



Class Notes

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

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

It's Summertime, Summertime, Sum, Sum, Summertime

As I sit here in my home office and look out the window, I see the green of the grass, the bushes, the shrubs and the trees. I also see gardens filled with various species of floral arrangements and am thankful for the vibrant colors that I can see. Although we have had a few days of heavy rains and storms in the Chicago area, we went a very long time without any moisture and things were beginning to look pretty brown at this early stage of the season. As I write this column, it has only officially been summer for one week.

So, without further ado, let's celebrate summer time! Many things have happened in order for the lockdowns to be lifted in most of the states. At last, gatherings are taking place; ball parks are opening at 100% capacity; houses of worship are opening up and families are getting together for the first time in many months. I hope that you have been staying safe, healthy and have been able to say that things are "more normal" than they were in 2020. Let's turn that page, once and for all and celebrate SUMMER.

Even though Memorial Day has come and gone, I encourage all of the members of the Class of '68 to continue to remember those fallen Warriors that gave their full measure in order to preserve our freedoms that we have enjoyed all of our lifetimes. I want to remind all of the Classmates that we lost two of our very own in the VietNam War: [Patrick Riordan](#), who served in the United States Marine Corps and [Robert Utecht](#), who served in the United States Army. Patrick was awarded the Silver Star. If you care to read about that, go to this link [Alumni Website](#). One other of our Classmates died as a result of his being in VietNam: **Michael St. Germain** was stricken with poor health as a result of being exposed to Agent Orange; a defoliant that was used in order for our troops to see their targets and the enemy. Michael succumbed to these health issues in 1996. He served in the United States Army. It's very possible that there were others of our class that passed away as a result from injuries sustained in the war, but I am not aware of them. Should you know of any such Classmates, please let me know.

Independence Day is right around the corner. I don't know about you, but this day stirs up so many fond memories of my growing up years in Des Plaines. The coolest thing

about being a “Baby Boomer” is that there was never a lack of friends that were close to or the same age as we were. They were neighbors, playmates, team mates, school mates and there were lots of them. Among my fondest memories were the picnics, the baseball games, the fireworks and getting together with friends and relatives. Feel free to share your memories.

As we move into the second half of 2021, I would love nothing more than to be able to organize a gathering of some sort for the Class of '68 Nation. After all, this year represents the 53rd anniversary of our being graduated from Maine West. One such possibility is Homecoming, 2021. The football game is on Friday, September 24. We can arrange to meet in a certain section of the stadium and have a meet and greet afterwards at a local establishment.

If you haven't been around the “old school house” of late, there is a very large addition to the building: an all-purpose field house has been added between D-Wing and the spectator gym. It's going to be a spectacular addition to the campus.

Keep in touch ... JC

Songs that make us think of Summer

“A Theme from A Summer Place”- Percy Faith and His Orchestra
“Travelin' Man” - Ricky Nelson
“Surf City” - Jan and Dean
“Summer in the City” - The Lovin' Spoonful
“California Girls” - The Beach Boys
“Summer Time” - Billy Stewart
“California Sun” - The Rivieras
“A Summer Song” - Chad and Jeremy
“Here Comes the Sun” - The Beatles



Songs that make us think of America

“America” - Simon & Garfunkel
“R.O.C.K. in the U.S.A.” - John Mellencamp
“America the Beautiful” - Ray Charles
“Living in America” - James Brown
“Rockin' in the Free World” - Neil Young
“We're an American Band” - Grand Funk Railroad
“America” - Neil Diamond
“Born in the U.S.A.” - Bruce Springsteen

Do you have a favorite not mentioned in either of these two music sections?
Let us know on our [Facebook](#) page what those might be!



Susan's Musans

*Thoughts and Memories from
Susan Calabrese DeMerit*



Summertime Sizzled

We are officially in the summertime heat 110 degrees and rising. I don't recall ever having it this hot growing up. Maybe we were too busy going to Rand Park, cooling off at the Des Plaines Theater, sipping Green Rivers and savoring sundaes at The Sugar Bowl or heading off to the beach. Those were carefree days without anything to think about except having fun in the sun!

All that kind of stopped when I was told, "Time to get a summer job!" Summer job? Never crossed my mind. I had other plans for summer 1966 that seemed to vanish with those 6 words. Not sure I made the best decision when I took a job as "Shampoo Girl" at a beauty shop (they were called shops, not salons). Shampooing hair with all the teased mess, sticky hairspray and remnants of stuck on toilet paper from a week of wrapping their hairdo, was NOT fun! The smell from the hot water hitting that hairspray will forever be embedded in my nose!

I made it through the summer but thought what if I hadn't gotten a summer job? What would have happened? Find a summer love? Get a great tan? I'd never know. Fortunately, there were many songs of summer that helped me daydream about the 'what if's' "Summer in the City", "A Groovy Kind of Love", "Strangers In the Night", "Somewhere My Love", and then reality hit, "See You In September." It was over. Summer had come and gone and it was time to think of school. Ahh, the memories I never had.

Enjoy your summer!

Cheers!

Susan C.



C-WING:

Carolyn Winging It



While many of you have been suffering in the unprecedented extreme heat, we in the Chicago area experienced an early June with drought conditions and a late June with torrential downpours. My husband and I just spent the last week minding two little granddaughters – 4 and 2½-years old. With very few breaks, it literally poured all day and night for the entire week. Consequently, we spent most of the time stuck indoors. It's surprising how many items can get lost or misplaced with two house-bound preschoolers running amok. While tracking down some of our necessities, I was reminded of when our own children were young.

THE LOST SHOES



“Mom! I got a game. Can’t find my shoes!
If I don’t play, we’re gonna lose!

“Mom! I found my trumpet under the bed.
I saw a mouse. I think he’s dead.

"There’s my math homework and a crusty plate,
Zach’s rotten tooth, and a roller skate.

"I'm finding lots of Legos and my treasure box,
Sara's headless Barbie, and someone's smelly socks.

"I spy a super soaker and my ripped red pants.
There's a moldy apple and it's crawling with ants.

"Underneath the bath towel, I see a ski pole.
And right behind the crayons, is that an egg roll?

"Now what's that rattlin' in this tub of custard?
Oh, cool, man, it's our Clue game's Colonel Mustard.

"This is hard work and it's giving me a blister,
But I found the game mat that we need for Twister.

"Isn't this the library book that's long overdue?
Library says I owe a dollar ninety-two.

"Now we can play badminton. I've found the shuttlecock.
Gee, I wish I still had my bike 'cause here's the chain and lock.

"I've unearthed Jocko's collar along with his leash.
Shoulda brought them with me when I took him to the beach.

"Here's a note from teacher, a bunch of pencil stubs,
And Dad's prized baseball autographed by all the Cubs.

"Found a broken racket and our old garden hoe,
But where are my shoes? I just don't know!

"Mom! I'll miss the game!" I yelled and sobbed.
"My shoes are gone! We've been robbed!"

Mom says, "Your search is not quite complete.
You better look down and check your feet."

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