

EHS Missing Link '56

Fall 2019
John Carr Editor

Website
www.ehs56.org

Once again my brain has done a 360 and I will attempt to recreate the *link* chain. Since the newsletter is only going out twice a year to coincide with our luncheons and responses to my pleas for stories from any of you have not been overwhelming, I am being forced to choose things I find interesting and hope you'll enjoy them.

My daughter came to visit me from Ft. Wayne at the end of April and on the 25th we made plans to go to Blank Park Zoo. I told the story of how I had been invited to be on the Board of Directors of the zoo and at the first meeting they want a design for the zoo T-shirt and so I designed and printed paws going up the left side of the shirt and they loved it and wanted to know a price and I told them. One of the other members said he could print them for 10 cents cheaper and so they took my idea and design and went with him and left the board. Forty eight or nine years later as we are leaving the zoo, I mentioned it to the woman who had assisted us when we came in. Turns out she is the granddaughter of Art Nizzi, who had done some painting for the zoo and the zoo had given him two of the paw print shirts and she still had them and her son still wore one. A chance visit, a chance meeting, and a chance conversation and we have a story to tell.

And that's what I want from you. Research shows the singing enhances immunity and boosts your mood. The shower, with its cocoon of privacy and superlative acoustics, brings out the diva in us all. It's a chance to take the steamy stage and croon away. I'm glad I don't have a full length mirror as I dry off...it's really a bummer

ATTENTION ALL EATERS

Our next luncheon will be held again at Montana Mike's on September 9th at 11:30.

Montana Mike's Steakhouse
5030 NE 14th Street

Here are the people who lunched together in April.

Jerry Reese
James (John) Johnson
Tom Norris
John & Florita Sullivan
Bob & Connie Trotter
Don & Jo Sullivan
Doyle & Sharon Ables
Jerry & Carole Hall
Chico & Kay Edwards) Alcantar
Shirley Selover
Don Spaw
Bill Foster
John Carr
Pat (Jones) Mondike
Larry Hockersomith
Diane (Ballenger) & Jerry Ott
John Jones
Carol Adams
Bette Lou (Raymond) Neal
Janet (Bales) & Glen Douglas
Jean Allsteadt
Norma (Treanor) & Bill Burke
Janeene Carlisle
(Your name can go here)

Janeene is looking forward to seeing those who have not joined in. "Surprise Us!"

"Bob, Thank you for all that you do! Your job is appreciated. Sharon." (Sharon Burriss Howze)

I want to add my thanks to Connie, I know she helps Bob and I'm glad she got him to finally stop licking the adhesive postage stamps.

Notes, comments and anecdotes are what help us keep informed; contributions are what help get the newsletter to you.

Bob Trotter is at 5625 Lakepoint Circle, Johnston IA for donations and information. Janeene Carlisle is at 1201 SE Mill Pond Ct. Unit 147 Ankeny IA 500021-6568 for change of address or phone. I'm interested in what happened or what is happening. John Carr 2317 E. 11th St. DSM IA 50316.

Thanks for contributing
Mary Lou (Katzman) Goodman
Sharon Burriss Howze
Leroy Law

We lost classmates in the last few months:

Tex Johnson 12-04-18
Don Stevens 2-03-19
John Hill III 3-27-19
Don Biddle 6-02-19
Reed Betts 6-21-19

Reed and I went through Cattell together, all the way up through boot camp at Ft. Leonard Wood, but the thing that sticks out now is watching TV at his home. Reed's dad owned Bett's & Sons on East Locust so they had the newest TV around and I remember Reed and I sitting and watching the test pattern on TV, waiting to watch Hoody Doody and Captain Video. (Ironic what pops into your head at times like these.)



On Sunday, April 14th, The Des Moines Register listed 41 of what they believed to be restaurants and diners missed the most. This was compiled from a list of 125.

These may bring back some memories:

Alice's Spaghetti Land

Anjo's

Babe's. My brother, Gayle was tall as a teenager when he went to East and hung out there. My mother, who knew Babe, gave him a choice to either hire my brother to work there or go to jail...he hired my brother. I hung out in the 70's and played cards upstairs.

Bamie's Restaurant. I wasn't the only one who got the fire extinguisher, but I never got my tie cut off.

Baker's Cafeteria.

Beggar's Banquet

Big Daddy's BBQ.

Bishop's Buffet. I sure most of us have eaten in one or both of them. The Blind Munchies. This didn't open until 1970, some of you may not know of it. Closed 1990.

Boswell's Select Foods.

Café Su.

Chat Noir. Sherman Hills, 1994 to 2003.

Cheddar's Casual Café (1990.s)

Chef's Kitchen.

Crimmin's Cattle Company.

Flakey Jake's.

The French Quarter. Open in 1989, I did all the original picture framing.

Gino's Restaurant

Helen and Pat's. Framed a few photos and posters.

Johnny and Kay's.

Johnny's Vets Club. My mother cooked there.

Imperial Steak House & Lounge. Started as Buckman's Steak House in 1957.

King Ying Low. It had been open 100 years before it closed.

Knox Café, My mother cooked there. No bill, just a punched ticket.

Millie's Tenderloin. My mother never cooked there, but I spent a lot of time there and Park Lane Drive-In and George The Chili King.

Mustard's Last Stand. Opened in 1971 on the corner of Harding Road and Forest and later opened on S.W. 9th. Did picture framing both places. Loved to dip my French fries in their baked beans. Mr. Filet. Opened in the 1960's and had two locations on NE side and later downtown. Closed 2015. The Pier. On Fluer Drive, 1970's into the late 1980's.

Porky's Diner. Beaver and Douglas area. Opened in the 1980's, razed in 2009. We had to climb up to get into the DJ booth to play songs on 'classic car nights'.

Raul's Taco House. Hailed as serving authentic Mexican food, not as Mexican food for American tastes. Did picture framing when they opened on west side.

Robin's Wood Oven Grill. SE 14th and Army Post Road. 1974 – 2009.

Rocky's White Shutter Inn.

Rusty Scupper. Opened in Terrace Hill area on Grand Avenue near the end of the 1970's. Only framed a few pictures for opening.

Sam & Gabe's Italian Bistro.

Shakey's Pizza. There are 51 Shakey's left in the world, 48 in California, none in Iowa.

Silhouette Restaurant. Owners Mary and Fred Wall, also had The Inn on Delaware and Hi-Ho Grill.

Stella's Blue Sky Diner. Reminded you of the 50's era with a vintage diner experience. Just remembered, I did framing there, too.

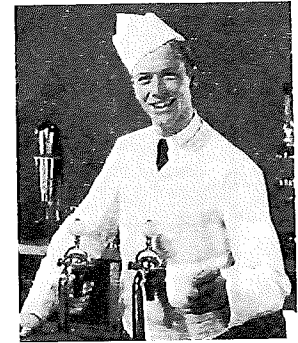
Tea Room at Younker's Department Store. 1913 to 2005.

Top's Steak House.

Vic's Tally Ho. Opened in 1940.

Wimpy's Steak House. A Des Moines institution for nearly 50 years, opening in 1931 and closing in 1980.

I have eaten in all but nine of these places over the years...I still don't believe I was responsible for any of them closing down.



In '55 when Chevy came out with the V8 engine, Tex Johnson got one so he could race all of his friends & most of the time beat those who drove Fords. As Bob Trotter remembers the races always involved friendly wagers. Anyway, Bob went to the dealership and purchased the '49 black Chevy convertible Tex had traded. That's how Bob got the car he drove thru high school and it happened to match Conrad Rehard's two door hardtop. That's how Bob remembers it.

I never had a car in high school, but I helped Bill Foster repair his so he let me ride in his Chevy as we 'scooped the loop'. Bill never won a race when I was with him. When we would pull up to the light I would reach over and slip his car into neutral so he never went any place but did make a lot of noise.

What do you do if you break your arm in two places?

Don't go back to those places!!

(Bob Trotter sent in that joke and we are using it...that shows you how desperate we are for articles.)

Kay and Chico go to Arizona for the winter and Kay was talking to her son and telling him that it had been so chilly, rainy, and windy that she had worn sweatshirts or long sleeves all winter long and he said, "Mom, may I remind you I work for the city and right now it's minus 50 with the wind chill?" "You have a nice day, son".

Chico was thinking about putting up a "For Sale" sign on their place before they left, but when they got to the outskirts of Iowa, he said, "We're not selling just quite yet!"

LAST DANCE

An era has come to an end. As I've mentioned in the past, Bette Lou Neal has been teaching dancing through Adult Education. That has come to an end as all dancing has been removed from the programs. Through the program, Leonard's Dance Studio has been active since 1993, but let's digress. If you have been around Des Moines for any length of time, you may have heard of Leonard Cosimo. He taught dancing through Arthur Murray, help dancers on Don Bell KRNT-TV 8 Teen Dance Show, Val Air's over 25, trained go-go girls who traveled through-out Iowa, we had dancers at Marty's topless disco in the Hotel Chamberlain, we taught disco at the Joker Lounge, involved in catering (but he preferred my mother's cooking) and then he met Bette Lou and stint on a cruise ship and after connecting with Adult Education, had some of the largest dance classes in the city (we even taught at St. Anthony's) until he passed away. Bette Lou made a commitment to keep the studio going and did so until Adult Ed closed the program April 25th.

All total, Leonard's Dance Studio has performed 19 years at the Iowa State Fair with me as emcee, most of the time.

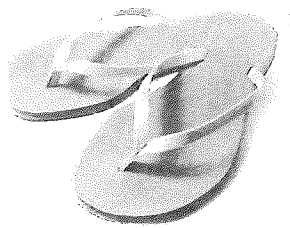
East High School is now officially the home of Iowa's first chapter of LIA (Latinos In Action). LIA is in 10 other states and more than 200 other schools from coast to coast, with nearly 10,000 student members, with a collective graduation rate of 98%. It is a leadership course embedded within regular schedules and class work.

Hispanics are the largest demographics at East where they comprise 36% of the student body. On May 6, LIA's founder and CEO Jose Enriquez delivered an invitation to 180 Hispanic students who were nominated by teachers for possible membership.

Enriquez stressed the distinction between jobs and professions and the importance of bilingualism, "Anyone can get a job," he said. You need to become professionals. Already you are bilingual. Combine that with education and people will come looking to hire you."

THE UNSINKABLE BETTE LOU

I had hardly finished the "Last Dance" article, turned around and Bette Lou has been hired by the Urbandale School System to keep on teaching dance classes through them, so she didn't quit dancing, she just changed partners.



Skip the flip-flops

They offer no support, may catch on rugs, often have little grip on slick surfaces, and can slip off your feet easily.

On Tuesday, May 7th, this article was printed in the Des Moines Register East/North section. EHS Alumni Association will induct five members to its hall of fame and hand out scholarships to current seniors Friday at the group's 142nd All Alumni Scarlet Celebration. Founded in 1977, it is one of the oldest and largest high school alumni associations in the country.

More than \$180,000 in scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors. Dr. Jack Wakefield ('37), who donated the first two \$500 scholarships, later bequeathed \$400,000 to the foundation, which now has assets of \$3.8 million. Our class is only \$4,600 short of the \$30,000 (minimum to assure a \$1,500 annual scholarship into perpetuity) needed for our goal. Anyone contributing will be eligible for an Iowa income tax credit of 25%. Those go to:

The Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines
1915 Grand Avenue 50309
Be sure to state what it is for.
If you have questions, get it touch with Lyle Simpson.

The second recipient of our scholarship is Savanna Kohler. She sent a note to Lyle thanking us for the scholarship and that she intends using it to obtain an AAS in Web Development. "In high school, I am glad to have had multiple opportunities to discover my passion and give back to my community. I hope to do the same in college. Thanks again. Your kindness is greatly appreciated". Lyle responded in kind and told her of his experience with learning the computer when he was an Officer in the Iowa National Guard. You can read his letter on our web site, along with all the information on EHS '56

Thursday, May 9th, a mountain lion was sighted by Interstate 235 and 31st Street, Friday it was caught on video by the air port. Saturday, the paper said the DNR has reported only 15 different mountain lions in the state in the last 10 years.

The DNR had some tips if you see a mountain lion. Don't run. Make yourself large by standing tall and puffing up and lifting your coat.

Take control by screaming and throwing objects. Gather children around you and back slowly away. If attacked, fight back vigorously with a sharp object.

To begin with, the lion is probably upset as it's hard to get any direct flight out of Des Moines, to any place, screaming and throwing things never worked for my ex-wife, where did I get the coat to pull over my head and puffing is natural at my age and where did the children come from? And if attacked, the only choice I have left is the throw the children at the lion as I previously threw everything else at it. Personally, I believe it would have been better to have just stayed in Lee Township; the lion have never dared to come here.

PILLFORRAGE

93% is the percentage of medications found to contain ingredients that some people may be sensitive or allergic to, according to a study of 42,052 prescription drugs. The substances included peanuts oil, lactose, gluten and dyes. Check the ingredients on a drug's package insert or check with your pharmacy.

With all due respect to Mr. Trotter, I did ask for participation and he sent a joke similar to this from a 1954 issue of the East High Scroll: "Do ships have eyes when they go to sea? Or, "New fad cemeteries "people are dying to get into them".

Or I could have told you about the horse who tripped and yelled, "Help, I've fallen and I can't giddy-up!"

The first part of June I went to my dentist, Dr. Harvey, for a check-up and found that she had seen the mountain lion when she was walking by the Art Center area. She called in and explained who she was and what she had seen but nobody seemed to believe her; they must have thought she had gone from dental to mental.

A man was arrested for shop lifting in a supermarket while standing on the shoulders of two vampires. He was charged with shop lifting on two counts.

There is a report women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who comment about it.

Are you aware that the FDA allows bottled water to have 10 parts per billion of arsenic; maximum, but, some studies recommend only 3 parts, so if your bottled water tastes a little funny but your wife insists you need more water...I refer you to report above.

You can ease anxiety with this simple breathing exercise and it can help you center yourself, think clearly, and find calm.

1. Breathe in for three to four counts.
2. Hold your breath for a moment.
3. Breathe out for five to six counts.
4. Repeat.

Reread the above two articles and rethink your options.

And he said to one of his grandchildren, "Hey, you'd better watch yourself, you're still not too old that I can't bend you over my knee replacement".

RAGBRAI 2019

The 46th running of RAGBRAI began on July 20 in Council Bluffs and ended in Keokuk on July 27, with overnight stops in Atlantic, Winterset, Indianola, Centerville, and Fairfield.

I have been with them the whole time, not as a participant, but as their picture framer. It's a lot easier to run my fingers around a framer as I put it together and to move my short legs to the office of the Register than it is to peddle almost 60 miles.

For the fourth year in a row, Willard fifth-graders designed and painted a large-scale mural. This year's edition is near the corner of East 30th Street and Logan on the side of the S&H Electric Company right next to the mural painted two years ago. As with the other three Willard murals, the newest art will be seen by literally millions, not only passersby but also people from across Iowa and around the country who head for the Iowa State Fair.

For those of you from around the country, GVC is now Grand View University and the campus has been extended across East 14th Street from Hull Avenue to Morton (Flatt Tire Service and Stoner Piano no longer exist) and having property where my house used to be on the corner of E. 9th and Hull (Dr. Pettitts' Office, the Avalon Theater and Kerry's Sandwich Shop.

Close your eyes. Lower your chin and think about whatever's making you upset. Raise your chin to the sky, and open your eyes. By doing that, 75% of people forget about whatever was bothering them. It seemed to work for Don Spaw, well, actually he just fell asleep, but he quit worrying.

Moving On To Senior Life

The decision after a walk through, discussion, meeting administrative and happy renters.

Then decisions: Two months and I was living at Mill Pond. after two years in October, I'm so pleased and happy.

My biggest problem is remembering faces with names. Of course all of the faces are going through it too, along with learning your way around with all the schedules for activities, exercise, stretching, entertainment, movies, games, enjoying walking paths, ponds, fishing and I am calling it home,

I have been blessed, again.

Janeene

We need to send a BIG "thank you" to Janeene. For the past several years at her own expense, Janeene has sent sympathy cards on behalf of the "Class of 1956" to the families of our deceased classmates.

In case you missed it (500 to 600 million people watched it or listened on the radios), 50 years ago on July 20, Apollo 11 landed on the moon. Traveling at 24,000 miles per hour, it took three days to get there and is considered humanity's greatest achievement in space. From an earthly standpoint, the Apollo program introduced us to frozen dried food, Velcro, memory foam, water filters, scratch resistant coatings used on eyeglasses, shoe insoles that make sneakers comfortable, and later on (1995), "Buzz" Lightyear, the *Toy Story* character named after astronaut Buzz Aldren.

"Good Morning, City Zoo".
"I'm sorry that lion is busy, would you mind calling back later?"

And let's test your memory:
We have a "Rosie" between two thorns:

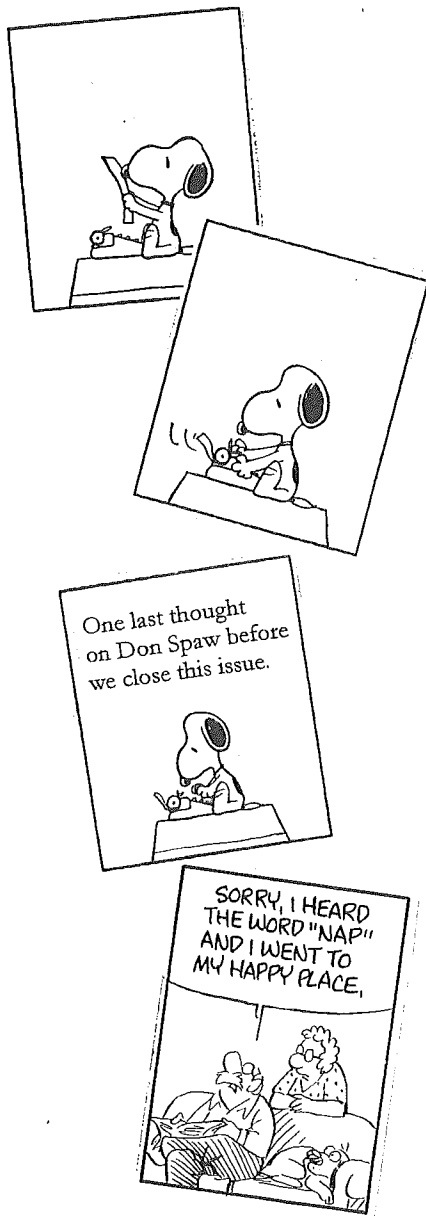


Please note: this photos were in the January 1956 Quill and people might look a little different today.

Anyone remember this slogan?
"The Place to Know For 8 to Go"
It was the Red Spot Coffee Shop, located at 221 East Grand, where you got 8 Hamburgers to go \$1.00; today you're lucky to get one hamburger for \$8.00. (I'm still living in the past.) Remember Olsan's Flowers at E. 15th and Grand or Orr's Pharmacy at 1554 E. Grand or Northland VIM milk in the amber bottle or Flynn Dairy. "At Your Door or At the Store, insist on Flynn.?" All gone, in fact there are only four drive-in movie theaters left in Iowa.

Here I sit in the moonlight,
Forsaken by women and men,
And murmur over and over;
"Never eat onions again."
(EH Scroll, April 2, 1953.)

Tom Lettington is still maintaining the EHS '56 class web site at <http://www.ed56.org>. Some of the content is a little outdated but he catching up. There is still a lot of material there that could be of interest if you would like to take a stroll down memory lane. There are back issues of our class newsletter dating from December 1996. If anyone has material they would like to add, email it to Tom at tlettington@san.rr.com or snail mail him at 17055 Oculto Court, San Diego, CA 92127.



AN OLD FARMER'S WORDS OF WISDOM

YOUR FENCES NEED TO BE HORSE-HIGH, PIG-TIGHT AND BULL-STRONG.

KEEP SKUNKS AND BANKERS AT A DISTANCE.

LIFE IS SIMPLER WHEN YOU PLOW AROUND THE STUMP.

A BUMBLE BEE IS CONSIDERABLY FASTER THAN A JOHN DEERE TRACTOR.

WORDS THAT SOAK INTO YOUR EARS ARE WHISPERED NOT YELLED.

MEANNESS DON'T JUST HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.

FORGIVE YOUR ENEMIES; IT MESSES UP THEIR HEADS.

DO NOT CORNER SOMETHING THAT YOU KNOW IS MEANER THAN YOU.

IT DON'T TAKE A VERY BIG PERSON TO CARRY A GRUDGE.

YOU CANNOT UNSAY A CRUEL WORD.

EVERY PATH HAS A FEW PUDDLES.

WHEN YOU WALLOW WITH PIGS, EXPECT TO GET DIRTY.

THE BEST SERMONS ARE LIVED, NOT PREACHED.

MOST OF THE STUFF PEOPLE WORRY ABOUT, AIN'T NEVER GONNA HAPPEN
ANYWAY.

DON'T JUDGE FOLKS BY THEIR RELATIVES.

REMEMBER THAT SILENCE IS SOMETIMES THE BEST ANSWER.

LIVE A GOOD AND HONORABLE LIFE, THEN WHEN YOU GET OLDER AND THINK
BACK, YOU'LL ENJOY IT A SECOND TIME.

DON'T INTERFERE WITH SOMETHIN' THAT AIN'T BOTHERING YOU NONE.

TIMIN' HAS A LOT TO DO WITH THE OUTCOME OF A RAIN DANCE.

IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A HOLE, THE FIRST THING TO DO IS STOP DIGGIN'.

SOMETIMES YOU GET, AND SOMETIMES YOU GET GOT.

THE BIGGEST TROUBLEMAKER YOU'LL PROBABLY EVER HAVE TO DEAL WITH,
WATCHES YOU FROM THE MIRROR EVERY MORNIN'.

ALWAYS DRINK UPSTREAM FROM THE HERD.

GOOD JUDGMENT COMES FROM EXPERIENCE, AND A LOTTA THAT COMES
FROM BAD JUDGMENT.

LETTIN' THE CAT OUTTA THE BAG IS A WHOLE LOT EASIER THAN PUTTIN' IT
BACK IN.

IF YOU GET TO THINKIN' YOU'RE A PERSON OF SOME INFLUENCE, TRY
ORDERIN' SOMEBODY ELSE'S DOG AROUND.

LIVE SIMPLY, LOVE GENEROUSLY, CARE DEEPLY, SPEAK KINDLY, AND LEAVE
THE REST TO GOD.