



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



The End of the Year and What a Year It Was!

'Twas three days after Christmas 2020 and three days before New Year's Eve 2020; as I sit in my home office and look out the window into the darkness, I know beyond a shadow of doubt that it is Winter. Today's weather reminded me of that tune by Simon and Garfunkel, "A Hazy Shade of Winter." Also, as I sit here, I am sure anyone reading this edition of *Class Notes* will be glad to call a halt to 2020!! I know that I am, for sure. As we get ready to shut the door on 2020, and open the door on 2021, I am hoping that the members of the Great Class of 1968 are well and healthy. I am also hoping that each of you had an enjoyable Christmas, Hanukkah. I am sure that much creativity had to be in place so you could share with your families. We were visited in person by our youngest son, followed by a Zoom Meeting with our two California Girls and their families.

Now that vaccines are available, there seems to be hope on the horizon that we can finally get ahead of this pandemic and get some much-needed relief to those courageous nurses, doctors and all involved in the medical field. As I understand the pecking order, you will eventually be given the option to vaccinate or not to vaccinate. Be wise.

In keeping with the format that I've followed for the previous editions of *Class Notes*, I am focusing on one specific year. So far, the focus has been 1950, 1956 and 1962. In this edition, the focus is on the year that we would have graduated from Junior High School/Elementary School and were about to enter the hallowed halls of Maine Township High School West – **1964!!!**

The usual features will be contained within the margins of this edition: "From the Editor," "The Musical Showcase," "This Year in History," another Comedic Contribution from Carolyn Wissmiller and a "Musans" from Susan. The emphasis in most of these will be on the year 1964.

As I was researching the Historical Events of 1964, a certain band from Liverpool, England was repeatedly making history. I have included a few of the many events in the history section. Were I to include each listing throughout

We were in our 20's in the '70's ... we are in our 70's in the '20's!

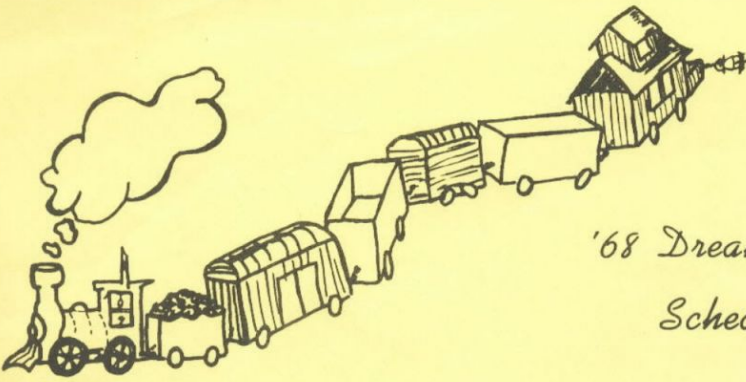
the year, it would have been "All About the Beatles!!" 1964, from a musical/historical standpoint, was truly the "Year of the Beatles."

By the way, as a teaser to the next edition of *Class Notes*, see the picture of the agenda for our Senior Prom Dream Train activities. Thanks to Classmate Mike Pawelek, who sent me the picture of that agenda. See if you can remember the cost per person of the entire package. The answer will be in the next edition, which will feature 1968.

Lastly, this year marks the 32nd Anniversary of our very own Maine West Girls' Basketball Team's State Championship season. They were undefeated. Moira Kennelly Pietrowski hit the game winning shot against Chicago Marshall in the Semi-Final game. That shot allowed the Warriors to move into the title game later that night. They won!! Kennelly Pietrowski is going to be inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame with the Class of 2021. Two other players from different years are also being inducted into the Hall of Fame: Megan Edwards and Kerry Wegrzyn. Assistant Coach Jerry "Stoney" Stonequist is being inducted for his forty-year career in the girls' program. Finally, a name that most of the Class of 1968 will recognize Team Manager Nick Ladas will be inducted in the "Friends of Basketball" category. Congratulations to those ladies and gentlemen as they carry the Maine West Banner into the Hall of Fame.

Stay smart, stay safe and keep in touch.

JC



*'68 Dream Train
Schedule*

Change to casual clothes and return to the Elk's Club for the following schedule of activities:

Midnight	Supper at Elk's Club (Pizza and Italian Beef)
1:00 am	Busses leave from Elks Club for Glenview Station
1:30 am	Dream Train leaves for Wisconsin Dells (Coke, Snacks, Combo, Las Vegas Car)
5:30 am	Dream Train arrives at Wisconsin Dells
6:00 am	Breakfast buffet in the Gryphon Room at the beautiful DELL VIEW LODGE on LAKE DELTON.
	Following breakfast, take your pick of hiking, swimming (outdoor and indoor pools), steam rooms, tennis, badminton, volley ball, soft ball, outdoor dancing at poolside or inside in the Winnebago Room, etc. <u>PLUS</u> - Las Vegas Auction. (Del View Lodge is managed by "The Wagon Wheel")
11:30 am	Chuck Wagon Cook Out (they cook - you eat)
1:30 pm	Dream Train leaves Wisconsin Dells
4:30 pm	Arrival at Glenview Station
5:00 pm	Busses arrive at Des Plaines.

Reservations - \$? per person
'68 Post Prom Party Committee



Susan's Musans

Thoughts and Memories from
Susan Calabrese DeMerit



Winter, 1964

When I was asked by John to write about Winter 1964, I had to think about it. There were holiday events at the school and people had parties, but there was only one thing to this day that still stands out in my mind.

Homeroom was in D-wing, Auto Shop. Every morning after warming up, we'd have to cross through the slush of dirty snow and huge puddles left behind by the buses in order to get to the main building.

We had a no coats, no boots, and our shoes would get drenched! On top of that, the smell of bus exhaust would stick to your clothes, it was quite sickening.

However, as bad as that was, the worst was inside of our lockers. The skinny lockers, which we shared with another student, had to hold not only two sets of books, but winter coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and wet dirty boots! What a soggy mess they'd leave at the bottom of the locker.

I loved winter, but couldn't wait for Spring. Having dry feet, dry asphalt, a dry locker and hope that next year homeroom was in B-wing!

Peace, love and good health to all in the New Year!

Cheers,
Susan D.

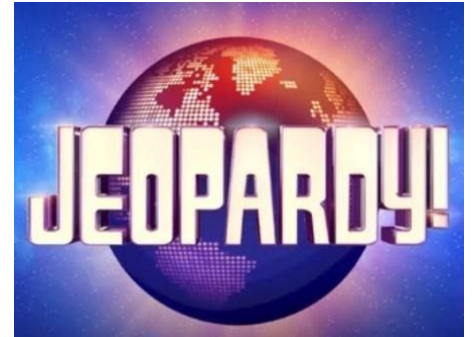


...Carolyn Wing ing It



Throughout our years at Maine West, and well beyond (1964-1975), Art Fleming was the host of Jeopardy. We thought no one could replace him, and we were right, until Alex Trebek came along. Now, sadly, we've had to say good-bye to Mr. Trebek as well. I wrote these silly Jeopardy answers and questions before his death. I'd like to think that Alex would have enjoyed them. I hope they make you smile (or groan).

- Artichokes:** What happens when your best friend Arthur talks with a mouthful of food?
- Butterflies:** What happens during a high school cafeteria food fight?
- Cabinet:** What is the best way to catch a taxi?
- Canopy:** What is something you would never buy at the grocery store?
- Carpeting:** What is making out in an automobile?
- Champagne:** What is the primary symptom of a hypochondriac?
- Collator:** What ever happened to Doris?
- Dynasty:** What is death in flagrante delicto?
- Einstein:** What is one beer mug?
- Funnel:** What is the most amusing letter of the alphabet?
- Grotesque:** What does a young male elephant eventually do?
- Habitat:** What condition does someone who can't stop getting tattoos have?
- Isolate:** What do you say to yourself when you've slept through your alarm and get stuck in a traffic jam?
- Lemonade:** What's the name of the concert that raises money for impoverished lemons?
- Metaphor:** What is coming face to face with quadruplets?
- Poker:** What do you do when you want to annoy your sister?
- Rooster:** What's the first step in preparing gravy?
- Shampoo:** What is something you put on the carpet that looks like doggie doo doo?
- Traitor:** What do you do when you want a new sister?
- Ukulele:** What is my next assignment as a hired gun?



Answer: Yes. **Question:** Can you come up with some silly Jeopardy answers and question? Please email them to our editor. And just in case you're curious, here's a link to Art Fleming's final hosting gig: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzXq8gkr87k>



By George Eck

Hundreds of teenagers were energetically singing the classic Animals' anthem "*We got to get out of Des Plaines.*" The place was jumping. Everyone was in full roar. No one held back. The Hut was pulsating. It was a beautiful summer night. Beautiful Maine West girls were dancing on stage with a few other brave souls trying to join them. Perhaps 1967. Perhaps 1968. Pure tribal joy. No dissenters. Everyone embracing the moment. I remember the moment vividly but not much else. I cannot remember who was with me or how I arrived or left. Whether I drank Coke or Pepsi or

even if I danced. Just the song, just the feeling. Not that I or anyone else was hell-bent to leave Des Plaines or trash their hometown but just the restlessness that comes in youth if even that. It was just perhaps a damn catchy song, but it did seem like much more.

I left for college, the army by way of a bad lottery number, Minnesota and law school, and ultimately a partner at a large firm. But Des Plaines was always my hometown, although with trips much less frequent and memories not quite as sharply defined. But now with the pandemic and the lockdowns I find myself singing, albeit to myself, I have got to get out of this place and a trip to my hometown would be welcomed and indeed a tonic, if not a form of a necessary vaccine. Comfort food for the soul. But if Musk would invent a time machine, I'd take a trip back to the Hut, and this time I can assure you I would be on that stage dancing away without restraint demanding an encore. I'll see you at the Hut. Please order a Diet Coke for me.



Image taken from Historic Images

Thanks,

George

1964

Remember When?

January

- 3: Jack Paar Show shows a clip of the Beatles singing "She Loves You"
- 5: San Diego Chargers win AFL Championship Game
- 6: Rolling Stones' 1st Tour as a headline act (with Ronettes)
- 8: Lyndon Baines Johnson declares "War on Poverty"
- 10: U. S. version of "That Was The Week That Was" premieres
- 11: Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" is #80 in U. S. (Cashbox)
U. S. Surgeon General Luther Terry reports that smoking may be hazardous
- 14: Jacqueline Kennedy's 1st public appearance (TV) since assassination
- 18: Beatles 1st appear on Billboard Chart ("I Want to Hold Your Hand") #35
- 20: "Meet the Beatles" album released in the U. S.
- 23: 24th Amendment ratified, barring poll tax for federal elections
- 25: Beatles' 1st #1, "I Want to Hold Your Hand" (Cashbox)

February

- 7: Beatles land at New York's JFK airport for 1st U. S. tour
- 9: 1st appearance of Beatles on "Ed Sullivan Show" (73.7 million viewers)
GI Joe character created
- 25: Cassius Clay TKOs Sonny Liston in 7 for heavyweight boxing title

March

- 2: Beatles begin filming "A Hard Day's Night"
- 4: Jimmy Hoffa convicted of jury tampering
- 6: Elijah Muhammad renames Cassius Clay, Muhammad Ali
- 9: 1st Ford Mustang produced
- 19: Sean Connery's 1st day of shooting on "Goldfinger"
- 14: Dallas jury sentences Jack Ruby to death in Lee Harvey Oswald murder
- 24: Kennedy half-dollar issued

April

- 12: 28th Golf Masters Championship – Arnold Palmer wins, shooting a 276
- 17: Ford Mustang formally introduced (\$2,368.00 base)

May

- 24: Beatles' 3rd appearance on the Ed Sullivan show
- 27: "From Russia With Love" premiered in the U. S.

June

- 2 Rolling Stones' begin 1st U.S. concert tour debuts in Lynn, Massachusetts
- 4 Los Angeles Dodger Sandy Koufax 3rd No-Hitter beats Philadelphia Phillies, 3-0
- 12 Nelson Mandela is sentenced to life in prison in South Africa
- 19 Civil Rights Act of 1964 passes 73-27

July

- 2 President Johnson signs Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act into law
- 15 Barry M. Goldwater nominated for president by Republicans

August

- 5 U.S. begins bombing North Vietnam
- 7 31st NFL Chicago All-Star Game: Chicago Bears 28, All-Stars 17 (65,000)
- 11 Beatles' "A Hard Day's Night" opens in New York City
- 12 Mickey Mantle switch-hits home run record 10th and final time in a game
- 15 Mayor Daley declares "Ernie Banks Day" in Chicago
- 26 Lyndon B. Johnson nominated at Democratic convention
- 29 Walt Disney's "Mary Poppins" released

September

- 14 Walt Disney award Medal of Freedom at White House
- 17 "Shindig" premieres on ABC-TV
- 22 "Fiddler on the Roof" opens at Imperial Theater in New York City for 3,242 performances
- 24 "Munsters" premieres on TV
- 27 Warren Commission released, finds Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone

October

- 1 San Francisco cable cars declared a National Landmark
- 12 1st time three people in space
- 14 Martin Luther King, Jr. wins Nobel Peace Prize
- 15 Craig Breedlove sets an auto speed record of 526.282759 MPH
- 25 Viking Jim Marshall runs 66 yards in wrong direction for a safety
- 27 Singers Sonny and Cher wed, Cher wore bell-bottoms

November

- 2 Lyndon Baines Johnson defeated Barry Goldwater for president
- 24 For 1st time since 1800, residents of Washington D. C. permitted to vote
- 29 Roman Catholic Church in U. S. replaces Latin with English

December

- 22 Lockheed SR-71 spy aircraft reaches 2,193.44031 MPH
- 25 "Goldfinger" premiered in the U. S.

Top Ten Songs from December 25, 1964 compliments of the WLS Silver Dollar Survey

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1) | I Feel Fine/She's A Woman | The Beatles |
| 2) | Mr. Lonely | Bobby Vinton |
| 3) | She's Not There | The Zombies |
| 4) | I'm into Something Good | Herman's Hermits |
| 5) | The Mountain of Love | Johnny Rivers |
| 6) | Come See About Me | The Supremes |
| 7) | The Leader of the Laundromat | The Detergents |
| 8) | Ask Me | Elvis Presley |
| 9) | Any Way You Want It | The Dave Clark Five |
| 10) | The Wedding | Julie Rogers |

We were in our 20's in the '70's ... we are in our 70's in the '20's!

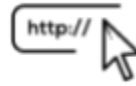
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<https://www.facebook.com/MaineWest1968>

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

Alumni Site:

<http://mainewestalumni.org/>

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