



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2009

www.austin1955.org -- reunion@austin1955.org

November 14, 2009

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 55TH REUNION IN 2010:

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the weekend of September 24-26, 2010. We will gather at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare, the same place we held our 50th reunion. Cost will be \$75 per person. The Marriott provides free shuttle service from O'Hare Airport, free parking for persons staying at the hotel and for those attending the September 25th dinner. Our special room rate is \$99 + tax, if booked before September 10, 2010. More details will follow, but please mark your calendars, and plan to join us for an evening of good food, good times, good music and reminiscing with good friends.

IN MEMORIAM:

It is with deep sorrow that we report the passing on September 9 of our friend and classmate Joyce (Holm) Rosko. Although Joyce graduated in 1956, she was an invaluable member of the Class of 1955's 50th Reunion Committee. Joyce was very smart, had a devilish sense of humor, loved music, whether she was singing, playing or listening, and was a great cook, hostess and organizer. Both she and Ken enjoyed opera, theater, and traveling. Joyce was an avid "true blue" Cubs fan. Her license plate was "CUBNUTT". She was also this writer's best editor, and could catch errors no one else noticed. I shall miss her terribly. Joyce was a participant in life, not an observer. She was a dear friend to many, a beloved sister, sister-in-law, and aunt. All of us who knew her are richer for it. But most of all, she was the partner, love, and "Joy" of Ken's life for more than 50 years. Our hearts go out to him and to the Holm and Rosko families.

We are also sad to report the passing of Robert Engstrom on November 3, 2008. Despite multiple ailments spanning 17 years, Bob never lost his sense of humor and was loved dearly by his wife Carol (Maloney – Class of 1956), his four children and their spouses, and seven grandchildren. Our deepest sympathy to Robert's family.

Martin Dworkin, the most intelligent boy this writer ever knew, passed away on April 14, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marion, his son, Robert and his sister Estelle. I must share this personal recollection of Martin. A group of us were in the school cafeteria. Martin was telling us about a disagreement he had had with a teacher – probably a Math teacher. I remember Martin saying, "I'm going to give him a piece of my mind – and I can spare it!" Indeed, he could. Rest in peace, Martin.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to these donors of \$5 or more: Nancy (Davis) Sandquist, Neal Guenther, Barbara (Jarm) Baker, Anne and Robert Schulman, Roberta (Shane) Atlas, Sandy (Stackpole) Kirchhoff, Louis Weber and Raymond Yelich. Please send newsletter support donations, payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.", to our Treasurer, Irwin Magad; 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141

MOVES, TRAVELS & NOTES:

Ron Erhardt sent us this note in May. Sorry to be late publishing. "It's been 50 years since I graduated from Arizona State University. ASU held a reunion for the Golden Anniversary Graduates of the class of 1959. At the commencement ceremony this year, the current graduates and the returning 1959 graduates were honored by President Obama speaking at the ceremony. Over 70,000 people attended the graduation of over 9,200 students. This was the largest crowd to attend a commencement ceremony in the United States, and it was the first time our newly elected president addressed a graduating class." Pretty heady stuff, Ron!

RETIREE THOUGHTS:

Four things you can't recover:

The stone -- after the throw; The word -- after it's said; The occasion - after it's missed; The time - after it's gone.

MUSIC MEMORIES: THE ONE HIT WONDERS OF THE FIFTIES (by Chuck Meyer):

Answer to last quarter's One-Hit-Wonder identity --- Last quarter's mystery singer was Laurie London, and he recorded "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" for Parlophone Records in the UK, and its US cousin Capitol Records. In April 1958, it reached #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart in the US, and remained there for 4 weeks. In the UK, it never reached #1. He later recorded a few songs in German (and in English), and even sang for a German movie, but he never had another hit. This song appears to be a precursor of "7-11" music.

Listen to Laurie London's rendition - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p9Zesvznas> then, compare it to Mahalia Jackson's - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEH7jyt1eoo>

Our next One-Hit-Wonder is actually a GROUP (a black, doo-wop, quintet) --- "The five of us wrote this song (probably the first recorded doo-wop song), gave it a nonsense name, and recorded it for Atlantic Records in 1954. It was our first and last record; but with this record, we introduced the white audience to black R&B music. By the end of June 1954, this song had climbed up the charts nationwide, on both the R&B (#3) and Pop (#9) lists, a nearly unprecedented feat for its time. It is ironic that this song was actually the flip side of our recording of 'Cross Over the Bridge' - one of the few records where the B-side was more popular than the A-side. Later in 1954, a very popular quartet of white boys recorded a more traditional version of this song, but for some reason, they added a lot of gibberish words to it. It was number one on the Billboard charts for nine weeks during August and September. *We paved the way for their success."*

So, can you name - the song? the doo-wop group? the white-boys group?
And, for those of you who think you know all the answers - can you name the five singers??

TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH YOU:

Photos and items of general class interest should be directed to webmaster@austin1955.org. If you have any news (special trips, births, deaths, anniversaries, moves, etc.) or memories of your days at Austin to share, email Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive; Westchester, IL 60154-5021.

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OR, mail this form to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 5257 107th Av N; Minneapolis, MN 55443-5902**