



Class Notes

MAINE WEST NEWS AND EVENTS For and of the Great Class of 1968

July 21, 2017

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Operation 50 Plans Are In Progress!!!

Help Celebrate Our 50th Reunion with Other Members of the Great Class of 1968

Meet the Planning Team: Dr. Monty Abbott, Christine Baske Dorsey, John Carl, Carol Carstens, Barbara Dopp, Barbara Dormeyer, Nancy Johnson Brink, Linda North Aavang, Cheryl Schueler Falbo, Carolyn Shayman Wissmiller, Mary Smith Bantz, Mary Anne Wallace Ehlert, Wendy Wallace, Lorrie Ware Perrone and Linda Wells McNelley.

Meet Your Class Communications Coordinators:

- Susan Calabrese DeMerit (A's & C's)
- Liz Bednarz Lorz (B's)
- Mary Ann Jados Waldron (D's, E's, F's and J's)
- Larry Kahler (G's and K's)
- Carole Hway Carter (H's and I's)
- Linda North Aavang (L's, M's, N's and O's)
- John Carl (P's)
- Mary Smith Bantz (Q's, R's and Sab – Sce and Socha, Sch – Smith, Socha – Szaltis)
- Carol Van De Mark Hillary (T's, U's and V's)
- Wendy Wallace and Lorrie Perrone (W's, Y's and Z's).

Operation 50 Weekend Dates are All Set: Mark your calendars, enter them in your tech devices, tell others that you know that September 14 – 16, 2018 is the weekend you need to set aside to celebrate our 50th Reunion from good old Maine West High School. The planning team has narrowed down to three sites for the Friday Night Ice Breaker but we have already determined the location of the Saturday Night Maine Event: the Club Casa in Des Plaines on September 15, 2018. There are more plans being made for Sunday activities, which may include Chicago Boat Tours (i.e. Architecture Tour, Lake Tour, River Tour). The team is very excited about the entire weekend and we are hoping that you can come to



2018 Reunion is coming up in ... well, 2018! It's the BIG 5•0 and you're invited!

Watch our Facebook page, website, and the Alumni site as the date nears. Oh, need links ... here you go ...

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/MaineWest1968>

Website:
<http://mainewest1968.weebly.com/>

Alumni Site:
<http://mainewestalumni.org/>

*Please keep
in touch.*

*Notify your
CCC with any
changes in
names,
addresses,
phone
numbers
&
e-mail*

share in that excitement. After all, you only get to experience a 50th Reunion one time.

Lost Warriors Updates: We are fortunate to have a member of the Class of 1961, Nancy Meyer, volunteer to help us locate our Lost Warriors. Thanks to her, we have been able to find several of the classmates that were once lost, but now are found. Our list is still rather large, but with Nancy's help, the list is getting smaller and smaller. On a sadder note, through this process of attempting to find these lost classmates, we have been made aware that some of the lost Warriors have passed away. You can find these names or our Hall of Fame Warriors by visiting the Alumni Association Web Site: www.MaineWestAlumni.org and clicking on "Deaths."

A Little Bit of History: By this time Fifty Years ago, we were preparing to take our rightful place as the "Top Dogs," "The Kings and Queens of the Hill," as we were about to start our last and final year as students at Maine West. Our athletes were involved in their own independent conditioning programs for the upcoming fall sports season. Remember, at that time, we had football, cross country and boys' golf as the only Interscholastic Sports teams. There were no girls' sports. We were still three years away from Title IX which put girl athletes on a par with the boys. Also, there was not soccer, either. As seniors, we were being counted on by the administration and faculty to set the tone and be good role models for the other three classes underneath us. A big responsibility and we took it on and passed with flying colors.

Don't Forget the Music: Here's the Top Ten Songs from July 15, 1967:

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1. Windy (The Association)
 2. Can't Take My Eyes Off of You (Frankie Valli)
 3. San Francisco (Be Sure To Wear Flowers In Your Hair) (Scott McKenzie)
 4. Don't Sleep In The Subway (Petula Clark)
 5. Light My Fire (The Doors)
 6. C'mon Marianne (The Four Seasons)
 7. Up-Up And Away (The 5th Dimension)
 8. A Girl Like You (The Young Rascals)
 9. I Was Made To Love Her (Stevie Wonder)
 10. A Whiter Shade of Pale (Procol Harum).
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Keep In Touch,

JC

addresses.

Rand Park:



Sugar Bowl:



Aladdin's Castle:



The Bobs:



Tunnel of Love:



Susan's Musans

... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit



Ahh, summer!

We had Rand Park, the Des Plaines theater, Sims Bowling, renting row boats on Lake Opeka, going to Lake Michigan, the Sugarbowl for hot fudge sundaes, and THE summer place we couldn't wait to visit RIVERVIEW amusement park on Belmont and Western.

Who didn't love this place! The Aladdin's head welcoming everyone, the Aladdin's Castle with the giant rotating barrel we all tried to run through, only to fall over and laugh so hard we couldn't get up and the attendant had to stop it so we could get back on our feet.

The maze of mirrors, the crooked floor with all the screen doors, the balcony with the shot of air blowing up our dresses (people on the fairgrounds would stand, stare, watch and laugh as we all played Marilyn Monroe) and wasn't there a slide to get out of the castle? I loved that place!

I wasn't one for rides, but I did go on one roller coaster, I think it was the Greyhound or the Comet, I screamed all the way! The Bob's and Flying Turns scared me just watching them!

And the Pair-O-Chutes! OMGosh, you couldn't pay me to go on those! The Roto where the floor dropped as you got sucked to a wall, another pass for me.

Who didn't love getting their weight guessed, or your age, or trying to hit the bell with the giant hammer and showing how strong you were?

It must have been the summer of 1965 when 3 classmates and I went to Riverview. We had a ball! We were all friends, no romantic interest, but we couldn't help but go on The Tunnel of Love....ah, so romantic? No, we laughed all the way and all we could do was think 'YUK!' Trash in the water, food papers, cups, junk, maybe this was a great ride at night, but during the day there was nothing romantic about it.

Bumper Cars:



The Waterbugs were ahead of their time...giant inner tubes like bumper cars in the water. We have a similar ride at a local amusement park, they have squirt guns attached so you can soak total strangers. Looks like fun, but I'm kind of more into watching these days.

The advertisement still stuck in my head, Two Ton Baker (the music maker) telling everyone, "Laugh your troubles away!" at Riverview amusement park.

Those were the days. Too bad it closed abruptly, no notice, no one more trip through the Aladdin's Castle, no Tunnel of Love, no roller coasters for the one last ride. Sad, very sad. But those memories are etched deep into my mind never to be forgotten!

Pair-O-Chutes:



One last note, the beautiful carousel was one of the few things saved. It's home is now Six Flags over Georgia. The rest, is history.

Enjoy the summer!

Cheers!

SusanD

Water Rides:



Assistant Editor's Note:

[The Riverview Carousel at Six Flags over Georgia](#)

[Riverview Slideshow on YouTube](#)