

EHS Missing Link '56

Spring 2023
John Carr Editor

Website
www.ehs56.org

As I sit here and think about what to write, I thought of the Jackie DeShannon song, "What the World Needs Now Is Love" Then I happened to remember an old ode-type verse about hugging. Hugging—The perfect Cure for What Ails You:

No movable parts
No batteries to wear out
No periodic checkups
Low energy consumption
High energy yield
Inflation-proof
No monthly payments
No insurance requirements
Theft-proof
Non-taxable
Non-polluting
Fully returnable
Hugging is healthy
It relieves tension
Combats depression
Reduces stress
Improves blood circulation
It is invigoration
It's rejuvenating
It elevates self-esteem
It generates good-will
It has no unpleasant side effects

GREET*MEET*EAT

OUR NEXT LUNCHEON
WILL BE AT THE HILLTOP
2020 HUBBLE AVE
MONDAY, APRIL 24TH 11:30
You can order off the menu and there will be desert provided. See about inviting a friend or one of our classmates who might need a little encouragement to come.

After arriving in The New World, Kilometer Standish changes his name.

Fall Luncheon Attendees:

Larry & Jackie Soloman
Janet (Bales) & Glen Douglas
Kay (Edwards) Alcantar
Carol Adams & John Jones
Jerry & Carole Hall
Jerry Schartner
John Carr & Doug McNeal
Bob Mentzer
JoAnn (Brady) Wilson
Larry Watkins
Bob & Connie Trotter

Once again, we wish to thank you contributors to the newsletter, without you, Bob Trotter would be in malls asking for stamp money:

Jerry Schartner
Jerry Hall
Larry Watkins
Janet (Bales) Douglas
Mevelyn (Wooderson) Richardson
Carol Dechant
Janice (Holman) Green
Loretta (Woods) Ware
Harvey Thompson
Norma (Treanor) Burke
Roy Treadway
Art Wittern

Deceased:

Ruth (Cook) Haage (2022)
Gerald "Jerry" Reese (2023)
Janis (Crain) Stueckrath (2023)

After the passing of Janeene Carlisle, her sister gave Bob Trotter photos of classmates that Janeene had taken over the years at various events. Some of you will find a picture(s) of you in this mailing.

The first telephone line was built in Iowa in 1877; it was almost a year before they could get the women off the party line so someone could make an outside call.

RING AROUND ROSIE

September 14: Mevelyn and her daughter came from Colorado to Texas to West Des Moines, and on to Elsworth, while making a short stop at Applebees on Merle Hay, where we had cake, coffee, and conversation. Mevelyn used to live in Bolder and Kelley lives in Fort Collins, so as a joke, I put Kelley on my cell with my bro-in, who as I mentioned last issue, lives in Walden, where she visits and they both knew a Richardson there, but not a relative. During their talk, I showed Rosie one of my photo albums of Des Moines and they ooh'd and aah'd, Kelley kept humming Randy Travis' song "Digging Up Bones", then I found out she had re-acquainted herself with a high school chum who was an archaeologist in San Diego, hmmm... Also found out, apparently Kelley speaks Mexican like a Spaniard, and Rosie speaks Spanish like a Mexican (My Spanish consists of counting up to eight on the dice table at a casino.)

It was nice to say 'hello' again in person after 66 years.

Adios Amigos!

"Thank you for the EHS News. I appreciate your faithfulness and am always looking at the news of my classmates. We are still riding our tandem bike, not so far but still enjoy the exercise it gives us. I feel we have been blessed health wise.

Thanks again,

Loretta Ware (Woods)

September 20: Received a text from Carol Graney today: "Thanks for an especially good issue this time, though of course I was sad to know of the deaths. Kay Sullivan was a dear gal & we had great fun on the golf team, where Nancy Peterson & Kay played #1 & #2 positions & there were only 4 more of us, (Linda Neeley, Jan Crain & Sandra & Brenda Parsons, all equally below average. We had to forfeit last two places because they couldn't get 8 girls to sign up for golf at EHS. We not-so-good ones did it to get out of PE & because Coach Schackel was endlessly patient with our (mostly) sorry lot."

Lacey, WA
October 17, 2022

Dear Bob Trotter:

Thank you for to continuing to edit and send out the EHS *Missing Link*. I appreciate receiving the news of classmates and of local Des Moines activities. I am enclosing a check to help for paper, copying, and postage.

I am also writing with the sad news that my brother Ray Treadway passed away on October 11, 2022. Please include the news of Ray's death in the section on classmates that we have lost. Other classmates may remember him from our days at East and even at Amos Hiatt, and Wallace schools.

Many Thanks,
Roy C. Treadway

Don't forget to send all inquiries, information and donations to:

Bob Trotter
5625 Lakepoint Circle
Johnston, IA 50131
Donations to EHS class of 1956

There were 4,063 drive-in movie theaters in America in 1958.

You've got me 'Going In Circles'. When Carol Graney texted me, I didn't know who it was because it was a different name and with a Chicago area code. I called Bob Trotter who didn't know the name either but he told me he was in Florida watching the Miami Marlins and the Chicago Cubs. I mentioned I had a daughter who moved to Plantation and he told me his son, Scott, used to live in Plantation and come to find out my daughter house-sits for a man who lived a few blocks from his son. I call to find out who the mystery woman is and it turns out to be Carol, who lives in Sarasota. We have all three in Florida. Bob and Carol's sister Kathleen, both live in Johnston and Carol is going to be buried in Chicago.

ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN
Starting in 2027, Californians will be able to choose human composting as an alternative burial option. I don't know anything about it, but you might get in touch with our historian, he's been on the ground floor of a lot of things:

Tom Lettington
17055 Oculito Court
San Diego, CA 92127
tlettington@san.rr.com
(Maybe it's another way for our class of '56 to be remembered.)

On another note, in the country of Georgia they discovered a 1.5 million-year-old human tooth. (Suddenly, I'm humming 'Digging Up Bones.)

What if I walked
backwards all day?
Would I see things I'd
missed
When I walked the other
way?

In my conversation with Carol Graney, "Dear Abby" came up and I used to do a satirical "Dear Blabby", so I 'dug' up some columns from 2011. They might offend, so be cautioned. : -)

Dear Blabby: I cannot overemphasize how annoying it is when people try to send a fax and enter the number of the phone line. I am an assistant in a busy office. At least three times a week someone will try to send a fax and dial our main office number by mistake. I answer the phones and hear the high-pitched BEEP. Often the sender has walked away from the machine and it redials again and again. Please advise people to double-check the correct fax number, and not to walk until they're certain the fax is going through.

Dear BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP:
It sounds as if your job is to answer the phone and you should not have time to count the number of times each week people 'fax by mistake' or to listen to see if they are on the line or to fax me this letter. Perhaps your work ethics need to be reviewed. How would you like to come home and have people leave messages for "Your 2c Worth" on the answering machine and not know who they are so you have no way to get back to them? On the other hand, some of the messages are quite revealing.

Dear Blabby: You ought to have a dumb comment of the week award. (Hiland Park man)

Dear Head-of-the-line: I like your suggestion and I would like to nominate you for the first award.

Kathy Kahler sent a note to Lyle Simpson, who sent a note to Bob Trotter, who sent a note to me, that our class scholarship fund has \$35,346, which means we have helped provide funding for an East High Grad as long as there is and East High School and that we are leaving this life knowing that the world is a better place because we have each been here.

The Annual East High Golf Classic is May 12 and 13 at Copper Creek Golf Club in Pleasant Hills. Be on the lookout for registration details on the Alumni website*.

The 145th All-Alumni Scarlet Celebration will be Friday, June 9th and has been moved to Prairie Meadows. They are offering rides to older grads that may need transportation to and from the event.

*EHS Alumni contact information: (515) 770-5163

The East High School Alumni Foundation announced last October it has exceeded its \$4 million capital campaign goal, raising \$4,171,000 for East High facilities and scholarships. As part of the priorities of The Campaign for East High, a new concessions and restroom building has already been constructed on the activities campus along with a new football scoreboard. Construction anticipation completion date of Spring 2023. The final component of the activities campus is an athletic turf for use by soccer, physical education, band, football, and the middle and elementary schools feeding into East High.

(continued next column)

In addition to the facilities improvements, over \$500,000 was committed to the endowment to support post-secondary scholarships for East High graduating seniors.

“This campaign was about leveling the playing field for East High Students,” said campaign co-chair Dr. Stephen Taylor, “Thanks to over 400 generous donors, our students will now benefit from improved athletic facilities, have added opportunities for scholarships, and most importantly, know that their community supports them.” The fundraising effort was launched in 2020 with anonymous donation of \$1 million which was followed by leadership donations from B.J. Baker III (Chairman and CEO, Baker Group) and J. Elder II (President Elder Corporation), both East High School alumni and MidAmerican Energy. The initiative was spearheaded by a core group of alumni volunteers with Dr. Stephen Taylor, retired orthopedic surgeon and Tim Pearson, attorney with Laden & Pearson Law as chairs. East High School, one of five high schools within Des Moines Public Schools, was founded in 1861 and has been in its current building since 1911. Additions and renovations have been completed by Des Moines Public Schools over the years with the most recent being in 2006. The East High student population is 35% Hispanic, 35% white, 17% black, 8% Asian and 5% two or more races. 81% of students are classified as economically disadvantaged. The diversity reflected in the East High School student body magnifies the need for facility upgrades that will offer these students equity and inclusion in extracurricular opportunities and activities.

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of Americas and to the Republic for which it stands; one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” President Dwight Eisenhower signed a bill into law on Flag Day (June 14, 1954) that added the words “under God” after “one Nation.” In paintings, movies, and on TV, we’re given the impression that worshipping the flag was something all devout Americans have done since the War of Independence, but that’s not exactly the way it was. Schools were not required to fly the flag until 1890. Pledging allegiance to the flag wasn’t instituted until 1892, and saluting the flag didn’t happen until the time of the Spanish-American War in 1898. It wasn’t until 1916 that Flag Day was observed as a national holiday, and the flag code, the proper way to treat and dispose of flags, was not approved by Congress until 1942 and didn’t become a federal law until 1976.

You know you’re aging if you get lost strolling down memory lane

We still need physical activity. We need to help our bodies by keeping in some sort of shape. Just walking 10 minutes twice a day and watching caloric intake, you can lose 10 pounds in a year, without breaking a sweat (In a clinical study certain expensive diet pills showed that people who took three pills a day lost an average of only 12 pounds after two years.)

What matters most is that you simply get moving.

And what matters to me is you keep sending bits of fodder that I can add to the compost I keep collecting to feed back to you as gems of crypticity.