

March 2016

Richie Rebel says, "*Cheers, Salud, Proost, Sla'inte, Salute, Na zdrowie, Skal, Okole maluna, Zivjeli, and L'Chaim!*"

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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



Remembering the beauty of winter's first snowfall—
soft, silent, unbroken

Thanks to **Bill Hutchison** (Indiana) for his photo of Sweet Woods Forest Preserve in Thornton, IL. The shelter was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, which operated Camp Thornton in the 1930's.

Making Wine in Michigan

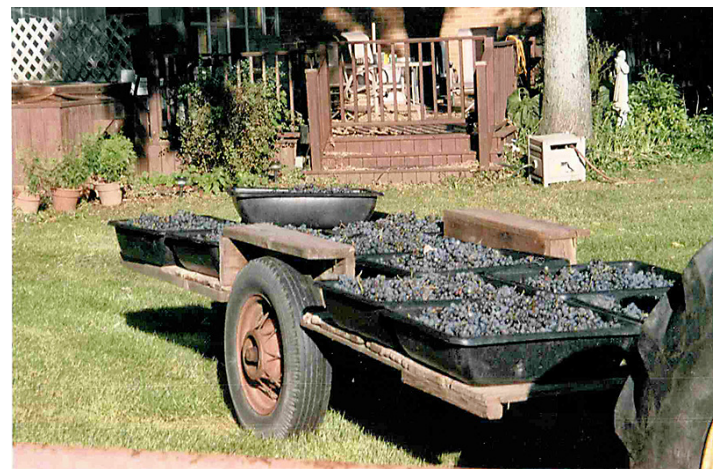
A Hobby with Benefits

by Pam Neal Pfeffer



My husband Mel (TFN'66) and I live on the shores of Lake Michigan in Bridgman, Michigan. There are about 10 Michigan wineries within a 10-mile radius of our home. So it is not too surprising that when we have time, Mel indulges in his hobby of wine-making.

Now in March, our vineyard is under a blanket of snow.



But after the summer growing season, we will harvest the red wine grapes and white wine grapes in September and October.

The process for making red or white wine is each a little different. Red wine grapes are

destemmed and crushed in a few evenings and then prepared as a mash for fermentation. To do this, we put them into barrels, cover the barrels, and use heat lamps 24/7 to cook the mash.

We add yeast to help with the sugar and use a hydrometer to test for alcohol levels. When you get it to the level that you want, you press the mash and transfer it to wood wine barrels to ferment.

Mel does several types of testing during the fermentation months and adds any needed additives. We have made CabFranc, Merlot, Mead, Port, and Loganberry using this process.

[Click here for Kisses Sweeter than Wine](#)



The process for white wines is a little different. You destem them, crush them, and press them in one night, and clarify by using different compounds. Then we put them into stainless steel kegs. Used beer kegs work well for this.

Again, Mel tests with the hydrometer and adds the additives needed. We have made Riesling, Chardonnay, Peach, and the ice wine Riesling. Grapes for ice wine are not picked until after the first freeze because they are the sweetest at this time. That makes ice wine more expensive because there is a smaller quantity of it.

Our friends and family help with the bottling. We bottle white wine around Memorial Day and red wine in July or August. I provide the food for this all-day process—two long tables of snacks, food, and sandwiches. Of course there is wine tasting too. We once bottled more than 1,000 bottles of both white and red on the same day. Did I mention this is a hobby?

[Click here for Drinking Wine Spo-Dee-O-Dee](#)

My husband learned how to make wine from a close friend whose dad made wine. Our first batch was so dry that adding Sprite or sugar didn't help. But as it sat in bottles, it became more smooth. We have a note on a few bottles—DO NOT TOUCH UNLESS THE

HOUSE IS ON FIRE. FOR IMMEDIATE FAMILY ONLY!



Bridgman is located on the Michigan Shore Wine Trail stretching along I-94. Some of the wineries in the area are Baroda Founders, Dablon, Domaine Berrien (Pam and Mel's favorite!), Free Run, Hickory Creek, Lazy Ballerina, Lemon Creek, Tabor Hill, and Round Barn, which also makes beer, vodka, and whiskey. You can find out more about Michigan wine country by clicking this link: miwinetrail.com/

Ask Richie!



Hey Richie!—Any Class of 1969 Reunions planned for 2016?—**Marilyn Reading Spencer** (Illinois)

Richie says—So good to hear from you, Marilyn! Our TFS Class of 1969 reunion committee will be meeting this spring to determine if we will have a get-together in 2016. In the meantime, we are thinking ahead and beginning to plan for our **50th Reunion** in 2019. Keep in touch by reading our newsletter. That's where you will hear all things class related. Go Rebels!



Forty-seven years ago...

In June 1969, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary presented a plaque, shown in the news photo below, to TFS commemorating Lansing veterans lost in service in Viet Nam. Now, the plaque may be missing.

Mr. Christopher Roberts, TFS Social Studies Teacher and sponsor of the Rebels Remembered Project, told **TEAM69** that he has not seen this plaque at TFS and will check with the building foreman to see if it's in storage somewhere in the building. In the meantime, do you know where this missing plaque is?

Ladies Auxiliary 7660 Gives Memorial To TFS

LANSING - The Kenneth E. Brady VFW Ladies Auxiliary 7660 of Lansing presented Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, with a plaque with the names of the young men from Lansing who have given their lives in Viet

Nam conflict.

Sue Monical, a representative of the 1964 graduating class at South, worked with the auxiliary in the project. The auxiliary purchased the memoriam and

the class of 1964 will keep it up to date.

According to Mrs. Elmer Hartog, who represented the auxiliary, "We hope there will never be the need to add another name to the list of boys lost in Viet Nam."



Click or copy and paste this link into your browser window to visit the Lansing Public Library *Lansing Journal* and *Sun Journal* archives: www.lansingpl.org/lansing_journal.html

TEAM69 Heard from...

Ken Hanes (Indiana)—I would like to thank everyone involved for posting my paintings and story. ["Painting with a Higher Power," *Life & Times* Feb. 2016] It was heartfelt and has made me quite proud to say the least. You have all done a great job. Thank you so much.

Dave Dickinson (California)—Great issue, guys! [*Life & Times* Feb. 2016] Ken's story was moving and heartfelt. Wonderful to hear his daughter is recovering. His art, to this uneducated eye, is straight from the heart and awe-inspiring. Keep up the good job, both to KO and the great newsletter team.

Christine Nelson Haro (Indiana)—Hey guys...enjoyed the latest newsletter [*Life & Times* Feb. 2016]. The article by Ken Hanes was very interesting. **Bernadette Hanacek** and I were in Miss Temple's art class at TFS for four years. In fact, we were the first four-year

students. In 1968–69, the school opened the art program to four years. Before that it was only a three-year program. Just a little tidbit.

Chuck Sentell, Assistant Professor of Teacher Preparation, National Louis University, Illinois—I shared your newsletter ["42 Years of Teaching" and "My Favorite Teacher," *Life & Times* Dec. 2015] with my students, who are part of a clinical seminar and will be doing their student teaching in March. We had a long discussion on the impact a teacher can have on her/his students. These newsletters are so inspiring!

Happy March Birthday!

Marilyn Stone Weintraub, Ron Schultz, Lawrence Johnsen, Carolyn White Scofield, Ralph Davey, Ken Hanes, Debi Owles

Celebrating February Wedding Anniversaries!

Karen and **George Grote** (Illinois)—25 years
Lee and **Larry Valent** (Illinois)—29 years

Welcome Grandbabies!

Matt and Barb Homans Schwarz (Michigan, Florida) get double congratulations on the birth of their twin grandchildren, Damon and Isabella, in February.
Nancy Hekkema (Illinois) welcomed grandson Titus in February. Congratulations!

Our Condolences

We extend our condolences to classmates Diana Watts Swanson, Bill George, and Scott Southard, who lost their beloved sister and sister-in-law, Roberta "Bobbie" Watts Southard (TFS Class of 1970) in February.

Our thoughts and hopes for comfort go to Donna Franklin and her family on the passing of her father Charlie in February at the age of 98. Mr. Franklin was a WWII Navy veteran and one of the older surviving WWII veterans.

Our sympathy to Vita Klos and her family on the passing of Vita's father, Stanley, in February at the age of 90. Mr. Klos emigrated from Poland to the United States in 1952. He worked for People's Gas Company and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.



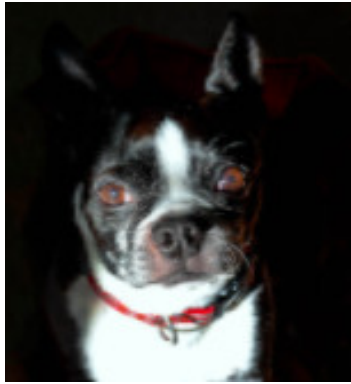
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If you are in contact with these classmates, please invite them to subscribe to our *Life & Times* e-newsletter at our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com or ask them to email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com. You can use the **Forward** button below to share the newsletter with classmates, family, and friends.

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Anne Hildebrand Timm
Donna Hielema Slager
Joan Hein Carlson

Randy Hartge
Nancy Hansen Ledford
Robert Hanink
Chuck Haddock
Sharon Gulley Escalante
Bob Guadagno
Penny Griffin Deren
Tim Greider
Shirley Goluska Hoener
Chris Gallion
Debra Freeman Adams

 Share  Tweet  Forward



Show Us Your Pups!

An upcoming issue of the *Life & Times of the Rebels of '69* will feature our classmates and their best friends—our loyal canine companions. Share the love! Email a photo of **you and your pup or pups** to TFSouth69@gmail.com for the newsletter.

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For the March *Life & Times*

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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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