



# AUSTIN HIGH [CHICAGO] 1950s ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 16 ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2021

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**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY TO ALL!!**

**AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL [Chicago] '50s REUNION Week-End is Oct.1-3.  
BALANCE DUE JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

## **FLASH!!! NEW OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND REUNION:**

It has come to the Reunion committee's attention that there are a number of individuals who would love to attend the REUNION, but for one reason or another don't want to drive at night or just aren't comfortable driving a great distance. GREAT NEWS! Word comes from our Events Chair Shel Marcus that he has arranged with a service to provide transportation for anyone from Chicago and its suburbs to be picked up from their residence and be driven to the Drury Lane /Hilton Suites complex and then have that same service drive them home again for a flat rate. One rate, whether 1, 2, 3, or however many passengers. For complete information, contact Shel at his office, 847-966-7670 ASAP. **GO TIGERS!!!!**

## **A message from Ken Rosko, President of the Austin High [Chicago] '50s Alumni Committee:**

Good News to report! The response to attend our gala event is most gratifying. We are getting registrations from all classes from across the country. Our goal is to have representation from every year. If you still haven't sent in your registration, please do so NOW. It helps us in our planning! Remember you can customize what events you want to attend. Your committee has made every effort to make it possible for everyone to attend at any financial level. **Send in your deposit today. Your balance isn't due 'til July 31**, and if by chance you do have to cancel you can do so 'til September 1, without loss of any dollars. This is a win-win situation.

If anyone who's reading this newsletter knows anyone who graduated from Austin during the fifties and would like to join us and attend this fun-filled week-end REUNION celebration, have them contact **Shel Marcus at 1-847-966-7670 or any of the members of the committee listed in this newsletter**. You can also visit our website at [www.austin1955.org](http://www.austin1955.org) and get a registration form with all the details.

## **REUNION UPDATE FROM SHEL MARCUS, 2021 Reunion Event Chair:**

As a quick reminder, the **Austin High School [Chicago] '50s REUNION Week-End is OCT. 1-3** at the Drury Lane Theatre Complex & the CHICAGO HILTON Oak Brook Suites hotel.

On Friday, there will be a welcoming reception and an elegant sit-down dinner with choice of entree. For Saturday, we will have a choice of two optional afternoon activities available. Saturday evening attendees will enjoy a Chicago style '50s party, celebrating the great years we spent at Austin. There will be time for renewing friendships and visiting an Austin memorabilia area containing yearbooks from every year of the 'fifties. You'll be able to see yourself as a freshman and a senior. There'll be many surprises and gifts for everyone, including a beautiful four-color commemorative program book. On Sunday, you can join your classmates at an optional "Farewell Breakfast" at The HILTON Oak Brook Suites hotel.

Speaking of the hotel, the committee has blocked a few rooms at a special rate for those staying overnight. We've been informed that the block is selling out, so we urge anyone who is considering staying overnight at the CHICAGO HILTON Oak Brook Suites to call 1-800-445-8667 or 1-630-5116-3820, and reserve your room at the special AUSTIN '50s REUNION RATE of \$109 + tax per night. Call before the block is sold out. For those who have already registered THANKS, and for those who are still thinking about it, come join us!

The vaccine inoculations are climbing every day, the government mandates are almost ALL LIFTED, more businesses are opening, and in Chicago, all sports teams can have FULL occupancy at their games! Life is good and we want to see and greet each of you at the REUNION celebration. We all deserve a party!!!!

So, stay healthy, stay safe, and send in your deposit! We'll see you in the fall. **GO TIGERS!!!!**

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

We are grateful to the following classmates for their donations in support of this newsletter: Caroline (Garcia) Anderson ('56), Shirley (Harvey) Dane ('56), Marcia (Hasselmann) Murphy ('55), Mary Ann (Russo) May ('56), and Diane (Stromberg) Gustafson ('56).

**Special thanks** to these who made extra-generous donations: Arlene (Behr) Harris ('56), Ervin Frejlach ('55), Helen (Gaysowski) ('56) and Louis ('55) Mango, Thomas Michell ('56), and Beverly (Simons) Bednarski ('55).

Remember to mail your annual \$10 newsletter donation, payable to **Austin 1955 Reunion, Ltd.** to our new Treasurer, **Nancy Pasquerelli**, at 5145 Barcroft Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60010. PLEASE write your **class year** and **maiden name** (if any) on your check, so we can acknowledge your donation properly.

**THANKS TO Diane (Stromberg) Gustafson ('56)**, who remembered it was *Seventeen* magazine that published the story that mentioned Austin as the then largest co-educational high school in the United States. Diane lives in Iowa with her husband of 62 years, Lee. They have five children, 12 grandchildren, and 8 greats. Diane and Lee volunteer for JDRF, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Good Job, Diane!!

### **PERSONAL NOTES:**

***Irwin Magad*** ('55) is pleased to report that he celebrated his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday on Jun 17<sup>th</sup>, and will celebrate 60 happy years of marriage to Linda on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Long may you live and love!!

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

**We extend our Sympathy to the families and friends of the following deceased classmates:**

**James R. Courtney ('55)** passed away in February 2021.

**Howard Falk ('56)** passed on June 7, 2021. Husband of Lynn, father of three, grandfather of eight. His friend, **Marshall Hechter ('56)** says Howard was a basketball star as a youth and was probably the most prolific scorer in his four years at Austin. He played one year at Iowa before transferring to Loyola where he earned his Education degree. He went on to be principal at Montefiore Academy (est. 1929), a special Chicago Public School on the West side of Chicago, serving students with severe emotional disorders.

**Myra (Fischel) Lovi ('55)** passed away in April 2021. Wife of Richard, mother of two, grandmother of three. Lifelong friend of many from Austin, Rogers Park, and Lincolnwood.

**James J. McCarthy ('55)** passed away on December 19, 2020. Husband of the late Mary Ann, father of two, grandfather of two. Jim was a member of the Austin 1954 Baseball Championship team, as was his friend **Jim Courtney ('55)**, who passed in February 2021.

**Sandra (Ryback) Cohen ('56)** passed away in May, 2021. Wife of the late David, mother of two; grandmother of four. Sandi was a proud and dedicated kindergarten teacher at Solomon Schechter Day School.

Condolences to **Marcia (Hasselmann) Murphy ('55)** on the passing of the love of her life and soulmate, Paul T. Murphy on November 22, 2020. Marcia and Paul celebrated 60 wonderful, happy years of marriage on May 7, 2020, and had two children and four grandchildren, who all miss him terribly.

### **DID YOU KNOW? (from Healthline.com)**

- An egg contains every vitamin, except C.
- If you're coughing uncontrollably, raise your arms above you head, and it will stop.
- Eating chocolate while studying helps the brain retain information easily.

### **SPEAKING OF FOOD:**

**Russell's Barbecue** continues to celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary at both the Elmwood Park and Countryside locations with special prices for their Baby Back Ribs or a Ribs & Chicken Combo thru 6-30-21.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sam German, an American baker, created a bar of mild baking chocolate in 1852 for Baker's Chocolate company. The company named it "Baker's German's Sweet Chocolate" and it became a huge hit. In 1957, Mrs. George Calay submitted her "German's Chocolate Cake" recipe to the Dallas Morning Star's "Recipe of the Day" column. The delicious recipe included Sam German's chocolate bar as a key ingredient. Future recipes would eventually drop the "possessive," becoming the German Chocolate Cake. [Quizdaily.com 3-28-21]

## NOTABLE QUOTES:

"If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind, what is an empty desk a sign of?" [Albert Einstein]

"The older you get, the funnier you find life. That's the only way to go. If you get serious about yourself as you get old, you are pathetic." [Diana Rigg]

"If I thought a man had never committed a sin in his life, I don't think I'd want to talk with him. A man with flaws is more interesting." [Kirk Douglas]

A reporter asked Michael Jordan if his Bulls championship teams of the '90s could beat LeBron's of today. Michael said the Bulls would win by 2 or 3 points. The reporter said "just 2 or 3 points?" Michael responded: "Yeah, our guys are all in their 60s now."

"Don't tick off old people. The older we get, the less **Life in Prison** is a deterrent." [Anon]

"Friendships and wine are worth more over time." [Anon]

## IN THE KITCHEN:

Josephine Cochran was a socialite in the mid-1800s, with many occasions to break out the fancy china — "break" being the operative word, as she found her dishes easily broke with hand-washing. Previously invented **dishwashers** used hand-turned scrubbers, which also caused damage. To save herself the headache, she built a new kind of washing machine that used water pressure to treat the dishes more gently and got the job done even faster.

Dr. Jonas Salk used the **Waring Blender** — originally designed for milkshakes — to help him create the polio vaccine. He pureed the dead polio virus with a serum, which then got injected into a patient, effectively preventing the virus. The blender he used was made specifically for scientific usage when Fred Waring was asked to make a special sealed blender for labs.

Thor Bjorklund made furniture for a living. When he needed a way to get even slices of cheese, he looked to his toolbox. In 1925, after many tries, he invented a **cheese slicer** based on a carpenter's plane, which created perfect slices and wasted less cheese. The design has barely changed since the original.

The original **Dutch ovens** were created by an English inventor using a Dutch molding process. At the time, most pots were made of copper or brass, but he found that cast iron was cheaper and allowed for lasting, multipurpose cookware. Today, this versatile 17th-century invention is still used to make everything from soups to breads.

**Chopsticks** have existed since around 1200 B.C.E., but no one really used them to eat until about 400 C.E. The new use for chopsticks evolved when the population soared and people started preparing and eating food in small bites, rather than large pieces that required more resources to cook. Chopsticks became the perfect eating utensil, in line with Confucian views that sharp utensils disrupt the calm of a meal.

**Forks** were once thought of as ridiculous and unnecessary utensils. When Catherine de Medici married King Henry II in 1533, she brought her forks with her from Italy, where they were already popular. Forks were not commonly used in America until the 1850s, when they began contributing to the uniquely American style of using utensils that Emily Post called the "zig-zag method." [quizdaily.com 4-18-21]

**Honey** has high sugar and low moisture content. It's acidic and contains the antibacterial substance hydrogen peroxide. These three features are what allows properly stored honey to keep for so long. [Healthline.com]

## SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

**50 years ago, on June 10, 1971**, at 11:31 a.m. (a time immortalized on their menus) the doors swung open on Richard Melman's first Lettuce Entertain You restaurant, **R.J. Grunts** in Lincoln Park. The place is known for its casual vibe and capacious burgers, but the meal-in-itself salad bar there was believed to be the first in the continental United States, Melman having read about rudimentary salad bars in Hawaii, of all places. [Neil Steinberg, Chicago Sun-Times 6-9-21]

**100 years ago, in 1921**, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County created the private non-profit **Chicago Zoological Society (CZS)** to plan, build, and operate the Chicago Zoological Park. The Society's founding members included prominent civic and business leaders. A committee toured zoos in the U.S. and Europe and met with leaders of the barless zoo concept. Construction began in 1926, led by Stanley Field, chair of the Board's Building and Grounds Committee. The Great Depression in 1929 temporarily halted the zoo's construction, but New Deal programs put people to work on the zoo's infrastructure projects, and artists and photographers created the zoo's early murals, statues, and posters. The zoo finally opened its gates in 1934.

**100 years ago, on June 15, 1921**, **Errol Garner** was born in Pittsburgh, PA, a self-taught American jazz pianist and composer known for his swing playing and ballads. His best-known ballad "Misty" has become a jazz standard. He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6363 Hollywood Blvd. His live album, Concert by the Sea, first released in **1955**, sold over a million copies by 1958 and Scott Yanow's opinion is: "this is the album that made such a strong impression that Garner was considered immortal from then on." [Wikipedia]

**100 years ago, Chanel No. 5** was the first perfume launched by French couturier Gabrielle "Coco" Chanel in 1921. The scent formula for the fragrance was compounded by French-Russian chemist and perfumer Ernest Beaux. The design of its bottle has been an important part of the product's allure. [Wikipedia]

**100 years ago Northern Ireland** was created when Ireland was partitioned by the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, creating a devolved government for the six northeastern counties. The majority of Northern Ireland's population were unionists, who wanted to remain within the United Kingdom. They were generally the Protestant descendants of colonists from Great Britain. Meanwhile, the majority in Southern Ireland (which became the Irish Free State in 1922), and a significant minority in Northern Ireland, were Irish nationalists and Catholics who wanted a united independent Ireland. Today, the former generally see themselves as British and the latter generally see themselves as Irish, while a Northern Irish or Ulster identity is claimed by a large minority from all backgrounds. [Wikipedia]

**In July, 1921**, two contradictory events occurred: on **July 2**, U.S. President Warren Harding signed a joint congressional resolution, declaring an end to America's state of war with Germany, Austria and Hungary. On **July 29**, Adolf Hitler becomes *Führer* of the Nazi Party in Germany. [Wikipedia]

On **September 13, 1921**, **White Castle** hamburger restaurant opened in Wichita, Kansas founding the world's first fast food chain. [Wikipedia]

## GROANERS from John Rozinsky ('56):

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.

A Man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Dijon vu – the same mustard as before.

Practice safe eating – always use condiments.

Shotgun wedding – A case of wife or death.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

The man who fell into the upholstery machine is fully recovered.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two-tired,

"The future ain't what it used to be." [Yogi Berra 1958]

### **THE AUSTIN HIGH GANG aka THE BLUE FRIARS:**

In 1922, five kids from Austin High School in Chicago, Illinois formed a little band which consisted of Jim Lanigan, age 17, on piano, Jimmy McPartland, age 14, on cornet, his older brother Dick McPartland, age 17, on banjo and guitar, Frank Teschemacher, age 16, on alto saxophone, and Bud Freeman, age 16, on C-melody tenor saxophone. Bud was the greenhorn of the group and the only one who did not also play the violin. They were so keen on music that they practiced in school and in their homes.

Their initial inspiration was a local ensemble called the Al Johnson Orchestra, which gave them the motivation they needed to improve rapidly. Soon, they were playing at the afternoon high school dances, which were then becoming popular in Chicago, and at high school fraternity dances and any other opportunity that presented itself. Jazz was a relatively novel style of music in the early 1920s, so the Austin High School Gang grew up in an environment where jazz music was not yet thriving.

The boys, like many other students from their high school, frequented an ice cream parlor across the street known as "The SPOON and the Straw." Usually, one of them would feed a nickel to the automatic phonograph. One day, they discovered a record by the New Orleans Rhythm Kings, and were so enthralled by the sound of such authentic jazz that they played the record over and over. Then and there, they named their band "The Blue Friars," after The Friar's Inn in the Chicago Loop where the Rhythm Kings played.

The Austin High Gang came definitely and immediately under the influence of the Rhythm Kings, and tried to emulate the same steady, compelling rhythm, contrapuntal improvisations, tone color, a similar economy of notes and ease of melodic interpretation. Their pre-professional training was almost complete when they heard Gennett records made by Bix Beiderbecke and the Wolverines, and they drew further inspiration from their style of New Orleans music. Having heard records, they went out to hear the bands themselves and discovered King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, rounding off their identity with New Orleans jazz.

Sometimes the Austin High Gang played at Lewis Institute, which Dave Tough attended, and he added his drums to the little band. Later, Jim Lanigan picked up the bass through Chink Martin's playing and soon became the band's bassist; Teschemacher also began practicing the clarinet, his style showing traces of the glissandi from violin playing. Dave found Floyd O'Brien playing trombone at a University of Chicago jam session. Then, recruiting him and pianist Dave North, they named themselves Husk O'Hare's Wolverines and were ready to play professionally. They got a job at White City, a large dance hall of Chicago's south side amusement park, where they played until their disbandment at the end of the White City engagement.

In 1927, Eddie Condon recorded the Austin High Gang as the "Mackenzie-Condon Chicagoans." These recordings catapulted the young musicians into the spotlight and they all subsequently developed acclaimed careers in New York, playing and recording with established musicians like Jack Teagarden, Pee Wee Russell, Benny Goodman and Tommy Dorsey. Of the original Austin High Gang, Jimmy McPartland and Bud Freeman sustained the longest careers in jazz. [Wikipedia]

**The "Resolute Desk,"** a regular focal point of the White House's Oval Office, was a gift to President Hayes from Queen Victoria in 1880. The desk, known to have been used by several Presidents, is made from the oak timbers of the British ship **H.M.S. Resolute**. During an Arctic voyage, the ship became trapped in ice and abandoned in 1854, but was later recovered by an American whaler and returned to the Queen. The desk was made from the wood of the ship after it was broken apart. [quizdaily.com 6-6-21]

### **ELDER WISDOM from Irwin Magad ('55):**

I thought the dryer was making my clothes shrink. 'Turns out it was the refrigerator.

I thought growing old would take longer.

My bucket list: Keep breathing.

I'm a multi-tasker; I can listen, ignore, and forget – all at the same time.

I went to an antique show, and people were bidding on me.

I don't have grey hair. I have Wisdom highlights.

My heart says, "Eat chocolate and drink wine," but my jeans say, "Please, please, please eat a salad."

When you can't find the sunshine, BE the sunshine.

## ODDS & ENDS:

- **July 29** is **National Lasagna Day**. [<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/>]
- “The Secret to living well and longer is: eat half, walk double, laugh triple, and love without measure.” [Tibetan Proverb]
- “Where words fail, music speaks.” [Hans Christian Anderson]

## FOOD FACTS:

Leo Hirschfield first invented Bromangelon Jelly Powder in 1895. When **Jell-O** took off a few years later, it dashed any hope Hirschfield had of marketing his own product. Instead, he used his invention to create **Tootsie Rolls**, which he named after his daughter.

Invented in 1930, the **Snickers** bar is named after company founder Frank Mars’s favorite horse. Once Frank Mars’ confectionery business took off with the introduction of the Milky Way in 1922, he purchased Milky Way Farms, a 3,000-acre investment in horse breeding. Snickers was both Mars’ and his wife’s favorite horse, and the Snickers bar — a **Milky Way** with peanuts added — was named in its honor. Until 1990, however, Snickers was solely an American moniker; in the UK and Ireland, the candy was known as the **Marathon** bar.

**PEZ** comes from the German word “pfefferminz.” Despite the many characters featured on the candy’s dispensers, the candy — which now comes in assorted fruit flavors rather than peppermint — wasn’t originally meant for kids. As far back as the 1920s, PEZ was marketed as mints to help people quit smoking.

**TELL US YOUR NEWS:** Send news to share to **Kaye (Beecroft) Aurigemma** at [kaurige1@att.net](mailto:kaurige1@att.net) or write to her at 10846 Martindale Drive, Westchester, IL 60154-5021. Photos and other website items should be sent to Chris Padar at [austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:austin1955.webmaster@gmail.com) or **408 Nawata Place, Prospect Heights, IL 60070**.

**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE:** Please email changes to [reunion@austin1955.org](mailto:reunion@austin1955.org) or mail to: **Art Fumarolo, Austin High [Chicago] 1950s Alumni; 5365 Fox Path Lane; Hoffman Estates, IL 60192**.

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