

June 2015

Richie Rebel asks, "Grade school graduation? 50 years ago?"

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

It Can't Be 50 Years!

Fifty years ago our classmates celebrated their 1965 graduation from grade school and junior high. We asked four of those graduates to reflect and remember Memorial Jr. High, Sunnybrook, Trinity Lutheran, and St. Ann.

Memorial Junior High

Why Do We Do This?

by **Mike McNary** (Georgia)

Recently, I noticed that 2015 marked 50 years since we were all together in Junior High School. That seemed significant but I wondered if I cared. Turned out that I did, then I wondered why? I'll tell you what I discovered if you'll stick this out until the end.

Spurred on to reconnect with those I'd shared a Home Room with in 1965, I took to social media searching for survivors. I found several--we chatted--we remembered--it was fun.

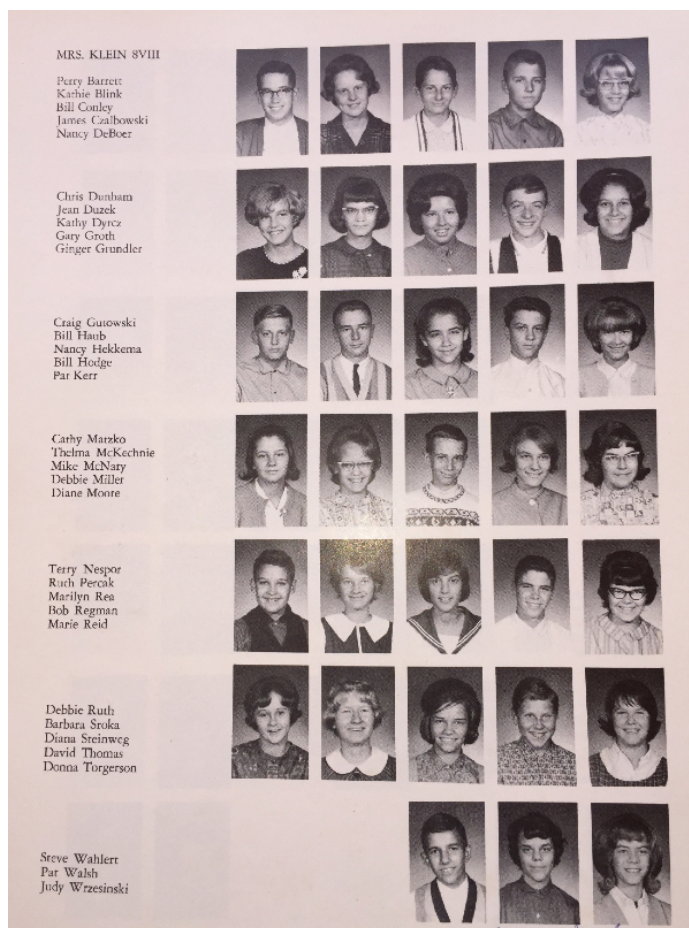


Since this cohort had shared two Wonder Years together, I reckoned that we had spent approximately 2,500 hours in close proximity. Cumulatively, we had tens of thousands of conversations. Over a million words were spoken. We invaded each other's space. We

conversations. Over a million words were spoken. We invaded each other's space. We were amazing & mundane, brilliant & bratty, idealistic & self absorbed (some things never change), love sick & even more love sick. We had more than a few laughs.

In the course of this electronic reunion, I contacted a mate who has since moved far from that epicenter of adolescent eruption. We weren't close friends, but I've always felt 'friendly' towards him. We shared a brief interaction online. I asked some questions. He filled in some blanks, but why? Why do we have these moments--this newsletter--these events--Facebook pictures--location monitorings--vacation alerts--retirement notices--spouses--ex-spouses--new spouses--grandkids (Come on **Diana**--17? Are you kidding me?). What a whirlwind and then some are gone.

Here's my notion. As young teens, few of us (OK, maybe **Nancy Hekkema** knew this) have any awareness of the great value carried by those we so glibly jostle about with on our daily escapades. It takes some living to begin to appreciate the uniqueness of every living soul. Parents get this because they see it in their own kids. Others without kids get it because they have to engage with such a wide variety of folks over the years. So WHY do I want to RE connect--RE unite and RE member? I guess it's because I want to catch what I missed the first time around.



Mike's Memorial Jr. High 8th Grade Home Room--1 teacher, 33 kids, 2,500 hours in close proximity, tens of thousands of conversations, over a million words spoken

Sunnybrook School

Friends Forever

by Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis (Illinois)

We are the Beavers,
The mighty mighty Beavers!
Fifty years and that song or cheer has stayed in my mind.
1965? It is 2015...

Where did that time go? Yesterday we were walking the halls of Sunnybrook and our close knit class of 34 teens were about to graduate and join another 400 freshmen. Culture shock! Who were all these TFS people?

When the TFS Class of 1969 reconnected at our 40th Reunion, so did the Sunnybrook class.



And then Rich and Maria Krilich hosted our Sunnybrook 50th reunion when long lost classmate Bob Murray visited Chicago from Atlanta. Scott Southard and his wife Debbie, Bob Murray, Ric Mullins, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis, and honorary Sunnybrookers Bud Jenkins and Dave Kats gathered in early May. The stories and remembrances flowed one after another.

Reconnecting in May 2015--
(standing) Rich Krilich, Scott Southard;
(seated) Bob Murray, Ric Mullins, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis





Fifty years later I can still see, hear, and feel each one of these shared experiences. Close to the heart they will remain.

I would be remiss if I did not mention we have lost two of our classmates--Cheri Elliott and Greg Bossick. They will never be forgotten...forever we are the Sunnybrook Beavers!



Sunnybrook Graduating Class of 1965

Trinity Lutheran School **50th Trinity Reunion Planned for June 6**

by **Ron Schultz** (Illinois)

The Class of '65 of Trinity Lutheran School is having a reunion on June 6, 2015, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Twenty-one students were in the class. We have contacted all but two (Dan Gregory and Tonya Reynolds). We don't believe either attended TFS with us.

If anyone needs further information, contact me, **Ron Schultz** (630-409-8085), or **Jerry Ogborn** (708-474-3949).

FIFTH GRADE—MR. KRAEGEL



Gail Allen
Susan Boardman
Brent Brinkmann
Kenny Conrad



George Gussman
Randy Haltge
Michele Hasz
Gladys Horgeshimer



David Mason
Bruce Millis
Nola Neubauer
Jerry Ogborn



Mike Rappatta
Tonya Reynolds
Ronnie Schultz
Ellen Stole



George Vincent
Scott White



Dayton Williams
Mark Zielke

Ron Schultz's Trinity Lutheran 5th grade class. Several of these Trinity Lutheran classmates will reconnect June 6.

In rummaging through old boxes for pictures and yearbooks, I ran across a 1954 Lansing Centennial book. I can very vaguely recall old guys with beards and the parade. We were all around 3 years old. Can anyone else remember the Centennial? The old book gives some interesting history: Trinity may well have been the oldest school in Lansing, with a school building near Torrence and Indiana Avenues in 1867. I'm quite sure no one remembers that!

Someone else does remember the Lansing Centennial!

Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis (Illinois) says: Oh I do remember the Centennial parade. I was on the Eenigenburg float as one of the settlers of Lansing. I had to wear a pioneer dress my mom made. Only 3 years old and remember that day fondly.

Cheryl found this photo in her mom's albums. Here is three-year-old Cheryl in front

wearing her Centennial pioneer dress along with two of her siblings and her mother.



St. Ann School
**Grace's Favorite Memory:
Sister Georgianne**

by **Grace Demanuele Talbot** (California)

I started school at St. Ann's in 4th grade after moving from Toronto Canada (originally from Malta Europe). The memories with friends like **Kathy McGrath** and **Janet Ferko Carey** were the best!!

One of my favorite memories is of Sister Georgianne. She was so different than any other nuns. She was fun and was always on the playground doing something fun. The other nuns always seem to have an unhappy face on them (LOL). Later on, whenever I would watch the TV show "Flying Nun," Sister Georgianne always came to mind. I also like the hot lunches that included Sloppy Joes. For some reason they were so much better then!



I'm sure there are many more memories. I can't believe it has been 43 years since I left Lansing, although I come back every year to visit family. Lansing will always feel like home to me! Although I don't miss the snow. Thanks for the memories!!



Visit our Gallery page of class photos, including more from 1964 and 1965, at our website <http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com/gallery.html>

You can also view the Gallery by going to the **tfsclassof69** website <http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com> and clicking on the "Gallery" link button at the top of the home page.

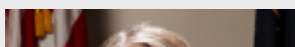


Ask Richie Rebel!

Hey Richie, Do TFS alumni ever meet-up in Lansing?

Richie Says: You betcha! Mike Sanow (who is a bit younger than the Rebels of '69) invites all TFS graduates, and current and former teachers to Mancino's Pizza & Grinders, 3300 Ridge Road, in Lansing every Sunday at noon. Says Mike, "It's just an opportunity for TFS grads from all classes to get together on a regular basis to meet, chat, grab a bite to eat, and support a Lansing business. Make the ones that you can, but it'll always be noon on Sundays."

You can find Michael J. Sanow of Lansing, IL on his Facebook page.





Janet Claussen Venecz Wins Hammond City Council Primary

With her primary election victory on May 5, 2015, **Janet Claussen Venecz** (Indiana) is set to run unopposed in the November 2015 general election. Janet will be seeking her second full term. Congratulations Janet!



Do you know where your class ring is? Dennis does.

Dennis Knoerzer says: I know exactly where my class ring is. It fell off my finger in 1971 to the bottom of Boston Harbor. I was in the Navy and my ship, USS William R Rush DD-714, was undergoing a rebuild in late 1971 at the Boston Naval Shipyard.

A website for lost and found class rings is :
<https://www.alumniclass.com/tfsouth/lost-rings>
Or if you have a found or missing ring, contact TEAM69 at TFSouth69@gmail.com and we'll try to help.



In Memory

Our classmate **Sandy Soeka Pelletier** of Florida passed away May 10, 2015. Sandy's laughter, smile, and excitement were a contagious spark shared by us all in high school and again at our 40th reunion. Sandy was blessed with two children, Susanne Pelletier and Anthony Chaves, and was devoted to her granddaughter Emma.

TEAM69 Heard from...

John Jones (California):
I look forward to each newsletter. Thanks for all the work you do. Great work!!!

Classmates Looking to Connect

Dave Dickinson is traveling to Indiana to

for all the work you do. Great work!!!

Barbara Homans Schwarz (Michigan):
Always look forward to seeing the newsletter in my email. The article about and from Janet [Claussen Venecz] running for re-election was nice to read. Good luck to her.

Dave Dickinson (California):
I got it, read it, liked what I saw. Keep up the good work.

Grace Demanuele Talbot (California):
You all do such a great job on the newsletter. Thank you for all your hard work so we can enjoy reading about our classmates!

Help Us Find Classmates

Here are a few classmates who have dropped off our radar and not yet subscribed to the *Life & Times*: Marilyn Reading, Harry Baran, Sue Bedell Gossiaux, Tom Beswick, Wayne Brumm, Ron DeValk. If you know where they are, please forward the newsletter to them or send them to our website to subscribe to the class newsletter.

tfsclassof69.weebly.com

Dave Dickinson is traveling to Indiana to visit his son. He asks that we pass along this request:

I am going to be in Indiana from June 20–28, 2015. If anyone is going to be near Columbus, Indiana or Grandview Lake during those days, email me and we can discuss details. We might be able to get together. Dave can be reached at [riverratt_13@yahoo.com](mailto:rivratt_13@yahoo.com) or on his Facebook page **Dave Dickinson**.

Barbara Homans Schwarz purchased a winter home in Winter Haven, Florida, and would enjoy a Florida mini-reunion of classmates. Barb says: I spent the winter painting and furnishing and getting the yard in some sort of order. At some point it will be our permanent home, but for now I'll be a snowbird until Matt can retire from teaching at the college here in Traverse City, MI. I love Florida and have lived there before, so I'm happy to be going back. Are there other classmates in Central Florida? I can be found on Facebook as **Barbara Homans Schwarz**. It would be fun to connect and see where life has taken us.

Happy June Birthday!

Nancy Hekkema, Paul Carter, Harrison Butch Porter, Lynda Schneider Gleim, Kathy Neumann Smith, Donna Franklin, John Valco, Rich Wold

Welcome to the New Grandkids!

Cindy and **Dennis Knoerzer's** third grandson born April 30, 2015, in Fenton, MO. Welcome Lennon Michael Knoerzer, son of Michael (TFS '99) and Tara Knoerzer. Oh, by the way, the new grandson shares his April 30th birthday with Grandpa Dennis.

Dave and **Nancy DeBoer DeAngelo's** third grandchild, born April 30, 2015. Welcome John Daniel.

Happy May Wedding Anniversaries!

Jane and **Dave Kats** (Indiana)—43 years
Kathryn and **Wayne Hassig**—43 years
Robert and **Kathy Dyrz Orr**—41 years

Photo credits: Cheryl
Ridder Woldhuis, Pat
Walsh, Grace DeManuele
Talbot, Janet Claussen
Venecz, Ron Schultz
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Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis
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Keep in Touch!

Share your news, photos, questions, Twitter name, website, or reflections on the past, present, or future. Email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

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You Can Follow These Rebels on Twitter Too!

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Diana Steinweg Plese @DianaPlese
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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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