

March 2018

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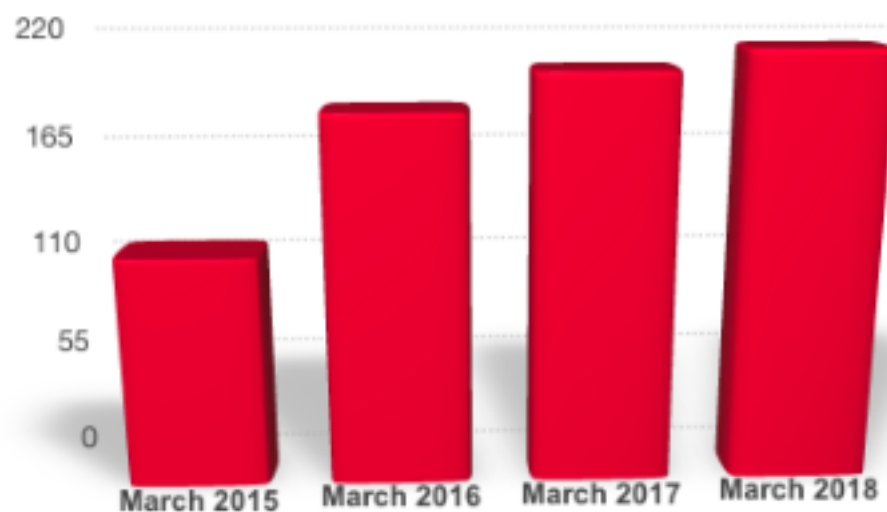
Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

Beginning Our 4th Year

With last month's February 2018 Life & Times, TFS TEAM69 Communications completed three years of continuous newsletters. That's 39 email newsletters in 36 months. We thought you might like to see a few facts behind our Life & Times.

Subscribers



We began with 117 subscribers in March 2015. Today we have 217. We know that many of you forward the newsletter to family and friends, making our reach much wider. Our subscribers include classmates, of course, as well as TFS alumni from 1960 to 1978, alumni groups, such as the Thornton Fractional Golden Alumni Association, and current and retired District 215 administrators and teachers, and

teachers from our TFS elementary school days.

Our readers read the Life & Times in the United States, from Hawaii to Massachusetts, from Alaska to Florida, and in Canada and Israel. When our subscribers travel, they open the Life & Times around the world, in France, Japan, India, Switzerland, Nepal, Africa, and Australia. Last year we began sending an e-mail birthday card to subscribers whose birth date we have in our database. Currently, 139 birthday e-cards are scheduled for sending.

More importantly, we have a class newsletter because of you. Your contributions of stories, news, photos, and ideas fill our pages with a celebration of who we are. Now, with this March 2018 newsletter, we begin our 4th year of the Life & Times of the Rebels of '69.

Ending the Year with a Good Deed

by **Bill Hutchison** (Indiana)



My trip started out as the typical winter Evil I-65 trip north one day before New Year's Eve. Several cars and trucks were in the ditches and median from the snowstorm the night before. I have to say traffic was light and relaxing though.

When I reached the rest stop at Fowler Ridge Wind Farm, I stopped for the usual reason. When I got out of my car, I noticed an iPhone lying in the snow. I picked it up and continued into the rest area. When I returned to my car I found that the phone's battery was dead, so I plugged the phone into my charger and pulled back out on the interstate. I figured when I got home I would try the emergency number you can access when the phone is locked, so I could return it to its owner.

When the phone got charged a little, a text came in. The text was in Chinese. My first thought was, "This might be a problem... arrrgghh." Suddenly another text popped up

in English. Yay! The text read, “Hi I lost my phone at the rest stop. I’m going to call please answer. Thank you!”

As promised the phone rang. I answered. It was a very excited girl. She said she and her husband had turned around when she realized she had lost the phone, and they had returned to the rest stop. She said they were on their way to the Chicago airport to go back to Beijing, China, and once there, the USA service would not work, so she could not call the phone. I asked where they were and she said Exit 201. She asked where I was, and I said I really wasn’t sure of my exact location, but I was heading in the same direction as they were. I gave her my personal phone number and email address in case we got disconnected. I told her to call me back in 5 minutes and I would hopefully know my location.

When she called back I asked her to give me the next mile marker she saw. When she did, I realized I was now ahead of them. She asked if I would mind turning around, and I said was expected to be at a band rehearsal and did not have time to do that. Then I saw that my exit was 5 miles up the road, so I told her I would wait for them there at the Love’s Service Station.

After about 15 minutes, they pulled up. We got out of our cars, and she ran up to me and started hugging me, then her husband started hugging me. They were so excited and happy. They told me they have "much important information and memories" of their young son on the phone. Then they started hugging me again. The husband held out his hand to shake hands, or so I thought. He placed folded money in my hand. I quickly said no, no, that is not necessary. He quickly said no, you must except the gift. I then remembered that to an Asian, it is an insult to not except a gift, so I just placed it in my pocket and said thank you.



He asked if I would mind getting my picture taken with his wife and I obliged. After the picture and another hug, I was on my way. I pulled the money out of my pocket and couldn’t believe my eyes. He gave me a folded, brand new, crisp \$100 bill.

I have always been a believer of karma —what goes around comes around. This was above and beyond any of my expectations though.

Then more texts start coming in from them telling me how warm my kindness had

made them feel on such a cold day. I have to admit I was a little teary-eyed after reading that.

Lost & Found Phones

Lost

While vacationing in Arizona, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis (Illinois) discovered that her phone was not in her purse where it should be. What to do?

First: Go through pockets and check the car. No phone.

Next: Call the phone REPEATEDLY to hear if it's ringing nearby. "Chelsea Dagger," the Blackhawks's scoring song, was playing somewhere, but not anywhere that Cheryl could hear.

Then: Mentally backtrack. Cheryl remembered, "I had it in my hand when I was at Trader Joe's."

Finally: Cheryl calls Trader Joe's with fingers crossed. "Did anyone find a cell phone with a red case? They did? In the parking lot! I'll be right there."

Cheryl is pretty sure TJ's customer service staff was glad to be done listening to "Do...do do do...do, do, do...do do do dee do do do..."

Found

In the space of two weeks, Pat Walsh (Arizona) found three cell phones.

1st phone found on the sidewalk outside the public library. She turned it into the librarian at the checkout desk.

2nd phone found propped up on the control panel of an empty treadmill at the YMCA. She turned it into the check-in desk.

3rd phone found in a toy basket next to her chair in the doctor's office waiting room. "It seemed like an odd toy to be among the Legos, so I picked it up." She turned it into the reception desk.

Pat says, "I've found no phones before and none since. Go figure."



What's in Your Vista, Art?

Art Banet's (Alaska)
vista photos share the
beauty and the challenge

of living in our 49th State. "This is Turnagain Arm, about 15 minutes from my front door. It is one of the prettier drives I've ever taken. The scenery changes with the hours and the tides." See more of Turnagain Arm at www.anchorage.net



And then there's the tree downed in a windstorm. "I heard a thunk and stepped out on the deck. Even though it was dark, I could see the big tree had fallen on the roof. I didn't linger because the wind was still blowing furiously. A little later the tree slid down on the deck, wrecking the railing. I had to rent a really big chainsaw and get my neighbor to help me remove the tree."



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

Our TFS '69 50th Reunion Gets Closer!

An Important Message from Rich Krilich

Dear Friends and Classmates,
We are 16 months away from celebrating our 50th year out of high school, and here we are "SENIORS" again! Imagine that! We would like to open discussion regarding your thoughts on what we might do to celebrate this momentous occasion in 2019. We would like to hear from you.

If you are interested in being part of the planning committee, let us know on our Facebook page or at our 50th Reunion email address
TFS69.50thReunion@gmail.com



Please send your email address and the best phone number to reach you. Once we have a few names and people in place to start organizing a committee, we will be asking for your valued and needed input. Thank you.

Rich Krilich (Illinois)

Happy March Birthday!

Marilyn Stone Weintraub, Ron Schultz, Roger Bertalan, Lawrence Johnsen, Jerry Fritz, Carolyn "Inky" White Scofield, Ralph Davey, Ken Hanes, Linda Jensen, Debi Owles

Classmates Celebrated February Wedding Anniversaries

Karen & **George Grote** (Illinois)—27 years

Mario & **Christine Nelson Haro** (Indiana)—29 years

Lee & **Larry Valent** (Illinois)—31 years

Juliana & **John Hansen** (South Carolina)—45 years

Susan & **Jim Wagner** (North Carolina)—34 years

Life & Times Heard from...

Art Banet (Alaska) Many thanks. The newsletter is really well done. I enjoy catching a few glimpses of what my classmates from TFS are up to these days. Please keep up the great work!

Kathy Orban (Illinois)—Thank you for such a wonderful newsletter and all the effort that is taken to put it together monthly.

Conrad Kats (TFS '65)—I really enjoy reading this newsletter.

Sandy Fritz Zaborski (Illinois)—Thank you to everyone of the newsletter. It's nice to see good things once in a while with the world the way is today.

Robert Hanink (Illinois)—Hello classmates. I'm living in Chicago now. Really looking forward for the 50th reunion.

Lee Fetscher (Wisconsin)—Thanks for the birthday wishes. You guys do a wonderful job with this newsletter and little things like this. Makes me proud to be member of the Class of 1969. A toast to all of you, thanks again.

Our Heartfelt Condolences to...

Michele Linn Robins and her family on the passing of Michele's mother, Virginia "Gigi" Linn, in February at the age of 85. Mrs. Linn was blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved books by James Patterson, the music of Willy Nelson, and the Hammond Chapter of the Women of the Moose. Michele says her mom will always be in her heart with loving memories.



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

Diana Moore Hall
Deborah Moeller Freeman
Bruce Millis
Kathleen Miller Coughlin
Arlene Miletich Kehoe
David Mellendorf
Margaret Melko Frass

Darlene Meeter Vanderbilt
Thelma McKechnie Shimps
Cathy Matzko Deffley
Melody Martin Griffin
Sherry Madison
Dan Madison
Ann Marie Mach Kinsella

Stay in Touch

Our 217 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

Help us keep our database current. Send changes in your phone number and email and snailmail addresses to TFSouth69@gmail.com



March 2018 Life & Times

Editorial: TFS **TEAM69** Communications
Photos: Bill Hutchison, Art Banet, Rich Krilich, 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

 Forward the Life & Times to Friends and Family

 [Tfsouth Classofsixty-nine on Facebook](#)

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

Mission of the TFS Class of 1969: 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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