

February 2018

[Click here for a printable PDF
and links to past issues](#)



Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

From the Other Side with Love

by **Michael Wright** (Colorado)

Of the many spirit contacts I've made as a medium, one of the most interesting and surprising has been 1920s/early 30s Hollywood movie star June Marlowe, probably best known as schoolteacher Miss Crabtree from the old Our Gang/Little Rascals comedy shorts. Although as kids we were fed a steady diet of the popular black & whites, they'd long slipped from my memory until the 1930 short "School's Out" caught my eye at the doctor's office, apparently part of a closed-circuit loop of Our Gang features. This led to my initial visitation with the prolific actress and heartthrob of pre-pubescent boys, who died in 1984 of complications from Parkinson's disease and verified her presence early in our relationship by making my hand shake.

One thing I've learned about those in spirit is that they are, for all practical purposes, the same unmistakable souls they were when they lived on this side, with the same personalities and same level of energy, albeit with added insight from a bigger perspective plus uncanny ways of delivering messages. And from what I can tell, in her prime, June Marlowe must have been outgoing, fun-loving, and full of energy, as she comes through loud and clear every time, occasionally dropping in unsolicited, which I consider quite the treat. And, as an equestrian—which I confirmed online—she loves to frame her always-helpful messages in horse terminology at every opportunity.

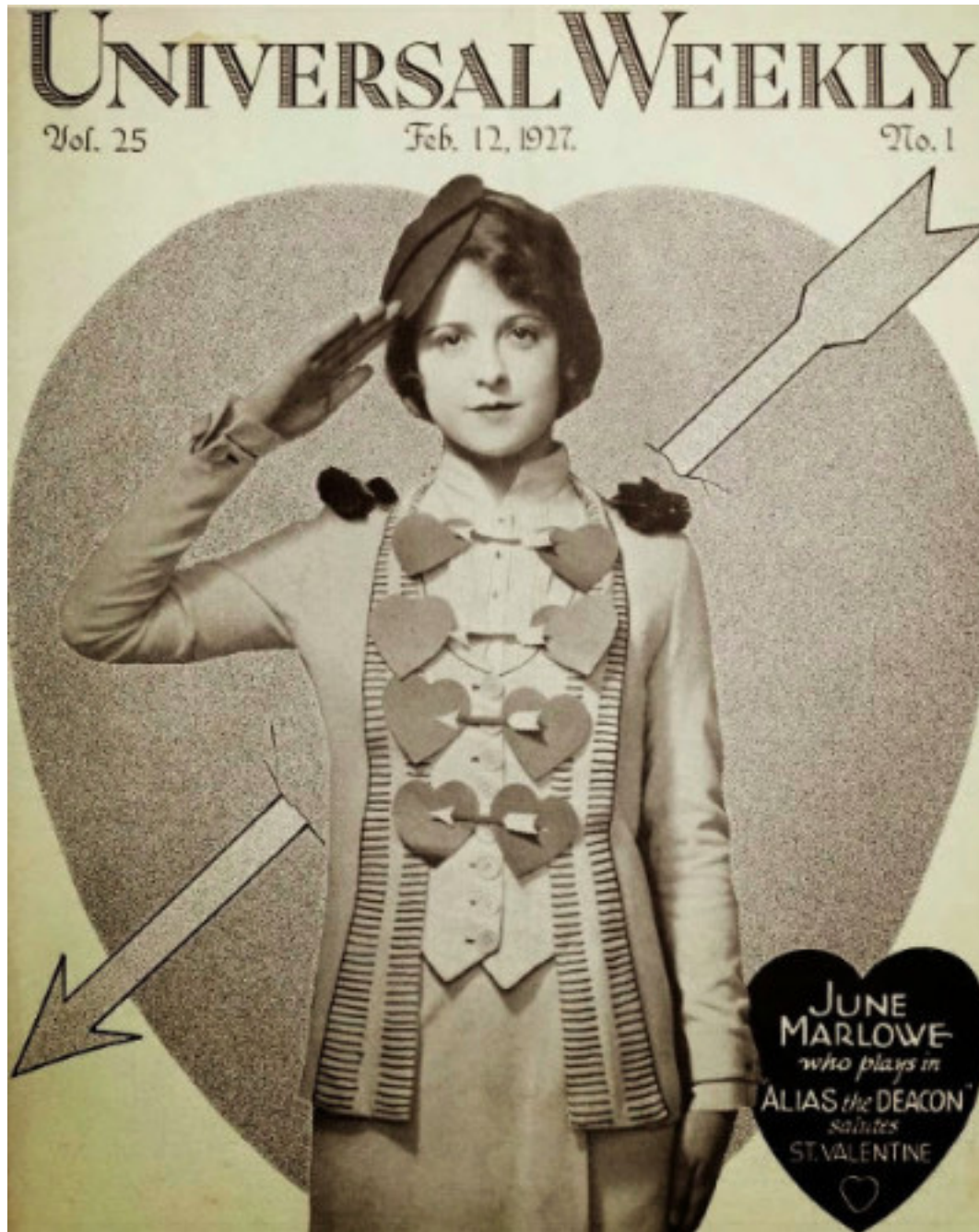
For example, after struggling through a mediumship workshop conducted by world-renowned Arthur Findlay College—which I had to drop out of due to lack of sleep, a perpetual problem—in frustration I asked June if I should forget about trying to further develop my mediumship skills since my body wasn't cooperating. Using my clairvoyance, in response she showed me an image of myself, climbing up on a horse. The message was clear: Stop your whining (my words) and get back on that horse (hers). As a result, I've enrolled in an upcoming workshop in Big Sur, California, being hosted by one of the mediums from the previous one.

On the day before I planned to have our aged and ailing dog Max euthanized, I asked my spirit guides if I was doing the right thing at the right time. Instead, June jumped in unsolicited, obviously feeling she could address the situation more appropriately. And did she ever: a “video clip” from the same "School's Out" short, in which Miss Crabtree—at the prodding of some children—kicks a bucket, her way of letting me know symbolically that, yes, it was time. Although I knew she was an animal lover, co-starring with Rin-Tin-Tin in the 1920s movie series by the same name in which she also rode horses, it didn't occur to me to consult her about this difficult decision.



But my favorite Marlowe message came in the form of a scavenger hunt, in which June—responding to my question about the state of our unexpected relationship, as we obviously never knew each other—showed me a deck of playing cards being shuffled by a pro. This threw me until I recalled an unusual photo of a younger, saluting J. Marlowe, dressed in a jacket with hearts and arrows running down the front as if mimicking a playing card. Realizing she was making me work for my answer, I began to investigate.

After a brief search, I stumbled upon another version of the picture I hadn't seen before, only this time the background made the photo's purpose evident: It was the cover shot for Universal Weekly, the movie company's Valentine edition from 1927, advertising their soon-to-be-released film, "Alias the Deacon," starring June Marlowe.



Feeling I was getting closer, I continued to dig until I found a synopsis of the movie's plot: A cardsharper church deacon takes his winnings from unsuspecting well-heeled opponents and gives it to the needy, a sort of modern-day gambling Robin Hood.

I was right (or led, more likely) to connect the image of the shuffled cards with the valentine-like/playing card-like picture of June Marlowe. But what I found truly moving was the playful, roundabout message this lovely, caring soul was trying to impart via the old magazine cover: That I should consider our relationship to be cordial indeed—as she obviously does—with lots of attendant valentine hearts.

[**Click On The Our Gang Kid**](#)

for a quick video of Miss Crabtree kicking the bucket from the 1930 short comedy film "School's Out" starring June Marlowe and Our Gang. Miss Marlowe appeared as the kids' beloved teacher in six Our Gang comedies.



An Unexpected Connection

by Ken Hanes (Indiana)

In January, my wife Linda and I boarded our plane at Chicago's Midway Airport to fly to Phoenix, Arizona. We selected two seats at mid-plane and watched the passengers make their way down the aisle. We wondered who would take the third seat with us. A beautiful lady made eye contact, smiled, and asked if the seat was available, and we graciously allowed her to take the window seat with us. She was very pleasant and made small talk with my wife while I dozed.

I overheard that she was from Lansing, and Linda told her we were also from there. Then she said she was from the TFS Class of 1969. On a closer inspection, the years faded away and there sat a girl I went through school with from 1st grade through high school. It was **Nancy DeBoer DeAngelo** (Illinois). We reminisced about our school years and our lives. It was a heartwarming experience.

At the baggage claim, we parted to go our separate ways, but not before agreeing to see each other again at our upcoming 50th Class Reunion. What were the odds of this chance encounter? Sure made for a wonderful day.

What's in Your Vista, Dennis?



This month, **Dennis Knoerzer** (Missouri) shares his vista. He says it took a while, but he and Cindy (TFS '73) came to like living in the St. Louis area. Dennis says, "There are many things to do. We can see Chicago teams when they come to town or see wildlife in natural settings or check out the wineries." His advice to visitors, "Stay away from STL style pizza and go for the toasted ravioli!"

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

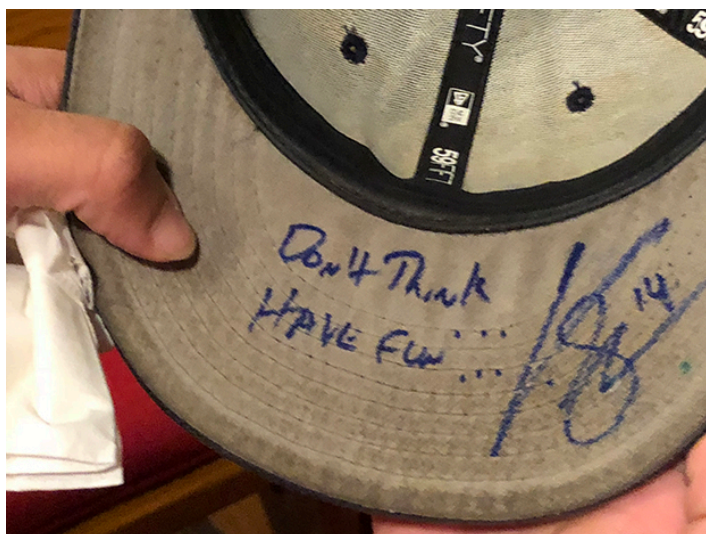
TFS Grad Shares His Philosophy— Don't Think. Have Fun!

When Curtis Granderson (TFS '99) returned to Lansing January 6 to speak at the First United Methodist Church, he found himself a baseball's throw from the TFS field where he grew into a fine athlete. And who better to introduce the 14-year Major League Baseball veteran, who has played with Detroit, NYMets, Yankees, and Dodgers, than Mr. Jim "Coach K" Kijewski, who knew Curtis when he was a TFS student called CJ.

Curtis was in town in January to visit his parents who live in Lynwood and to host his annual winter baseball camp for south suburban kids. He accepted



the invitation to speak in Lansing and made it a benefit for his nonprofit foundation, Grand Kids.



Curtis has given back to TFS during his professional career. His donations have made school improvements, provided shoes for athletic teams, assisted baseball and softball programs, and funded scholarships for TFS seniors who enroll at Curtis's alma mater, U of I Chicago.

And his advice for young athletes? It's written inside Curtis's own ball cap: Don't Think. Have Fun.

Happy February Birthday!

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

Celebrated January Wedding Anniversaries

Linda & **Ken Hanes** (Indiana)—44 years
Ken & **Maxine Hinze Rogers** (Nebraska)—46 years
Maureen & **Bill Hutchison** (Indiana)—12 years
Doug & **Sherry Nondorf Bingham** (Indiana)—44 years

The Life & Times Heard from...

Mrs. Judy Kaufer Lohr-Safcik (Our TFS English Teacher, retired)—Another great issue [Jan. 2018]. Happy new year to the Class of 1969. I hope 2018 is filled with health and happiness.

John Hansen (South Carolina)—Thanks for the great newsletter.

Barbara Homans Schwarz (Florida)—Thanks for all you and the other unsung volunteers do for the Class of '69.

Our Heartfelt Condolences to...



Faith Van Kley (Indiana) and her family on the loss of Faith's mother, Edith Ivarson Van Kley, in December. Mrs. Van Kley taught Sunday school and played the piano at First Baptist Church of Lansing. She enjoyed sewing, baking, antiquing, and redecorating her home. Her greatest joy was raising her family and spending time with her grand- and great-grandchildren. Mrs. Van Kley was 96.

We also send condolences to Debi Owles (Illinois), Arlene Owles (TFS '67), and their families on the loss of their mother Dorothy Brogan Owles in January at the age of 94. Mrs. Owles is remembered as a kind, loving, and cheerful mom, who loved music and the Chicago Cubs.



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

Greg Polanski
Diane Poffenberger Kubicki
Jan Plate
Pat Padjen McNulty
Cheryl Oppenhuis Morrone
Daryl Olsen
Michael Olen

Joe O'Malley
Jerry Ogborn
Carol Noort Jabaay
Donna Nigohosian Magro
Lynn Nelson Bergman
Robert W. Murray
Judith Morehouse

TFS Class of 1978
celebrates its 40th
reunion this coming
August 2018. Tell your

siblings, cousins, spouses, and friends about the Class of '78 website for more info about their big event tfsouth78.com



February 2018 Life & Times

TFS TEAM69 Communications

Photos from Michael Wright, Dennis Knoerzer, Dan Bovino, The Lansing Journal, BillHutchisonPhotography.com

Send Your News to the Life & Times

We love hearing from you and about you. Contact us through our email TFSouth69@gmail.com or message us at our Facebook page [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](#).

Stay in Touch

214 subscribers, which includes 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 contact database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com



 Forward the Life & Times to Friends and Family

 [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](#)

 tfsclassof69.weebly.com

Copyright © 2018 TF South Class of 1969, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

MailChimp.

