

April 2018

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Class of 1969 Thornton Fractional Township South High School, Lansing, IL

Rebel Relics Preserve History

by Courtney Alexander (TFS '18), TFS History Club Secretary

History is usually taught in school on a grand scale. American History, European History; even though those histories are relevant, it can leave people feeling detached. The history of one's community should be important to them as it's the place where one lives, where their identity and personal feelings are shaped the most. The TF South History Club Rebel Relics project will aid students' understanding of their school and community.

The Rebel Relics project will be a key element in educating students (or anybody unaware) of what TF South was and how it has changed over the years. The "Relics," which are items donated by past graduating classes, will be displayed in a case donated by the first graduating class. Seeing that girls had their own "Athletic Association," the GAA, may be a shock to some, but that's why this will be such an important piece of TF South's environment.

Knowing all the things that have changed throughout the years will be an excellent learning experience of TF South's progress. We hope that everybody who sees this project's value will be able to visit and peruse the gallery of our Rebel Relics! Any alumni interested in donating items, please contact TFS Social Studies teacher, Mr. Chris Roberts, at croberts@tfd215.org.



The TFS History Club includes these current TFS students: (from left) Faith Wilson, Luis Herrera, Tim Dykema, Griffin Polley, Haley Ward, Cornelius Muwanga, Urenna Onuoha, Teja Brown, Courtney Alexander, LaMonica Sykes, LaWeddia Washington, Danielle Ashton, and one unidentified Rebel. Social Studies teacher, Mr. Chris Roberts (TFS '02), is the club sponsor. The TFS Wall of Honor, honoring alumni who served in the military, is also a History Club project.

Going Back and Giving Back

by Chris Markiewicz Paryl (Illinois)



I was trying to decide what to do with my TF South scrapbook and school sweater when I saw the notice about the TFS History Club's museum in the January Life & Times. I arranged a meeting with TFS teacher Mr. Chris Roberts to make the donation.

It was so fun watching teachers go through my memorabilia. The first thing they saw on my sweater was GAA and they asked what it meant.

These teachers wouldn't have known that there were no competitive sports for women in high school at that time and the Girls Athletic Association was supposed to take its place.

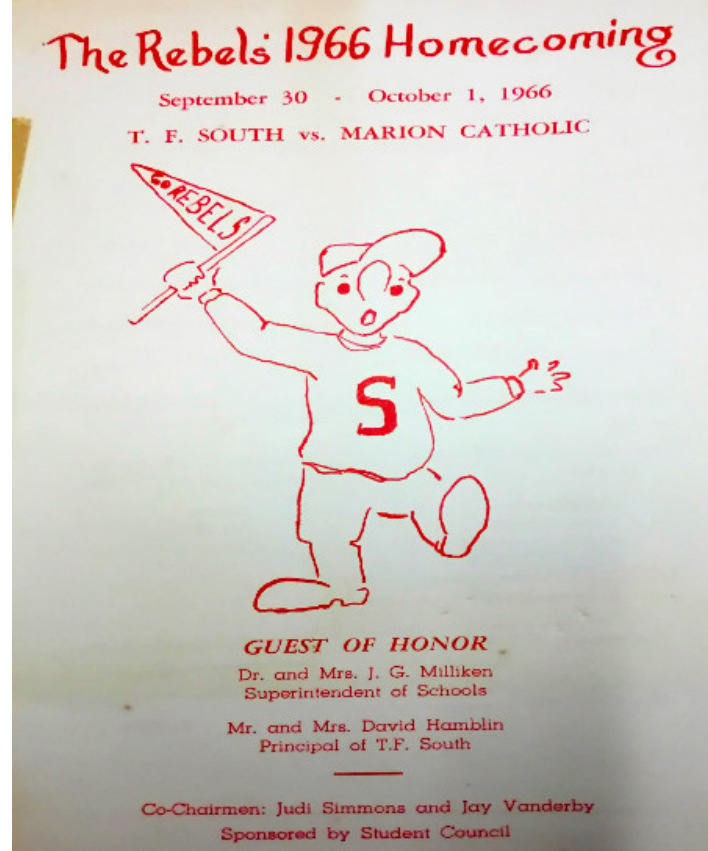
We did have a couple of surprises. I had saved my mum from homecoming freshman year and it had my date's name. It turns out Mr. Roberts is friends with my date's son. Small world! I also had articles from the snow of '67 and the 1968 controversy over allowing sideburns at school. The sideburn problem seems so minuscule compared to today's issues.

Mr. Roberts took my husband, Ron Paryl (TFS '68), and me on a tour around the school. We were very impressed with the new addition and the student artwork and murals on the walls. There is also the Wall of Honor for students who served and those who died in the military. Very impressive. I found my older brother Rich Markiewicz's (TFS '64) service plaque. They also have plaques of famous alumni on the walls. (Alas, I was not one of them.)

When we went through the old section of the school, it was *déjà vu*. Ron and I both remembered the staircases, the old gym, the auditorium, and especially the old band room where Ron and I first met and developed our love of performing. That band room has been replaced by a much newer and more productive band room. Then Mr. Roberts showed us how TF South is definitely in the 21st century with the newest technology. We were impressed by the students and teachers. It is definitely a strong learning environment with serious students and dedicated teachers.

My husband and I began our music careers at our high school and without TF South's foundation of great teachers and activities, we would not be teaching today and enjoying every moment. It was gratifying to see young students excelling in our old school environment.





These are a few of the items **Chris Markiewicz Paryl** donated to the TFS History Club's Rebel Relics Project. **Alan Liptak** (Indiana) has also donated a TFS Letterman jacket and sweater and **Jack Yauger** (Indiana) donated a TFS drumhead. To donate your memorabilia, contact Mr. Chris Roberts at croberts@tfd215.org

Big George Returns to TFS

by **George Vincent** (Illinois)

I had the distinct honor of being asked to participate in the February 28, 2018 Career Day activities at my alma mater, TF South. What a fun day. So well organized and run like clockwork, it was truly fun to be a small part of it and show the TFS students a potential career.

The staff at my old school is right on top of things and made sure the day went smoothly and professionally.



I actually have a young man working for me now at **Unlimited Service Automotive** in Lansing, who is a student at the Center for Technology on Wentworth Ave. in Calumet City, IL. This is a District 215 school where the kids learn

Automotive Repair and Body Work. They are amazing! They competed at the World of Wheels in March and have won several awards over the years.

Thanks goes to everyone who made this day a bang up success. Do it again?? I'm in!

George Vincent owns and operates **Unlimited Service Automotive** in Lansing, IL. He is also host of the weekly radio talk show "Big George the Carguy" heard Saturday mornings on **95.1 FM & 1420 AM WIMS**, **102.5 FM & 1060 AM WHFB** in Southwest Michigan, and streaming live online and on **Facebook**.

Music Still Brings Us Together!



The rockin' blues band Lake Effect with classmates **Bill Hutchison** (Indiana) and **Dean Groom** (Indiana) played at Evil Horse Brewery, Crete, IL, in March to the largest crowd Evil Horse ever had. Shown here with Dean and Bill are (from left) **Bud Jenkins** (Illinois), **Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis** (Illinois), **Chuck Roseen** (Illinois), and **Rich Krilich** (Illinois). In the second photo is **Keith Gardner** (Illinois). Also there but not in the photos were **Glenn Wierzbicki** (Illinois),

Wanda Hickle Gardner (TFS '71), Sharon and Joe Kaptur (TFS '70), and Maria Krilich.

[Catch Lake Effect](#) in Illinois

Sat. Apr. 7 Smokey Jo's, 475 W. Burville Rd, Crete, IL 8–midnight,

Fri. April 27 Benny's, 2549 Glenwood-Lansing Rd, Lynwood, IL 8–midnight

www.LakeEffectBlues.com

A Message from Ken Hanes



Once again I found myself anxiously awaiting the first of the month to see what was in store from my friends in the TFS Class of '69. And as usual I wasn't disappointed.

Bill, I loved your story and was able to see and feel your experience, and just knowing you, I find it no surprise. ["Ending the Year with a Good Deed" by **Bill Hutchison**, March 2018] It's always a pleasure running into you and **Dean Groom** on the occasions my wife Linda and I come out to hear your band, Lake Effect, play.

I find as I grow older my memories become fonder. I find myself growing more excited with the prospect of our upcoming 50th Reunion. I'm hoping and praying that we all can keep our health and be able to come and enjoy our reunion. I was a bit overwhelmed last reunion trying to see and remember my old classmates, but with our Life & Times newsletter, I can actually seek out those who have brought us such pleasure each month with their stories and memories shared.

So again I thank all of you who work so hard to bring us this newsletter and lighten my life. I can't wait to thank you all in person. Look for me, I'll be the one with the big smile of gratitude. So proud to be from the Class of '69. —**K.O.Hanes** (Indiana)

Volunteers Needed for 50th Reunion Planning Committee

If you are interested in being part of the 50th Reunion planning committee, send your email address and phone number to our 50th Reunion email address TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com. Once we have people in place to start organizing a

committee, we will be asking for your valued and needed input. Thank you.

What's in Your Vista, Janet?



Janet Ferko Carey shares the view from her Florida home for this month's vista. Janet says, "We like living on a canal in Pompano Beach because the location and weather allow us to enjoy swimming, boating, snorkeling, scuba diving, gardening, walking, and going to the beach pretty much year round. The town and surrounding area also have plenty of restaurants, cultural events, shopping, and other activities to keep us busy, while our neighborhood is laid back and quiet, making it easy to relax."

Share your vista with our classmates. Send a photo of where you live and tell us what you like about the place you call home. Email your photo to TFSouth69@gmail.com

Happy April Birthday!

Donna Woods Tadd, Bob Guadagno, Robert Ranfranz, Patty Diebel Kwasny, Kenneth Jayne, Donna Nigohosian Magro, Dave Ervin, Alan Danaher, Tom Novak, Dave Mellendorf, Dennis Knoerzer

Classmates Celebrated March Wedding Anniversaries

Louie & **Sharon Gulley Escalante** (Indiana)—17 years

Conrad (TFS '65) & **Cindy Graham Kats** (Indiana)—48 years

Frank & Deb Ruth Mazzocco (Minnesota)—44 years

Karen & **Lee Fetscher** (Wisconsin)—39 years

Congratulations!

Mario and **Christine Nelson Haro** (Indiana) have a new grandson. Carter Reece came into this world in February. Dad Tim, Mom Melissa, big brother Nick, and baby are all doing well. Christine says, "Big brother Nick is 15 years old, and now having Carter is another true blessing."



Life & Times Heard from...

Becky Bonnar Eck (Minnesota)—What a sweet, sweet story from Bill Hutchinson in the March newsletter! I really enjoyed it. ["Ending the Year with a Good Deed," March 2018] Thanks for all you do to keep us informed and to share these stories.

Bill Hutchinson (Indiana)—We are very fortunate to have such a great newsletter and a class that is so responsive to not only reading the newsletters, but contributing to it! Cheers to all!

Susie and **Jim Wagner** (South Carolina)—We enjoy the newsletter.

Mary Ebbens Knighton (Florida)—Keep up the great work!

Alan Danaher (Florida)—I want to make sure I am getting the regular newsletters and announcement of any 50th Reunion plans for 2019. Thanks.

Patti Wozny (Illinois)—The newsletter is so fabulous. I totally appreciate all that work on it!!!



Our Heartfelt Condolences...

to Sharon Aurich Comer, Butch Aurich (TFS '68), Linda Aurich Vierk (TFS '66), and their brothers, sister, and families on the passing of their mother, Mary Aurich, in March, at the age of 89. Mrs. Aurich resided in Florida.

to Bobbie and Chris Cooper and their family on the loss of Bobbie's mother, Bernice Johnson, in March. Chris says, "She was my second mom. I'm going to miss her so much."

to Ellen and Dave Dickinson and their family, who lost Ellen's mother Beulah "Boots" Jacobson in March at her young age of 96. Dave says his mother-in-law was a little

dynamo until the end and adds, "I will love you forever."

to Kathy Miller Coughlin on the passing of her Uncle Joe Miller, whose life was her inspiration. Kathy says, "Because of him I became a teacher, and because of him I knew what was important to teach."



We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with anyone listed below, or if you are forwarding the newsletter to a classmate, please invite him or her to subscribe to the Life & Times through our website TFSClassof69.weebly.com or by contacting us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Art Lundin
Belinda Love Pala
Pat Link Cox
Joe Leclair
Georgia Leonard Anderson
Steve Leadbetter

Lori Lareau Skorupka
Roger Lafollette
Linda Krygier Poltrock
Randy Krolak
Lynn Kortenhoven Ullery
Rich Koselke

Stay in Touch

Our 218 classmates and "friends of the class" stay in touch by subscribing to our free monthly newsletter. Not subscribed? Visit our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com to sign up.

Help us keep our database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com



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 [Our Website \[tfsclassof69.weebly.com\]\(http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com\)](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com)

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: To promote and grow our network of TFS Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.

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