

THE 1955 TROJAN *Alumni* PRINTS

June 2003 • Send news articles and/or photos to Frank Hunter, 106 Columbia Dr. #12B, Tampa, FL 33606 • Email fhunter@sptimes.com • Issue 17

More Portsmouth Underground, Etc.

I have been receiving the news letter for quite some time and I think it is great. I apologize for not responding earlier, but as we all know time just seems to slip away. I was reading the last issue about the stairs and tunnels and I would like to let some of you know that: during the Civil War and up thru the 20's & 30's that there were tunnels extending from 7th street at Gay to Court street all the way to the Ohio river. During the Civil War, they were used for the transportation of slaves, and after they were used for the moving of alcohol and other items. When the old post office was on the esplanade there were air raid shelters under it along with public restrooms. Where the Australian Mini Mall was located, (under the Distel Furniture Store), the tunnels started there and went to the river. If you can get down under the building where Frank Gerlach has his law office you can see where the tunnels were layed with brick and cemented in. Also, where the Detroit Steel Mill was located, (The old wire mill), there were also tunnels there.

In regards to the N&W Station, there was also stairs that went down to the restroom area, and there was an air raid shelter there also.

Most of the foregoing information was told to me by my parents and grand parents. The underground railroad system from the South was very popular in this region.

Here are some other bits of information:

Portsmouth had a 6 lane bowling center on the 6th floor of the Masonic Temple during the late 30's early 40's. There were 8 lanes in the basement of the Playhouse, and the old 5th street cab station had 8 lanes of Duck pin bowling on 1 side and 6 lanes of 10 pin on the other. The Selby Shoe Company also had a small bowling lane in their building.

In 1946 Funny Porter (from down on 2nd and Glover) owned and operated the skating rink on the corner of 9th & Chillicothe Streets. It was later sold to Virgil & Polly Akers, and they put in a bowling center. On the northwest corner of 9th and Chillicothe was Edwards Cleaners. Most of the gambling casinos were located around Portsmouth also.

My Great Grandfather was the 1st teacher to teach the German Language in the Portsmouth High School. He was born in Weisbaden Germany and came to Ohio in the middle 1800's. He fought in the Civil War and after the war returned to Germany, where he married my Great Grandmother, who was also a teacher in Portsmouth. These are some of the people that passed this information down to my mother and myself.

To Lowell Payton; Yes the old Lyric theater was a very interesting place during the 40's, and if we missed a show at the Lyric, we could go to the Garden theater, located on Chillicothe Street between 7th and 8th. How many of you remember the old Turkey Shop? Huck Foehr, (think that is spelled right) owned the Turkey Shop, and after skating at the roller rink, located on Kendall Ave, we would go out there for an evening of fun and relaxation.

Does anyone remember when the limburger cheese was put on the top of the radiator heating system in the high school?

Another point of memorabilia:

What year did the Harlam Globe Trotters play basketball in the Grant Grade School Gym?

Remember when we played sewer hole tag on the corner of 4th and Union St and the restaurant was on the southeast corner of 4th?

God Bless all of our class mates that are still around and I am looking forward to the picnic at the Shriners Club in August.

Don P. Warner

Picnic Reunion

It has been almost three years since many of us last met. But some had a great reunion last year. They enjoyed it so much that the committee decided to do it again this year. The 2003 1955 (and any other class wishing to attend) Class Reunion Picnic.

Over a year ago, I remember discussing whether or not to attend last year's picnic with another classmate. We concluded that to travel a thousand miles or so just to attend a one-day picnic was just not worth the trouble.

I have repented! Unless it is a matter of money, the prospect of renewing old friendships should really outweigh some of the supposed hardships. Let me ask the reader...How many more years or opportunities will we be given to see each other again? You may say, "there will be nobody there that I know" or "it is just for the few gung-ho people that show up for everything".

You could be right, but consider this. More and more people from other classes are showing interest in our class activities and the desire to communicate with each other. They are receiving our newsletter, they may soon have a page on our web-site, and many are regularly using Classmates.com. We hope many of them will be attending this picnic reunion.

Why not invite someone you know from another class or anyone else you would like to see again and plan to attend. It will be a great chance to see your hometown in a state of transition. Old buildings have been demolished to make way for a rebirth. The Selby Shoe Factory building is gone... houses along Second Street have been replaced by great looking buildings of the Shawnee State University... the Mercy Hospital building has been razed and the lot is empty, but Southern Ohio Medical Center has replaced it and that is one of it's several campuses around the city. Come and see the hills again and enjoy one of the finest old river cities in the nation. I for one, will make every effort to be there.

Frank

The picnic is scheduled for 8-16-03 at the Portsmouth Shrine Club which is located approximately 3.1 miles west of Portsmouth on Rt 52. There is a sign on the left and you turn down a gravel lane to the left just before you get to Portsmouth West High School. It is open to any PHS grad of any year, family members and friends. We would like to have all reservations in by 8-1-03 but I can usually take a few after that. Anyone wanting to make a reservation can do so by contacting Gene Lucas by mail, telephone, or e-mail.

1419 Second St., W. Portsmouth, OH 45663 • 740-858-5489 • luke1@peoplepc.com

Locals are asked to bring a covered dish. Those who come from out of town do not need to bring anything. Some might want to bring a lawn chair.



Girls Doing Spring Break in Florida

Pictured in New Smyrna Beach: Mary Ann Hamilton Mowery, Patty Conklin Newsome, Mary Thomas and Gwen Mowery. Those daring young women on the flying parasail? Mary Ann and Gwen!

Class Prophecy

I banged the skillet on the stove and called to the children to be quiet. Darn it, this being married and having a family wasn't all it was supposed to be. If only Donna McCally wasn't coming to dinner tonight. For some reason everything was going wrong and just when I wanted everything to be perfect. Donna has just signed a fat contract with the Powers Agency and being one of the most famous models in New York was used to only perfect things in life. Things had really worked out for her. In fact all my old Grant School chums had done alright for themselves.

Just last night I had read in the paper that Phyllis Knowles was covering the atomic war in the Far East, and her latest book of war experiences has just been published. There was also a picture of Bob Channell who had just set a new speed record in his 1938 hot rod, 1000 miles per minute. That was really fast!

A week ago I had a letter from Carole Kinder, secretary for the firm of Martin Lehman and Robert Mohl, the architects, that the firm had just been awarded a contract to design a new dog house for Lassie's latest family. All three went to Hollywood. What a life.

Donna told me, when I called her yesterday, that she had heard from Sandra Fitch. Sandra was another of the class who had come out on top. She is now the owner and head mistress of a ritzy private school for girls on Long Island. I had wanted to send my oldest daughter there but how could I afford \$20,000 for one school year when I still had five others to educate. Everything happened to me.

Why hadn't I decided to teach school as Judy Cramer who was now principal of Grant School. Or I could have accepted a job as secretary to a woman as Sue Mowery had done. For years she had been a private secretary to Willadean Harrison who designs the costumes for the famous movie actresses.

More About Suspicious Tunnels

From December of 1963 to June of 1965, I worked at the old Selby Shoe Company (later a part of Williams Mfg.) as a stationary steam engineer. We heated the US Post Office and surrounding buildings via underground steam pipes. There were tunnels that ran all the way to the Post Office. Our duties, in part, consisted of servicing steam traps, air compressors, and condensate return tanks through-out the tunnels.

The Post Office and other merchantile businesses were charged by the amount of condensation that we measured (i.e. a pound of steam equals a pound of water). I would assume that the tunnels are now inoperative since the building and boiler room have been demolished.

In June of 1965, I started to work for Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company in Dayton, Ohio. To my regret, I had to leave this city, the Garden Spot of Ohio.

Kenny Lane

Email Address Change:

Nancy Bower Sommers (nsommers@gcfn.org)

I paused in my reflections to sniff the air suspiciously. Something was burning! I rushed to the stove. In my haste I knocked a square, white envelope off the table. I had to laugh. It was the invitation to the Portsmouth High School Commencement for 1966. Bob McDaniel was at last achieving his ambition to get through school. He was graduating at last.

Things were going more smoothly now and at last I could go back to dreaming of my old school mates. There's Kenny Lane... last year he had been a star player for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and of all things he pitched against Jack Layton who was playing for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Walrus Pendleton had stopped in New York a month ago. He was on his way to the London Bridge which of course was always falling down. Jerry Warren had come with him to New York to see him off. Jerry went from here to Independence, Missouri to undertake the burial of an ex-president of the U.S. That's a good job. Gruesome thought!

They told me they ran into Marvin Taylor on Park Avenue. Marvin had wanted to be a truck driver but he did better than that for himself. His photographic studio was out of this world and he only catered to the cream of Park Avenue.

Well, the class had done alright for themselves. There were others who had done just as well but I have no more time for reflections. Donna will be here any minute and I must get dinner ready on time. We all have reservations at the Stork Club to hear Jim Eichorn and his orchestra and we musn't be late for the opening number.

I banged the skillet and rattled a few more pots and pans. At least none of us had ended our careers in jail or at the hospital.

Wonder if any of the old crowd ever wonder about what happened to yours truly.

Nancy Bower

A Note From Judy Davis Conologue

I have worked for Wachovia (previously First Union) for almost ten years. I am looking forward to retirement, maybe next year... depends on my husband's health. He was just diagnosed with Stage 3 lung cancer, so things don't look very good right now. We are working hard and praying even harder that things will work out. He just had the upper lobe of his right lung removed and is recuperating from that. He seems to be doing very well.

He will start treatment for the cancer sometime in May. We are still praying and are confident that everything will go well. We are on our way to the beach for a week the first of May, so everyone is looking forward to that. We go every year with our kids and grand-kids ... tons of fun!!

It is always such fun when I hear from someone from the class. I always promise myself that I am going to write something for the newsletter, and then I never get to it. I'll keep trying ... one of these days I'll get it done.

Judy

"Schisler's"

During World War II, I can remember going with my mother and my aunt Nell Harrigan to the Schisler Meat Plant in Portsmouth. The meat plant was on Spring Lane, which was on the west side of the Scioto Trail.

The Schislars were related to the Bierleys by marriage. One of Grandpa Bierley's sisters was married to a Schisler. I remember my mother telling about when she was married in 1936, that her mother-in-law, Minnie Bierley, took her to Schisler's and introduced her to all the butchers and told them to make sure that Esta got "good cuts" of meat when she came in.

Well, anyway, Schisler's was a real old-time butcher shop. I mean with saw dust on the floors and butchers cutting the meat right in front of you, wearing heavy white aprons with lots of blood smeared on them. The most vivid memory that I have of the place was not the smell in the summer but of the long coils of fly paper that hung from the ceiling, alternating with the slowly-moving ceiling fans. There must have been a thousand flies stuck to each coil.

Meat was in short supply during the war. Each person had a War Ration Booklet with ration stamps for a certain number of "points." I still have my booklets in my stamp album. There was a government office in Portsmouth called the Office of Price Administration where you applied for your ration booklets. Each person in the family was allowed one book and your name and identification (age, sex, weight, and height) was listed on the front cover. Along with your identification was a warning stating that people who violated rationing regulations were subject to a \$10,000 fine or imprisonment, or both. Each booklet had a serial number printed on it.

Being just a kid then, I can't remember the specifics of how the rationing system worked. I remember that the booklets had little stamps or coupons with perforations that enabled you to tear them out of the booklet. There were different stamps for meat, butter, sugar, flour, etc. and different point values for meat. Pork, for example, in 1943 was 15 points. I'm not sure what that meant, but I do know that without the ration stamps you were unable to purchase the goods in the store.

The U. S. Government printed several admonitions in the Ration Booklets, such as "Rationing is a vital part of your country's war effort. Any attempt to violate the rules is an effort to deny someone his share and will create hardships and help the enemy." Also, "If you don't need it, DON'T BUY IT."

Think about it-we called that "the Good Old Days."

Blaine Bierley

Dues Time

Gene has received the \$5 dues from some people but he says the majority have yet to pay. Send your payment to Gene Lucas, 1419 Second St., West Portsmouth, OH 45663.

Bill Barnett

It is with great sorrow that we learned that Bill Barnett has left us as of Friday, May 2nd. More information to come as we receive it.

1950-51 Memories by Robert Mohl

In a fit of anger Jackie Buffington put soap in Emma Lou Spears' eggs. When Shirley Smith opened her mouth to talk, Phyllis Anne S. stuffed it with soap. Donna McCally put two cups of salt into her candy instead of sugar. Bill Compton spent more than three months whittling a gun in industrial arts.

A once-in-a-lifetime thing happened this year: 8A won the paper drive. Usually, the 8th grades figure they have already done so much they can rest on their laurels. But this time, Miss Raines kept everyone after school if they didn't bring papers. Results: a landslide with 150 pounds to spare.

In Spelling, when asked to use 'hustle' and 'bustle' as verbs, Patty raiké answered: "She got her hustle caught in the hustle".

Our first and last school dance, held directly after the Halloween Party, was attended heavily by both 7th and 8th graders. An excellent orchestra, Lou Martin's played from 8 to 10:30 and gave an enjoyable ending to a perfect evening.

Toward the end of the year the 8th grades visited the high school. Prin. Fournier and high school students talked to us about the study courses and social life of P.H.S. Most of Grant pupils ate lunch in the cafeteria, after and hour and a half tour of the classrooms.

Miss Reld tried something new this year: a crayon picture first, then black paint over the top. Result: a night-like effect.

Miss Shump produced the 3rd Annual Variety Show, which was a success in spite of the fact that the undertaker hoped the play would die on its feet.

1958 Class Reunion

The PHS Class of 58 reunion will be at Shawnee State Lodge September 5-6, 2003. We have 45 rooms and 3 cabins available for our exclusive use. Deadline for making room reservations and reunion reservations is July 12th.

You may contact:

Yvonne Literal Bowman
2619 Ritchie Street,
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-353-1842, lewwho2@aol.com

We need addresses for the following people: Linda Allen Werner, Sharon Birchfield Blanc, Mary Boots Bostwick, Buddy Bundy, Patricia Ann Cantrell, Dorothy Carter Towns, Judy Chafin Armstrong, Susan Crager Payne, Alice Daily Daum, Janice Ann Davis, Janet Destocki Tompkins, Harlan Frazier, Gary Ferrell, Michael E. Fisher, Lois Fryman Oldham, Donna Gibson, Josephine Hager Pasqualetti, Jo Ann Harding, Polly Harlow Greene, Jane Horton Brown, H. Richard Howland, Charles Kessel, Barbara Knudson Ellis, Gary Lewis, Gary D. Lewis, J.D. Linck, Gwendolyn Meade Baltcell, Mary M. Miller, Gary Secrest, Robert Sherwood, Margaret Snyder, Richard D. Stanley, Dorothy Thomas Kirsch, David Vaughn, Mike Wilhelm, Frosty Williams, Janet Willis Johnson.

Hope your readers can help us find them.

Yvonne Literal Blevings Bowman

A Note from Lowell Payton

Hi Frank, I am the Line Chief for an air museum in central California. On this particular bird, I'm responsible for the care and cleaning. It takes about 3 1/2 hours to wash it, which I do at least once a month during the warmer weather. I have 42 other aircraft and about 80 volunteers that do the same. My primary job, volunteer of course, is to see that they do what is required of them. And that isn't always easy. I'm supposed to be retired but this is like a full time job, with no pay and no benefits. Our web address, if you would like to see the rest of them is, www.elite.net/castle-air. This B-17 flew until 1979, at which time it was given to the museum. Should you pass this way, stop in, and I'll give you a personally guided tour.

Lowell Payton



Class of 1957 Ramblings from Jim to Jim

jimandlorijones <jimandlorijones@ev1.net>

Hey Jim (Kegley),

I enjoy reading your notes in the 1955 paper. I read about the railroad station being torn down and a new municipal building going in there and that some people were trying to get together to keep the old station. What is going on about that now?

I would not like to see the old station torn down. I saw some pictures of the ice storm and it was unbelievable. Looked like a bomb had gone off on some of those hillsides on Rt. 125.

I was "talking" (e-mail) to an old Portsmouth friend the other evening and we got to discussing the 1950 snow blizzard in Portsmouth--do you remember? Drifts up to 12 ft. deep and I think that might have been the last time the river froze over--not sure about that.

I am looking forward to the 50th reunion even now. The 45th was great and you deserve a big hand for all the work you and the committee did.

Jim Jones

Jim (Jones),

Sorry, but the railroad depot is doomed it seems. Thanks for the comments on the reunion. Everyone seemed to have a good time, and the committee ended up with a \$4,000.00 treasury, which is unprecedented.

It will go a long way toward our next (50th) reunion. I'm hoping there is enough interest to have it at the Shawnee Lodge again.

The Ohio River has frozen over since the '50s. Once during the seventies, and again in the nineties.

Yes, I remember 1950. I was ten, and delivered the Times in the snow. I had a cap emblazoned with "Blizzard of 1950," which the Times gave to all their carriers.

I remember walking down the center of 11th Street, to go to the Eastland Theatre for a weekend matinee.

In November 1950 we had a severe ice storm after that snow storm, which was the worst until the recent ice storm made that seem inconsequential.

Jim Kegley



Annual Florida Pink Flamingo Fling

Picture from Marina Jacks in Sarasota. L. to R. Peg Harvey, Donna McCally Boren, Carole Merb Conley and Linda Boorman King. Donna says that they sometimes have more girls attend but health problems kept some home this year.

A Note From Tom Dupuy

I am sending you a picture of me sketched in Kobackers when I was a freshman. It was done in pencil by a Dick Smith, who I now know nothing about, on a piece of wrapping paper. It was on the top floor where I had a job at Christmas time assembling toys. They only had a couple of light bulbs hanging on a wire for lighting and he caught the light on the side of my face as I worked. I know the copy is hard to see but the original is quite good.

I have many people that want a high school web page but unfortunately they are from different classes and not enough for any one page. I thought that you could do a survey on the newsletter about possible putting up a page on our web for "Other Classes". If you think this is a bad idea just let me know.

Also, my dad always told me that the rest rooms built under the esplanade were built at the time of installing the rail tracks for the trolleys.



Tj



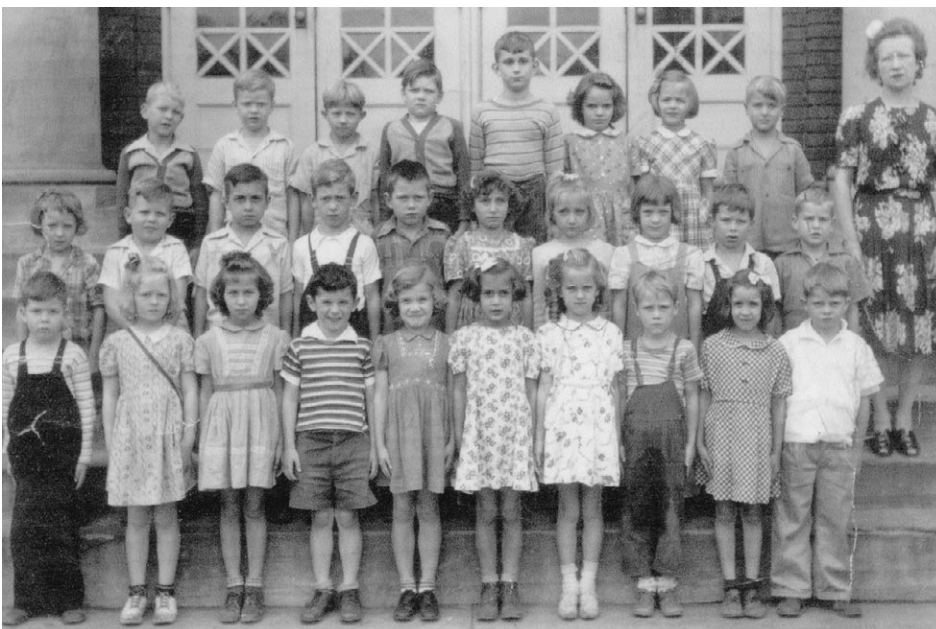
Mystery Photo

From the Portsmouth Public Library web site. This school existed while we attended PHS and many of our classmates spent their grammar school years. Clue... A lot of our great athletes came from here.



Mystery Photo (Library is trying to identify it)

From the Portsmouth Public Library web site. My vote is Henry's Bar at the corner of Gallia and Johns Street. Looking toward the front door... From the way the men are dressed and the price of a soft drink, I would guess the year around 1950. Send me your guess and I will forward to the library.



Grade Two, Clay Township Grade School, 1944

1st row: 4th from left, Nick Huston. 2nd row: 3rd & 4th from left, Carlton Lewis, Dave Jordan. 3rd row: 7th from left, Mary Gail Drake. Carlton says that others in the class may have attended PHS.

A Note From Barbara Cunningham Rickman

I have lived and worked in Portsmouth all of my life. Bob and I were married in 1956, and we have been blessed with a wonderful life. We have two wonderful children, and five precious grandchildren.

Our daughter Connie, and her husband Estel, have two children, Christopher, and Bethany. Chris (19) is a student at Shawnee University, and Bethany (17) will graduate from PHS in June. (PHS Cheerleader)

Our son Rob and his wife Saralyn, live in South Pasadena, Florida, and they have three children. Anthony (23) law student at Florida State, Joe (21) is enrolled at Florida University, and Michelle (19) is pursuing a career in music. Needless to say, we are very proud of our children and grandchildren.

Bob and I have just recently retired. I retired from Portsmouth City Schools after 31 years of service, and Bob retired with 46 years in construction. We celebrated our retirement with a month long stay at St. Pete Beach, Florida in January.

While in Florida, we renewed old friendships with Jenny Lyon Salzman, and Ron and Norma Lyon Lowe. We had a wonderful time visiting with them, and we are looking forward to getting together again real soon. Thanks to your web-site, this was made possible.

Barb



Norma Lyon Lowe, Ron Lowe, Barbara Cunningham Rickman, Bob Rickman, and Jenny Lyon Salzman.

Garfield Reunion



Recognize anyone from one of our 3rd grade classes. Miss Mick's (Bessie) I believe. Well here is another chance to perhaps meet some of them and anyone else who ever attended. Turnout has been great in previous years and this one should be even better. Attendance is open to anyone who has ever attended Garfield, their friends or relatives. The Garfield School reunion is scheduled for 12 noon on June 21 at the school cafeteria. Everyone is to bring a covered dish. I hope to see everyone there. Call, email or write Gene Lucas for more details.

Known from l. to r. 1st row: Dick Baker, & Ronnie Lodwick, Frank Hunter, Elmer ? Homer Adams, Cecil Stone, Eugene Williams, 2nd row: Darrel Lenhorn, ? ? ? ? Jerry Kitchen, ? ? 3rd row: Gene Lucas, ? ? ? ? Don Copley, Herman Bray