

CLASS NOTES

Maine West News and Events for and of the Great Class of 1968

JULY 2023

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The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.
~ Winston Churchill

jc
JOHN CARL

As I sit here in my home office, looking out my window on the eve of the 247th birthday of our country, I finally see the grasses and the flowers are once again flourishing. We have had a severe drought in our part of the Midwestern USA. Yesterday's rain measured anywhere from three to nine inches. We all felt as if we needed the rain; however, some parts of the region got so much that flash flooding occurred. And there is the weather report from the home base.

Condolences

Before continuing with my article, I wish to extend condolences on behalf of the Class of 1968 to the family and friends of Verna Jacks Phahl. Verna passed away on March 10. To the family and friends of Barbara Dormeyer Probst. Barbara passed away on May 10. To the family and friends of Barbara Gajewski Busulovich. Barbara passed away on May 29. These three classmates, along with the other 154 from our class have left us. You will find the names of all 157 classmates that have passed away on the Alumni Association webpage under Deceased and the Class of 1968. If they had a senior picture in the yearbook, that picture will be right there.



Happy Anniversary

Quite a few of our classmates have indicated that they have celebrated, are about to celebrate, or will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary. Ronda and I are among those that have reached that milestone and we chose to take a Bus Tour to our Nation's Capital. We spent eight days on the trip. It was truly amazing to be able to visit the very places that have shaped or are shaping the direction of our country. Some of the highlights of the trip were the following: Arlington National Cemetery, including the viewing of the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns; The Marine Memorial; The Air Force Memorial; The World War II Memorial; The Korean War Memorial; The Vietnam Memorial (I was able to locate the names of our two classmates that suffered fatal injuries while in the country – Robert Utecht and Patrick Riordan); The Lincoln Memorial; The Jefferson Memorial; The Capitol; The Library of Congress along with the Reading Room of the LOC; The Pentagon, including the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial; Mt. Vernon; Flight 93 Memorial and many different places to rest and eat. It was a highlight trip to say the least. I hope that others that have already celebrated their 50th had an opportunity to do something special. If you feel like sharing, get in touch with your Class Communication Coordinator, and let him or her know how you made it a special memory.

55 Years Away from the Hallowed Halls of Maine West

We have been using 55 years as a theme for this year's editions of Class Notes. So you will see the 55 theme in the historical events from the Summer of 1968, along with the Top Ten Hits from July 1, 1968. These are taken from the WLS Hit Parade. Speaking of WLS, that Disc Jockey of all Disc Jockeys, Dick Biondi passed away recently. He spent well over 50 years in the radio business. He calmly reveals that he has been fired 23 times in his career. Many of us may remember the first time we even heard him on the radio. WLS had just switched over to Top 40 Rock and Pop Music. Biondi was among those early DJs that help to mold "The Big 89" into the mega station it was. He was a wealth of knowledge about the music, the performers, the trivia, and even the classic radio jokes. Never, ever forget "On Top of Spaghetti..."

Keeping in Touch

Please get in contact with your designated CCC in order to update mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, and any other information that will help us to keep in touch with you.

Maine West Homecoming Football Game:

The 2023 Maine West Warriors Varsity Football team will kick off its season with a home game against Marmion Military Academy on Friday, August 25 at 6:30 pm. The Homecoming Game is scheduled for September 29 at 6:30 pm. The Warriors will be matched up against the Maine East Demons. I sense an event coming up. Stay tuned for details.

Keep in touch,
JC



Susan's Musans

... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit



Summer In The City....of Des Plaines

To say we had 'the best summers ever' is an understatement. We had a ball and fantastic memories to prove it!

The days were all an adventure and we were never, ever, bored. Our imaginations took us everywhere. We made up games, we played with everyone in the neighborhood, and no one was left out. Each morning everyone would get together and decide what we would do that day.

In the early years, we would stick around the neighborhood. There was always something to do. We'd ride bikes, run through the sprinkler, play hopscotch and other games with chalk and rocks, play tag, Statue Maker, baseball, kickball, wading pools, squirt guns, exchange trading cards, throw a blanket on the ground and eat lunch outside, lay on the grass and see what we saw in the clouds, play school or store (each house was a different store...bakery, meat market, etc.), we'd put on fantastic plays and charge 2 cents to see it, we'd help in the garden, drink from the garden hose, the activities went on and on.

As we got older, we started going uptown. We'd spend hours going from Woolworth's, Speiglers, the music stores, and toy stores, browsing everywhere, and we were welcomed by all. The patrons knew us, they knew our families. We'd end up at the Sugar Bowl for sundaes, fries, and a Green River. Or we'd go to the Des Plaines Theater, if it was especially hot, as they had air conditioning.

Rand Park became the hangout as we entered 'older' years. So many memories and stories.

How I love recalling those days. The sweet memories of summer!

Cheers!

SusanC

WLS89 Hit Parade – July 1, 1968



1. Jumpin' Jack Flash – The Rolling Stones
2. I Love You – The People
3. I Need Love – The Third Booth
4. The Horse – Cliff Nobles & Co.
5. Pictures of Matchstick Men – Status Quo
6. The Guy's in Love with You – Herb Albert
7. She's a Heartbreaker – Gene Pitney
8. Lady Willpower – The Union Gap
9. How'd We Ever Get This Way – Andy Kim
10. Angel of the Morning – Merrilee Rush

Back in the Day

55 Years Ago this Summer

June 1968

- 21 – Chief Justice Earl Warren resigns from the US Supreme Court
- 25 – Bobby Bonds hit a grand slam homer in his 1st major league game (San Francisco Giants)
- 26 – Iwo Jima and Bonn Islands are returned to Japan from the US
- 28 – Daniel Ellsberg indicted for leaking the Pentagon Papers

July 1968

- 17 – Beatles' animated film "Yellow Submarine" premieres in London
- 18 – Intel incorporates



August 1968

- 2 – 35th NFL All-Star Game: Green Bay 34 All-Stars 17 before 69,917 in Chicago
- 8 – Republican convention In Miami Beach nominates Nixon for president
- 21 – Democratic convention opens in Chicago
- 28 – Police and anti-war demonstrators clash at Democratic National Convention

September 1968

- 3 – Chicago White Sox wet AL record of 39 losses by 1 run
- 14- 1st broadcast of "60 Minutes" on CBS-TV
- 20 – Mickey Mantle hits final career Home Run - #536

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