

October 2018

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Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

How the Summer Got Away from Us —or— Why There Was No September Life & Times by The Life & Times Staff

Bill Hutchison (Indiana)

I got double eye surgery in August. I've been struggling with vision problems for a few years now. Both the surgeon and I had high hopes that this would be corrected with the surgery. I had cataracts in both eyes that had gotten worse in the last two years. This was corrected by replacing the lens in each eye, as **Dean Groom** (Indiana) has also had done. I also got vision correction. The correction is mono vision. My left eye was corrected for reading and the right eye for distance. This is what I had when I wore contacts. It worked well until the cataracts started getting bad.

The surgery was ez-pz. The worst part was that my eyes were very dilated for two days. The best part is now I can see good once again and don't need glasses.

Now that I have new eyes, I plan to revisit the desert for more astro photography, like this photograph I took with Larry Lyles (TFS '68) holding a flashlight.



Dave Dickinson (California)

About mid-August I got a notification from a fishing tackle store where I worked part-time a hundred years ago. They were sponsoring an overnight charter on a boat going out from one of my favorite sport fishing landings. Being close to my birthday, I told the wife not to buy me a present or have a party because I was going to sign up for the trip.

The boat was scheduled to leave at 10 pm on Friday, so I left at 6 pm to be safe (LA traffic on a Friday). I was there in plenty of time. Once underway, everyone was getting their gear set up, choosing their bunks (I staked claim to mine earlier), and socializing. I got my tackle rigged up and talked to some of the other passengers and deck hands for a while before I headed down to my bunk.

After about nine hours of a noisy, bouncy, tooth-rattling ride, we got to the fishing grounds. The weather was perfect with the breeze keeping the heat low. The fishing started off slowly for me on our first stop. However, as the day went on, the fishing heated up, and by the end of the day, I limited out on

rock fish and bagged seven ocean white fish. One was my personal best. After the deck hands filleted my haul, I brought home 15 pounds of tasty fish.



On the way back to the dock, I smoked a celebratory cigar, talked fishing to a bunch of happy anglers, got set to depart, and headed for home. All in all a long but very satisfying day on the water. It truly ended up being a very Happy Birthday to me.

Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis (Illinois)

Summer is always a special time of year to me. For the last few summers, I have helped take care of my grandchildren while my daughters are at work. At this time in my life, I remember my special relationship I had with my grandmother. I loved to ride my bike to her house and visit to hear her life stories. Now that I have grandkids, I want to spend as much time with my grandchildren. I pray they remember me the way I remember my Grandmother Eenigenburg.

My daughters and I have taken them to Chicago to see *Aladdin*, their first major play; the observatory at the top of the John Hancock Building, with the window that tilts 30 degrees, to see the city from high above; the Bean; and the Walnut Room. The cousin sleepover at Oma's house has become a favorite with a fever pitch of excitement! Experiencing their bonds and care for one another makes this exhausted Oma happy with a full heart.

The favorite of 2018 was the Wisconsin State Fair—fresh corn on the cob, carnival rides, the chairlift ride over the entire length of the fair, petting a 900-pound cow, and watching the majestic Clydesdale horses pull a wagon into the Coliseum.

And the highlight of the Wisconsin State Fair? The Cream Puffs!



Teaching the kids to eat a massive cream puff without losing the filling on the floor or finding cream all over your face is an art that mystifies the most experienced consumer!

So while we missed getting the Life & Times out last month, we enjoyed our time off, and my heart is filled with joy having shared these experiences with my family.

Kathy Neumann Smith (Alabama)

Sometimes life appears to be a series of roller coaster rides with exhilarating highs and lows, and then suddenly you find yourself looping through your own version of Bill Murray's Groundhog Day! That is where I have found myself since 1998.

After being in the same house in Indianapolis for 15 years, I had a passing thought wondering if Greg and I would ever move to another house. Well, watch what you wonder! In the blink of an eye, we were leaving the stability of life in Indianapolis to rev up our roller coaster rides to what feels like our own Groundhog Day.

Since 1998, we have been looping through a series of moves:

Indianapolis to Greensboro, North Carolina

NC to Tulsa, Oklahoma

OK to Charlotte, North Carolina

NC to Monticello, IN

IN to Houston, Texas

and now we are in Sweet Home Alabama!

Each move has provided its own unique experience and period of adjustment. Here, I find the rolling terrain of Birmingham to be the biggest challenge. Although the area is beautiful, the elevation makes finding a ranch-style house with a flat backyard a challenge.

For now, we are renting a house northeast of Birmingham in a lovely Trussville neighborhood. We do have a flat backyard, but it doesn't have a fence, so stair-climbing is required to take our standard poodle, Greta, out for her comfort breaks. Like most houses in the area, the garage is in the basement and there are more stairs to traverse. Carrying groceries has become a new aerobic workout!

Fortunately, technology has made the moving experience a little easier. During our first move to North Carolina, I had Yellow Pages for Greensboro, Highpoint, and Winston-Salem, and fold-up maps to learn where things were. Now, I have the Internet, Google Maps, and Siri!

So this summer, I have been climbing a lot of stairs. I have been house hunting, and once again, I have been learning my way around a new area while seeing people who look like people I use to know in places I use to live! When I start seeing people I really know, it may be time to move again!!

Patricia Walsh (Wisconsin)

This summer, I returned to the Midwest. Only seven words, but a sentence that involved months of planning, packing, getting rid of furniture, and preparing my Tucson house with a new driveway, tree pruning, painting, and roof repair. Then the house went on the market, and there were a lot of tears when I told my neighbors and friends I was moving. "What! Where?" Tucsonans could not believe I wanted to leave Arizona and move to (WHAT!!) Wisconsin.

My Chicago son and daughter-in-law mounted a year-long campaign to convince me to move closer, which included a 2017 Christmas gift of a footed and hooded fleece onesie PajamaGram "for when you move back."

Two months of Spring showings led to a buyer, and then more planning, packing, even more stuff to get rid of, hiring movers, and arranging to put my household belongings in storage.

Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis flew down to

help in the logistics of the last few days. It was 113 degrees outside when the Bekins Moving truck loaded up and drove away. Cheryl and I packed the last box in my SUV and rolled down my driveway for our 2,000-mile journey across this great nation. Well, not quite. First we stopped at my dear neighbors', Wilma and Bill, to gift them the contents of my freezer and pantry. "You need a shot of tequila for the road," said Wilma. Wilma is always right.



Next phase: Find a Wisconsin home so I won't be homeless. Saw many. Bought one. While waiting for closing on the deal, I went on vacation to New Hampshire, Maine, and upstate New York. (I had no idea there were so many trees in the world.)

Then more moving. Stuff out of storage and into the house. Unpacking, cleaning, repairs, maintenance. (Again? I just trimmed trees and painted rooms in Arizona.)

On my first morning in Wisconsin, a deer browsed in my new yard. Yep, that's better than the rattlesnake that rattled at me on my very first Tucson evening 13 years ago. And I've got my fleece jammies. I should be OK.



UPDATE from the 50th Reunion Committee

Plans for our TF South Class of 1969 50th Reunion are well under way! Attending the Sept. 14, 2018 committee meeting were **Carolyn White Scofield, John Link, Al Liptak, Phil Stewart, Bud Jenkins, and Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis**. Here's what we accomplished:

- Time of year has been decided
- Venue is booked
- Alternative outings are under consideration
- DJ's and music vendors are being assessed

Keep reading the Life & Times, check your email, and stay in touch with our Facebook page for announcements. And please share the information with classmates who are not "connected" to us via mail, Facebook, or our Life & Times

newsletter.

Our next reunion committee meeting is Oct. 19, 2018, 7 p.m. at Carolyn White Scofield's beautiful Lansing business, Water's Edge Garden and Pond Center, 18418 Wentworth Ave., Lansing, IL.

Please RSVP to the committee if you plan to attend.

tfs69.50threunion@gmail.com

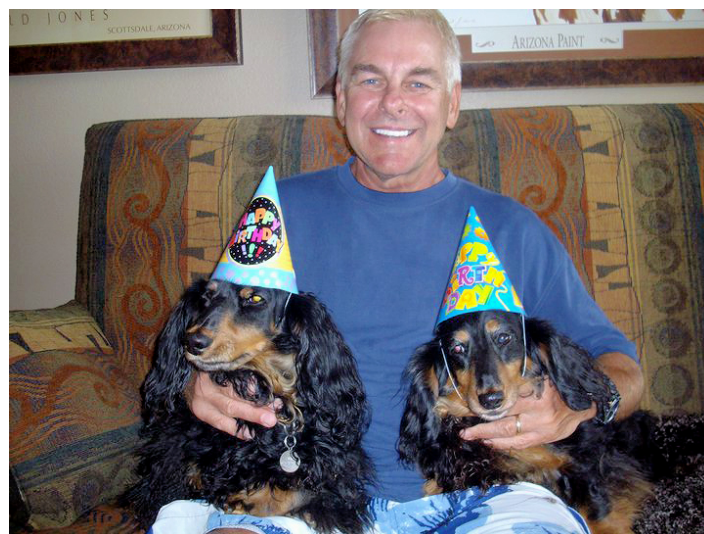
—Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis (Illinois)

A Reunion Message from Scott—

"Next Year!"

Thanks for another outstanding issue.
Looking forward to seeing everybody
next year!

—Scott Tatje (Arizona)



For those of you waiting with bated breath for the
WHEN and WHERE of our 50th Reunion, here it is!

SAVE THE DATE!

**TFS CLASS OF 1969 50TH REUNION
OCTOBER 5, 2019**

**at VILLA CESARE
Schererville, Indiana**

The Life & Times Heard from...

Marilyn Rea Beyer (Massachusetts)—You're awesome! Thanks for the update.

Your writing, photos, and story selections are always engaging, genuine, and insightful. Glad you decided to take a break. You've earned it! Hugs and high-fives to you.

Harry Smith (New York)—Many thanks for your terrific efforts. We will patiently stand by for the October issue.

Alan Eckhardt (Georgia)—Ahhhhh, when I see the TFS email, I'm always pleased and excited to see what's going on. BUT TODAY!!! We were blindsided with no prior notice!!!! But after reading your lame excuses, I realized that you guys probably have lives too! In fact I don't recall you having missed a Life & Times since I started receiving it. You have managed to addict us. Well done, you all do such a really great job. Please hurry along our next episode of the Life & Times. Hope you guys get a raise soon! Thank you all again from sunny North Georgia.

John Valco (Texas)—Completely understand!

Darlene Barzda Snell (Florida)—Well deserved time off! Enjoy and relax some. We aren't getting any younger.

Judy Gasquoine Hudock (California)—This is great news! Love to see all of my classmates active! You go seniors!

Grace Talbot (California)—A rest well deserved!!!

Dan White (South Carolina)—You all deserve a summer vacation anyway for all the great Life & Times you have given us! Now go have a couple beers, on me! I'll repay you at the next reunion! You guys are great! Love ya!

Lee Fetscher (Indiana)—I forgive you guys...understand perfectly. love you guys.

Laurie McVicker Norris (Florida)—Totally Understandable! We just moved to Estero, FL, and it will be weeks before our things arrive. Camping out & remodeling—daunting. Best to you all!

Janet Ferko Carey (Florida)—No problem. You all do an amazing job throughout the year. Life takes over some of our best intentions, so totally understand. Besides, everyone needs some R&R sometime. So enjoy the respite. Thank you for all you do, and the rest of us need to be patient while waiting for the next issue.

Denny Walton (Utah)—Summer's a busy time, especially when you're moving! Hope everything went good. Talk to ya soon.

Barbara Homans Schwarz (Florida)—How could anyone not forgive you! We probably wish we could have gone along, except maybe for the moves. You all deserve a break for all the work you do keeping us informed and up-to-date on what's going on with classmates. Saying thank you for all you do just doesn't seem to be enough, but I'm sure we all thank you for your tireless work. Thank you Pat, Bill, Cheryl,

Dave, and Kathy.

Rich Wold (Indiana)—Even volunteer staff needs a little time off from time to time. Thanks for all your hard work.

Paul Warn (Indiana)—You are doing an excellent job.

Kathy McGrath (Florida)—You all do a wonderful job!! Thank you!!!

Linda Collins Reiff (TFS '70)—Dear TFSouth 69 Classmates, Thank you very much for remembering my birthday. I love being an honorary member of your class and look forward to receiving the monthly newsletters. I know many of your classmates since my brother [Bob Collins] graduated in '69, so it's wonderful to hear what everyone is doing currently. Thank you very much for your hard work and dedication to a timely and informative way to stay in touch. Best of luck with your reunion planning.

Keith Gardner, Jr. (Illinois)—I was granted another year to live my life and spend it with wonderful people like you who do not forget to send their thoughtful birthday wishes on my special day. Thank You!

John Jones (California)—Thanks so much for printing our Vista as well as the photo of our new granddaughter. [Life & Times, Aug. 2018] Thanks for all the work your crew do for the Class of 69. What a wonderful way of keeping in touch.

Happy September Birthday!

Kathie Christian Bruesch, George Vincent, Judy Gasquoine Hudock, Robert Armstrong, Patricia Sartini, Kathy McGrath, Keith Gardner, Pam Neal Pfeffer, Christine Jacobs Burr, Katherine Nelson Mader, Len Rompca, Renay Vanderby, Janet Truman Clark, Dean Groom, Gina Langbeen Russell, Dale Robinson, Scott Tatje, Donna Fazio Mrskos, James Vanderwoude, Larry Valent, Laura Merkel, Sharon Reid Kerley

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, Judy Wrzesinski Cuffney, Laurie McVicker Norris, George Grote, Eston Ellis

Classmates Celebrated August Wedding Anniversaries

Fred & **Diana Steinweg Plese** (Illinois)—48 years

Joan & **Harrison "Butch" Porter** (Michigan)—39 years

Carol Stanhope (TFS '68) & **John Jones** (California)—46 years

Cindy & **Dave Mellendorf** (Georgia)—39 years

Boyd & **Sharon Reid Kerley** (Arizona)—47 years

Dennis & **Sally Steeb Harvey** (Indiana)—48 years

Greg & **Donna Torgerson Clark** (Illinois)—41 years

Classmates Celebrated September Wedding Anniversaries

Cindy (TFS '73) & **Dennis Knoerzer** (Missouri)—42 years

John & **Mary Ebbens Knighton** (Florida)—3 years

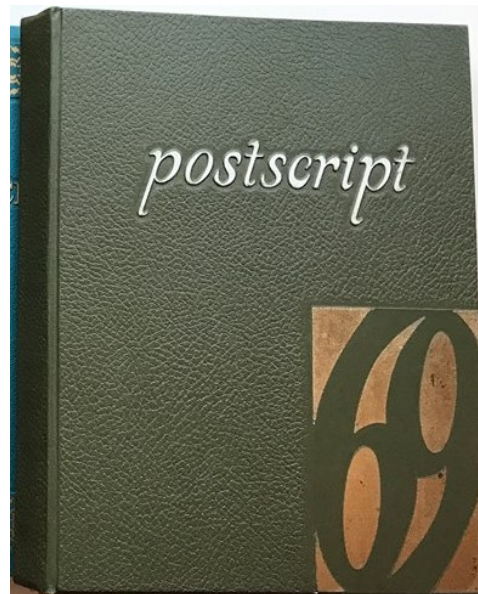
Dave & **Darlene Barzda Snell** (Florida)—49 years

Toodie & **Robert J. Murray** (Georgia)—20 years

Greg & **Kathy Neumann Smith** (Alabama)—37 years

In the Military

US Air Force TSgt. Matthew Rompca, son of Patty and **Len Rompca** (Indiana), was assigned to South Korea in September to serve as a medic.



Looking for a Yearbook?

If you are looking for a TFS Postscript Yearbook, or if you know where a classmate can get a yearbook, (maybe a sibling, spouse, or friend wants to lighten their load), let us know and we will connect you.

TFSClassof69@gmail.com



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

John Burnetsky

Tom Brunke

Marvin Brown

Brent Brinkman

Carol Brauer Sherby

Bill Bramowicz

Darlene Bos Fennema

Kathleen Bolek McKay

Linda Bolda Talesky

Rosemary Bieda Tomko

Tom Beswick

Dora Berumen Reynolds

Russell Berglund

Christie Beres Bis

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Send in Your News We love hearing from you and about you. Email us at TFSouth69@gmail.com or message us on our Facebook page

Stay in Touch! Our 222 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 to sign up.


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



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 [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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