



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2007

www.austin1955.org — reunion@austin1955.org

OCTOBER 20, 2007

Where has the year gone? It's already Autumn, and the frost is almost on the pumpkin. Here's the latest news from and about our classmates. Be sure to send us yours.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Donations of \$5 per year to defray the cost of newsletter production are appreciated. Many thanks to these donors: Dorothy (Benson) Newman, Frances (Calamia) Hammerstone, Charles and Camille Cimaglia, James Courtney, Norman Kazluski, Chuck Larsen, Irwin Magad, Warren Newman, John Spinello, Ray and Dorothy Stonehocker, and Myrna (Wickman) Davenport. If your name is not here, we'd love to put it in the next newsletter. Please send your donation to Ken Rosko at the address on page 3. LADIES: Please include your maiden name when making a donation. EVERYONE: Please put a date on your correspondence. We're OLD! We get confused!

LAKE MICHIGAN DINNER CRUISE REPORT:

The weather on September 30 was absolutely PERFECT for an evening cruise. 44 classmates enjoyed an excellent buffet, pleasant entertainment, gorgeous weather and best of all, each other's company. According to Joyce (Holm) Rosko, the dance music was great, but you know you're getting older when you don't get up to dance because the music is "too fast". Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma skipped the entertainment in favor of enjoying the breeze and the view from the top deck. There aren't many more beautiful sights in the world than the Chicago skyline. Be sure to visit our website for photos by Jim Padar.

MOVES AND TRAVELS:

Ray and Dorothy Stonehocker have moved back to Illinois from Florida. Welcome Home!

Nancy (Voegtle) Woolley Reed and her husband Bob took their annual trip to Paris in May, and also spent 5 days in the Borders area of Scotland on a knitting and garden retreat. They took the Eurostar from Paris to London, and flew from London to Edinburgh, with bus and subway rides in between. Nancy's daughter Bonnie has lived in Paris for 25 years, and is director of 5 voice and hand bell choirs. Bells are a real phenomenon in Europe – kids love them, especially the ones in the Third World suburbs of Paris. Bob is a master gardener, so he and Nancy always visit gardens when they travel and photograph them as subjects for Nancy's watercolors. You can see a photo of Nancy and Bob on our website.

The Pasquerellis and the Roskos enjoyed a trip to Alaska in late August and early September. Joyce (Holm) Rosko says the trip was EXCITING! Mike Pasquerelli says it was FANTASTIC!!!! Transportation was via all manner of vehicles. The Alaska R.R. took them from Fairbanks to Anchorage in four hour segments each over 3 days, with stops at Denali Lodge, Mt. McKinley Lodge, and Anchorage. At Denali, they flew in a Helicopter to the Alaska Range and landed on a glacier. At Mt. McKinley, they chartered a bush plane ride in a DeHavilland "Beaver" at the town of Talkeetna. They flew *around* Mt. McKinley at 12,500 feet altitude. They were only 7,200 feet below the summit. The cruise through the Inside Passage was aboard the Sapphire Princess, a 115,000 ton ship built in Yokohama by Mitsubishi and launched in 2004. At Skagway they rode on the Narrow Gauge "White Pass & Yukon R.R." up to 4,000 feet elevation at the summit of the "White Pass" on the Canada border. At Ketchikan, they flew on a DeHavilland Sea "Otter" (another DeHavilland "critter"). The final segment was a round trip transit of the Juan DeFuca straights from Vancouver to Victoria B.C. on "B.C. Ferries". Somewhere along the line, they also rode in a jet-powered Catamaran. Pretty exciting for a bunch of "old folks"!

TEACHER NEWS:

Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma keeps running into Rudy Macciocchi downtown. We've got to stop meeting like this!

HEALTH UPDATES:

We're sorry to report that Andrea Lidsky was hit by a car on July 26, and was badly injured. She is out of the hospital now, and recovering at home.

IN MEMORIAM:

We extend our belated sympathy to Donna Hartley Johnsen, whose husband Richard (Class of 1953) passed away on July 27, 2006. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 26, 2005 with a Hawaii cruise.

BOOKS FOR SALE:

Our classmate, Lowell Streiker, has written two books that are full of wonderful memories and photos of Austin High and the Austin area. You may order copies for \$20 each postpaid of Of Boy and Guns: Childhood Memories of a Chicago Neighborhood, 1942 to 1952 and How I Found God and Love at Austin High, 1952 to 1956. Send your request and \$20 per book to Lowell Streiker, 3309 El Camino Drive, Cottonwood, CA 96022. Lowell will be happy to autograph the books, too!

1937 – A VERY GOOD YEAR:

Those of you who turned 70 this year may be interested to know you are in good company. Famous 1937 babies include: Tom Smothers (Comedian) born February 2, Warren Beatty (Actor) born March 30, Colin Powell (Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff and 65th Secretary of State) born April 5, Merle Haggard (Country Singer) born April 6, Jack Nicholson (Actor) born April 22, Richard Petty (Auto Race Driver) born July 2, Bill Cosby (Actor/Comedian) born July 12, and Dustin Hoffman (Actor) born August 8.

Prices were pretty good, too. New House: \$4,100, New Car: \$760, Average Rent: \$26/month, Tuition to Harvard University: \$420/year, Movie Ticket: \$.25, Postage Stamp: \$.03, Gasoline: \$.10/gallon!!!! However, Average Income was \$1,788/year, and Life Expectancy was 59.7 years.

BYE-BYE, PURPLE HOTEL

Lincolnwood's Purple Hotel, where we had our 10th reunion, shut its doors on January 15, 2007. It started life as a Hyatt in the early '60's, but suffered declines in prestige and bookings as newer hotels surpassed it. It went through several franchise affiliations before the owner cut those ties in 2004 and renamed the place what locals had called it for years, The Purple Hotel. Business improved with the name change, but owner Donald Baer said he wants to sell the property. He said the closing has nothing to do with his legal battles with Lincolnwood over alleged code violations, ranging from mold in the air ducts to rodents in the restaurant. Timothy Clarke, community development director for Lincolnwood, said the village may rezone the parcel to allow for a redevelopment containing a mix of residences and commercial space. Some potential buyers are considering new construction and at least one wants to refurbish Purple into a boutique hotel. If the hotel is razed, few Lincolnwood residents will mourn it, Clarke said. "Many people would be happy to see the Purple go."

PURPLE HOTEL LORE: Meetings of "swingers clubs" drew concern from local police. The unusual color is said to be due to a brickyard's mistake. The Hyatt chain built hotels elsewhere using dark blue hues, but a bad batch was sent to Lincolnwood. Its parking lot was the ambush site of mobster Allen Dorfman in 1983.

For more information, see: http://chicagoist.com/2007/05/03/another_one_bites_the_dust.php

MISSING PERSONS:

Please tell us if you know the whereabouts of any of these classmates:

BILL BONDESON MIKE BOUGDANOS BARBARA (FELDGREBER) WILENSKY
FRANCES (HARRIS) FISCHER JOEL GOLDSMITH ELLEN (JASTROMB) FERTEL
JANET JOHNSON CONSTANCE (KAZAS) KOTSIOS EARL LASSEN RONALD RUDIN
ANTOINETTE (LETARTE) LAMANTIA CLARAMARIE (MURATORI) RIO MELVIN YOUNG
JANICE OVERHOLSER CAROL (PERLIEN) WARSO

Also, **we need new email addresses for:** ZACHARIA ANAST, THOMAS AUGUSTINE, CAROL (BETH) RITTER, ALBERT FOSHA, CAROLE (GRAD) MAJOR, JACQUELINE JONES, NICHOLAS KOUTSELAS, ROCHELLE (LEVY) WASSERMAN, BARBARA (MANZKE) POOLE, WILLIAM MOLOGOUSIS, FRANK OSKOREP, JACK ROSSPANK, DONALD SALENGER, WILLIAM SIAVELIS.

2008 ALUMNI TRIP AND/OR LOCAL GATHERING:

We have run out of time to plan a big trip for 2008, but a miniature golf tournament or a dinner/theater outing in the Chicagoland area have been suggested. Any interest?

The Roskos, Pasquerellis, Schulmans, Bakers, and possibly the Kapposes and Larsens are planning a Baltic Sea cruise next summer. This is not under the auspices of the Alumni group, but if you are interested, contact Joyce or Ken Rosko at 847-623-5800 or at one of their email addresses below.

STAY CURRENT, LOG ON:

Log in often to www.austin1955.org to keep abreast of what's going on. The site includes a graduate list, reunion photos, school photos, class relevant articles and the latest newsletter. **NEW PHOTOS HAVE BEEN POSTED.**

Your Austin 1955 Reunion Committee

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NEWS, MEMORIES AND CHANGES

GOT NEWS?

We want to hear from **YOU!** Photos and items of general class or historical interest for the website should be directed to AustinWebmaster@comcast.net. If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) or memories of your days at Austin to share, please email Kaye Aurigemma or Nancy Pasquerelli, at the addresses above. If you don't have email, send this form. Please be sure to date all correspondence.

If your contact information has changed, please send an email to reunion@austin1955.org or mail this form to Ken Rosko, Austin Class of 1955, 3233 West Grand Avenue – Suite 103, Waukegan, IL 60085-2234.

NAME (1st, maiden, last): _____

NEW STREET ADDRESS: _____

NEW CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE (required): _____

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO SHARE NEWS WITH YOUR AUSTIN CLASSMATES. WHAT'S THE OCCASION? WHERE DID YOU GO? WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

WHEN/WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GATHER IN 2008? Send us a note.