



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 WINTER 2008

www.austin1955.org — reunion@austin1955.org

JANUARY 20, 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! We hope your holidays were pleasant and peaceful. 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: Rita (Cimino) Reczek, Mildred (Handy) O'Brien, Jim Herrero, Geri (Harris) Horak, Ronald Kenyeri, Sandy Kuzlik, Rochelle (Lisky) Adler, Robert Mintz, Myra (Polifka) Dickens, Arlene (Rabin) Blitenthal Blum and Toby (Speck) Gordon. 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!

WELCOME!

We are pleased to welcome Geri (Harris) Horak to the reunion committee. She participated in planning our 25th reunion at the Fireside (now gone) in Morton Grove and is anxious to get back to work. Welcome aboard, Geri!

AUSTIN, TEXAS?

Are you really a member of the Austin High School Class of 1955? A few days after the October 2007 newsletter mailing, Ken Rosko received an unusual phone call at his office. Nancy (Mazon) Stevens of Lake Bluff asked to have her name removed from our Newsletter hard copy mailing list. She said that she really enjoyed the last three issues to the MAX!! But, she said, she was not a member of our class, nor did she attend Austin High in 1955. She said she was born in Texas and graduated in 1960 from a school in MacArthur, Texas, and knows no one from our class. She said she wished she did and would like to have been one of us since we seem to do a lot of nice things. She really enjoyed reading our newsletter. Perhaps we should invite her to the next reunion!

MOVES AND TRAVELS:

Bill and Myra (Polifka) Dickens took a 3-week auto trip to Tunica, MS for a little gambling, Branson, MO for some shows, and on to Southern and Central Illinois and Indianapolis, visiting family and friends.

Sandy Kuzlik writes that after 25 years of teaching high school P.E. in Chicago, she moved on to teach Computer Programming and Applications for 10 years at Whitney Young. After retiring from teaching, she joined an investment banking firm, which keeps her busy and travelling to exotic places such as South Africa and Zambia (she met a lion up close and personal), the South Seas near Tahiti (she swam with sharks and snorkeled in a lagoon near Moorea), and China (she found the Great Wall exhilarating, as was Tai Chi in a park with the warm and cordial local Chinese). Shopping was great, too! India is next on the agenda. Sandy sends her thanks to Nancy (Baggio) Pasquerelli who one bitterly cold day loaned her snow boots when Sandy's shoes started to fall apart. Nancy says, "You are welcome!" Keep on truckin', Sandy!

Genny (Luisi) Schroeder reports that she took an October trip to Croatia, Slovenia & Hungary. "We flew into the southern city of Dubrovnik where we visited the walled city and had dinner at a third generation farm that had been destroyed in the war. The family rebuilt it and now provides dinner and music for tourists. We traveled north along the Dalmation Coast to visit several other cities and then inland to the beautiful National Park. We went north to Slovenia (about 90 miles from Italy, believe it or not) and visited one of their largest caves. It was huge and they have held concerts in it. Last but not least, we ended up in Budapest, Hungary where we stayed in a hotel overlooking the Danube and visited many historical sites." Good trip, Gen!

BYE-BYE, PURPLE HOTEL - CORRECTION

It was the JUNE class that had its 10th reunion at Lincolnwood's Purple Hotel. The January Class 10th reunion was held elsewhere. DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE THE JANUARY CLASS 10TH REUNION WAS HELD?

HEALTH UPDATES:

Chuck Meyer had a cardioversion in October. It worked fine on the first zap, leaving him with suntanned rectangles on his chest and back, and a heartbeat that's regular. Jim Padar is recovering nicely from his recent surgery. Donna (Mayfield) Harder fell on the ice a week before Christmas and broke her hip. She was recovering at her sister Pat's home, but a complication put her back in the hospital. She's better now, and expects to be able to drive to her Florida condo in March. Joyce (Holm) Rosko had spinal fusion surgery on January 11. She is in Northwestern Memorial Hospital, looking forward to recuperating at home under the watchful eye of Ken. Get Well Soon, Ladies! You, too, Jim!

BOOKS FOR SALE:

Lowell Streiker still has copies of his two books available. You may order copies for \$20 each postpaid of Of Boys 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!

1938 – A FASCINATING YEAR:

Although most Class of 1955 alumni were born in 1937, some of our classmates will celebrate their 70th birthdays THIS year. Here are some highlights from the year of their birth. Pay attention. There will be a quiz next quarter.

Carnegie Hall, January 16, 1938...the Benny Goodman Orchestra swings its way into big band history. Gene Krupa pounding out "Sing, Sing, Sing" on the tom-toms made his own bit of history that night as well, and the unbelievable solo of pianist Jess Stacy blew the roof off the house. The 2760 seats sold out weeks in advance at the astoundingly high price of \$2.75 (about \$43 in 1998 dollars). An unusual footnote to the event was that it was picketed by pro-Franco (i.e. Fascist) opponents of Goodman's support for the Spanish Republican government.

Most of the world cheered on June 22, 1938 when Germany's Max Schmeling lost the World Heavyweight Championship to Joe Louis in 124 seconds of the first round, where 70,043 paying customers jammed Yankee Stadium. As the United States inched closer toward World War II, this rematch had worldwide implications. Hitler had risen to power in Germany and his persecution of Jews, which led to the Holocaust, had begun in 1935. Hitler preached that Aryans were racially superior, and portrayed Schmeling as a symbol of that superiority. President Roosevelt was quoted as telling Louis, "Joe, we need muscles like yours to beat Germany." Joe did not disappoint. For the whole article, see <http://www.ibhof.com/ibhfhvy5.htm>.

The story of Orson Welles and his War Of The Worlds Martian Invasion broadcast on October 30, 1938 has grown with the telling. It's probable that no more than six million people out of a total population of around 150 million heard the broadcast, and only about a million people were actually fooled -- compared to the 35 million Americans who went on blithely listening to Charlie McCarthy, unaware that anything was out of the ordinary. But the numbers don't really matter. What matters is that Welles and company provided a graphic demonstration of just how powerful the audio medium can be -- and even more significant, the post-mortem public response to the broadcast revealed just how unprepared Americans really were for the brave new Media Age ahead.

In 1938, despite a better performing engine and gorgeous body by Fleetwood, only 315 Cadillac Series 90 V-16's were produced. The V-16 engine pushed Packard aside, making Cadillac America's #1 Luxury Car. Ironically, Cadillac's own improvements in their V-8 engine led to the demise of the V-16. Only two 1938 V-16 Presidential Limousines were ever produced, both for FDR's use as parade cars. Few Americans living then will ever forget seeing live, or in newsreels, pictures of the President smiling and waving from the back seat of these '38 Caddies. For photo and more information, see http://www.texasbobsworld.com/auto_nostalgia.html.

1938 inventions include the Ballpoint Pen, Teflon, Nylon, Photocopier and Freeze Dried Coffee.

Significant events, both bad and good, were: The Great New England Hurricane, Floods and Landslides in Los Angeles causing 200 deaths, First use of a Seeing Eye Dog, German troops entering Austria, March of Dimes Polio Foundation Created and a 450 metric ton meteorite struck the earth in an empty field near Chicora, PA.

Average costs: Annual wages: \$1,730; New House: \$3,900; Gallon of gas: 10 cents; Loaf of Bread: 9 cents; New Car: \$763; Blanket: \$5; Lipton Noodle Soup: 10 cents; one pound Hamburger Meat: 13 cents.

2008 ALUMNI 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? How about a long weekend in Las Vegas?

PRINCESS BALTIC CRUISE:

The Bakers, Horaks, Larsens, Roskos, Pasquerellis and Schulmans are planning a cruise this summer. The 12-day cruise will leave Copenhagen on July 19, 2008. They will visit all five Scandinavian countries, spend two days in St. Petersburg, Russia, stop in a few other Baltic countries, visit Berlin, then sail back to Copenhagen. 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.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Email newsletter recipients: Did you receive our Holiday greeting card? If not, please send us your current address and phone number, so we can correct our database. Paper newsletter recipients: Please advise us of your email address, if you have one, so we can save the cost of paper, envelopes, ink and postage.

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GOT NEWS?

Photos and items of general class interest 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 any committee member at the addresses above. Or, send this form. Please 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.

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