



# 1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

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[www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) — [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)

July 2008

Happy Summer to All!! Here's the latest news from and about our classmates. Be sure to send us yours. Please put a date all correspondence.

## **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!**

Donations of \$5 per year, payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.", to defray the cost of newsletter production, are appreciated. Many thanks to these donors of \$5 or more: Frances (Calamia) Hammerstone, Frances (Crudele) Urso, Joseph DeRosa, Geraldine (Erdmann) O'Rourke, Patricia (Giuffre) Peterson, Neal Guenther, Donald P. Gurney, Caroline (Hall) Misiuda, Jocelyn (Haywood) Pritchard, Marilyn (Hellyer) Morrison, Barbara (Jacques) Mack, Harry Kappos, Evelyn (Karger) Lyons, Fern (Kann) Katz, Rudolph Macciocchi, James McCarthy, Curran McConville, Charles Meyer, Wanda (Meyers) Smith, Peggy Jane Miller, William Mologousis, Carol (Pedersen) Groble, Lolita (Quiny) Fraser, Jack Rosspank, David Swanson, Concetta (Tosto) Fumarolo, Janet (Westergren) Johnson. 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 4.

## **PARTY!! PARTY!!**

Have you marked your calendars for **4 PM on Sunday, September 14, 2008?** The Classes of 1955 and 1956 have booked Drury Lane Oakbrook for a 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash on that date. The purpose of this gathering is to get together with old friends and former classmates for a pleasant evening of dining, entertainment and conversation. Since most of the 1955 and 1956 alumni were or will be 70 last year or this year, we're calling it a birthday party. Don't miss this opportunity for fun, frivolity and reflections on our wonderful high school days. If you haven't already received your invitation, you can find it on our website, [www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org), or you may contact Ken Rosko at 847-623-5800. Payments of \$35 per person are due by August 1.

## **WEBSITE UPDATE:**

Chuck Meyer and Jim Padar report that our website is now running on a new host. The cutover was pretty uneventful. We are now running Thunderbird instead of Squirrel-Mail. A significant improvement is in spam filtering. Where we used to get between 20-50 spams a day, we now get from zero to two! (That's because of the host that we switched to; not because of the switch to Thunderbird.) Future mass-mailings and newsletters will be emailed from our own website and userid ([reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org)). If you have a spam filter on your email, please set it to allow emails from our new address. And please (ABSOLUTELY) do not send any "junque" forwards (political, religious, humorous, indignant, etc.) to this email address. This address will be used only to send quarterly newsletters, other notices of interest to all classmates, and responses to emails sent to us. We will not forward any email, other than an email you ask us to forward (since we do not publish email addresses).

**NEWS, PHOTOS AND MEMORIES:** Have you visited our website ([www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org)) recently? If not, you're missing a treasure trove of Austin High School memories as well as some current news articles about our alma mater. We've also posted our most recent newsletter as well as an archive of all our past newsletters. In addition, you'll find photographs and news about alumni vacations, and most recently, we've added a series of 15 Chicago photographs that succinctly cover our lifetime. Submit your own photos to [webmaster@austin1955.org](mailto:webmaster@austin1955.org). Give it a click!

## **IN MEMORIAM:**

We just learned recently of the passing of Richard O'Hara in 1999 and Gloria (Wittersheim) Delaroy in 1997.

## **HEALTH UPDATES:**

Phil Grossman reports he had out-patient hip replacement surgery on Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. How's *that* for timing? But even more amazing is that he walked out of the hospital the same day, using only a cane for balance. His incision is only four inches long. After less than a month of physical therapy (and LOTS of heavy-duty drugs for pain) he is happy to report that he walked around the block on July 6. "What a wonderful thing!"

## **MOVES, TRAVELS & NOTES:**

Linda and Irwin Magad moved in May into their new home in Mundelein, IL, after more than a year of living in temporary quarters in Highland Park. Irwin is proud to report that he packed ALL the dishes and not one was broken in the move. He also moved his office on June 26th to 2100 Sanders Road, Northbrook. That is two huge moves within 30 days. Nothing he packed for the office move broke, either. Good job, Irwin!

Neal Guenther sailed last year on the Summit (Celebrity Cruises) through the Panama Canal, departing from Ft. Lauderdale and arriving two weeks later in Los Angeles. The cruise was a delightful blend of nature, history and culture. Going through the canal was a great travel experience, observing an engineering masterpiece accomplished almost 100 years ago. On board was an historian to enrich this experience. It took the ship about nine hours to travel the 50 miles through the canal at a cost of approximately \$225,000. Construction is underway to expand the canal with a third set of locks to double its capacity. The ship also made stops at Aruba, Costa Rica, and three ports on the Mexican Riviera (Huatulco, Acapulco and Cabo San Lucas). Neal was very impressed with those three ports and would consider a return trip to the Mexican Riviera.

Donald P. Gurney writes, "Things are fine here in "PARADISE", but we could use some rain in the Greenville, SC area. 'Still teaching at USC Upstate and consulting for Mustang Engineering'".

Joyce and Ken Rosko visited the Cayman Islands in June. They had lots of fun, relaxation and seafood. The trip home was another story. They were delayed 1 1/2 hours leaving Cayman because of bad weather in Miami, which is where their plane was coming from and going to. By the time they got to Miami, they had 40 minutes to pick up luggage, go through passport control and Customs and race to the plane. They got to the plane but couldn't get on because it was too late for the luggage to be loaded. As they were being booked on the next flight, the computer showed that their original flight had been delayed 1/2 hour. This meant that both the luggage and they would make it. Whew! Now, Miami airport is HUGE and you walk literally for MILES. Joyce was in a wheelchair, because there was no way she could walk all that way, so Ken was pushing her while pulling the carry-on. Thank God the man plays racquetball three times a week, so he is fit and can do all that pushing and pulling! Attaboy, Ken!!

Frances Crudele Urso has been living in Naples, FL since she retired in 2003. She enjoys the beautiful sunny skies, the Gulf of Mexico's sandy beaches and the palm trees, gardenia bushes, Bird of Paradise flowers and Poinsettias that grow year-round. Even Wally Phillips lived there. BUT, it's definitely not Chicago. Frances misses family, friends, museums, Gene & Jude hot dogs and the best pizza anywhere. She can't forget the food. She says, "Chicago keeps calling me home, Chicago is."

## **FUNNIES (and some not so funny):**

### **Comments Made in the Year 1955!**

'I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$20.00.'

'Have you seen the new cars coming out next year? It won't be long before \$2,000.<sup>00</sup> will only buy a used one.'

'If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm going to quit. A quarter a pack is ridiculous.'

'Did you hear the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?'

'Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$75,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.'

'The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously doubt they will ever catch on.'

'Thank goodness I won't live to see the day when the Government takes half our income in taxes. I sometimes wonder if we are electing the best people to Congress.'

'Who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon? Guess we'd better start walking more.'

Jim Padar recalls that he and his wife Durell were sitting at a table at our high school reunion, and he kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. Durell asked, 'Do you know her?' 'Yes,' he sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up many years ago, and she hasn't been sober since.' 'My God!' said Durell, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?' And then the fight started.....

## **1954 MUSIC; A REFRESHER -- "If You Love Me (Really Love Me)":**

Chuck Meyer, while commuting recently (that is as ugly as it sounds), was listening to jazz radio and heard a new, jazz (non-vocal) arrangement of "If You Love Me (Really Love Me)". He remembered it from high school but had not heard it since then (not even on any of those "Nifty Fifties" music CDs). He even remembered some of the words! So he tracked it down, and found this information (and three different recordings of it!) on Wikipedia, plus other websites. Maybe you'll remember and enjoy!

The cast of characters for this story includes the foremost female singer of France, Edith Piaf, the foremost female singer of England, Vera Lynn, and an American songstress, Kay Starr. The English-speaking singers are still alive. "Hymne à L'Amour" ("Hymn to Love" fr.) is a popular French song originally written by Édith Piaf, and recorded by her on 2 May 1950. The music was by Marguerite Monnot. Piaf apparently wrote the song as a tribute to the man she considered the love of her life; French boxer Marcel Cerdan, who died in a plane crash in 1949. The song was then translated into English as "If You Love Me (Really Love Me)". In 1952, England's Vera Lynn recorded it, but it didn't go anywhere. Then Kay Starr recorded it in 1954, and both versions made it into Billboard's Top 40 in April, 1954. Altho' Chuck has always enjoyed Vera Lynn's singing, it was Kay Starr's husky voice he remembers best doing "If you Love Me..." The song never made it to #1. Vera Lynn also recorded "Auf Weiderseh'n Sweetheart" in 1952, and that was the first time a non-US singer got into the Top 40. Chuck still has her 78 RPM recording of that song! Have a listen to three different versions of "If You Love Me..." on YouTube.com:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NjR5xFZxZK8> Edith Piaf, 1950 ("Hymne L'Amour")

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nHPV98wiwmc> Vera Lynn, 1952 Charted 4/03/54 and reached #21 in the US; London 1412

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfoH1wXzjxk> Kay Starr, 1954 Charted 4/24/54 and reached #4. Stayed on the charts for 18 weeks.

The Edith Piaf posting on YouTube was done by a Brazilian who translated the French lyrics into Portuguese, and then into bizarre English. Luckily, Vera Lynn and Kay Starr used the following translation by (E.Piaf / G.Parsons / M.Monnot):

If the sun should tumble from the sky, If the sea should suddenly run dry,  
If you love me, really love me, Let it happen, I won't care,  
If it seems that ev'ry thing is lost, I will smile and never count the cost,  
If you love me, really love me, Let it happen, darling I won't care,  
Shall I catch a shooting star? Shall I bring it where you are? If you want me to, I will.  
You can set me any task, I'll do anything you ask, If you'll only say you love me still,  
When at last our life on earth is through I will share eternity with you,  
If you love me, really love me, Let it happen, I won't care,  
If you love me, really love me, Let it happen, darling, I won't care

Ah, for the days when songs had stories (and also had an attribute called "melody"- remember that??)

Thanks, Chuck, for this trip down Memory Lane!

Watch for more of Chuck's "Music Memories: The One-hit Wonders of the Fifties", in future newsletters.

## **CHICAGO NOSTALGIA:**

Oscar Mayer started 125 years ago this past February. In 1883, Oscar Mayer and his brother Gottfried leased the Kolling Meat Market. The two sold bratwurst, liverwurst and weißwurst and were popular in the predominantly German neighborhood around the market. Now, Oscar Mayer it is one of Kraft's seven \$1 billion brands. The Buffalo Ice Cream Parlor was the place to go for ice cream treats on the Northwest Side. Although the original parlor at Irving Park and Pulaski closed in 1978, you can still enjoy the delicious Buffalo creations at the restaurant and ice cream parlor located at the corner of Arlington Heights Road. and Lake-Cook Road in Buffalo Grove. The World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 introduced Chicago to: Aunt Jemima Syrup, Cracker Jacks, Cream of Wheat, Diet carbonated soda, Juicy Fruit gum, Pabst Beer, Shredded Wheat and the Hamburger.

Olson Rug Company was established in 1874. The manufacturing mill was located in Chicago at Diversey Ave. and Pulaski Road. During the War era, when raw material was scarce, people would send in their old wool rugs, rags, clothing, etc. and Olson would turn them into beautiful area rugs. The family-owned business was "the place" to buy rugs for many years. Alongside the factory was the renowned Olson Memorial Park. Walter E. Olson built the 22 acre park in 1935. The project took nearly six months to complete. About 800 tons of stone and 800 yards of soil were used for its construction. Approximately 3,500 perennials were planted, along with numerous species of junipers, spruces, pines, arbor-vitaes and annuals. The park consisted of a stunning rock garden, duck pond and a 35-foot waterfall, which was a replica of one at Mr. Olson's Wisconsin vacation home. Olson Park became a popular spot for family outings and was open for free to the public. During the first Sunday after its dedication, Olson Park attracted as many as 600 visitors per hour. Several times during the summer, Olson brought in Indians from Wisconsin to perform tribal ceremonies and dances. I remember going to the park to climb the falls several times a year, and always for the Injun Summer display. Because the area around Pulaski and Diversey was heavily populated by Polish families, the Olson Falls became known as the Polish Dells. In one of the patient lounge areas funded by the Olson family in Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, there was (maybe still is?) a tapestry of the original waterfall with a plaque explaining the connection. In 1965, Olson Rug sold its building to Marshall Field's. In the 1970's, the waterfall was turned off and the park dismantled to make room for a parking lot.

**TELL US WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU:**

Photos and items of general class interest should be directed to [webmaster@austin1955.org](mailto:webmaster@austin1955.org). If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) or memories of your days at Austin to share, please email any committee member at the addresses below, or write to Ken Rosko at the address below.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** If your contact information has changed, please let us know.

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Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org) or mail this form to:

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