

THE 1955 TROJAN Alumni PRINTS

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But where is the majesty?



The Current State of Portsmouth Schools

from an update by Ken Marotte, Scioto Voice

Numerous schools are currently in the building process in Portsmouth. An elementary school in Sciotoville will open during December 2005 or January 2006. The elementary, junior, and senior high school in Portsmouth will open for the school year commencing in the fall of 2006.

Junior (grades 7-8) and senior (grades 9-12) high students will spend their days in the same building, but each will occupy separate wings. "They will share some common spaces, like the cafetorium," (what? no separate cafeteria or auditorium) said superintendent Jan Broughton, "but other than that, they will have their own areas."

With a school building built in 1912, many Portsmouth students have learned to go without those features that many others take for granted. Unlike the old edifices, the new buildings will have accommodations for air conditioning and state-of-the-art technology. Broughton voiced her excitement: "We are really excited to have a building that accommodates our needs and the current times."

Current Portsmouth schools allow room for 2,079 to engage in the learning process; the new schools will dramatically increase this number. When finished and functional, Portsmouth City Schools will accommodate a total of 2,843 students-1,147 at the junior/senior high school, 1,341 at the elementary school, and 355 at the Sciotoville school. "Potential for growth was very important to us," commented Broughton.

Future students will not be able to evade the legacy of Portsmouth City Schools, as the new schools will contain morsels of nostalgia and local history. Columns and urns from Grant Middle School, for example, have been removed, and will be installed into one of the new schools.

The building of the new school has helped the economy by providing work to a number of locals. "The majority of our workers are originally from the area, and many are even graduates of Portsmouth," the superintendent excitedly said, "The pride is definitely visible."

Demolition of the old schools will occur shortly after they are vacated. The State of Ohio will fund 80% of the demolition effort.

Oh Yeah?... (ed. note)

As an artist I must comment: It is a shame that the new high school building cannot match the majestic look of the old Portsmouth high school. Perhaps it is best that way. The new building appears to be just a utilitarian and hopefully functional structure to house students and faculty. I feel that the columns in front are a feeble attempt to emulate the old building. Where will student classes line up to have their picture taken? Oh well, that's just my opinion.

Wayne Hills Revisited

The area including 17th Street, Kendall Avenue, Wayne Avenue, Thomas Ave was where I grew up. It is hard to remember the exact address, but I think we lived at 1927 Kendall Avenue, apt F. We moved there just after Christmas, the year of my 1st grade.

A neighbor kid, Ted Truitt took me to Garfield for my first day of class which was taught by Ms. Cottle. I left her class after my first few minutes there and came home. My mother took me back at least twice more that day. That was my school attendance pattern for about a week. To school with Ted the first time and my mother the other times. Obviously I did not like my new school. Thankfully, I got over it and grew to really like Ms Cottle.

Kendall Avenue was a great place to live, especially after a hard rain. We would rush to the open concrete ditch along Kendall Avenue where we would wade in calf deep water and sometimes build a dam for water over our knees. It was a great place to float our popsicle boats and even race them. Once in pursuit of that sport, I stepped on a jagged piece of glass and bled profusely.

There was also a large sewer line connecting the small brook at the Northernmost end of Wayne Hills and which I suppose went all the way to the river. It had a steel gate on it but we found a way to get into the sewer line around it. It's diameter was about 4 or 5 feet so we could walk hunched over in it all the way under the buildings

and exit just South of 17th St. in the swamp. We never had to nerve to go any further. The line was made of concrete and the top was exposed as it ran through the swamp. We would climb out of the top somewhere between the swimming pool and 17th Street, and walk it back to the steep hillside to 17th St.

A much safer source of water sports took place during the hot summer months. There were three or four parks in the complex which had "outdoor showers". I would guess that the shower area in each was about thirty feet in diameter and sloped to perhaps eighteen inches in depth at the center. There were large shower heads opposite each other and could throw water high into the air. There was a nice pool formed if we blocked the center drain.

To name just a few of my friends and hope not to leave out anyone...Billy Biggs, Harold (Corky) Sparks and his little brother tuffy, Bob Parlin, Ted Truitt, Carl Hardwood, Jack Johnson, Dick Porter, Mary Ann Hamilton and her brother Wayne, Jim Henderson, Jack Riggs, Betty Fyffe, Sharon Gallagher, Doris Gore, and Jerilyn Jenkins.

Other good memories...Kleinkes grocery, blackberry picking up at the trailer park early in the mornings, yard mowing, pop bottle collecting, gathering sassafrass bark, the Mabert Road gang, Bill Hammond, Jerry Kitchen, Gary Kitchen, Popeye's Elbow, Rupture Hill, Salvation Army, Little Italy, Kendall Avenue hill, Soapbox Derby, Coleman's Market, and the Select Dairy.

Frank

Note from Sam Kegley

Portsmouth had great sports announcers on WPAY and WNXT. Jim Hufferd was a good one. (I remember Jack Hurst most of all. Ed). I don't believe that Carroll Widdoes was a Portsmouth guy, but your friend Hop Cassidy may be thinking of Carroll Howell (class of 51).

I remember the Woolwine name. Dick Klitch doesn't visit the internet except to play bridge now and then. Herman Klitch was absolutely a fine man and meant a lot to all of us Mound Park urchins. A strength of baseball fundamentals in the big strong quiet gentleman.

I'm recovering now from a second quadruple by-pass surgery after a twenty years previous similar surgery by the same doctor - Dr. Robert McVickers of Riverside Hospital here in Columbus. (Three weeks ago on 2 June.) My strength is returning each day and my wife, Jeanette Weddington, of New Boston is a beautiful and absolutely tremendous nurse (53 1/2 years).

My brother George said you asked about Lamoin and Ray Pelfrey. I interviewed them last year for my book; "Excellence in Athletics in the Portsmouth Area". Unfortunately Lamoin died in January. George has the book and says you are welcome to read it. I can send any of you a copy for \$17 including S & H.

Dr. William Daehler recently had his book "100 Years of Tennis in Scioto County" printed in Portsmouth. As you had an undefeated team in 1955, I'm sure that your readers would like to see it. Dr. Daehler gave Dick and me each a copy.

He mentions Francis Glickert and David Loft from the 1953 Trojans on page 18 and Dick Klitch has prominent mention throughout. Dick is the only state singles champion in the OHSAA history from Scioto County.

I just talked with him by phone and told him of our recent e-mails. He appreciated your comments about him and his dad. He receives the Prints also. That few years between 50 or 51 and 55 presents a lot of people we don't recognize.

Dr. Daehler's phone number is: 740-353-5493 if anyone wants to contact him.

Sam Kegley 614-882-5991



The New Grant School...



Two views of the new U.S. Grant bridge now under construction... and a new church at Gallia and Offner



Photos submitted by Clayton Howerton

Pop Culture - 1955

Academy Awards

Best Picture: "Marty", *Best Actor:* Ernest Borgnine in "Marty", *Best Actress:* Anna Magnani in "The Rose Tattoo", *Supporting Actor:* Jack Lemmon in "Mister Roberts", *Supporting Actress:* Jo Van Fleet in "East of Eden"

Emmy Awards

Actor: Phil Silvers, "The Phil Silvers Show" CBS
Actress: Lucille Ball, "I Love Lucy" CBS, *Drama:* "Producers' Showcase" NBC, *Adventure:* "Disneyland" ABC, *Comedy:* "The Phil Silvers Show" CBS, *Comedian:* Phil Silvers CBS, Nanette Fabray NBC, *Variety Show:* "The Ed Sullivan Show" CBS, *Game Show:* "The \$64,000 Question" CBS, *Children's Program:* "Lassie" CBS

Billboard's Top Ten Singles

1. "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White," Perez Prado, 2. "Rock Around the Clock," Bill Haley & His Comets, 3. "The Yellow Rose of Texas," Mitch Miller, 4. "Autumn Leaves," Roger Williams, 5. "Unchained Melody," Les Baxter, 6. "The Ballad of Davy Crockett," Bill Hayes, 7. "Love is a Many-Splendored Thing," The Four Aces, 8. "Sincerely," The McGuire Sisters, 9. "Ain't That a Shame," Pat Boone, 10. "Dance with Me, Henry," Georgia Gibbs

Most Popular Shows on TV according to Nielsen Media Research 1954-1955 season

1. I Love Lucy CBS, 2. The Jackie Gleason Show CBS, 3. Dragnet NBC, 4. You Bet Your Life NBC, 5. Toast of the Town (Ed Sullivan) CBS, 6. Disneyland ABC, 7. The Bob Hope Show NBC, 8. The Jack Benny Program CBS, 9. The Martha Raye Show NBC, 10. The George Gobel Show NBC, 11. The Ford Television Theater NBC, 12. December Bride CBS, 13. The Buick-Berle Show NBC, 14. This Is Your Life NBC, 15. I've Got a Secret CBS, 16. Two for the Money CBS, 17. Your Hit Parade NBC, 18. The Millionaire CBS, 19. General Electric Theater CBS, 20. Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts CBS

Note from Kitty Clark

In reference to a former Life Magazine about a house on Court Street and it's occupants...

When I taught 4th grade in Morgan Township outside of Lucasville, in the 60's it was like that everywhere back in the hills. The children came to school with "commodity sandwiches" they called them of cheese and canned meat. They loved them. Some had worn out shoes, and shirts stitched together for the winter instead of buttons. They were very happy kids though. It was the ones that had a lot that stood out, like the kids whose parents ran the nursing home down the road. Everyone got along very well. Even though I'm sure some had unhealthy unhappy home lives, for the most part they loved their lives going hunting and digging gensing with their dads and were pretty good students.

I did use the majority of my paycheck though to buy shoes and clothing for some of them. I handed out a lot of toys etc. to the class at Christmas too. Some were transient families living with relatives and some had been there for most of their lives. They didn't see themselves as poor or any different than anyone else. They were just "country kids". Thanks for stirring up those memories.

A good friend of mine, JoAnn Aeh is the city clerk, and is up to date on what is happening with our hometown.

"Across from the old N&W train station (which is now the site of the new jail) is a telecommunications company; a new cinema; a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant and a Dairy Queen - there is also room for one more small restaurant. The hospital has grown by leaps and bounds and a new cancer center now sits on the property were Lincoln School use to be. The Scioto Trail is in the process of being widened. Property is being developed on 11th Street. There is an Oak Hill Bank and several other businesses going in around the 1700 block. Two new restaurants are scheduled to open this year - one is Quisnos but I can't remember the name of the other one. OSCO is still a thriving industry."

Kitty Clark

Note from Emogene (Prise) Grenville

I really enjoy receiving the 1955 Trojan Alumni Prints. I have fond memories of Portsmouth even though I moved away from there in 1957. It will always be my hometown and I enjoy going back for visits whenever I can. There are several 1956 graduates who live here in Brevard County - Sue Gammon Morgan and Barbara Vogel Clark whom I see pretty often.

I have been retired from NASA for 11 years and really enjoy retirement. We have a large family and stay very busy with them. We are planning a trip to Maine this fall and hopefully to Ohio for our 50th Reunion next year.

The newsletter is a real treat for me to read and my brother, George Prise, is also receiving it now in Houston. George and his wife, Glenda, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. My sister, Joan Prise, lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

George and Glenda Prise



Note from Jim Kegley

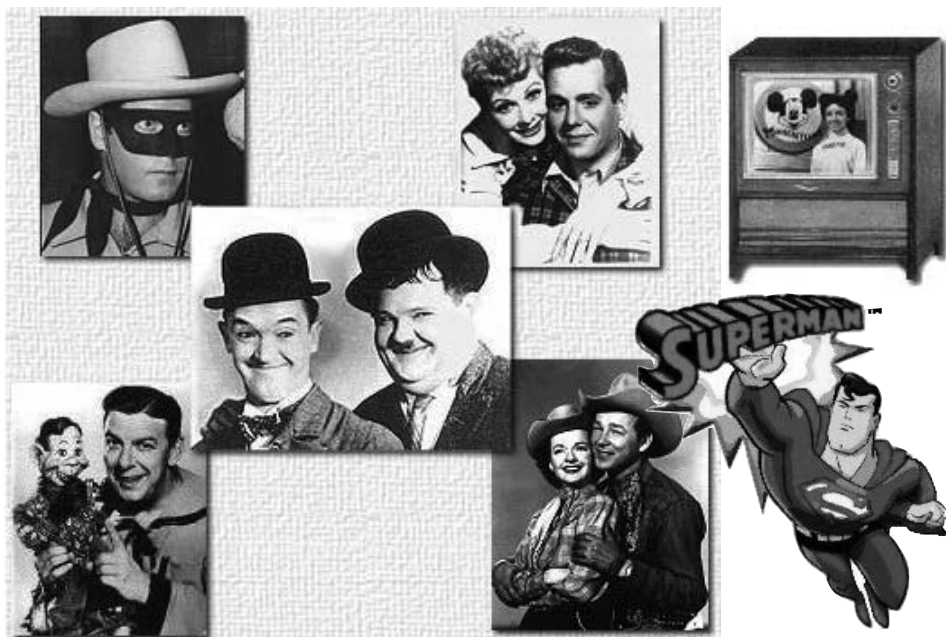
I fell on June 2nd, while at work in Noble county Ohio breaking my right shoulder and after an operation and installation of pins I am not able to use anything but my left hand for several weeks. I am staying with a friend in Portsmouth during recuperation. This is my first time on a computer since my fall, so it is difficult with only left hand with which to hunt and peck. I wish you all well, and hope you do the same for me. I can read, so send me me messages. Please understand if I don't respond.

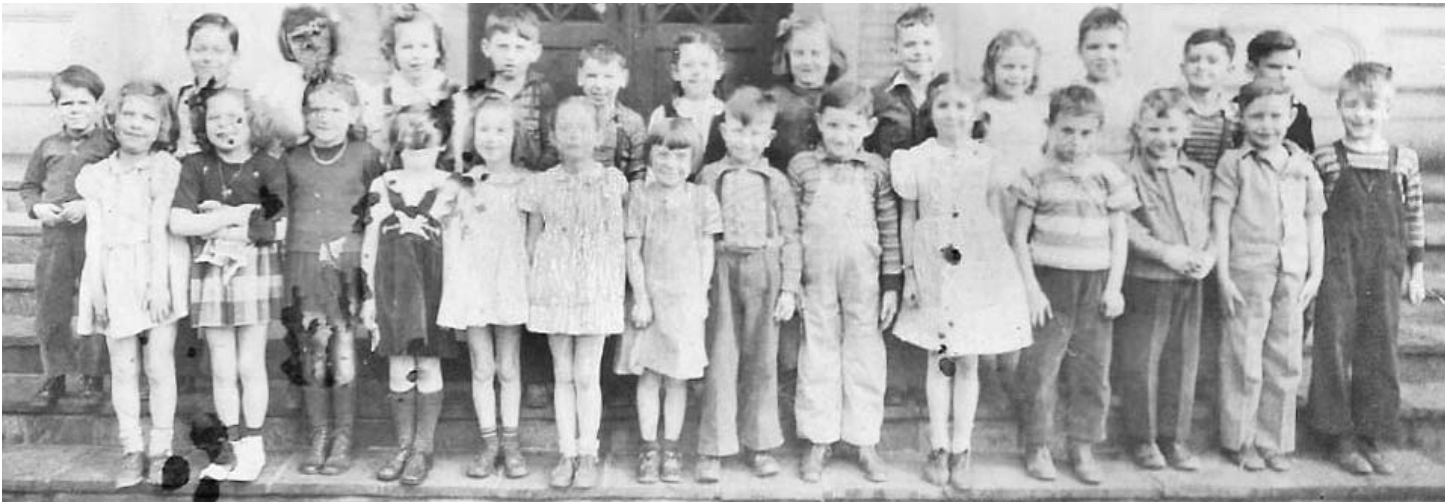
Jim Kegley

from Harold Clyburn

Thanks for the update Jim. How is your shoulder doing? Hopefully all is well. Here is a little FYI which you can share if you like. Sam Crawford will undergo surgery to implant a shunt in his brain to drain fluid. This will be a permanent implant. Sam has not been very well for some time and after many weeks of testing it was decided that this procedure would eliminate his recurring dizziness and his lack of strength. Jim Jones and I will be at the hospital to support Sam and his wife. Jim is soon to undergo a procedure himself to have a defibrillator implanted. His heart functions at about a 34% capacity he tells me.

Harold Clyburn class of 57





1st row, l to r: Susan Shump, Opal Kiourtsis, Judy Cramer, ?, ?, Patty Raike, ?, Jimmy Eichorn, ?, ?, ? Luther ?, ?, Bob Mohl ?. 2nd row, l to r: ?, ?, ?, Shirley Smith, ?, ?, Joyce ?... My best friend until she died right before third grade and Deanie's appearance at Grant when she became my best friend...for life., ?, James Bodner?, Jackie Brown, Buddy Ramey ?, Philip ?, ?
 Photo submitted by Jackie Brown

Editorial of sorts...Etc.

This is a very special edition of our Alumni News. It was five years ago, the day after our forty-fifty reunion that Gene Lucas came by my mother's house to say goodbye as I was about to leave for my flight back to Tampa from Columbus. We were chatting about many things as we reflected on the success of the reunion. Off the top of my head, I said something to the effect that it would be nice if we had a means for the class to communicate with each other. As we talked, I said that I could do a newsletter if I had help to distribute it. He said, I will do that if you will put it together. Just like that, this letter was born.

I have had some experience in newsletters over the years and had just started work with the St. Petersburg Times. Using their computers during downtime, I have been able to produce the past 30 newsletters. But now, as retirement (voluntary or forced) age draws nearer, I may need to add some hardware and software to my home computer to continue the letters. Hopefully, that should be no problem.

On the subject of retirement, most of you do not know exactly what I would retire from and sometimes I wonder myself. Because there were few contributions to the letter this issue, I will fill some space with a bit of what I have been doing for the past fifty years.

Officially, I am an artist with fine arts training at Ohio State, an apprenticeship for five years at the then prestigious thirty-five man Columbus Art

Studio. There, I eventually became an aviation illustrator which led me to my great love for flying (I purchased an aircraft soon after my marriage to JoAnn in 1965). I then moved into the realm of advertising agencies for the next fourteen years where my aviation contacts and art talents were used in several aviation products and airline accounts as art director and sometimes account representative. I also began to dabble in copywriting, do some serious photography and sometime during the early seventies, I seriously considered leaving the field of art and moving into aviation, even joining the ranks of the air traffic controllers. JoAnn and I also traveled much of the world and for the next few years, I produced nearly one hundred pieces of art.

In 1979, we moved to Florida where I began eighteen years of owning and managing a hybrid combination art studio, art school, advertising agency, and war starting complex. I wrote a training manual on a complex theology theory, studied a little Spanish, a little Greek and we adopted two fine boys as newborns.

Today, I work full time as an artist with the St. Petersburg Times and continue to paint (mostly watercolor). I devote time to my sons, my job and my church. I am beginning to wonder where my time and energy went.

With that in mind, I have started gathering as many photographic prints of my art as I can find with the idea of framing them as 6"x4" postcard miniatures. That total is somewhere over the 250

mark. I don't expect to have many, but so far, I have found photos of almost one hundred and fifty which I am framing by threes matted under glass. I plan to have this project finished by the end of the year and hope they survive for a while as a progressive legacy of my work.

I am quite comfortable with my continuing involvement with the newsletters and hope that the next thirty editions will cover other classes of the fifties as well as ours. Perhaps someone from the other classes will step forward to continue the letter after Gene, Blaine, other contributors and I cannot. I would encourage all readers to send copies to other members of fifties classes so that they can participate in what we are doing. Personally, I feel it is one of the most rewarding aspects of my life inasmuch as it is a great story of a great bunch of students living in a great all-American city in what was perhaps the best times of this nation. I hope the new high school and the Portsmouth public library will someday contain all editions so that our grandchildren and their offspring can experience some of the excitement of those years. The other half (or more) of our history is sitting almost unused as the PHS1955.com website. Please, please... Tom DuPuy needs your input. Our story needs to be on the web. Your story needs to be there. It allows people around the globe to know where our dear city was, what it stood for, and what it can be. By the way, I lied about the war-starting.

Frank

