

**February 2017**

Richie Rebel says, "Follow your heart.  
It knows the way."

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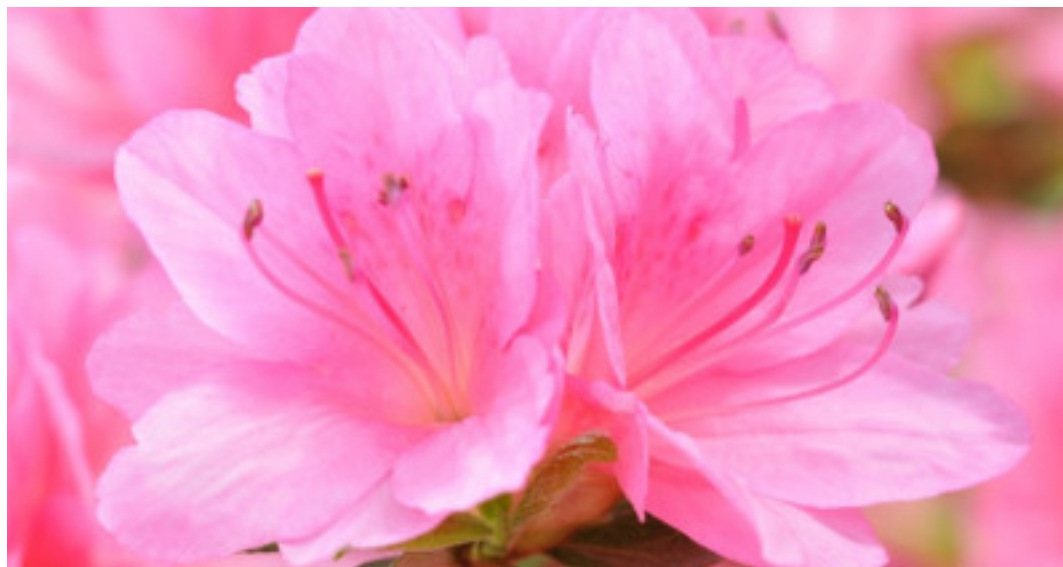
# Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

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## Ron *Who?*

by Ron Schultz (Illinois)



**Let's go back** to the first Valentine's Day of the new century. The world had survived Y2K. I had been divorced for several years and lived in Rockford, Illinois. My most recent relationship did not survive Y2K when the woman I was seeing made a New Year's resolution to go back to her old boyfriend.

Pam Miller Murrin (TFS '71) lived 90 miles away in Plainfield, Illinois. She lost her husband, Marty Murrin (TFS '70) in 1984. In 1999, she had ended a long-term relationship. Both Pam and I were ready to swear off the opposite sex.

Then a few weeks before Valentine's Day 2000, I received a mysterious letter. It was from **Debbie Miller Wahlert** (Illinois), Pam's sister. I was our classmate **Steve Wahlert's** roommate at the University of Illinois and the Best Man at Debbie and Steve's wedding.

But I hadn't had much contact with Debbie and Steve in the prior few years. It seemed unusual to receive a mailing this long after the holidays.

I opened the letter. Debbie shared that Pam's son Norm was engaged to be married in August of 2000. Now that Pam was sort of on her own, she would need someone to escort her to the wedding. Debbie wondered if I might be willing to fill that role. I was intrigued. Pam was Matron of Honor at Debbie and Steve's wedding and seemed to be a very attractive lady.

I decided to give Pam a call. After all, she must have known about the letter. The call went something like this:

*RINGGG...RINGGG...RINGGG*

PAM: Hello?

RON: Hello, Pam, this is Ron calling!

PAM: Ron who?

RON: Ron Schultz. You remember. Debbie and Steve's friend that lives in Rockford.

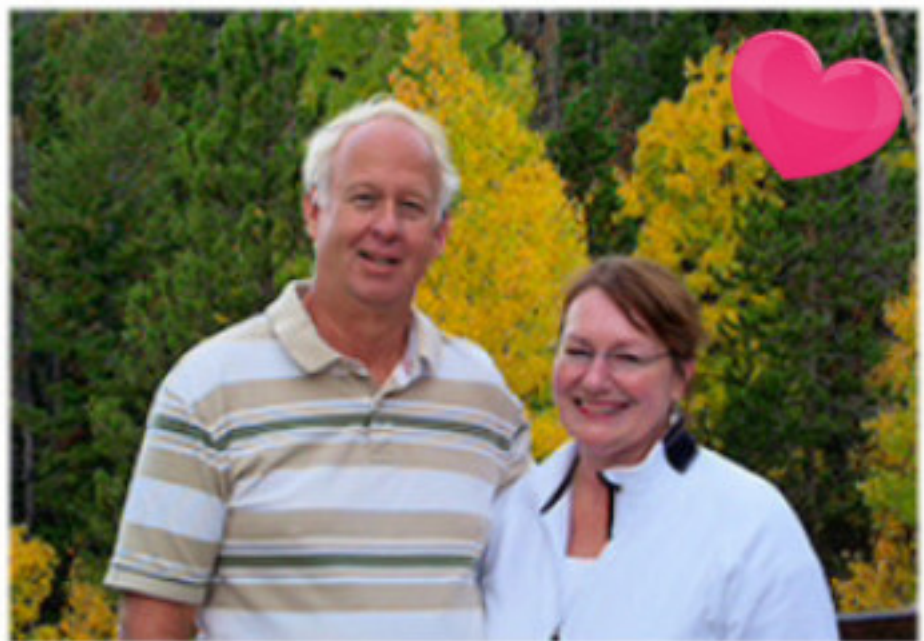
PAM: Ummm, OK....

RON: You know, Deb sent me this letter about Norm's wedding?

PAM: What letter?

Obviously, Pam was not aware of the letter being sent. She wasn't entirely sure she needed an escort for her son's wedding. I explained the letter and asked if Pam wanted to talk about it over a drink sometime. She said she would call me back about it! Pam was not at all sure about this strange call from a person she barely knew, but she finally agreed to meet me for an afternoon lunch at Maggiano's in Schaumburg the first weekend in February.

Things went so well that we spent the entire evening together. I sent Pam a pink azalea plant that Valentine's Day and we continued to date. We had a great time at Pam's son's wedding in August, and then, we were married ourselves the following June. The rest is history!



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## Keeping the Best

by **Peggy Peacock Kubic** (South Carolina)

**June 1967**—I transferred from Istrouma High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to TF South. During my first summer in Lansing, I met **Ed Kubic**, who played baseball at the ball field behind the old Nagle Meatpacking plant. I lived in the apartments by the field and often came to watch the games, hoping to meet some high school kids. I exchanged a few words with Ed at that first meeting, but no sparks flew, not just yet...

School began in September, but it wasn't until the following spring of '68 that Ed finally got around to asking me for a date. Many years later I discovered that Ed had set me up to date several other guys so that once Ed asked me out, he would be my last. His mantra was "date the rest but keep the best." Looks like he was right!

On a Saturday night in early April, Ed and I finally went on our first date. Who could ever forget the first date with someone who would ultimately change his or her life forever? We found our way into the balcony of the Parthenon Theater in Hammond, Indiana. Do you remember "The Valley of the Dolls?" Yes! That was the movie...Whew! It certainly heated things up a bit (like we needed any help)! We often double-dated with **Carol Mizanin** (Illinois) and **Don Rowley** (Connecticut), so it's possible that this may have been the arrangement that night, too. The four of us had so much fun together that it should have been illegal!



Ed and I started a tradition of going to A&W after the show for ice cream floats and hot fudge sundaes. Those were the best sundaes ever made! Ed was big on root beer floats or "Black Cows." Some things can never be duplicated. Life was so simple then.

Guess you may be wondering about that very first good-night kiss...*some* girls kiss and tell...but, when all was said and done, that first kiss sealed the deal!

We spent our Senior year getting to know each other better. It was a special time—attending school events, building homecoming floats, going to parties, applying to colleges, acting in TF South Follies, and attending awards banquets for the Gene White Award that Ed received and the teaching scholarship I earned. And of course, prom.

Even though we had gone to our Junior Prom together the year before, our senior prom was to be very special for both of us. To be voted Prom King and Queen by our classmates was the perfect way to end our high school years. It was the cherry on top of the hot fudge sundae!! One of our fondest TF South memories.

Like most graduations, the Class of 1969's was bittersweet to say the least. During our years together, we became close friends with many of our classmates with whom we shared many (questionable) experiences. These became the wonderful, cherished memories that we carry with us to this day. Everyone knew that once we graduated, we would be moving on in different directions per our life plans, including us. Ed headed for Purdue and I started college at Illinois State, but in 1970 I transferred to LSU and graduated in 1973.

After surviving a long-distance relationship for three years, Ed and I were married in 1973 in a little Lutheran church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, before a standing room only crowd. Seems like it was just yesterday that we were two naïve 21-year-olds with nothing but a 1971 Ford Falcon, a piano, and the future.

We made our first home at Purdue in married student housing. Ed finished his last year in school while I worked in the accounting department at the Purdue administration building. Golden memories, fun, and new friends were made during our first married year in West Lafayette.

Here we are today in 2017. Ed counts our time together from that very first date so long ago. He has confessed to me that he knew we would always be together. That means that as of June 2017, we will be together 50 years, married 44 years. We have two grown children, Kelli and Ed III, and four grandchildren. We have been blessed beyond measure!

I will tell you honestly, yes, there are times when we make each other crazy and drive each other nuts, but I also know that Ed has been with me every step of the way since my MS diagnosis. We've had some rough patches just like every married couple, but he has been a constant source of support and encouragement through it all. I thank God for this man, and I know how fortunate I am to have him as my husband, my friend, and my love. Once again, I have been blessed beyond measure.

Our memories are all we really take with us in this life. They can be a constant source of joy, wonder, sorrow, love, and pride that can cheer us, console us, and help us remember those we love now and those we have loved from long ago. Our memories are unique to each of us, and they show us how we have lived and what we have valued.

Our memories are our treasures, where our hearts are, and where love lives on.





## Secret Message, Special Love

by Frank & Deb Ruth Mazzocco (Minnesota)

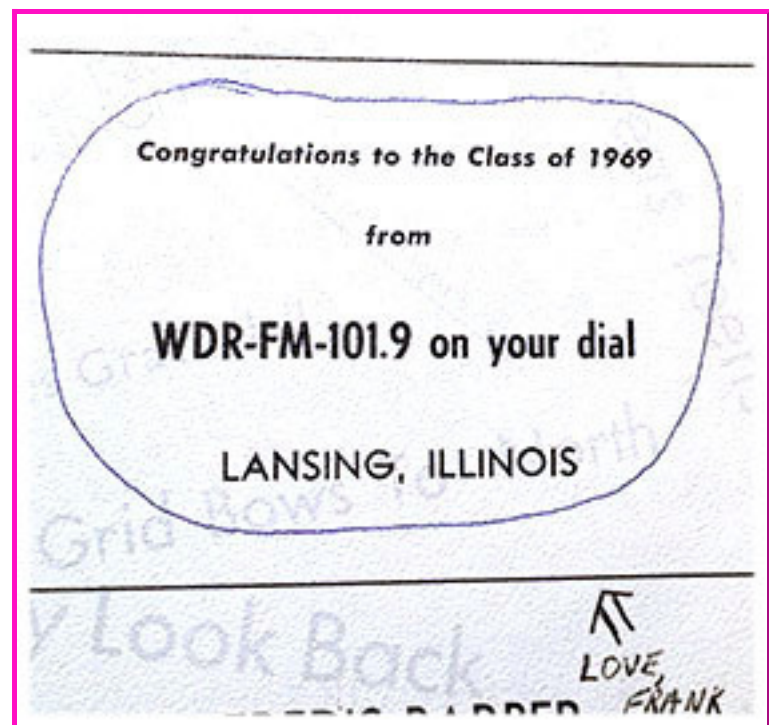
**Aw, that good old radio station** WDR-FM at 101.9 on the dial. You remember that from our high school days, don't you?

No you don't.

Check page 175, the final page of ads in our TFS 1969 Postscript yearbook, and you'll see that the "radio station WDR-FM" bought an eighth-of-a-page to congratulate us on our graduation.

Except it didn't.

We—**Debbie Ruth** and **Frank Mazzocco**—invented the call letters that contained our initials and the frequency that signified **November 9**, 1968.



Nov. 9 was the final performance and the cast party for "Guys and Dolls." Frank remembers delivering roses to the piano player in the stage band that night (that would be Debbie), and Debbie remembers a kiss at the back door of her parents' home on Oak Avenue (that was Frank).

What we can't remember is how we got that little ad into the yearbook a few months later, or even whose idea it was (though Debbie thinks it was Frank's). Was Mr. Joe Hyde a collaborator or did we slip it past him? Did Postscript editors **Barb Sroka** and **Kathy Miller** know it was a fake?

Hey, we're 65!

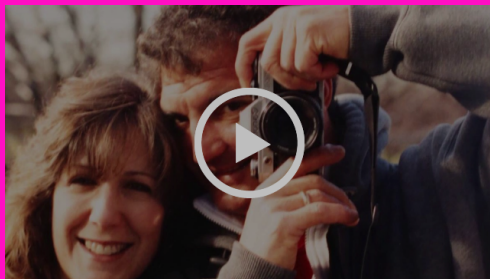
You don't expect us to remember everything, do you?

We attended prom the following spring, dated while we were at separate colleges, and married on March 30, 1974.

Several moves, several jobs, two children and two grandchildren later ... ba-da-bump, here we are. About to celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary.

Sometimes we celebrate November 9, too. We were young and in love, in a very special place with special people.

What's hard to remember about that?



[\*\*CLICK HERE\*\* to watch a recent YouTube video interview with Dan Bovino \(TFS '74\), Lansing resident and photographer, as he lays a little love on our hometown.](#)

## TFS **TEAM69** Heard From...

**Carolyn "Inky" White Scofield** (Illinois)—Great pictures from **Bill Hutchison**. [Backpacking in the Washington Wilderness, Jan. 2017] We live in such a beautiful country. The last couple of months have brought some classmates to my store [Water's Edge Gift, Garden & Pond Center in Lansing, IL] to say hi. It was great to see **Dan White** (South Carolina) and his mother and **Linda Jensen** (California) coming in for a wedding. Love seeing you guys. If you're in town, stop in to say hi. Happy New Year to all!

**Grace Demanuele Talbot** (California)—What great pictures by **Bill Hutchison**. [Backpacking in the Washington Wilderness, Jan. 2017] Looks like a great time discovering Washington! It's a beautiful state. How fun to be able to get to do all the camping and hiking with a great friend! Thank you for sharing!!



**Bill Hutchison** (Indiana)—The *Life & Times* has helped reignite old friendships, create new friendships, bond our class together in a way that few ever get to experience. I'm very proud to be a part of it. 😎✌️

**Marilyn Rea Beyer** (Massachusetts)—This issue took us outside and inside: Hiking: Inspiring! Social Security Advice: Retiring! Thanks, especially to **John Link** (Illinois) [*Life & Times* Jan 2017]. I have a January birthday, so his advice was right on the money, so to speak. :-)

**Jack Yauger** (Indiana)—It is a great one!! [*Life & Times* Jan. 2017] Good way to start the year.

**Diana Steinweg Plese** (Illinois)—Another great newsletter [Jan. 2017]. The "Rebels of '69" are very lucky to receive this newsletter each month. Happy New Year!

**Rich Krilich** (Illinois)—Love all the great editions from month to month. Excellent articles and pictures really keep us connected. We have a great family in the Class of 1969! A peaceful, joyous, happy, and healthy New Year to all of our our classmates and friends! Thank you to our newsletter staff and everyone who keep our lines of communication open to all! God bless you all!

**Robert J. Murray** (Georgia)—Thanks for everyone's years of friendship. Hope we all make it another year! Happy Retirement in 2017.

**Dick Schoon** (Florida)—Happy New Year to all. Great Job!!

**Susan Gussman Ordway** (TFS '70)—I get so excited when I receive the *Life & Times* monthly newsletter. The stories are interesting and the photos spectacular. You all do such a good job! Thank you for all your hard work. I look forward to what's to come in 2017. Happy New Year!!

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## ***Celebrating February Birthdays***

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, Denny Walton, Fred Hasse

## ***Celebrating January Anniversaries***

Linda & **Ken Hanes** (Indiana)—43 years

Ken & **Maxine Hinze Rogers**—45 years

Maureen & **Bill Hutchison**—11 years

Doug & **Sherry Nondorf Bingham**—43 years

## ***Welcome!***

**Bud Jenkins** (Illinois) welcomes his second grandchild, Jackson Donald, born in January to Bud's son Jon and daughter-in-law Heather. The new baby's name was given to honor the fathers of both Bud and Heather.

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### **Our Heartfelt Condolences...**



to classmate **Marilyn Reading Spencer** and her husband David on the loss of their dear friend and sister-in-law, Janis Ooms Spencer (TFS '71). Janis was a graduate of National Louis University and worked many years at Encyclopaedia Britannica. She was married to Charles Spencer, attended Lansing Presbyterian Church, and shared a long friendship with Marilyn that began at TFS.

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### **Catch Ron Hanchar in 2 Concerts**

Friday, Feb. 3, **Ron Hanchar** (Indiana) performs with Anonymous Duo as they play their their special brand of acoustic rock/country music at Quest Eatery & Spirits, 1204 US-30, Schererville, Indiana from 7:30–11:30 PM CST.

*And...*

Saturday, Feb. 11, Ron and Rocky Road will present a great musical show from rock to bluegrass at Spanky's Bar & Grill, 15213 101St Ave, Dyer, Indiana from 8 pm to midnight. Ron says, "Hope to see you there!"

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### **Help Us Connect with Our Classmates**

We appreciate your help in locating our classmates with whom we've lost contact. Please invite classmates you know to subscribe to our *Life & Times* e-newsletter or to contact us through our website [fsclassof69.weebly.com](http://fsclassof69.weebly.com) or by email at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com) Here are a few of the people we hope to hear from—

Linda Krygier Poltrock  
Randy Krolak  
Rich Koselke  
Lynn Kortenhoven Ullery  
Louise Kohut  
Vita Klos  
Keith Kieres  
Liz Kersten Kocharoff

Patricia Kerr Karasov  
Dennis Kane  
Karen Johnson Sons  
Nancy James Johnson  
Linda Illo Faron  
Nancy Horvatich Tschischik  
Jean Horgeshimer Schwingendorf  
Richard Horgan



## Keep in Touch

209 classmates and friends-of-the-class subscribe to the *Life & Times*. Send us your comments, news, photos, questions, story ideas, and reflections on the past, present, and future to [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com).

Or send a message to us on our Facebook page [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine](#)

## For the Feb. 2017 *Life & Times*

**Photos:** Ron & Pam Miller Schultz, Ed & Peggy Peacock Kubic, Frank & Deb Ruth Mazzocco, Bill Hutchison Photography

**YouTube Video:** Village of Lansing, IL

**Technical/Design Consultant:** Bill Hutchison

**Editorial Content:** Pat Walsh, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis

**Correspondent:** Dave Dickinson

**Swain:** Bud Jenkins

## Remember to Update!

Click the update link at the bottom of our newsletter to update your email address with our MailChimp emailing service. And, keep your snailmail and email addresses and phone number current in our TFS Class of 1969 database. Send your changes to [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com).

 Facebook Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine

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

 Twitter @TFSTeam69

***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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