

# EHS Missing Link '56

Fall of 2025  
John Carr Editor

Website  
[www.ehs56.org](http://www.ehs56.org)

## EXPRESS ME??

I originally had a clever title for this article but Easter and International countercultural day came at the same time and somehow I lost my 'train of thought' and couldn't remember; I know it had something to do with the fact I wanted stories from you and because of low participation, I was going to give everyone a 'lump of coal' for the holidays.

I wanted to delve in to some or the origins of some classic aphorisms from 'the good old days'.

"A penny saved is a penny earned". Benjamin Franklin published it in his book *Poor Richard's Almanach*, saving your money is as valuable as earning more.

"A bird in the hands is worth two in the bush". As early as the 1530s, it means having a sure thing is worth more than taking a chance on something that may not pan out (even if it's for a chance at something greater).

"Every cloud has a silver lining".

There's always some scrap of good news to be found when something goes sideways in life. John Milton is considered the author of this turn of phrase back in 1634.

"When pig fly". The popularity of this catchphrase is just as unbelievable as its literal meaning, since its origins is the late 1800s.

"Don't bite the hand that feed you". This very parental sayings means to pay respect to those who supply food or some other means of support. Published in prints in the 1800s, it's thought to be a much older expression than that. To that I respond, "Don't piss off the people handling your food at a restaurant"

There were only nine of us at Hilltop for lunch on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Bob and Connie Trotter, Norma (Treanor) Burke, Larry and Karen Wakins, Bette Lou (Raymond) Neal, Kay (Edwards) Alcantar, Joann (Brady) Wilson, and John Carr.

It was small, noisy and informative. After we ordered, Bob said Jerry Hall had phoned his regrets and then talked about the tapestry that we had donated to East that would hang in the library as a class of '56 remembrance. Then he asked us to go around and talk about our lives. Larry had been stationed at Offutt Air Force Base before transferring to Army Intelligence, then IBM, and a stint at H&R Block. Kay was in Texas, came back to work for one Chamber of Commerce, hired by another, hired by Prairie Meadows Race Track, hired by Prairie Casino in Gold Players Club, transferred to sending out millions in checks to winners, and can't figure out the tip at a restaurant. Joann was a little hesitant but talked about her late husband and she had been in the same home for over 60 years and her family won't let her move because they love to come over and go through her 'treasurers'. She has a new great-grandson whom she has only seen pictures. She keeps on the go to events and plays and will as long as she can drive. She goes to Four Mile Community Center for lunch, her daughter-in-law, Jennifer, is in charge of the Senior Center and has been a friend of Bette Lou and mine for over 30 years. Bette Lou wouldn't talk, but she still won't drive on the freeway. Bob did the talking for his family; two sons, one in Atlanta

and one in Miami and two grandchildren Robert Spencer and Avery Hope and are heading to University of Tennessee for granddaughter's graduation; Norma said her 2 sons followed in Bill's footsteps and became firemen. Next lunch we should give Karen and Connie a chance to explain why they chose to join our rag tag group.

**Our nest luncheon is:**

**October 8 at 11:30  
NEW LOCATION!**

**PaPa Kerns  
304 E. 30<sup>th</sup>  
(E. 30<sup>th</sup> & Walnut)**

There will be a room set up for us. Check the whiteboard on the right when you come in for daily specials and they have a senior menu and pricing in their main menu.

We wish to thank those who contributed to the newsletter fund:

Kay (Edwards) Alcantar

Carol (Graney) Dechant

Judy (Halden-Smith) Howard

Ron Larson

Larry Watkins

Norma (Treanor) Burke

Larry Gilliland

Sharon (Burris) Howze

Mevelyn (Wooderson) Richardson

JoAnn (Brady) Wilson

John Carr

Contributions may still be sent to:

Robert Trotter

EHS Class of 56 Newslink

5625 Lakepoint Circle

Johnston, IA 50131

All class archive inquiries send to address on Masthead.

We still encourage you to send us updated information about yourselves. Stories or quips, etc. to:

John Carr 2317 E. 11<sup>th</sup> St.

Des Moines, IA 50316

(515) 277-8848

Here is a note from Bob Trotter: Many years ago Larry Fogelson started writing a newsletter, NewsLink, and mailed it to the EHS Class of 1956 classmates with the help of his wife, Margaret. They spent a lot of time researching addresses and developed a mailing address list. Margaret worked side by side with Larry in this endeavor. Margaret passed on July 21, 2025. As Larry would say, "Gone but not forgotten".

Here are the notices we received about the loss of classmates:

E.T. "Tom" Fjelde (2023)  
 Jerold "Jerry" Ott (2024)  
 Larry Jon Gilliland (2025)

Bob would also like to thank Ron Larson for sending his address change. As we age and move to Sr. Living centers classmates will not receive our newsletter if we don't have the correct address. In addition, if there are family members receiving the mailing of a deceased classmate, please notify Bob Trotter:

5625 Lakepoint Circle  
 Johnston, IA 50131  
 (515) 490-4630  
 Email: trotter@aol.com

Notes from classmates: Bob, thanks for all you do to keep our class together as our numbers dwindle! You and John should get some kind of award for the Missing Link. – Carol(Graney) Dechant

Thanks so much for the Missing Link. I am a proud grad of EHS-Class of '56 (August) Judy (Halden-Smith) Howard

Bob, thanks for all that you and John do for our class.  
 Sincerely, Sharon(Burris) Howze

Mevelyn (Wooderson) Richardson sent this last piece of wisdom:

Advice from a GLACIER – Carve your own path, go slow, channel your strength, smooth the way for others, keep moving forward, avoid meltdowns, and be Cool!



### DOWN TO EARTH

In English, "Earth" means both the planet and the land. The 4.5 billion-year-old Earth is the only known astronomical object to harbor life, giving rise to billions of species of stunning diversity, including ours, Homo sapiens. It has formed the back-drop of an estimated 110 billion human lives. At 13.1 septillion pounds and 25,000 miles in circumference, the third planet from the sun long formed the horizon of all human experience and knowledge, and yet it is only a pale blue dot within the system to its roughly 1,000-mile-per-hour east-ward spin. Earth is the only planet with conditions able to sustain liquid surface water, key to the formation of life. Roughly 71% of its surface is water; the rest is land.

Deadwood, South Dakota, was named after early settlers found dead trees in a nearby ravine. (I wouldn't want these people naming my children.)

Is it necessary to chew yogurt 32 times before swallowing it?

We are extremely proud of the fact we have almost \$5 million in our scholarship endowment, which in 2024 awarded more than \$220,000 to deserving EHS graduates. We have also raised more than \$3.6 million for athletic and activity facility improvements, and we will continue to ensure our students have the best facilities we can provide as they participate in sports and extracurricular activities. None of that would be possible without the support from alumni and friends, and we thank you. Jeff White, EHS Alumni Foundation president. Class of 1987.

The EHS Class of 1956 Scholarship is \$40,446, thanks to our generous classmates.

FROM THE TROTTERS WHO  
 TRAVEL AROUND,  
 THE LETTINGTONS  
 WHO STAY SEAWORTHY,  
 AND THE CARR  
 WHO NEVER GETS  
 ANYPLACE  
 THE BEST FOR  
 THE HOLIDAY  
 SEASONS!

