

CLASS NOTES

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

MARCH 2023



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

FROM THE EDITOR



2023 – 1968 = 55

The headline says all that I am thinking about is the Class of 1968. June of this year marks the 55th Anniversary of having graduated from Maine West High School. So many things have taken place since those last days that we were able to cut across the “yard” going from B Wing to C Wing. Or walking around the cafeteria in order to get from B Wing to A Wing. Or walking from C Wing to D Wing. Or cutting through the cafeteria on the way to the Swimming Pool. Or in the case of the boys, trudging down the stairs in order to get to The Pit.

Most of those routes have been obstructed due to additions and renovations to the building itself. If you have not paid a visit to the “old stomping grounds,” you would think that you were at the wrong address. A spectator gym, athletic field house, the library extension, and the Consumer Science additions are part of the reason that it just isn’t the same place that housed approximately 3,600 students along with Faculty, Administrators, and Support Staff.

The theme for this edition of Class Notes is twofold: Winter and the number 55. We will walk through historical events that happened in the Wintertime during those 55 years. We will also be looking at musical accomplishments that happened in Wintertime during the 55 years since we left Maine West as well as some special tidbits that combine Winter and 55 Years.

On a personal note: many of our classmates have already celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. My Best Girl, Ronda and I will be following suit in April. To say the very least, I consider myself very fortunate that she has been my rock-solid partner for all these years. happy anniversary, Ronda!!!

I encourage you to visit the Alumni Association Web Site. You can view the 152 known classmates that have taken leave from us. Also, the Lost Classmates are shown. If you have an idea or lead as to how to reach these Lost Warriors from our class, please forward the information to your Class Communications Coordinator or to me.

~ John



Susan's Musans

... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit



It may have been the Winter of 1960? Not sure. We had a great snow with excellent packing snow that begged to be played in. We had a great neighborhood all ages, girls and boys, young and older, it didn't matter. We all played together, all the time.

So the night of the big snow, we decided a snowball fight would be in order. The kids from across the street versus us on the other side. We had huge bushes next to the house with great space to hide behind and stash snowballs.

We all agreed to take time to build our snowball supply and then give the countdown. I was probably one of the smallest, and not very powerful. I would get very excited if my snowballs even made it across the street. That is until the very unexpected happened.

We were throwing like crazy, laughing, and having a great time. We were soaking wet and didn't even notice the cold. Those snowballs were flying like crazy! Back and forth! Over our heads, ouch! One got me in the back, but I was ok. For some reason, it sparked something in me to pick up a snowball and throw like I've never thrown before!

I whipped it as hard as I could and it landed right inside the car passing by that had the driver's side window open! Yikes! The driver stopped and backed up. I beelined into the house. He wanted to know who threw the snowball. My friends stuck up for me and all said they didn't know. He gave them all a lecture and left. I was relieved but still was kind of proud of my perfect aim. It was a fight to be remembered

Cheers!
SusanD

March 1968 TOP 10

Musical Survey

Taken from the WLS Hit Parade – March, 1968

1. Valerie/Tapioca Tundra – The Monkees
2. Dock of the Bay – Otis Redding
3. I Will Always Think About You – The New Colony Six
4. Simon Says – The 1910 Fruit Gum Company
5. I Just Dropped In to See What Condition My Condition Was In – The First Edition
6. Love Is Blue – Paul Mauriat
7. Kiss Me Goodbye – Petula Clark
8. La La Means I Love You – The Delphonics
9. Lady Madonna – The Beatles
10. Since You've Been Gone – Aretha Franklin

Winter Events – 55 Years Ago!!!

January

- 1st Evel Knievel falls in his attempt to jump Caesar's Palace Fountain
- 2nd Christian Barnard performs 2nd heart transplant
- 4th Leo Fender sells Fender Guitar Company for \$13 -
- 5th Dr. Benjamin Spock was indicted for conspiring to violate draft law
- 7th 1st Class Postage raised from 5 cents to 6 cents
- 13th Beginning of the TET Offensive in Vietnam
- 14th Superbowl II – Packers 33 Raiders 14 in Miami
- 20th University of Houston ends UCLA's 47-game basketball winning streak
- 22nd "Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In" premieres on NBC
- 23rd Spy ship USS Pueblo and its 83-man crew seized in the Sea of Japan by North Korea

February

- 1st Former Vice President Richard Nixon announced his candidacy for the presidency
- 10th Peggy Fleming wins Olympic figure skating gold medal in Grenoble, France

March

- 1st Singers Johnny Cash and June Carter wed
- 2nd USAF displays Lockheed C-5A Galaxy; biggest plane in the world
- 11th Otis Redding posthumously receives a gold record for "Dock of the Bay"
- 15th Life Magazine calls Jimi Hendrix the "most spectacular guitarist in the world"
- 16th My Lai massacre occurs (Vietnam War); 450 die
- 31st Lyndon Baines Johnson announces he will not seek reelection

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