

CLASS NOTES

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



SUMMER 2022

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

FROM THE EDITOR



JOHN CARL

As I sit here looking out my office window, the neighborhood streets and sidewalks are shrouded in darkness on this beautiful summer evening. Those of us that live in the Midwest have experienced our share of heat, humidity, and moisture. There have been some uncomfortable days with high temperatures and equally high humidity. There have also been periods of drought-like conditions. I would describe this phenomenon as a typical summer; reminiscent of those summers that we experienced while growing up. I can remember in my BAC (Before Air Conditioning) Days, we would sit on our front porch watching a storm come in from the west. The breezy, cooling effect that the incoming weather provided was refreshing, to say the least.

Ahhh, summertime: school was out for three months. Summer jobs were paying minimum wage. I worked for the Des Plaines Park District as a baseball supervisor. Summer school was in session. I attended summer school for two years. I took typing one summer and Earth Science the other summer. I did not attend voluntarily; my parents made it mandatory that I get a head start on the school year. It was also their attempt to keep me out of trouble. They turned out to be right in their insistence. However, at the time, I didn't think very highly of their edict. I played summer league baseball each of the summers while attending Maine West. There were no organized summer conditioning programs back then. Athletes were entrusted with trying to prepare for the seasons on their own.

John's Editorial, continued

In case you hadn't figured it out yet, this edition of Class Notes is dedicated to SUMMER TIME!!! All of the contributing columnists will be conjuring up memories of summers past and present. Perhaps these articles will take you back to the "Good Ol' Summer Time" and stir up some memories of your own. Share those memories with us on our social media Pages.

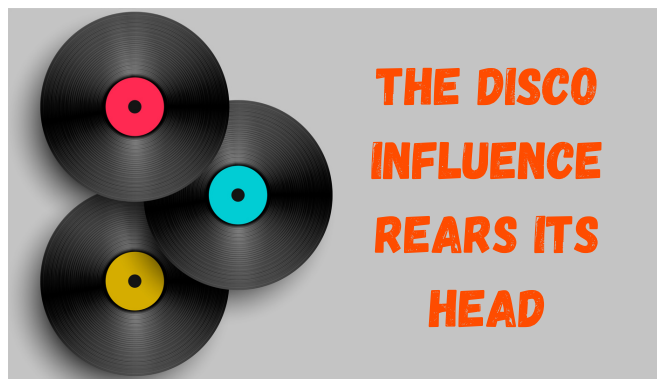
A few summertime activities in which I participate are all done on a volunteer basis. I am a Tram Driver at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. Cantigny was owned by Robert R. McCormick, owner and Editor of the Chicago Tribune and a Colonel in the U.S. Army First Infantry Division. The property houses the First Division Museum; the McCormick Mansion and some of the most beautiful gardens upon which one can cast an eye. I also am a volunteer for Honor Flight Chicago; an organization dedicated to sending Veterans to Washington, D. C. for a day free of charge. I had the privilege of being able to go on the flight because a buddy of mine asked me to be his Guardian for the day. Lastly, I volunteer at the Experimental Aircraft Association's AirVenture that is held annually in Osh Kosh, WI. I serve on the Safety Team. Once again, share with us any volunteer work that you perform by visiting those social media pages.

Lastly, I am breaking the mold in this edition. I generally pick a year that corresponded with one of the four years that we were attending Maine West. After much thought, I thought I'd move us a bit closer to where we are now: 1978. We had been out of Maine West for ten years. Some of us were well on the way to establishing ourselves in careers. Some of us had families. Some of us were serving our country in the military or as First Responders. So, it's 1978 all over again.

Keep in touch,
John

Top Ten Songs from 1978

- *Three Times a Lady – The Commodores*
- *Grease – Frankie Valli*
- *Last Dance – Donna Summer*
- *Miss You – The Rolling Stones*
- *Hot Blooded – Foreigner*
- *Boogie Oogie Oogie - A Taste of Honey*
- *Love Will Find a Way – Pablo Cruise*
- *Copacabana (At the Copa) – Barry Manilow*
- *Magnet and Steel – Walter Egan*
- *An Everlasting Love – Andy Gibb*



Summer Time – 1978

- June 21 – Andrew Lloyd Webber and Rice’s musical “Evita” premieres in London
- June 22 – Neo-Nazis call off plans to march in the Jewish community of Skokie, IL
- June 30 – Giants’ Willie McCovey becomes 12th player to hit 500 Home Runs

- July 1 – Former President Nixon makes 1st public speech since resigning in 1974
- July 9 – Nearly 100,000 demonstrators march on Washington, D. C. for ERA
- July 13 – Lee Iacocca fired as Ford Motor President by Henry Ford II
- July 28 – Price of gold tops \$200,00 an ounce level for the 1st time
- July 31 – Pete Rose ties National League hitting streak record at 44 games

- August 7 – Thousands of mourners file past the body of Pope Paul VI
- August 11 – Funeral for Pope Paul VI
- August 11 – Legionnaire’s Disease bacteria isolated in Atlanta
- August 31 – Emily and William Harris plead guilty to the 1974 kidnapping of Patty Hearst

- September 1 – Last broadcast of “Columbo” on NBC-TV
- September 3 – Pope John Paul I officially installed as the 264th pontiff
- September 5 – Sadat, Begin and Carter begin Peace Conference at Camp David
- September 12 – Situation comedy “Taxi” premieres on ABC-TV
- September 17 – Begin, Sadat and Carter sign Camp David Accord



Susan's Musans

... Thoughts and Memories from Susan Calabrese DeMerit



Let me start off by mentioning I'm not a fan of summer. Never cared for the heat, sunbathing, or water activities, none of it. I know, I'm not the norm, but the hot weather and I do not get along. About this time of year, I'm anxiously awaiting the first leaf to turn color and to awake to frost on the pumpkin!

However, the Summer of 1978 was very memorable. We were living in the Bay Area and I had a season pass to see the San Francisco Giants, courtesy of my previous employment with the National League of Baseball, at windy Candlestick Park. Whenever the Giants were in town, I'd be there! While most complained it was too windy and cold, I was loving it! Not only for the atmosphere but being in the midst of some of the biggest names in baseball at the time. I would select the game by the teams who were coming to town. Some of the greats were friends, Tug McGraw, Goose Gossage, John Montefusco, Jose Cardinale, and so many others. It was long ago but seems like yesterday. I'd say they were definitely Glory Days!

I truly hope all of you are enjoying the summer.
Stay cool!

Cheers!

Susan C.



C-WING:

Carolyn Winging It



I had some trouble remembering exactly what happened in 1978. (Is it just me, or do the late 70's/early 80's kind of blend into one another?) So, I did what any 2022 citizen of the earth would do – I Googled “1978.” Among the top ten new events listed were Egypt and Israel signing the Camp David Accords (Number 1) and the Oil tanker Amoco Cadiz running aground (Number 9). My favorite, however, was Number 5 – the first Garfield comic strip appears. Just like the 1968 graduates of Maine West, Garfield has changed quite a bit. See for yourself: <https://www.gocomics.com/garfield/2003/06/15>

Making their TV debuts in 1978 were

- WKRP in Cincinnati – Funniest episode ever (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf3mgmEdfwg>)
- Taxi – Best of Latka (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EewbleXzq8U>)
- Different Strokes – I admit to watching this show. I know you did too. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSS2wv07Xlo>)
- Mork & Mindy – Pick almost any scene from any episode. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkg4fcol-nc>) Although it aired from 1998 through 2006, That 70's Show does a great job of capturing the era. Season four covers 1978.

Comedy films in 1978 included

- Grease
- National Lampoon's Animal House
- Heaven Can Wait
- Foul Play
- La Cage aux Folles.

The 1978 Best Picture Oscar went to Annie Hall, one of only seven comedies ever to win Best Picture.

This will be my last column for a while. In November I was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. I've been doing quite well, but I will be starting additional treatments this week. If you think you've lost your sense of humor, watch some comedies. As noted above, 1978 produced a lot of good ones. Laugh out loud and smile, even if you do have to wear a mask – your smile will shine through and you could make someone's day brighter.

