-63, Burlington, 1864-66, Clinton, 1867-68, Keokuk, 1869-70 and 1874-75, Cedar Rapids, 1871-73 and 1876-78.

In 1879 it was decided to move the fair to Des Moines because of its central location, access to the railroads and the accommodations to house fairgoers coming from throughout the state.

The first state fair in Des Moines was held on grounds between 38th and 42nd streets and from Grand Avenue to Pleasant Street, with the ticket office at 42nd and Grand. Fairground Lake was north of Woodland Avenue on 39th Street.

Although it moved to the city in 1879, it wasn't until 1884 that the Legislature finally appropriated \$50,000 to purchase grounds for the

fair. The grant was made on the condition that the city would match that amount to pay for improvements to the site.

The 270-acre site on the east side, originally the farm of Calvin Thornton and now expanded to 400 acres, was dedicated in 1886; and a fair board was created in 1923. Operating expenses and capital improvements were to be paid from revenue generated by the fair.

The first fairs were mainly instructional. Exhibiting and judging of livestock were the central features. At the dedication, Josiah B. Grinnell, educator and founder of the city of Grinnell, said:

"I would bar those gates forever to gamblers, jockeys, whiskey vendors and oleo-margarine frauds, and leave reptilian monsters with acrobats, pygmies and fat women, to the showman Barnum. Then write over these portals: 'Dedicated to art, industry and agriculture.'"

But Grinnell's admonishment would be in vain. It wasn't long before the fair's main emphasis would be turned from an exhibition of agriculture and industry to entertainment.

There were dancing girls at the 1890 fair, and a 1900 newspaper account said: "A tough female from Des Moines' tenderloin district is performing the 'hootchy kootchy' and the snake-eater is doing a flourishing business."

The censor must have been looking the other way during the 1935 fair when the first strip tease dancer appeared. In 1947, Sally Rand and her famous fans were a major attraction.

Horse racing became a part of the fair before the 1900s. In 1904, the famous trotter Dan Patch set a mile

record of 2:06 at the fair.

In 1927, John Phillip Sousa's famous marching band drew the largest Sunday crowd the fair had ever had.

The fair was hard hit by the Great Depression of the 1930s when attendance fell dramatically and the board had to cut expenditures drastically.

It is ironic that the original "State Fair" movie adapted from a book by the same name by Iowa author Phil Stong was filmed at the 1932 fair during this low point in the fair's history.

In 1942, food production was to be the central theme for the fair, but it was never carried out. In the spring of 1942, the Army Air Corps requested the use of the fireproof buildings as storage for air equipment and those buildings were rented for the duration of the World War II.

The fair resumed in 1946, and the only other time it has been canceled was during the Spanish-American War, when the grounds were used for encampment.

The centennial fair of 1954 offered some memorable moments. President Dwight Eisenhower and former President Herbert Hoover visited the fair that year. It also was the year the board almost substituted ostrich races for the regular rodeo events because of the "high cost of cowboys."

Information for this article was taken from "The Palimpsest" published by the Iowa State Historical Society, the "Iowa Official Register — 1991-92" published by the Secretary of State's office and from Des Moines Register articles.

If you got vaccinated, it would be smart to register for v-safe, a monitoring system from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It monitors the safety and effectiveness of vaccines being injected into the arms of millions of Americans. You can register on line. You can help by contributing to data collection about new vaccines. Doing that is as simple as responding to text messages.



"Your COVID test came back negative - but you tested positive for cabin fever."

If you haven't gotten your shot yet and are a little concerned because you live alone or have nobody close by to call during your recovery period, each county should have some sort of a vaccine 'hotline' you may call. It's like getting a 'shot in the arm' after you've had you shot in the arm. There is no need to have to wait alone during this time and however long it takes to subside and start getting back to normal.

"Knock, knock".

"Who's there?."

"Al!"

"Al, who?"

"Al have a blue Christmas without you..."

Remember the 'blue plate specials' at the diners? Well since I've got you on the subject of food I came across a peanut butter and jelly cookie the other day which got me to thinking about the lowly 'goober'. North Americans weren't the first to grind peanuts, the Incas beat us by a few thousand years, but peanut butter reappeared in the modern world because of an American, JH Kellogg, he filed a patent in 1895 for a food compound. Joseph Lambert invented a machine to roast and grind it to make butter and by the late 1920s; the average American kid had made some 1,800 PB&J sandwiches before graduating high school. Remember when you would put peanut butter in the dog's mouth just to laugh when the dog would try to chew it? Don't try it with a parakeet, it makes him top-heavy and he could fall off his perch and bruise his beak on the bottom of the cage.

From texting to telephoning. By October, plans are to be implemented for you to use ten numbers to call or text someone, in other-words all calls even local will need the area code to precede the seven digit number. 555-550-8848. This oughta give the telemarketers a chance to purchase a few more thousand numbers so they can call and enrich our lives. Even now, my own insurance company calls me on a different number to have me call them back on a different number and provide them with the information they have right in front of them. And don't you love it when they switch you to another representative and rather than look at the information given to them, they make you repeat it so they can look up your account, which they should have done when they talked to the other representative? (And what are the last four digits of your Social Security number?)



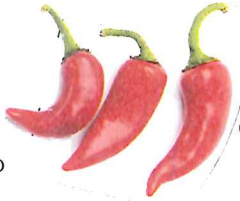
A little side note on Mary Kay Peacock: She taught school for 39 years, but it's where she taught. She went to Grand View and Drake and began teaching in Des Moines; spent four years in Bloomington, Minnesota. 2 years at Clark Air Force Base, Pampanga Philippines, then to SE Turkey, Ethiopia, and Spain; retired and stayed until she moved back a couple of years ago, and ironically, we lived about the same distance from each other as we did in high school.

New Alternative to Adult Diapers and Catheters Sets Men Free That's the headline for an ad in the newspaper, it has nothing to do with our link and I don't even care about it...just thought I'd give to something to ponder. (Hey, I'm stuck with this mind; you only have to deal with it twice a year.)

tl – did you like my segue from blue plate special to the PB&J cookie? I had another lead in... 'Blue Light Special'. "Attention, K-Mart shoppers!" "We have a special on peanut butter in aisle four!" "Look for the flashing light." Then I would have made some veiled reference to you and sailing and being a skipper who may or may not have gone on a "Jif" three hour cruise, but you would have been "Skippy", but I never gave it that much thought.

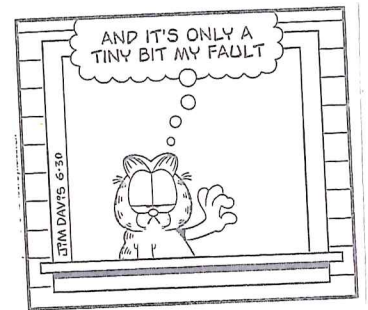
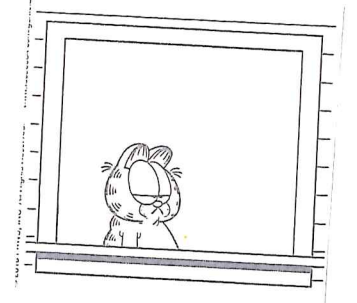
A couple wants to build a pop-up drive-in theater in the parking lot of Younker in Valley West Mall. Can you recall the names and locations of the four theaters in Des Moines? At one time there were nearly 70 in Iowa, now only four and 331 nationwide.

Bob, I 'found' this in the packet you sent over, did you send it?



Chili peppers may prevent fatal heart attacks. People who ate them at least four times a week were 44% less likely to die from a heart attack over an eight-year period, compared with people who did not eat the hot peppers. Chili peppers also were also associated with a big reduction in the risk for death from cerebrovascular disease, 61% in people who ate them at least four times a week. It is possible that the ingredient that gives the peppers their heat, capsaicin, may have protective effects. The only drawbacks so far are hot flashes and the inane desire to do 'The Mexican Hat Dance' every time you hear a Mariachi Band.

Little known disease sources in the home. Sheets are breeding ground for microscopic dust mites—wash sheets in hot water weekly, and keep humidity below 50%. Showerheads may contain bacteria that can cause lung infection—clear head by submerging them overnight in vinegar if it will not harm the finish. Refrigerators can have mold and bacteria growing in them—wipe up spills immediately, clean regularly with hot soapy water, and throw out spoiled food at least weekly. Hand towels may hold germs for hours after use—avoid sharing them, and wash them regularly. Remote controls are covered with germs—disinfect them weekly with antibacterial wipes. Vacuum cleaners may contain bacteria, molds and allergens—clean them regularly and consider wearing a mask while vacuuming. These are some of the things we often overlook in our daily routine, I know I do...OMG, I just stuck my finger in my mouth and wiped off a spot on the computer (icky-poo).



Nine out of ten people who know sign language say it comes in handy

Plants may be better than technology for reducing air pollution. They could be cheaper and more effective at cleaning than the air near industrial sites, roadways, power plants and oil and gas drilling areas. Restoring plants and trees to landscapes near pollution sources could reduce pollution by an average of 27%. The effect would occur in rural and urban areas, with real-world success rates depending on how much land was available for plant growth and how much pollution was already present. There are areas in which technology would be cheaper for cleaning the air than extensive ecosystem upgrades.

(Capitol, Pioneer, SE 14th Street, and Plantat