

February 2016

Richie Rebel says, "February brings us the art of Ken Hanes and a peek at our past."

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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



Painting with a Higher Power

by **Ken Hanes** (Indiana)

I have always been interested in drawing. I can remember back as far as fifth or sixth grade at Coolidge School copying the artist Ed "Big Daddy" Roth's cartoons of



characters called "Wierdos" driving race cars with my classmate **Bill Hutchison**. I also had Miss Militech, our grade school art teacher, who kept me interested in art. As I entered TFS, I became obsessed with Surrealism Artists like Salvador Dali. I copied a couple of his paintings when I was in high school—*Necrophiliac Fountain Flowing from a Grand Piano* and the *Archeological Reminiscence of Millet's "Angelus."*

I have always been a woodworker and found peace and contentment in making furniture for our home and for friends and clients. I also spent 30 years as a sheet metal worker at Unilever in Hammond, Indiana. I was a layout tinner, fabricating sheet metal fittings and machinery guards for our plant. I retired at age 55 with a disability, job-related COPD and heart and lung issues. The dust, fumes, and dyes we used took its toll on me. When I retired, I built a woodworking shop in my garage and worked diligently on my projects until the wood dust overwhelmed me.

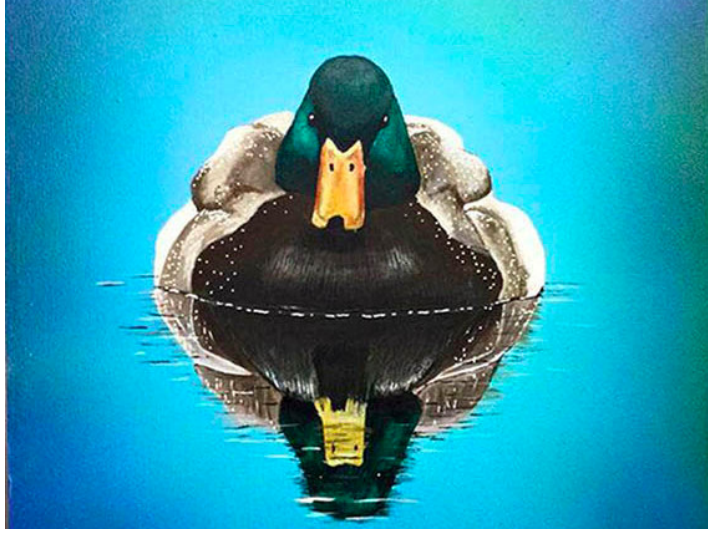
My painting took a backseat until a couple of years ago when my 37-year-old daughter, Kate Horner, had a flirt with death. After routine heart surgery at Northwestern University Hospital, her heart deflated and flat-lined on the table. She was put on life support and on a heart replacement list. After 10 days, they wanted to put in an artificial heart pump, an LVAD (left ventricular assist device). But on the day of that surgery, while preparing her for the LVAD, for no reason they can explain, Kate's heart inflated and began to beat on its own. It was no doubt a miracle!



*I*t's been over a year now, and Kate still has some issues, but is healing and moving foreword. She and her husband have adopted a 1-year-old baby girl, Lexi, to join their 6-year-old daughter, Cheyanne, an up-and-coming artist.

*K*ate's miracle was a life-changing experience for all of us and changed me in so many ways, especially in my artwork. I became obsessed with my painting. I sold some woodworking equipment and built an art studio in my workshop, where I spend many hours painting, inspired by where life has brought me. My mind, which once searched frantically for ideas to paint, now floods with ideas. Sometimes I can't sleep, because my mind is painting while I'm trying to sleep.

*N*ot all of my work is from my own original ideas. Pinterest has been a great thing for me with its many photos and ideas of things to paint. I spend hours copying photos for my reference files. But all my painting comes from my heart.



I work mostly with an airbrush and acrylics and use markers for fine detail. I love to paint skies, sunsets, trees, stars. I honestly can't explain how I do it. I just do. I seem to be inspired by my Higher Power, and I want to express that feeling on my canvas. I don't think of myself as anything special, I just enjoy doing what I feel I've been called to do. Thank you for honoring me with your interest in my paintings.

Ken's artwork can be viewed on [Facebook](#) by searching for his page "**K.O.'s Paint Shop.**"



Ask Richie!

Hey Richie!—Didn't Lansing have a village newspaper when we were in school? What was that called?

Richie says—Glad you asked! It was the *Lansing Journal*. The name changed to the *Sun Newspapers* and the *Sun-Journal* in 1970.

If you like to visit the past, you're in luck. A partnership between the Lansing Historical Society and Lansing Public Library made Internet access to the old newspaper files possible in 2015. No matter where you are in the world, you can browse the *Lansing Journal* in the archives. Click here for the link to the Lansing Public Library website:

www.lansingpl.org/lansing_journal.htm

Everyone on **TEAM69** got waaaaay lost in the digital archives for hours! We think you might like to see what we found. So, Rebels beware...Here's our new, occasional feature "Back to the Past!"



It was forty-eight years ago...

Three of our classmates appeared in the Feb. 10, 1968 *Lansing Journal*. Here's **Marilyn Rea**, **Peggy Peacock**, and **Mary Zych** dressed for Sadie Hawkins Day and perhaps looking for dates to the February turn-about dance, TWIRP (The Woman Is Required to Pay).

Click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser window to find the T.W.I.R.P. story on page 19. It's almost at the end of a large digitized file. Be patient while it loads. And, on the front page of this issue of the *Lansing Journal*, you'll see a photo of our **Mike Sailor**.
http://www.lansingpl.org/lansing_journals/1968/1968_02_10.pdf

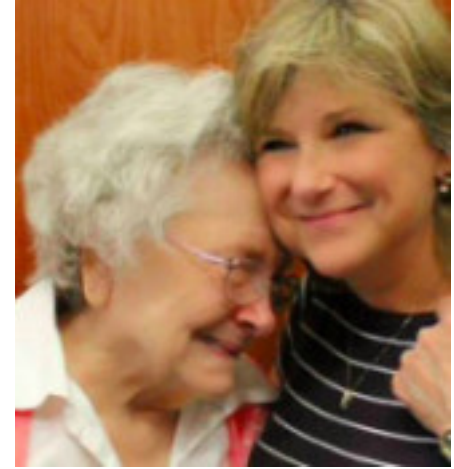


TWIRP — These three T F South Juniors show whats been happening at T F South during the past week. South has been celebrating it's annual Twirp week. (The woman is required to pay.) This is a traditional change-about week with a different event planned for each day. From the left are Marylin Rea, Peggy Peacock, and Mary Zych.

Cheryl's Mom

Our condolences to Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis and her family on the passing of Cheryl's mother, Audrey Theada Eenigenburg Ridder, 91, in January 2016, after

a long journey with Alzheimer's disease. Mrs. Ridder, a Lansing resident of proud Dutch heritage, enjoyed painting and singing, and her priorities in life were her faith and her family of 6 children, 14 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren. We share Dave Dickinson's kind words to Cheryl, "May your mom rest in peace, free of pain and heartache."



TEAM69 Heard from Our Teachers...

Mrs. Joyce Freund, Third-Grade Teacher, Indiana Avenue School, retired—Thinking of Indiana Avenue School brought back many pleasant memories. Your class in particular was so much fun. It included Barry, Cary, Harry, Jerry, Larry, Mary and Terry! It was a good-size class, but gave me no trouble. It was easy keeping everyone's attention. I've taught other grade levels, but 3rd grade is my favorite. I'm sure my "kids" (former pupils) are scattered all over the U.S. I love hearing about them. They each have their own story.

*Mrs. Freund is the subject of **Harry Smith's** article, "My Favorite Teacher," Life & Times Dec. 2015.*

Mrs. Judy Kaufer Lohr-Safcik, TFS English Dept., retired—Love reading the *Life & Times*. I finished my high school teaching career at South in 1999. Went on to work with Student Teachers and Methods students at Governors State University. Retired from there in 2010. Got remarried in 2011. Would love to hear from your classmates.

Classmates send their heartfelt condolences to Judy on the loss of her husband Mike in January 2016, after she sent us the message above. Their years together were far too few, but our hope for Judy is that those years hold a lifetime of memories. Mike Safcik's memorial service is Feb. 21, at B'nai Yehuda Beth Sholom, Homewood, IL. You may reach Judy through her Facebook page.

TEAM69 Also Heard from...

Deb Ruth Mazzocco (Minnesota)—Another great issue [Jan. 2016]. Enjoyed the stories from **Rob Garrison** and **Glenn Wierzbicki**. Thanks for all the work you do for the Class of '69.

Kathy Orban (Illinois)—You did another fantastic issue. Go Rebels!

Mike Wright (Colorado)—The **TEAM69** staff is doing a wonderful job with the newsletter. Please don't tire of it.

Dan White (South Carolina)—**Mike [Wright]**, you sure take some fantastic photos [*Life & Times* Jan. 2016]. Keep those great photos coming. And keep up the great work, you guys

are amazing!

Nancy Cress Karwatka (TFS' 70, Maryland)—Your newsletter is awesome! Thanks for adding me and thanks for all you do.

Darlene Barzda Snell (Indiana)—Love getting the newsletter. Makes me wish I would have gotten more involved in school. Think I missed out on a lot of great people. Thanks everyone for your dedication to us!

Donna Torgerson Clark (Illinois)—I love the articles that are written by our classmates! Keeps us so connected. Thanks for all your work!

Pam Neal Pfeffer (Michigan)—I look forward to reading the *Life & Times*. Nice way to keep caught up on our fellow classmates. Thank You! Still living in Michigan, right by the Warren Dunes. Have five acres and when we have time, my husband makes wine (as a hobby). Have a great New Year!

More about Pam and her husband's hobby of wine-making in an upcoming Life & Times.

Happy February Birthday!

Art Banet, Denise Steinberg Johnson, Carol Mizanin Zenk, Bill Hutchison, Bonnie Van Kley O'Connor, Chris Cooper, Marcia Yuskowitz Irvin, Vita Klos, Glenn Armstrong, Chuck Roseen, Dave Kats, Lee Fetscher, Bob Collins, Dennis Walton, Fred Hasse

Celebrating January Wedding Anniversaries

Linda and **Ken Hanes** (Indiana)—42 years

Ken and **Maxine Hinze Rogers** (Nebraska)—44 years

Doug and **Sherry Nondorf Bingham** (Indiana)—42 years



Reconnecting...

Carol Bendell-Wiers (TFS '70) and **Jack Wiers** (Hawaii), surprised **Pat Walsh** (Arizona) with a visit in January. Jack and Carol were visiting family in Arizona and the teamwork of classmates on Facebook helped them find Pat nearby. Smiles in this group selfie tell all—it was great to see each other again!

Help Us Contact Our Classmates

If you are in contact with these classmates, please invite them to subscribe to our *Life & Times* e-newsletter at our website fsclassof69.weebly.com or ask them to email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com. You can use the **Forward** button below to share the newsletter with classmates, family, and friends.

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Rich Koselke
Lynn Kortenhoven Ullery

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For the February *Life & Times*

Photos: Ken Hanes, Art Collection of Dennis Walton, Lansing Public Library, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis, Carol Bendell-Wiers

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Correspondent: Dave Dickinson

Art Aficionado: Bud Jenkins

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Our Mission: 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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