

September 2015

Richie Rebel says, "Mike brings us the gift of Pachamama."

[View this email in your browser](#)



Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

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

Classmate with a Passion—

Photographer in Focus: Mike Wright

TEAM69 is proud of our Rebel classmates who have a passion for a hobby or a career. Here, in a *Life & Times* Q and A, **Mike Wright** (Colorado) answers our 7 questions.

Q: Hi Mike. Thanks for talking with **TEAM69**. Let's start at the beginning, OK? When did you first get interested in photography?

A: In 1967 I took pictures of the Great Blizzard with my new Kodak Instamatic camera. Black & white, of course. But I didn't get serious about photography until I started traveling around the world while in the navy.

Q: What is your favorite subject to photograph?

A: Landscapes have been my passion ever since moving to Colorado, where the photo opportunities are limitless as long as you're willing to put in the time and effort four-wheeling and backpacking into the upper reaches of the wilderness. Which means I pretty much have the place to myself.

Q: What quality about you enhances your photos?

A: I simply take what nature (some might



nature (some might say Pachamama or spirit of the mountains) gives me, and in return I try to honor its incredible beauty. But it requires patience.

Q: Do you have a favorite photo-shoot location?

A: I prefer the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness near Aspen, whose mountains create its own weather patterns, usually generating lots of moisture summer and winter. The result is an abundance of wildflowers at the higher elevations like



I've never seen anywhere else. One truly feels like you're in another world in the MBSW.

Q: Is there a wish-list photo you'd like to capture?

A: I still need to add some sunrise/sunset photos from the tops of 14ers to my portfolio. Maybe now that I'm switching to lightweight digital gear I'll finally be able to check it off the bucket list.

Q: Speaking of gear, what camera equipment do you use?

A: Since lugging over 60 lbs. of camping and camera gear uphill at elevations between 9,000 and 13,000 feet is getting to be quite the challenge, I'm in the process of ditching my old, large format film equipment for Nikon digital gear. But just to prove to myself once and for all that digital still doesn't measure up to a 4x5" transparency, I took them both to the MBSW in early July to take some side-by-side comparison shots, extra weight be damned. Big mistake.

Q: Whose work do you admire?

A: Ansel Adams for sure, as well as Jack Dykinga and the Meunch brothers. Also, John Fielder is a noted local landscape photographer whose work seems to be hanging just about everywhere around here, including Denver Int'l Airport, as I discovered this summer. He encouraged me to switch from 35mm to large format years ago. Plus he's an

environmentalist, which you can't help being if you spend time in the mountains.

This past summer Mike had his work on exhibit at the Spark Gallery in Denver. Congratulations, Mike!



Music Review–

Patrick Sassone: Every Song Tells a Story

by Ron Hanchar (Indiana)

Patrick Sassone's most recent CD, "Coming Home," offers a unique blend of blues, country rock and folk reminiscent of such artists as Jonny Lang, Jeff Healy and George Thorogood. This CD contains all original music. It is necessary to listen to the lyrics of his songs because every song on the CD tells a story. Patrick has a unique vocal style which complements his lyrics and music. On some tracks his vocals are similar to Jeff Healy ("Because of You") and on

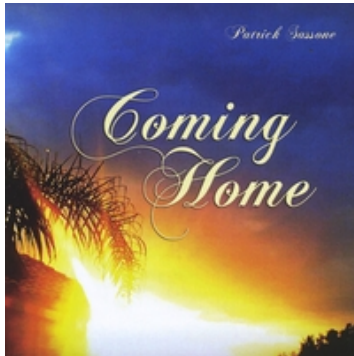


Ben Healy ("Because of You "), and on others his vocals sound similar to Dave Mason ("Dreams").

I think my favorite cut on the CD was "What Was I Thinking Blues." It had clever lyrics and the instrumentation



reminded me of something George Thorogood might do. On the title track, "Coming Home," in addition to strong lyrics, I really liked the vocals and the guitar work.



This is a good CD and I would strongly recommend giving it a listen. As Rod Stewart once sang, "Every picture tells a story." In the case of Patrick Sassone's CD "Coming Home," the lyrics from each track really tell a story worth listening to.

Visit our classmate **Patrick Sassone** (Arizona) on his website <http://www.patricksassone.com> and watch Patrick's music videos on YouTube.

Click here for "Big Old Dinosaur" https://youtu.be/3l6t_l7fisM

Click here to watch "The Storm" <https://youtu.be/yYOJW-2ivbM>



Ask Richie Rebel!

Hey, Richie!—What's the origin of our TFS school colors, song, and flag?

Richie says—It's good to know our history. Thanks for asking! We talked to an original TFS committee member to get your answer. Here's what we learned from Edward Wendling (Florida), TFS Class of '59. Thanks for the following info, Ed!

"I am a '59 graduate of TF South and lived about 1/2 mile north of the school on Burnham Ave. After we moved over from TF North in '58, there was a period of searching for an identity for TF South. In the fall semester of '58 a small committee, of which I was a member, was formed to make recommendations on the new school's colors, song, name, etc.

"It was a simple choice because the schools had become known as TF North and TF South. We, the committee, simply suggested that we being the "south" become the Rebels;

southern/Confederate colors of red and gray were chosen; the school's song became Dixie, and of the course the Confederate battle flag was chosen. These recommendations were presented to and voted on by the student body.

"On a fall day in '58, Wayne Vanderlinden on snare drum and I on trumpet marched down the aisles of the auditorium introducing Dixie as the school song to the student body at an assembly where the colors, flag, etc. were also introduced.

"That is the simple, non-rationally motivated truth to the genesis of this whole thing from one who was there at the genesis. As time goes by, more and more of our TFS history is forgotten. It was/is a great school, and I have always been proud to have been a part of it."

Happy September Birthday!

George Vincent, Robert Armstrong, Pat Sartini, Pam Neal Pfeffer, Chris Jacobs Burr, Kathy Nelson Mader, Dean Groom, Gina Langbeen Russell, Dale Robinson, Scott Tatje, Donna Fazio Mrskos, Jim Vanderwoude, Larry Valent, Laura Merkel, Sharon Reid Kerley

Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries

Fred and **Diana Steinweg Plese** (Illinois)—45 years in August
Joanna and **Henry Sterk** (Indiana)—41 years in August

Joanna and Henry Sterk were married Aug. 17, 1974.
Here from Joanna is the Sterk family story—

Hank delivered milk to the college I attended. His family also performed in Chapel services there. We had a short romance/engagement. We met in January, were engaged in April, and married in August in Louisville, KY, my hometown. Hank has been an owner/operator trucker hauling local freight since the late 70's. Since 2002, I have worked at Baker & Taylor cataloging books for libraries globally.

We have 7 children—5 girls and 2 boys. All have college degrees. Four of our children are parents and have given us 12 grandkids—8 boys, 4 girls. The 13th is expected in September. The oldest is 6 years old. It gets



crazy when we get together! I must brag...our kids are best friends and enjoy being with each other. The grands call each other "cousin-friends." This makes me proud!



Our Condolences to Kathy Christian Bruesch (Indiana) and her family on the passing of Kathy's mother, **Alma Christian**, on August 22. Mrs. Christian, 93, was a Lansing resident. Classmates might remember Mrs. Christian as a school crossing guard getting us safely across streets and through traffic for over 40 years in the Village of Lansing. Mrs. Christian loved gardening and flowers.

TEAM69 Heard from...

Rich Krilich (Illinois): Excellent edition! [Mid-July Alaska issue of the *Life & Times*] Beautiful pictures and stories. We do have the travelers and explorers in this Class of ours! Nicely done by all.

Bill George (Florida): Great job to everyone! I look forward to getting the updates from the Class of '69. Still in south Florida. On August 17, it was 5 years since Sandy passed away. Really miss her! We would have been married 46 years this November.

Ron Hanchar (Indiana): Thanks for the nice article [Harbor Lights in the August issue of the *Life & Times*]. Much appreciated! As an FYI, our Harbor Lights show on August 21 was completely sold out!

Marlene Koster Taylor (Illinois, Texas): Another great newsletter. Thanks!

Making Connections— A Six-Month Report

Team69 re-started the *Life & Times* class e-newsletter in March 2015. This new version of our newsletter sprung from an idea and a persuasive conversation around a dining table in Tucson, AZ, where **Pat Walsh**, **Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis**, **Bud Jenkins**, Patty and **Lenny Rompca**, and two more generations of Rompcas were enjoying a deli lunch. On speaker phone was **Rich Krilich**.

We recruited **Bill Hutchison** and his technical expertise, and he set us up with MailChimp, a free design program and e-mail service. Then we sent out emails asking you to subscribe. And you did! Our first issue was sent to 117 subscribers. And we have grown! This issue, our 9th e-newsletter, is going out to an amazing 173 subscribers.

At this 6-month marker, we want to stop a moment to thank our many fabulous contributors who send in photos, articles, information, and story ideas. And we want to thank **Paul Warn** for carrying the original class newsletter forward in the years following our successful 40th Class reunion.

So classmates and readers, stay in touch and keep making connections, as we celebrate the lives of our TFS '69 classmates with each and every issue.
Go You Rebels from South!

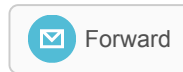
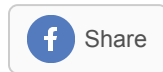
For **TEAM69**,
Pat Walsh
Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis

Help Us Contact Our Classmates

Here are classmates who are not subscribed to the *Life & Times*. If you are in contact with them, invite them to subscribe at our website fsclassof69.weebly.com. You can also use the **Forward** button below to share our newsletter with classmates, family, and friends.

Denise Zygowicz Gordon
Mary Zych Malinsky
Erica Zimmerman Ryan
Donna (Bubby) Zentz Diver
Marcia Yuskowitz Irvin
Roger Yochem
Jack Yauger
Ken Yates
Judy Wrzesinski Cuffney
Dan Wooley

Donna Woods Tadd
Barbara Witke Fendrick
Rene Winterhoff Knight
Myron Winchester
Wayne Wilson
David White
Owen Watterson
Carol Washburn Racek
Margie Ward Pokin
Larysa Wanshula



Subscribe

Not getting the *Life & Times* in your email inbox? Then subscribe at our website tfsclassof69.weebly.com, where you can also see past issues and our photo gallery.

Photo credits: Mike Wright, Patrick Sassone, Joanna Sterk
Technical assistance: Bill Hutchison
Editorial: Pat Walsh, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis
Correspondent: Dave Dickinson
Charter Member: Bud Jenkins

Keep in Touch!

Our 173 subscribers are keeping in touch. Share your news, photos, questions, Twitter name, website, or reflections on the past, present, or future with us all. Email **TEAM69** at TFSouth69@gmail.com

Please Remember to Update!

Keep your email address up-to-date! Click the update link at the bottom of this newsletter or let us know at TFSouth69@gmail.com. And if you move, please send us your new address.

[Go To Our Facebook Page](#)

[Go To Our Website](#)

 Follow us on Twitter @TFSTeam69

Follow These Rebels on Twitter, Too!

Frank Mazzocco @MazzoccoPhoto and @MazzPuck
Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis @Dutchlady10
Deb Ruth Mazzocco @debmazzPiPress
Pat Walsh @WalshpatWalsh
Rene Sterbenc @ReneSterbenc
Bill Hutchison @hutch3531
Harry Smith @HarrySmith
Mike McNary @comeridethwhale
Curtis Granderson @cgrand3
Pierre Thomas @Pierre_Thomas

Thornton Fractional HS @tfd215
Kathy Orban @OrbanKO
Dennis Knoezer @dennisknoezer1
Becky Eck @EckEck1
George Grote @torgrot
Marilyn Rea Beyer @marilynreabeyer
Diana Steinweg Plese @DianaPlese

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.

Copyright © 2015 TF South Class of 1969, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this because you opted in for the TF South Class Of 1969 Newsletter.

Our mailing address is:
TF South Class of 1969
7211 N. Knoxville Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rounded rectangular box.