

KNIGHT **T**IMES

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TORONTO HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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"I'M SO PROUD TO BE FROM TORONTO!"
First THS Alumni Reunion Revisited

KNIGHT LINES

BOB WOODSIDE, EDITOR

Did you ever get the feeling that you had missed out on something REALLY GREAT? Well, I've had that feeling constantly as I shuffled through the mountains of cards and letters we've received concerning the first Toronto High School All-Class Reunion.

You see, I unfortunately had to miss most of the weekend's festivities as I had to work, prepare for a trip to the Lions International Convention in St. Louis (you'll read about the results elsewhere in this issue) and go to a co-worker's wedding in Pittsburgh. As a result, I was only able to attend the Donors' Luncheon and take a quick tour of the school and stadium before the program began. My brief glimpse of the celebration, though, told me that the reunion was a success beyond anyone's wildest dreams. I leave it to those who were present to describe the scene in the following pages.

While the reunion managed to pack many lifetimes worth of fun and frivolity into two short days, there is a more serious side as well...a side best expressed by our own THSAA legal counsel, Brian Wilson '80, in a letter he wrote to our president, Jane McConnell '54. To wit:

"The Reunion was a resounding success because THS gave something to us which we wanted to rekindle, whether it was great memories, perhaps some values, and maybe a little education as well.

"The Association in organizing these reunions, gives alums the opportunity to get together and re-live these great memories of simpler times. But this is not the reason it was organized. It was organized to help young people of all backgrounds and capabilities pursue their goals through varying forms of higher education by providing them with a little bit of financial assistance. It is great that the Association can bring people together and they can have such a great time visiting and catching up...But, of course, these reunions are only a means to a larger end.

"...The spirit of THS once again did not let us down on July 7-9, 1990, and once again gave something special to us. It's time to start paying it back."

Everyone who assisted or attended the reunion did just that. So, too, have the many generous donors who are acknowledged in our first Support Report, which begins on page 9. Thanks to all who have contributed, and the many more who will be moved to do so in the future.

SCENES FROM THE REUNION



(above) An alumni choir under the direction of George Melhorn was a popular attraction at Saturday afternoon's stadium program. Robert Ulrich (center in gray suit) demonstrated his talents include singing as well as acting.

(below) Major donors to the Scholarship Fund and other VIP guests were honored at a luncheon at the new J.T. Karaffa Middle School. The event was sponsored by UniBank and Clarke Funeral Home.

For more remembrances of this special weekend, see pages 4 and 5.

(Photos By Eileen Daily)



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI NAMED



Edna (Tarr) Beck '25

Edna Virginia (Tarr) Beck '25 earned a bachelor's degree at Kent State University and a master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She pursued doctoral studies at Pitt and at Columbia University from 1936-1942 and later studied in Europe. She also earned a certificate in Business Education and Real Estate at UCLA.

Her varied career included positions as teacher and women's basketball coach at THS (1928), service in the U.S. Air Force, and teacher and administrator at Whitman College, Pacific University and the University of Santa Barbara. Honored by the Queen of England in 1972 for "most distinguished achievement," she is active in a real estate firm and civic activities in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Donald L. Humphrey '47 spent 36 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, proudly serving in assignments around the world, including combat duty in Korea and Vietnam. He retired from the Corps as a Brigadier General in 1986.

Humphrey earned a bachelor's degree in business from Miami University of Ohio and a master's in public administration from Shippensburg State Univer-



Donald L. Humphrey '47

sity. He is now a successful real estate broker in Palm Desert, Calif.

Joseph T. Karaffa '42 has spent virtually his entire life in the Toronto Schools as a student, teacher and administrator. A graduate of the College of Steubenville and the University of Pittsburgh, he began his teaching career at Lincoln School in 1952. Nine years later he became principal at Central School. After that building closed, he held the same position at Lincoln and Dennis Schools, until becoming the first THS graduate to serve as Toronto Schools Superintendent in 1976. He retired from that position in 1985. The new middle school, finished during his term as superintendent, today bears his name.

Dr. Frances Jane Shaffer '37 received medical training at the University of California, and served internships and residencies in New York, California and Cleveland. She returned to Toronto in 1955 to set up her own practice, which she continued for 33 years.

In addition to her medical work, Schaffer served 20 years on the Toronto Board of Education, winning statewide recognition for her efforts, and was a



Joseph T. Karaffa '42

member of the Jefferson County Joint Vocational School, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Boards. She is active in the American Heart Association and has served as Medical Director of the Toronto City Health Dept. since 1978.

Robert D. Wise '32 graduated from Mount Hermon Prebyterian Prep School in Connecticut and attended Middlebury College and Carnegie Tech. Wise worked for the Armstrong Cork Co. of Lancaster, Pa. from 1940-45 and later became vice president of the Drackett Co. and President of Calmar Co. In 1968 he formed RDW Industries, a plastic closure firm in Irvine, Calif. After selling the company in 1981, he is now retired and living in Hendersonville, N.C.

Robert Ulrich '64 is well-known for his roles in such television series as *SWAT*, *Vegas* and *Spenser: For Hire*. He currently stars in the NBC series *American Dreamer*. A graduate of Florida State University and Michigan State University, he has also been featured in numerous television and theatrical films and stage roles. He annually donates a scholarship for a THS senior and is an active supporter of THSAA and its Foundation.

Dr. Frances Jane Shaffer '37



Robert D. Wise '32



Robert Ulrich '64



HUNDREDS "RE • U • KNIGHT!"

More than 1,800 THS Alumni, spouses and friends gathered in the Gem City on the weekend of July 7, 1990 for the Toronto High School Centennial All-School Reunion. For two exciting days, memories flowed as alumni of all ages flocked to their home town. A glance through any parking lot showed a collection of license plates never before seen at one time in this area. From every area of the country, and beyond, they came and enjoyed.

The festivities kicked off Friday evening with informal class mixers throughout the city, and a big band dance at the old Roosevelt School Gym. Saturday's activities kicked off early with golf and tennis tournaments, a walk-a-thon, and tours of the city. At noon, local officials and major contributors gathered for a luncheon at the gleaming new Karaffa Middle School. After lunch, it was on to the high school and a stroll down memory lane through the classrooms and rows of lockers.

The highlight of the weekend was Saturday afternoon's program, held under bright sunny skies on the football turf at Clarke Hinkle Field. The stadium was packed to hear entertainment from the Toronto Community Band and Alumni Choir, enjoy the comments of past and present school officials and dignitaries, and witness the honoring of six distinguished alumni. A scrumptious dinner buffet and lively street dance followed, all capped by a fireworks display courtesy of perhaps Toronto's best-known alumnus, Robert Urich.

The events were a success in more ways than one, generating more than \$5,000 to support THSAA efforts to provide scholarship funds for the Red Knight graduates of today and tomorrow.

"A good time was had by all" would certainly be an understatement, as proven by the hundreds of cards and letters we have received. The passages which follow are but a few excerpts from the many plaudits sent in by alumni. Enjoy this smattering of satisfaction and, oh yes, we'll see you again in 1994!

"Never have so few done so much for so many."

Marty O'Brien '57
Irving, Texas

"The weekend has to be one of the highlights of my life. To see all of those people whom I had not seen for many, many years (including some of my own cousins) was an experience I shall not soon forget. The outpouring of friendship and affection, if not love, which was shared by all of us...has to have been felt around the world."

Louis Bushfield '54
Lafayette, Indiana

"MORE IN '94!"

David P. Scott '60
Conway, S.C.

"Many hugs and laughs, and even some tears, were exchanged, hours of remembering special times, and it was all because you cared enough!!!"

Earl / Dorothy McTheny Tarr '51/'54

"Toronto looked great, everyone enjoyed themselves, a nice weekend weather-wise sandwiched in between lots of rainy ones, and even a full moon coming up over the West Virginia hills—a really memorable time. Looking forward to the next one."

Macy (Francy) Cooke '48

"No negatives—isn't that something! The entire day was real class."

Helen (Blackburn) Gryszka '42
Steubenville, Ohio

"I've been involved in class reunions before but I can't imagine organizing the bash you all did. I am so proud to be from Toronto. This is a unique town with very special people."

Jackie Nixon '55

"Congratulations and our heartfelt thanks for a perfect weekend. Words seem inadequate in expressing the joy you have given to so many."

Lourelle & Harry Littlecott '46

"...a great program, dinner was excellent and wonderful fireworks. It is a memory I shall cherish."

Carol Mucci '58
Lewisville, North Carolina

"It was a super job. Our hats are off to you. We can't wait until the next one. It's one of the greatest events to ever hit Toronto."

Jim & Carol Lowery '64
Santa Ana, California

"Every event was handled in a very professional way, and I feel that this was one of the greatest affairs ever to take place in the City of Toronto. Each and every person who took part ...is to be commended...It was an absolutely perfect day...I feel sorry for those who were unable to be there for it truly was a day filled with happy memories, old ones as well as new. I can't remember when I've seen so many smiling faces at one time"

Emily Hayes Kerr '51
Steubenville, Ohio

"The whole weekend was a great success. I know I speak for many returning alumni in saying thanks for a wonderful time. You even arranged for the weatherman to cooperate with sunshine. I left Toronto with many fond memories as well as a bag full of souvenirs."

Wanda (Armour) Martin '44
Garden Grove, California

"The program presented on Saturday afternoon was impressive indeed. The band, the choir and the on-stage persona all delivered mightily of themselves. And the selections for outstanding alumni were certainly on target...Danny Calabrese must also share in the success of a great weekend in my opinion. His 'big band sound' Friday evening drew raves from those in attendance and was certainly a highlight for me...All in all, a wonderful event and a grand visit to Toronto which holds for me so many great past memories...and now some newer ones."

O.E. (Ernie) Boston '44
Richland, Washington

"Once in a while something great arises from the most humble and unpromising beginnings. The City of Toronto, at first appearance, seems to fit the role of unpromising beginnings with its small size, its dependence on the depressed steel industry and its many closed and boarded-up commercial buildings; your All-School Reunion certainly fit the role of something great...It all seemed very thoroughly and professionally planned and executed with excellent use made of limited facilities and resources...Your devotion to your school and community is for me the most unforgettable aspect of the entire event. Perhaps those first appearances are somewhat deceiving."

Jim Morrow '62
West Chester, Ohio

Even from one who could not attend:

"I am sending a \$50 check toward the scholarship fund. It's the same \$50 I received in 1959 from a great women's organization. I've been waiting all these years to give it back. Keep this idea rolling...."

Sandra (Robinette) Piff '59
Kenosha, Wisconsin



(Photo by John Westlake)

Perhaps the feelings are best summed up by the following poem, which appeared in a Toronto church bulletin and was submitted by Dorothy Leasure:

After You Roam

*It's nice to go to places and see something new;
To escape for a little the work that you do;
A surcease from all the monotonous grind,
With all of its drudgery put out of mind.
It's nice to go places, but after you roam,
The thing that intrigues you is getting back home.*

*It's nice to see people, though strangers to you,
And wonder, who are they and what do they do,
And what are they thinking? It's sad but it's true.
Not one whom you meet has a thought about you.
It's nice to see people, but after you roam,
The faces you love are the faces at home.*

*It's nice to see wonders of which you have read,
Descriptions so fabulous, let be said,
They couldn't be true is the way that you feel.
It's wonderful seeing and know they are real.
It's nice to see wonders, but after you roam,
The wonders you love are the wonders at home.*

*It's nice to go places and see something new;
It's nice to see people whom you never knew;
It's nice to see wonders and know they are real;
But sooner or later they lose their appeal,
And you're seized with a yearning after you roam,
For the people and places and wonders at home.*

The Rev. F.O. Wise

THSAA WELCOMES NEW CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The resignation of **Carol Wasyk Rogers '53** as Corresponding Secretary of THSAA has been regretfully accepted. Carol resigned to return to the teaching staff of Jefferson Technical College in Steubenville and pursue other personal interests.

THSAA President **Jane McConnell '54** commented, "Carol's responsible leadership will be missed. The THSAA owes Carol many thanks for her invaluable assistance in organizing the office. Much applause, Carol, for all your efforts!"

Our new and able corresponding secretary is **Joan Ferguson Hindman '50**. Joan worked at Weirton Steel before marrying David Hindman in 1951. After four years in the Air Force, they settled in Steubenville and opened Hindman Electronics in 1956. The firm remains one of the leading audio and video outlets in the area, and provided assistance with sound equipment for the THSAA Reunion.

The Hindmans have a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Joan comes to us as a seasoned campaigner, as husband Dave enters his second term as Mayor of Steubenville.

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A belated *KnighTimes* welcome as well goes out to **Dani Swearingen**, who took over this past spring for Charlene Hawkins as secretary at the THSAA Office.

Dani welcomes alumni comments and inquiries at 102 North Third Street, Post Office Box 273, Toronto, Ohio 43964. The office phone number for class list information and all your needs is (614) 537-1463.

BRIEF NOTES...

We've heard from **Dorothy Bachman Tisher**, who taught Home Economics at THS from 1949-1956. Although she could not make it to the Reunion, she passes along greetings to all of her former students.

Dorothy reports that she joined the Postal Service after leaving the teaching profession, spending 30 years until her retirement in 1988.

REMEMBERING ROBERT FITZ

From **Jeanne (Fitz) Noe '47** of Sarasota, Fla. comes a remembrance of her brother, the late **Robert Ernest Fitz '34**. Jeanne sent along a clipping of an article originally printed in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* on December 19, 1935, and later reprinted and expanded in the *Toronto Daily Tribune*:

Cleveland and Ohio now have a candidate to represent them in the sectional race for intelligence honors that seems to have developed since a Brooklyn child showed a higher intelligence quotient than Prof. Albert Einstein.

Ladies and gentlemen, for your approval Lieutenant Commander D.L. Robertson of the United States Navy recruiting station here, presents Robert Ernest Fitz, 18, of Toronto, Ohio.

Fitz on Monday took the standard intelligence examination required of all those who wish to enlist in the navy. It took him just 27 minutes to complete the test, and he made a grade of 94.

This pleased Lieutenant Commander Robertson considerably because Sunday news dispatches that went all over the country told of a youth in Kansas City who used 28 minutes for the navy examination and made the same grade as Fitz. The passing grade is 50, and an hour is allowed.

Ohio's candidate was graduated with honors in 1932 from the high school at Toronto, a town on the Ohio River near Steubenville. He has since worked in a bakery and been a reporter on the Toronto Tribune. His father, Andrew, is a mill worker.

The navy quota for the district is full, but it is expected Fitz will be enlisted within the next two months.

Robert Fitz, about whom this is published, was one of the honor students of

Toronto High. He was a member and treasurer of the Hi-Y club, vice president of his class three years, editor of the Mirror, Toronto Hi page weekly in the Tribune, took part in the Junior and Senior class plays, member of the dramatic club and graduated in vocational training in '34. He was one of 15 in his class of 108 who was elected a member of the National Honor Society. S.F. Jameson, principal of the school, said he was an excellent student, one of the outstanding of his classes.

His largest interest aside from school has been journalism, handling sports for the Tribune this year; was interested in aircraft, having built several miniature planes; and in radio, building his own short wave set which was licensed as an amateur station here as W8KWR.

The Tribune is happy to join the rest of the people of Toronto in appreciation to Robert for having accomplished what he has, thus bringing national recognition to the city and school system, as well as distinction to himself.

Mrs. Fitz said today, "I am sorry Robert is leaving, because I don't like his being away; he has always been so considerate of us, and was always so willing to help me. We have tried to do what we could for him, but his father has not worked for five years, and we could not do what we should have liked to."

Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. Fitz, and all the Fitzes; you have a son and brother who has, and will, continue to make good.

And indeed he did, eventually moving to the Air Force and rising to the rank of Colonel before his retirement, after which he lived the life of a "gentleman farmer," his sister recounts. He raised Black Angus cattle and was recognized as the "Number One Ham Radio Operator in the World." His wife, Bettye Ruth, still resides in Springfield, Tenn.

Her husband, **Oscar**, also joined the Post Office after teaching sixth grade at the old Central School from 1949-1956. He retired as Postmaster at the Hannibal Post Office in 1984.

Their son, **Bill**, is an electrical engineer with AEP/Ohio Power at the Kammer Plant near New Martinsville, WV.

Oscar and Dorothy say they are enjoying traveling during their retirement years.

Also checking in by mail is **Andrew J. Petros '35**. Andrew has been busy over the past 55 years, attending Carnegie Tech, serving in the C.C.C. and in the Pacific with the U.S. Army during WWII, and working for the Mesta Machine Co., where he retired in 1982 as Vice President of Engineering.

After retirement he became involved in a partnership as President of Mill Tech Engineering Co., and he remains active as an engineering consultant.

THS: A FAMILY TRADITION

Michael and Anna Bodnar had 11 children, and they all attended Toronto City Schools, starting in 1935 when the oldest son, John, entered Toronto High School (he went to grade school at St. Joseph's, otherwise this tale would have been eight years longer!). With the other ten children, and their children, and now their children's children, there will have been a Bodnar family member in the Toronto Schools continuously from 1935 at least through 1995...a total of 60 years. This astounding span includes a total of 28 descendants of Michael and Anna Bodnar, as illustrated below:

John Bodnar '39
 Eleanor Bodnar Garren '42
 Helen Bodnar Lucas '43
 Mike Bodnar '45
 Dorothy Bodnar Brettell '46
 George Bodnar '49
 Catherine Bodnar McConnell '50
 Theresa Bodnar Byers '53
 Marge Bodnar Byers '56
 Monica Bodnar Lindamood '59
 Mary Ann Bodnar Allen '62

John Garren '63
 Susan Bodnar Lawrence '63
 John Michael Bodnar '65
 Michael Bodnar '68
 Michael Lucas '68
 Mark Bodnar '68
 Rick Bodnar '70
 Melissa Bodnar '74
 Patrick Bodnar '76
 David Bodnar '77
 Keith Bodnar '81

Son of Eleanor Garren '42
 Daughter of John Bodnar '39
 Son of John Bodnar '39
 Son of Mike Bodnar '45
 Son of Helen Lucas '43
 Son of John Bodnar '39
 Son of John Bodnar '39
 Daughter of Mike Bodnar '45
 Son of George Bodnar '49
 Son of George Bodnar '49
 Son of George Bodnar '49

Nicole Bodnar '91
 Stephanie Bodnar '91
 Charlie Lawrence '93
 Summer Lawrence '94
 Matt Bodnar '95

Daughter of Mark Bodnar '68
 Daughter of John M. Bodnar '65
 Son of Susan Bodnar Lawrence '63
 Daughter of Susan Bodnar Lawrence '63
 Son of John M. Bodnar

RED KNIGHTS ON ICE

An article in the Reunion Souvenir Book by **Bob Petras '71** correctly pointed out that THS has a number of legendary figures in sports, including **John Welday '77**. Welday, standout on the Red Knight football squads of the mid-'70s, went on to Penn State University, married the former **Jodi Hawkins '79**, and fashioned a successful career as an athletic trainer and conditioning coach. After serving in that position with Dartmouth College, John signed on as strength and conditioning coach of the National Hockey League Pittsburgh Penguins last year, where he works with such phenoms as Mario Lemieux and Paul Coffey.

Now comes word from **Mary L. "Penny" Smith '39** that Welday is not Toronto's only connection with pro hockey. Her son, **Jon R. Smith '72** has been an athletic trainer in the sport since 1977. John earned a bachelor's degree in health education and sports medicine from Ohio University in 1977, where he received certification from the National Athletic Trainers Association. After working five years on the collegiate level, Jon entered the pro hockey world, holding positions with NHL teams and their affiliate teams in Cleveland, Toledo, New Haven and Springfield. This year, he is working with the NHL New York Rangers. Smith has been profiled in hockey magazines and is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable professionals in his field.

While trainers may not often be seen by the public, they do enjoy a few of the trappings of fame. Penny sent along a hockey trading card with Jon's photo on it!

"EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR"



Helen (Sabol) Vogt '53 (above) was the 1989 recipient of the Thomas F. Frist Humanitarian Award as "Employee of the Year" at HCA/Indian Path Medical Center in Kingsport, Tenn.

Vogt, a registered nurse in surgery at Indian Path since 1974, was nominated for "always having a kind word and a gentle touch that will ease the anxiety of patients prior to undergoing a surgical procedure" and "exemplary services beyond job responsibilities" according to a hospital newsletter. As winner of the award, she was also nominated for HCA national employee of the year honors.

Vogt received her nursing education at Ohio Valley Hospital in Steubenville.

Meanwhile, **Gail Willoughby Wilder '47** won the same honor at the Pikes Peak Mental Health Center in Colorado. Gail has been involved with the center's "Stepping Stones" program for 22 years, starting as a volunteer and now serving as program director. The program, which helps clients coming out of the state hospital make positive steps toward mental health, has grown and prospered under Gail's leadership.

Gail, a former elementary school teacher in Colorado Springs, got involved with Stepping Stones after her two daughters went to school. She says the secret ingredient to her program's success "isn't such a big deal. It's just that it works to treat people with real respect, care and dignity...and to throw in a good dose of fun and humor, too."