

May 2016

Richie Rebel says, "Play Ball!"

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## Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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



**Reconnecting** March 2016 at the Cubs vs. White Sox Baseball Spring Training game in Glendale, Arizona, are six TFS '69 classmates from five states—**Bud Jenkins** (Illinois), **Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis** (Illinois), **Pat Walsh** (Arizona), **Len Rompca** (Indiana), **Dave Dickinson** (California), and on the wrong side of the camera, **Bill Haub** (Nevada).

# Baseball Tradition Spans 3 Generations



Len Rompca and Dave Dickinson were teammates on the 1968 TFS Varsity Baseball Team. Both still love baseball, so they shared the fun with their families at the March 2016 Cubs vs. White Sox Spring Training Game in Glendale, Arizona. Family members having a day in the sun at Camelback Ranch were three generations of Rompca and Dickinson men, along with Len's wife Patty, daughter-in-law Nikki, and granddaughter Elana. On that day, cheering for a Chicago team meant you weren't going to lose.



Three generations of **Rompca**s—Len, son Matthew, and grandson Noah



Three generations of **Dickinson**s—Dave, grandson Andrew, and son David

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*In this May issue and again in June, "Back to the*



*Past" revisits Lansing baseball. Here's **Dave Dickinson's** essay about a memorable TFS Varsity game.*

**Ruts, Divots, and a Moment of Glory—**

## Heading for Home

by **Dave Dickinson** (California)

I started playing TFS Varsity baseball the year Bill Anderson took over as head coach. I played second or third base and did some relief pitching. After a tough Junior year of picking up splinters on the bench, things turned around for me as a Senior.

I remember one game in particular. We were playing Tinley Park High School at their house. Their field was between the school and a large housing development. For a few days prior to the game it had rained intensely. During those rains, the kids from that neighborhood road their bikes though the outfield to get to classes. Well, a day or two before the game, the sun came out and dried the field causing huge ruts and divots.

I came up early in the game and hit a line drive into left center field. Rounding first, I glanced at the left and center fielders chasing the ball like it was in a pinball machine. Mustering up as much speed as I could, I rounded second and headed for third where Coach Bill Anderson was frantically waving me home.



I made it home before the throw for the only home run of my life. I was on top of the world...until two or three more players on our team and a couple on the Tinley Park team did the same thing. Oh well, my moment of glory was good while it lasted, and we did win the game. Good times!

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### **TEAM69** Heard from...

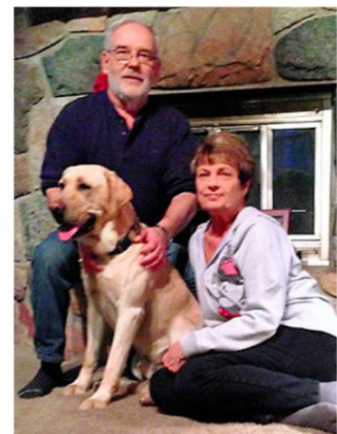
**Barbara Homans Schwarz** (Michigan, Florida)—Always enjoy the newsletter when it comes. Was so nice to read about Pam O'Neal Pfeffer living here in Michigan. [March 2016 *Life & Times*] We also live in wine country up here in Leelanau County. Beautiful area to live, but too cold now in the winters for me. Thank you again for all the work you put into the newsletter. I enjoy and look forward to each issue.

**Lee Fetscher** (Wisconsin)—First of all, you guys do such a great job with this newsletter. Thank you. And thank you for announcing the birth of our grandchild, Kennedy. Keep up the great work.

**Jerry Fritz** (Virginia)—Had a fun evening recently with THE visiting Mike McNary reliving the notion that was Lansing. Remarkable how many shared experiences live on in sepia-colored memories. As I told Mike, a shared path is comforting since, for no other reason, it doesn't need to be described or get lost in the translation.

**John E. Hansen** (South Carolina)—Great story on the K-9 units. [April 2016 *Life & Times*] I was an Army handler 1971–74, then spent 35 years with U.S. Customs working with the various K-9 operations (drug, bomb, etc.). Keep up the good work.

**Rob Garrison** (Illinois)—Talked to Gunner "The Wonder Dog" today, and he liked his picture in the *Life & Times* [April 2016]. He was even OK with Butch & Joan being in the photo.



**Harrison "Butch" Porter** (Michigan)—I went to the end of the April issue to look at all the people working so hard, and one name did stand out. The last name on your list was Bud Jenkins—Cat Herder. This did bring up some questions in my mind. Is this an elected position, and if so, why wasn't I invited to one of his election rallies? Does Bud have the qualifications to do this job? Does he own a cat? Is he actually doing it or does he have people do it for him? I hope they are nice to these cats. And finally, after he herds up all these cats, what does he do with them? Once again, GREAT job on the newsletter.

**Marlene Koster Taylor** (Illinois, Texas)—Very interesting story about the K-9 unit. [April 2016] Forwarded it on to my nephew who is the police academy right now. He is also a 911 dispatcher for Lansing.

**John Jones** (California)—I concur—great article! [1 Man, 1 Dog, 1 K-9 Unit, *Life & Times* April 2016] Keep them coming. Gives me something to look forward to the first of every month. BTW—There is a great 2015 movie about a dog who served in Afghanistan whose handler was killed in action. Good movie for us dog lovers. It's called "Max," which happens to be my little Carin terrier's name. Highly recommend the movie.

**Ken Hanes** (Indiana)—Great story [1 Man, 1 Dog, 1 K-9 Unit, *Life & Times* April 2016] and kudos to Tony Perovich for his service and all he contributed to the Lansing PD. Also thanks to Paul Warn and Ken Novak for their contributions!

**Denny Walton** (Utah)—What a great story. [1 Man, 1 Dog, 1 K-9 Unit, *Life & Times* April 2016] I really enjoy looking at and forward to the articles.

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**Happy May Birthday!**

*Marlene Koster Taylor, Wayne Wilson, Kathy Orban, Tony Perovich, John Link, Pat*

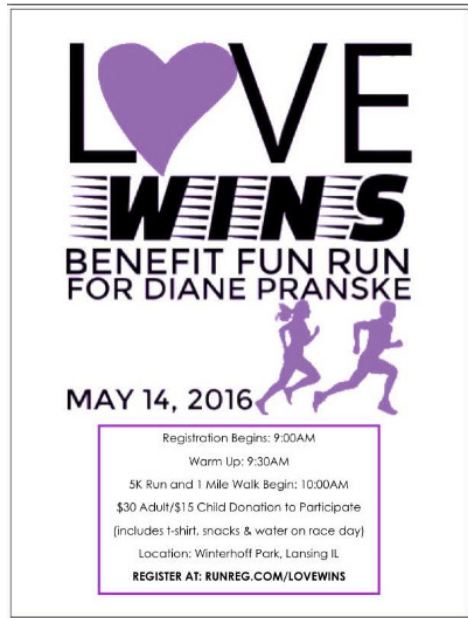
*Link Cox, Christine Markiewicz Paryl, Becky Bonnar Eck, Kathy Prondzinski Dugovich-Fabanich, Donna Torgerson Clark, Alan Eckhardt, Paul Warn, Christine Nelson Haro, Barb O'dell Johnson, Norma Albertson Koch, Bud Jenkins, Pat Walsh, Maxine Hinze Rogers, Anita Harris O'Dell*

## ***Celebrating an April Wedding Anniversary***

Terri and **Jack Yauger** (Indiana)—30 years

## ***Celebrating a March Wedding Anniversary***

Karen and **Lee Fetscher** (Wisconsin)—37 years



### ***Love Wins Benefit Fun Run for Diane***

A benefit **FUN RUN AND WALK** to support the recovery of Diane Pranske (TFS '80) of Lansing, Illinois, will be held **Saturday, May 14, 2016**. Diane was a victim of a violent, random attack last September. 100% of the proceeds go toward her recovery.

For information, click here: [RUNREG.COM/LOVEWINS](http://RUNREG.COM/LOVEWINS)



**Our condolences** to classmate Linda Krygier Poltrock (Indiana), her husband Bill, sister Karen Krygier Okita (TFS '71), and their families on the loss of their mother Evelyn Petak Krygier. Mrs. Krygier passed away in April at the age of 87. She cherished her family and enjoyed traveling the world.

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

If you are in contact with these classmates, please invite them to subscribe to our TFS Class of 1969 *Life & Times* e-newsletter at our website [tfsclassof69.weebly.com](http://tfsclassof69.weebly.com) or ask them to email us at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com).

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### For the May *Life & Times*

Photos: David Dickinson, '68 Postscript,  
Pat Walsh, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis  
Technical and Design Consultant: Bill  
Hutchison  
Editorial: Pat Walsh, Cheryl Ridder  
Woldhuis, Dave Dickinson  
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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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