

October 2017

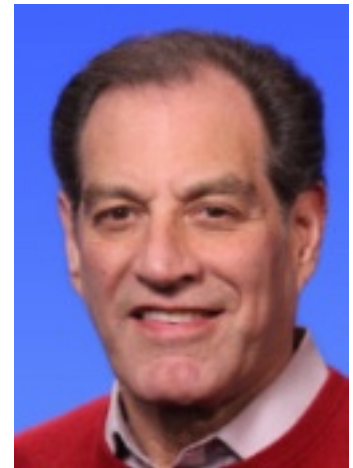
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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

Everything I Needed to Know, I Learned in 3rd Grade

by **Jerry Fritz** (Virginia)



1960 seems oh so long ago—a Heinz 57 variety of years with attendant adventures, thrills, discoveries, setbacks, and the occasional bout of learning. For me, that half-plus century has seen a fascinating legal career in the television industry along with time teaching law school and raising my own family in the shadow of Washington, DC.

I have often chatted with **Harry Smith** (New York) about our own common south of Chicago experiences. We always come back to third-grade at Indiana Avenue School and the impact our teacher, Mrs. Freund, had on us as we navigated our entry into the chaos of youthful independence.

the deep blue sea," she gave me my first understanding of metaphors. Yep, it was those little things that mark the foundation of learning—almost comically bizarre now!

Bits of our Lansing elementary school family have coalesced again in this wonderful monthly newsletter, lo these 57 years later, almost like dispersed drops of mercury seeking the shared security of a larger pool. It's an excellent vehicle to reflect on a five-decade educational perspective.

Given that perspective, I truly hope Mrs. Freund is enjoying abundant peace, health, happiness, and fond memories of

As we struggled to emerge from our protective bubbles, Mrs. Freund guided us in her tender, compassionate yet lighthearted, whimsical way.

Heck, I learned from her that “island” is “eye-land” not “iz-land!” That *alone* was a reading and linguistic epiphany that proved not everything in life is as it appears.

And when Mrs. Freund sat me between two rambunctious classmates and told me I was parked "between the devil and

her surrogate progeny, now widely dispersed and warmly thinking of her.



What's Jerry Fritz Doing Today?

See for yourself...**CLICK** on the photo to watch a video of Jerry speaking on "The Future of Broadcasting" at the Seoul, Korea Digital Forum SDF2016, as spokesman for ONE Media.



Stirring Up the Gray Matter

by **Frank Mazzocco** (Minnesota)

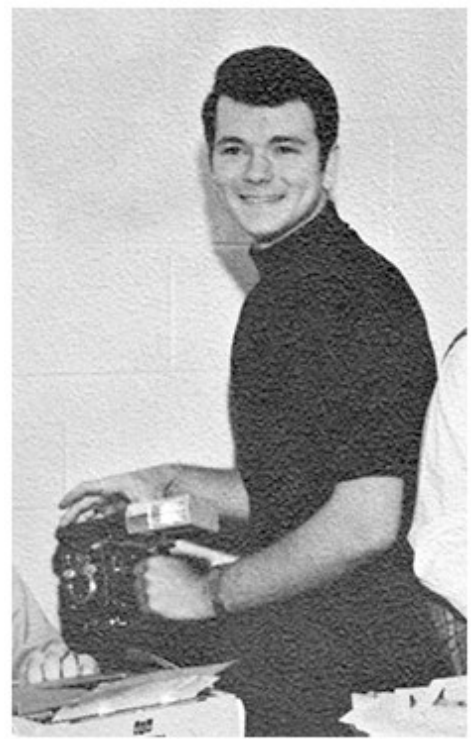
Here's a bit of a reminder of what TFS life was like for me. I remember Saturday mornings lugging the school's movie camera from my house to the football press box to shoot film for the coaches. Got \$10 or \$20 for doing that. Mr. Jack Kiester thought they were so good he wanted basketball home games shot.

Then, Mr. Jim Kijewski thought, hey, if it works for them how about swimming! The humidity in the pool made it almost impossible to shoot.

I had my dad's "Sun Gun" for light—the equivalent of what was on a police cruiser. So in the dark natatorium, you had these brilliantly lit splashes of water with the swimmer invisible under the splashes. Coach K only had

me shoot one or two meets.

Two TFS teachers influenced me the most. One was Mr. Joe Hyde. I learned a lot from him working on the *Rebel Rouser* and the *Postscript* yearbook. The other was Mr. Clem Wiedman, an avid photo shooter and my mentor.



Did TFS opportunity and teachers influence Frank's future? You betcha'! Frank has been broadcasting University of Minnesota Golden Gophers Hockey for the better part of 30 years, and this century, he turned professional photographer specializing in portraits and residential and commercial interiors.

Visit Frank's website www.MazzoccoPhotography.com

Florida Classmates Weather Hurricane Irma



The Life & Times checked in with four of our classmates in Florida to find out how September's monster storm, Hurricane Irma, affected them.

Donna Franklin (Florida, Central West Coast): The storm hit around midnight. With electricity out we could not see, but we heard the roar of the wind. With a hurricane roof, windows, and doors, my home was intact. My daughter and I both said that next time we're packing up the cats and heading out!! We are very thankful for all the people who are helping us out!

Bill George (Florida, Southeast Coast): Hurricane Irma was one of the worst storms I have ever been through since I moved to Florida in 1980! One of the scary things is not knowing what part of the storm you are going to get. You lose track of time in a house all closed up and not knowing if it is day or night! You sit there waiting for the worst to be over. Winds 140 to 165 mph with wind gusts over 180 mph! If you lose electricity, you light candles and pray and hope your roof doesn't come off and your windows don't blow in! We dodged the Irma bullet where I live in Broward County, but I know a lot of classmates live in Florida and I hope and pray they made it through ok. Contact that classmate in Florida and let them know you are thinking about them! It does help!

Darlene Barzda Snell (Florida, Central East Coast): We survived Hurricane Irma. We came home on Labor Day from our road trip to Indiana. We went to Home Depot to buy a new front door and people were buying plywood. We asked about it and they said the hurricane was coming. So we unpacked and put the outside furniture in our garage. During the week I got plywood after standing in line for over two hours and praying they would not run out before my turn. No water or batteries to be found. The waiting was worse. Prayed a lot of hurricane prayers. Then it hit. We heard the wind, but it was dark out so we couldn't see, especially since the plywood was up. Our complex of villas had lots of tree damage, but we all fared well. Do I still love Florida? Yes! But I wouldn't live on an island.

Janet Ferko Carey (Florida, Southeast Coast): We've called Florida "home" for 28 years, and for 18 of those years our house was located in a mandatory evacuation zone. But Irma, a forecasted 200-mile diameter, Category 5 storm, was the first to make us flee thinking we could very well be homeless when it was over. Although we experienced four sleepless nights at the Humane Society of Broward County (a pet-friendly shelter where my 9-year-old lab was the only one in the family that enjoyed it since he is a social butterfly), a bad cold from being shut up with 600 strangers, and several days without power, we were among the lucky ones. Our family, home, and possessions were spared major damage. Our hearts ache for all those who were less fortunate and lost so much in one of the worst hurricanes ever.

What's in Your Vista, Jack?



The front porch lanai vista of **Jack Wiers** (Oahu, Hawaii) and Carol Bendell Wiers (TFS 69.5) includes a nearly full moon, the Pacific Ocean, and, in the far distance, the island of Molokai about 18 miles away.

"This is our nightly ritual," says Jack, "sitting and feeling the trade winds to end the day while looking out at the ocean. Lovely and peaceful in a way that's difficult to describe. This will be sorely missed in the next phase of life as Carol and I will soon come back to live on the mainland."

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

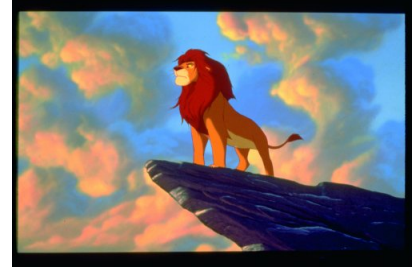
TFS TEAM69 Heard from...

Christine Nelson Haro (Indiana)—WOW! I really enjoyed the article by **Mike Sailor!** ["The Search for Silverbacks," Sept. 2017] What a wonderful experience to be able to meet those incredible animals! Would love to hear about more of his travels.

Denny Walton (Utah)—Great article Mike! [**Michael Sailor**, "The Search for Silverbacks," Sept. 2017] I'm really jealous, man. You've made a great life for yourself. K. O., your yard is beautiful, a slice of heaven I call it. Thank you all for addressing my son-in-law's death. Very sad times, especially for my daughter. I love reading about all my friends and the friends that write it. Thank you very much!

Patricia Bain Mansker (Illinois)—Thank you, once again, for a great newsletter [Sept. 2017]. I'm especially glad to know that **Bud Jenkins** (Illinois) has seen "The Lion King." I

can feel the love! The newsletter is great, I'm so glad we have it to keep in touch. I am looking forward to our reunion.



Ken Hanes (Indiana)—What a fantastic job you all do, I tell others of our *Life & Times* newsletter, and they wish they had something similar. We all patiently wait for the next month to see "who, what, when, and where." Keep it up, all of this is appreciated by us more than you will ever know. Old memories that I have locked away or have long forgotten are brought back in many of the posts and names I see each month. I've always been proud of our class of "69," but we just seem to get better and better as we ripen with age. Thank you and bless you all.

Judy Kaufer Lohr-Safcik (our TFS English teacher, now retired)—Another fascinating issue [Sept. 2017]. So glad to be a part of your group. I always look forward to hearing what is going on with your class.

John Link (Illinois)—What a GREAT adventure for Mike Sailor ["The Search for Silverbacks," Sept. 2017]. His photos and the way he worded the story of events made me feel I was on the expedition with him. Did he forget to tell us how he had to change his underpants when that silverback came within inches of him?



Glenn Wierzbicki (Illinois)—This is a great newsletter [Sept. 2017]. Keep it up!

Diana Steinweg Plese (Illinois)—Wonderful reading!! I always look forward to the newsletter!

Jerry Fritz (Virginia)—I thoroughly love reading about "life since Lansing" in the columns of our classmates. There's a certain comfort in seeing familiar lives rounding out in trips and families and photos and memories. And the juxtaposition of lives seen through the filter of a half century or more is fascinating. Comparing the memory of who we thought they were and how they've "baked" is absorbingly fun.

Dave Dickinson (California)—You guys are the best. Each and every issue is filled with really cool things about our former classmates. You should all be proud of this endeavor.

Happy October Birthday

Jim Wagner, Mike McNary, Sally Steeb Harvey, Bill George, Alan Liptak, Henry Sterk, Jeri Kazen Laird, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis, Ruth Percak Patterson, Lauri McVicker Norris, George Grote, Eston Ellis

Celebrated September Wedding Anniversaries

Cindy & **Dennis Knoerzer** (Missouri)—41 years

John & **Mary Ebbens Knighton** (Florida)—2 years

Dave & **Darlene Barzda Snell** (Florida)—48 years

Toodie & **Bobby J. Murry** (Georgia)—19 years

Greg & **Kathy Neumann Smith** (Texas)—36 years

Welcome, 1st Granddaughter

Cindy (TFS '73) and **Dennis Knoerzer** (Missouri) welcomed their first granddaughter in September. Morgan Kathleen was born to son Mike (TFS '99), daughter-in-law Tara, and big brother Lennon. Dennis says, "Grandma Cindy never thought she would have a little baby girl in the family."



Our Heartfelt Condolences to...

the family, friends, and students of Mrs. Donna Dust Steinmann of Lansing, IL, who passed away in September at the age of 74. Mrs. Steinmann taught at TFS for 35 years, providing leadership as chairperson in her department and union, as sponsor for many TFS clubs and activities, and as a member of Trinity Lutheran Church for more than 40 years. Mrs. Steinmann was a favorite teacher of many of our classmates.

Congratulations TFS Class of '67

The TF South Class of 1967's 50th Reunion in September was successful, energized, and well attended. Organizer Linda Eckstein Todd (TFS '67) says, "Thank you, TF South Class of '69, for all your help and encouragement. Hope we can return the favor sometime."

We're Always Looking for Classmates

We've lost touch with some of our classmates. If you are in contact with any of those listed below, please ask them to contact us at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Hank Vlietstra
Carol Vierk Schrum
Faith Vankley
Debbie Vanderwoude Stevenson
Denise Troppman Thompson
Bruce Tobey

Mike Tiltges
Alberta Tilendis
Tom Tikalsky
Debbie Tegtmeier Rhyne
Veronica Swanson
Ellen Stole Culver

For the Oct. 2017 *Life & Times*

Photos: Jerry Fritz, Frank Mazzocco, space.com, Michael Sailor, Dennis Knoerzer, [Bill Hutchison Photography](#)
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Hutchison
Facebook Birthday Wishes: Dave
Dickinson
Teacher's Pet: Bud Jenkins

We love hearing from you and about you.
Contact us through our email
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 Forward the Life & Times to Friends and Family



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