

EHS Missing Link '56

Spring -- 2026
John Carr - Editor

Website

www.ehs56.org

As I sit down to attempt another newsletter, trying to find something interesting to regale you with, I look back at our generation and realize what we have in our lives is something no other generation will experience. The end of the "War Years", and the start of the Atomic Age. And yet, some of the most iconic items of the 1950s – things the once felt essential or cutting-edge, are today charming relics of a very different time.

Seventy years ago, Elvis was shaking up the airwaves, Lucille Ball had Americans laughing in their living rooms, the space race was just beginning, and prosperity fueled a culture of optimism for many. It was a decade of technological innovation and imagination, with a flood of brand-new gadgets, fashions, and conveniences, promising to make everyday life sleeker, faster, and more modern than ever before. Some of the most iconic items of the 1950s – things that once felt essential or cutting edge, today are charming relics of a very different time.

The rotary dial telephone was widely used in the 1920s, but it wasn't until the 1950s that it truly became a fixture of everyday life.

(The Bell System introduced touch-tone dialing in 1963.)

Few garments symbolize the 1950s quite like the poodle skirt, it became a staple of teenage fashion in the 1950s. The wide swiny garments were typically made of felt and featured appliqué designs.

3D comic books offered readers a thrilling new way to experience their favorite characters. Using red and blue anaglyph glasses, fans could watch superheroes, monsters, and space adventures "leap" from the page. (The first 3D comic featured Mighty Mouse and sold more than 1.25 million copies in its first printing.)

First patented in 1949, the lever operated aluminum ice trays replaced flexible trays that were twisted to release scored ice cubes.

By the 1970s, plastic trays and built-in ice dispensers had largely replaced the aluminum trays.

In 1960, Sam Cooke sang, "Don't know much about algebra/Don't know what a slide rule is for, capturing the feelings of generations of students who struggled with math and the classic tool designed to help them. Before the pocket calculator revolutionized mathematics, the slide rule was an essential tool for students.

Mastering the slide rule was a rite of passage. The inventions of the first electronic calculators in the 1960s, followed by pocket-sized versions in the 1970s, marked the end of this ubiquitous tool that had been in use for nearly 350 years.

The 1950s introduced the revolutionary idea of having music you could take anywhere. Before the transistor, radios were large, stationary consoles, and families had to gather around to hear the latest hits. Invented in 1947, it made it possible to build smaller,

lighter, and more portable radios, paving the way for personal, and on-the-go listening. In 1954, the Regency TR was a luxury item at \$49.95 (about \$400 today). As prices dropped later in the decade, transistor radios became more accessible, giving teenagers the freedom to listen to what they wanted, when they wanted, without parental supervision. Transistor radios quickly became a staple for music, sports, and news, but were eventually replaced by the cassette player and boombox.

Metal lunch boxes were the ultimate school accessory of the 1950s. With sturdy construction and colorful designs featuring cowboys, astronauts, or TV heroes, they made carrying a sandwich and thermos something to show off. The 1950 Hopalong Cassidy lunch sold for \$2.39 and featured a metal snap for a hinged lid and collapsible metal handle, and was the first lunch box to bear a licensed image, setting a precedent for future designs. Soon, nearly every popular TV show, movie, and character had its own lunch box.

And speaking of lunch, everyone enjoyed the food and the service, so we are meeting and eating at:

PAPA KERNS

304 E. 30th

(E. 30th & Walnut)

April 15, 2026

11:30

Bring an appetite and some conversation

Our October 8th luncheon was attended by:

Carol Adams
John Jones
Jerry Hall
JoAnn (Brady) Wilson
Larry & Karen Watkins
Connie & Bob Trotter
Janet & Glenn Douglas
John Carr

Norma Burke sent her apologies.

Bob Mentzer was on his way from Detroit, but they sent him by way of New York City, so he couldn't have even made it in time for dessert but should see us next time.

Bette Lou was MALT (Missing At Lunch Time).

JoAnn was telling about some of her traveling, but I didn't have my hearing aids in so I don't know what she said, and neither will you.

Spring 2026 Luncheon
Wednesday
April 15, 11:30 a.m.
Papa Kerns Café
304 E. 30th
515 262 7692

Got a text from Mevelyn "the wanderer". Her "link" was waiting when she got back from Colorado. "I really enjoyed it. Thank you. Great Job. Kudos and all the pats on the back you can get by mail, and those from classmates close by. It was interesting. I like to read about the old sayings and enjoying reading what people said at the lunch. I know this is your "Labor of Love" for our class...and I want you to know it is appreciated!

Really...age 90 is close for all of us, wouldn't it be great to keep it going to that goal??? (God Willing.)

Thank you, John!

Fans like Mevelyn and support from classmates are what keeps the newsletter viable...thanks!

Button, button, who's got the button? Since we're still salivating the subject of food, I thought I would bring up the power button scroll through the intensity options from one to ten, with 10 being the default button. If you're looking to steam or cook something such as eggs or oatmeal, cook at a lower setting (50%). Similarly, setting between 30% and 50% will help gradually defrost items and keep them food-safe. When heating dairy, set at a medium 40% to avoid scalding or scorching. Use 80% to 100% for soups, starchy foods and smaller pieces of meat and fish. (low settings make them tough). Using high power for a shorter time allows you to have hot meal without compromising quality.

Speaking of things that could be helpful if you know how to use them, you should send an inquiry to Tom Lettington, he feels like the Maytag repairman, he has all this information to share and nobody calls him...write and ask him about the picture of himself on the bow of The Titanic.

The word of the day is "Lissome", it's an adjective pertaining to the body, it means thin, supple, and graceful...I don't know about that, all I know is when we take a group photo, I stand next to Bob Trotter because it makes me look better. (Those kinds of contributions I send to Bob for free, the others I send help keep the newsletter afloat.)

Send your contributions to:

Bob Trotter
5625 Lakepoint Circle
Johnston IA 50131
(515)490-4630

Drake was the first Iowa College to play in a football bowl.
The Raisin Bowl – 1946.

A Carr(d)inal Achievement

While it may not sound like much to you, I have an achievement that I am proud to share. There is a rummy card game called Three Thirteen (313), consisting of 11 rounds of play, low score winning.

On October 17, 2025, I had a perfect game, scoring zero points, a record that has never been recorded before; not a big thing, but it might be another accomplishment for the Class of '56.

It took the inventor of the Rubik's Cube a month to solve the puzzle.

Chinese checkers was invented in Germany around 1880.

Chess originated around 1,500 years ago in India, the first chess game in space ended in a draw in 1970, and the longest official chess game lasted 269 moves and over 20 hours.

There may be 2 billion people asleep right now on earth.

The technical name for goosebumps is "piloerection."

My sister had breast surgery and they grafted some skin from her nose to her breast, now every time she sneezes, she pops out of her bra.

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

As a child, did you ever have mnemonics? Call me if you remember...

Did you ever wonder where Superman puts Clark Kent's belongings after he undressed in a telephone booth?

On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918, fighting in WW1 officially ended. Originally known as Armistice Day, the holiday's name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor veterans of all wars.

Editors note: I read an article about turning off the lights to save energy, so if you see a lot of mistakes, it's because I'm typing in the dark. (I tried dancing in the dark, but I kept running into the lamp.)

Dr. WHO, what, why, when, and where: April this year I had a car accident and lost one of my meds. I called for a refill, but Dr.P had gone to India, so I went to see Dr. G who gave me a different med. Got it on Friday and had a bad reaction, called in. On Tue Dr.G who gave me another different med. Got it on Friday, really bad reaction. Friends of mine who had Dr. P told me about Dr. S, so I went and he told me I needed an ICD unit installed because of blockage (pacemaker and defibrillator), also recommended the Watchman, so I could get rid of my blood thinner. Dr. S became ill so I was assigned Dr. O, and arrangements were made for Dr.B to perform the operation. Birthday on October 20, operation on the 23rd. I bathed and disinfected myself and was literally standing in the nude when the hospital called and said patience had to be rushed into surgery and took my spot. Well, there I was, an 88-year-old, sterilized man standing in the nude with nothing to do. (Turns out the patient was a relative of friends, so a good thing happened.) I was given a new date in November for the procedure with Dr B. A day before, hospital calls, Dr. B has to go to Chicago to renew his passport, rescheduled for 12-05, changed to 12-01. Easy peasy except when I sat

up you can actually see my heart beat irregularly through my skin, so they make adjustments and decide to keep me overnight. Room 461 north at Iowa Methodist. Nurse Sue checks me in and over, anoints me and gets me set up for dinner. Rest of the day goes smoothly. Only one channel on TV, but my night nurses are right from the TV-sit com, Full House. They are Kate and Ashley (the Olsen twins); true to hospital stays, I lay down to sleep and 45 minutes, its check my vitals time. Kate takes them and 9 minutes Ashley comes in to check them and looks as me like I'm on drugs when I tell Kate was just in, she checks the machine and from my front door I hear: "Kate!" I'm up, so I go walking for a bit, forgetting my open-back nighty, but one of the nurses caught me and put one over my back (I could have been open in the back or in the front and I don't think you would have noticed anything). Anyway, I sit around and decide to try sleeping, again. 15 minutes in, it's Kate and the ever popular vital-reader. (I felt a little tug on the inside of my left thigh only to discover that's where they ran the defib wires and didn't tell anyone.) Kate brings me cold water and leaves...why it's Ashley, who once again doesn't believe about Kate, checking... "Kate!" I'm up so I grab the back of my nighty and "Go out walking after Midnight" and stop by the snack bar and go back to bed. Next day, check out time, X-rays to see if they punctured my lung during the operations; I take time to write Sue a poem and I go home with a monitor and a night light in my bedroom, checking on my well being. Now it's "My happy heart you hear", wired for life.

The heart wants what the heart wants, if the pacemaker lets it.

Sometimes hard to pick up pumpkin with a single finger.

Charlie Chan

A Carroticature is a funny drawing of a carrot.

John Carr

A dish ran away with a spoon, but you cantaloupe with a grape. JC

Saraglee Flagor Brouillard just posted herself on Classmates on March 16th. Gee, Glee.

And at the same time, so did Cynthia (Moore) Huntley... now you can find out more about Moore.

Here are the others listed on Classmates: Joyce Armintrout, Elizabeth Avitt, Denita Bash, Robert Bason, Sharon Bebout, Edgar Leroy Beebe, Sonja Bingaman, Dwight Booth, Sharon Burgett, Judy Burns.

It would be nice if these people would send updates and stories to 'the link', so we could have things to pass on to our class.

Janet (Griffiths) Harmon passed away last year.

If you received the Missing Link newsletter and the person it was mailed to has deceased, please notify us so we can share the information in the next newsletter with our classmates. Also please forward and address changes so we can update our mailing list.

Updates and donations for the newsletter should be sent to:

Bob Trotter

5625 Lakepoint Circle

Johnston, IA 50131

Telephone: 515-490-4630

Email: trctrotter@aol.com

I just saw an ad on TV where they will send a colonoscopy kit direct to your hours...I'm sorry, home colonoscopies are not up my alley.

So many of our out of state classmates have indicated that they no longer travel, therefore, we will not have a formal 70th class reunion this year. Our class will be recognized at the All School Reunion which will be held June 6th and I would encourage all that are able to attend this fun event. It would be nice to see if we could fill a table or two exchanging memories of our time as EHS.

Below is information from the EHS Alumni Assoc. You should be receiving a letter from EHS Alumni Assoc. with detailed information regarding the June All School Reunion in the upcoming weeks.

“The all-school reunion/Scarlett Celebration will be held this year on June 6th at Prairie Meadows Hotel Ballroom.

The Class of 1965 last year rather than have a separate class reunion, encouraged their classmates to attend the Scarlett Celebration. They had 65 classmates attend and had a great time. They had a ‘memory’ table set up and had their tables all in a cluster. Prairie Meadows Hotel offers discounts to EHS grads- Alumni offers transportation to those that may not be able or want to drive to the event- baseball and football players assist with wheelchairs inside the venue & help anyone needing assistance through the buffet line-golf cart rides for anyone that drives from the parking lot to the front door and back to their car!

Mr. Bob sent a joke of the day for you enjoyment:

A priest was teaching a first grade class about the church. He pointed to his neck and asked if anyone knew the meaning of his collar? Little Johnny stood up and said, “It means you will not have fleas or ticks for 30 days!”

(And you will not have a joke from Trotter for another 6 months.)

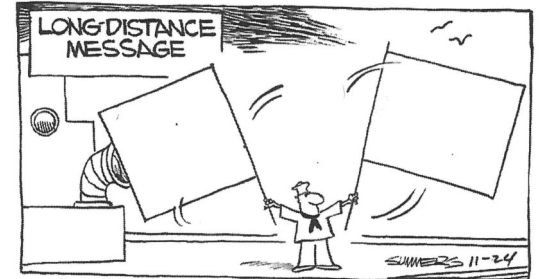
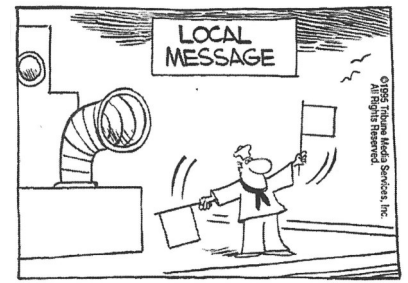
Note from classmate-Thanks for the fall EHS missing link '56!

I appreciate all the work that goes into it—certainly more difficult each year we all age. Sending a donation to help with the growing costs!

With gratitude, Mevelyn (Wooderson) Richardson

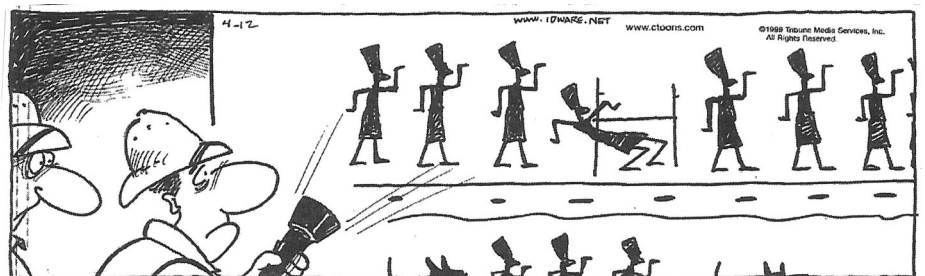
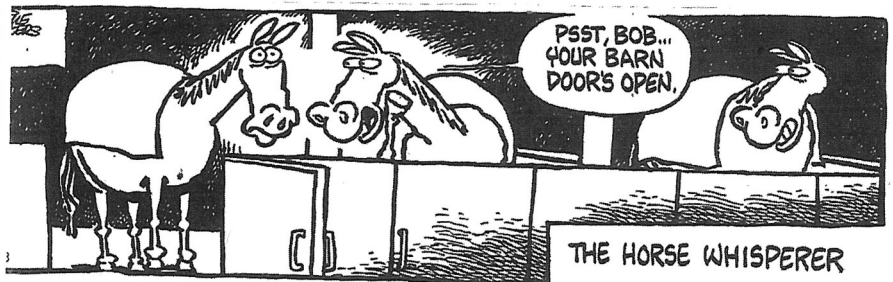
We want to thank all that contributed:

- Norma (Treanor) Burke
- Mary Lou (Katzman) Goodman
- Larry Watkins
- Art Wittern
- Gene Davis
- Mevelyn (Wooderson) Richards
- JoAnn (Brady) Wilson
- John Carr



Newsletter information should be sent to:

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...until the next time we dance.