



1955 AUSTIN HIGH REUNION

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4 OCTOBER 2013

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



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

We are grateful to the following classmates for their very generous donations to defray the cost of printing and publishing this newsletter. Many thanks to: Frances (Calamia) Hammerstone, **Geraldine (Harris) Horak**, Carolyn (Hering) Atchison, James Herrero, Norman Kazluski, **Genevieve (Luisi) Schroeder**, **Irwin Magad**, Barbara (Manzke) Poole, **Sheldon Marcus**, Curran McConville, **Chuck Meyer**, Patricia Pecoraro, **Ken Rosko**, Concetta (Tosto) Fumarolo, Kenneth Veige, Ronald Weiss, Samuel (Bob) Young, and Phyllis (Zaiken) Klapman. Thanks, too, to those who wrote from Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Columbia, SC, and Alexandria, VA to say they love the newsletter, and being able to stay in touch. We appreciate your kind words.

NOTE: Please remember to send your \$5 minimum newsletter donation A.S.A.P. The costs associated with publishing the newsletter (paper, ink, database and website maintenance, and **especially** postage) keep rising.

Please make donation checks payable to "Austin 1955 Reunion Ltd.", and mail them to our Treasurer, **Irwin Magad**: 2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200; Northbrook, IL 60062-6141. **Thank you, Ladies, for writing your maiden name on your checks.** It saves your editor lots of time.

STROLLING DOWN CHICAGO AVENUE WITH CHUCK MEYER:

As promised, here is a continuation of the stroll we started in the July newsletter.

The sense of smell is the most important sense in these long-gone stores, and bakeries are the stores with the most memorable aromas. Arfsten's was a Danish bakery just west of Lamon, and I was in that store at least twice a week. In the beginning, when I was probably 7 or 8, I had to elbow my way into the counter – and I hadn't yet developed my NY-subway-elbows. A few years later, the bakery installed a take-a-number system, which was much more user-friendly to a small kid.

The breads were all placed on the shelves behind the counter. A bread slicer separated the dark breads on the left from the white breads on the right. We never let them slice the bread – we kept a breadboard on our kitchen table with one or two loaves, and we only cut a slice as we needed it. Whoever sat closest to the bread was the slicer – and with each slice came a new whiff of the aroma. In addition to the taste, there was the texture – crispy outside, but soft inside. I've never found another rye bread like theirs.

And then there were the pastries. Saturdays were for coffeecakes – long ones filled with different fruits or cheese, and round "plain" ones, and cheese-cakes and éclairs. Weekdays were for what we would call "Danish", but Arfsten's called them "biscuits" (probably didn't want to call them Danish Danish) – and long johns and jelly-filled donuts and other pastries that were small enough to be wrapped into a lunch bag.

There were other bakeries – one at Leamington (Heilmann's, I believe), plus another one near Menard. And on Cicero, just 50 yards north of Chicago, was the Vienna Bakery. This was a 3-story wholesale operation baking only bread and shipping to various stores around the city. This bread was very crispy (you got crumbs all over the table) with a very soft inside – they could have called it a French or Italian bread. They had a little hole-in-the-wall store in a corner of their building where they sold retail – obviously only a very small part of their business.

During high school, a donut bakery opened around 4951 Chicago. I don't recall the name of the place, but it could have been a Spudnut or Krispy-Kreme operation. The baker worked right in the front window (at 6 am). After he got his dough rolled out, he'd use his cutter in his right hand to cut about 8 individual donuts, popping each donut onto his left thumb. Then he'd put his left hand on the tray and quickly pull out his thumb, depositing the 8 donuts in a straight line on his tray. Very impressive! Occasionally after watching his show, I'd buy a few to take home for breakfast. Next quarter, read about Libby's.

IN MEMORIAM:

We are sorry to report the passing of classmate **John Hall** on March 18, 2013.

Words cannot express the devastation felt by your reunion committee at the untimely loss of our friend and colleague **Cheryl (Cherie) Rosko**, in a tragic auto accident last month in France. Although Cherie was not an Austin alumna, she fit right into our group, helping with reunions and special events, always cheery, and a delight to know. We share in mourning the loss of this lovely woman with her husband **Ken Rosko**, her son Derek (Lori) and grand-daughter Amelia (Mia) Bower, her sister Bobbie (Frank) Nickisher, and their families.

CAR HISTORY:

Suzanne (Johnson) Peterson writes: "Here is a little car history for everyone. Find your first car or the one you drove to high school or college; hopefully, your car brochure is available. This has to be one of the neatest web sites, whether you have gasoline in your veins or not. It features the original factory brochures for nearly every American car you have ever owned. Pick the manufacturer, the year, and the model, and enjoy another trip down Memory Lane." www.lov2xlr8.no/broch1.html

IRWIN MAGAD'S BUCKET LIST:

Linda and **Irwin Magad** Departed on June 1st for China. First stop was Beijing, a very modern city with tall buildings and a population of 31+ million people.

Day 2 - We went to Tiananmen Square which was the sight of a student revolt in the 70's. At 100 acres, it the world's largest public square and was initially the front door of the Forbidden City. Completed in 1420, the Forbidden City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the world's largest palace complex, consisting of many buildings with 9,999 rooms, protected by a 20-foot-wide moat and a 32-foot high wall. Now known as the Palace Museum, the Forbidden City was the imperial palace during the Ming and Qing Dynasties where outside visitors were forbidden for five centuries. We also visited the Summer Palace, once the summer retreat and playground of the Imperial family and royal court during the late Qing Dynasty.

Day 3 found us at the GREAT WALL. Yes, we walked a small part of the wall, but unfortunately it was raining - not a heavy rain - just a light drizzle. I was very surprised how many Chinese people wanted our picture. There on the Great Wall in the rain, they begged us to take our picture with them. For me, that was a thrill. After that we went to the Ming Tombs located in a valley which Emperor Ming chose as his burial place. When he died, he was buried with all of his slaves, etc.

On Day 4, we took a rickshaw ride along Old Beijing's Hutongs area which is located in a traditional Chinese neighborhood. We left there and took a short flight to Xian, which is located in the Yellow River Basin. There, we visited The Terra Cotta Army. We saw thousands of soldiers, archers, horses, and chariots that were buried with the Emperor Qin Shi Huang more than 2,000 years ago. This was unbelievable.

Day 5 - We flew to Chongqing, known historically as Chungking, where we boarded our boat for the next five nights to sail down the Yangtze River. In World War II, Chongqing was the capital of China and the home of the American Volunteer Air Group the "Flying Tigers"

Day 6 brought us to Shibaozhai Pagoda Temple, a 12-story pavilion built in 1650 along the Yangtze. Many river cruise boats dock at Shibaozhai for a few hours to allow passengers to tour the pavilion and temple. With the construction of the [Three Gorges Dam](#) the base of the red pavilion would have been beneath the reservoir's water level. A coffer dam was built around the base to protect it from the rising water level.

Day 7 - We saw the Qutang and Wu Gorges, and the Lesser Three Gorges. (An ancient Chinese saying claims that 'the Lesser Three Gorges of the Daning River are not as beautiful *as* the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River, they are *more* beautiful'). This was very scenic, with lush, mist-enshrouded mountains, including the legendary Twelve Peaks, rising up on both sides. Breathtaking!

Day 8 - We visited Three Gorges Dam, the largest hydroelectric power station in the world.

Day 9 - The highlight was Jingzhou, where we were given a warm welcome at an elementary school. The children gave us a charming performance of music and stories while we sat in the class room. Many of them spoke English - not very well, but they tried. We really liked this stop. The children were beautiful and very curious.

Day 10 - We docked at the port of the Jiang'an District of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province. Wuhan, known as "the nine provinces' leading thoroughfare", is a major transportation hub, with dozens of railways, roads, and expressways throughout the city. Because of its key role in domestic transportation, Wuhan was sometimes referred to as the "Chicago of China." We visited a museum with wonderful artifacts dating to the Warring States period.

Day 11 - Shanghai. We visited Old Shanghai and took the Yuyuan Garden Tour. Yuyuan Garden dates back to the Ming Dynasty. It contains five acres of delicate pavilions and winding paths, and its Grand Rockery boasts caves, grottoes, and an artificial mountain nearly 46 feet high. We also saw the Bund & Shanghai Museum.

Day 12 - We visited a museum for the Jews in Shanghai. From 1933 to 1941, Shanghai became a modern-day Noah's Ark, accepting around 18,000 Jewish refugees fleeing the Holocaust in Europe. China at that time was under the control of the Japanese who protected these refugees. A Nazi officer came to Shanghai representing Hitler and requested that the Japanese set up camps and start a process of killing these people. The Japanese refused. The refugees did survive the war. Many moved to Israel, some stayed in China, some returned to Germany, and some came to the United States after the war. Those who remained in China built the Ohel Moshe Synagogue in Shanghai and set up shops and conducted their lives as if they were in various parts of Europe. This was a very moving visit.

1955 TRIVIA:

Disneyland, Walt Disney's metropolis of nostalgia, fantasy, and futurism, opens on July 17, 1955. The \$17 million theme park was built on 160 acres of former orange groves in Anaheim, [California](#), and soon brought in staggering profits. Today, Disneyland hosts more than 14 million visitors a year, who spend close to \$3 billion.

Superman made his comic book debut 78 years ago in June 1955. Five things you might not know about him.

1. He has a social security number. In a 1966 issue of Action Comics, editors revealed that Clark Kent's SSN is 092-09-6616. That number actually belonged to a New Yorker, Giobatta Baiocchi, who had died a year earlier. No one knows why that number was picked.
2. He doesn't just fight fictional villains. In a 1940 story commissioned for *Look* magazine, Superman hauled Hitler and Stalin before a League of Nations war crimes tribunal; he battled Ku Klux Klansmen in a 1946 radio serial; and in 1978, he boxed Muhammed Ali – and lost!
3. He failed his Army physical during WWII, because he inadvertently read an eye chart in the adjoining room with his X-ray vision.
4. He's probably Jewish. His creators Joe Shuster and Jerry Siegel gave plenty of clues – from his Kryptonian name, Kal-El (Hebrew for “vessel of God”), to his origin story straight out of Exodus (as with Moses, his parents launched him to safety and adoption by gentiles Martha and Jonathan Kent).
5. His middle name, revealed in the comics in 1997, is Joseph. (AARP Magazine, June 2013)

USS NAUTILUS:

Following her commissioning in 1954, *Nautilus* remained dockside for further construction and testing until at 11 am on 17 January 1955 she put to sea for the first time. Her commander, Eugene P. Wilkinson, who passed away in July, 2013 at age 94, signaled her historic message: "*Underway on nuclear power.*" Two Navy captains who handled public relations advised him he was about to take part in an historic event and he should send a "historic message". "Listen," he replied, "we're doing our part getting ourselves, the ship and its systems checked out and ready," the Submarine Force Library and Museum quoted Mr. Wilkinson as says, "You gentlemen are public relations experts. Write a historic message, and we'll send it." "That took care of them for a day and a half," he said. "Then they gave me a message that was one and a quarter typewritten pages long with some elegant-sounding words." Instead, Mr. Wilkerson wrote the briefer message. [Wikipedia and Chicago Sun-Times, July 17, 2013.]

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

1903 - Crayola® Brand Is Born – 110 years ago, noticing a need in schools for safe and affordable wax crayons, Binney & Smith made the first box of eight Crayola crayons. The box sold for a nickel and contained black, brown, blue, red, violet, orange, yellow and green - the same colors in the box of eight today. The Crayola name was coined by Alice Binney, wife of company founder Edwin and a former school teacher. It comes from "craie," the French word for "chalk," and "ola," for "oleaginous," or "oily." The World's Largest Crayon was unveiled at their 100th Birthday party in Easton, Pa., on Oct. 11. Breaking the old Guinness record of 10 feet, the World's Largest Crayola Crayon weighed in at 1,500 lbs., 15 feet high, 16 inches wide, in America's favorite color -- blue. [Source: <http://toys.about.com/od/crayola/a/historycrayola.htm>]

LAST CALL FOR 1952 PHOTOS:

Walter Johnson wrote: I am looking for photos of the 1952 Austin High School Football team that Abe Woodson played on. It is my understanding that the 1952 team played in the Prep Bowl at Soldier Field in front of 110,000 people. [Ed. Note – the attendance was actually 22,664]. Would you have any pictures of that game? You may reach Walter at wjohnson@turningpointeaf.org or (630)570-7948. [Editor question: Walter – Did anyone respond?]

THOUGHTS TO PONDER:

"When "i" is replaced by "we", even illness becomes wellness."

"The problem with eating Italian food is that five or six days later you're hungry again."

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing."

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.

SO – WHAT SHALL WE DO NEXT?

We really need your help in planning future alumni events. Please take a few moments to answer the questions below. Return your answers to any reunion committee member via email or to Ken Rosko via fax at 847-623-5885 or snail mail to: Ken Rosko, c/o JKR Financial Consultants, Ltd., 3233 W. Grand Ave., Suite 103, Waukegan, IL 60085. Thanks in advance for your help.

1. What events would you like the Austin 1955 Reunion Committee to organize for 2014? Play? Picnic? Race Track? Lunch? Dinner? Cruise? Land Tour?

What month(s)? _____ Day(s) of week? _____ Afternoon? ___ Evening? ___

2. What kind of 60th year Reunion would you like to have in 2015? 1 Day? 2 Days? Weekend? Luncheon? Dinner/Dance? Entertainment? _____

3. Your Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE: Please email changes to reunion@austin1955.org
OR, mail to: **Chuck Meyer, Austin Class of 1955; 3800 85th Avenue N #103; Brooklyn Park, MN 55443-2972**

NAME (1st, maiden, last): _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

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