

Riders Return!

*Theodore Roosevelt High School Class of 1971
Reunion Newsletter*

February 2021



Note: Given the Covid-19 pandemic, we realize that many people's plans will depend on whether a vaccine is available, group events are permitted and the pandemic has abated. The following information is based on the hope that those things will have occurred by next August. If on the other hand the pandemic continues, the reunion will likely be postponed (see info on backup dates below).

An Active Weekend

Our 50th reunion will be held on Friday, August 13 and Saturday, August 14, 2021 in Des Moines with a number of activities, but also with plenty of time to catch up with one another. The reunion will include casual get-togethers Friday and Saturday evenings, along with a tour of TRHS and a picnic lunch. Here's a tentative lineup; you can join any or all of them, and plans continue to develop.

Friday, August 13

- Golf outing in afternoon
- Welcome Classmates party at Waveland Golf Course Clubhouse

Saturday, August 14

- Morning tour of TRHS
- Picnic lunch with food trucks
- Afternoon bus tour of Des Moines
- Afternoon bike ride
- Party at Forté Banquet & Conference Center in downtown Des Moines.

Details on all the events will follow. So mark the dates in your calendar, make sure your contact information is up to date so we can keep you informed, and get ready to see your classmates again. And keep in mind, that weekend is while the Iowa State Fair is scheduled to occur, so if you're planning to stay in a hotel or Airbnb or similar accommodations, be sure to make your reservations early.

Backup Dates Set for Oct. 23-24

As noted above, we're hopeful that we'll be able to get together August 13-14. But in case we need to delay because of the pandemic, we've also tentatively reserved our event venues for October 23-24. So please hold those dates on your calendar just in case. If that happens, some of the events may need to change – a picnic in late October may be a bit brisk, for example – but we'll undoubtedly still be able to have a good time. So put Oct. 23-24 on your calendar as well.

Lunch Bites

We asked, you answered! Last issue we asked classmates to share their favorite lunch spots, either at TRHS or off campus. Here are the responses, featuring some good memories as well as culinary highlights from those days:

Jon Blanchard: Henry's Drive In for a pork tenderloin sandwich with pickles and slathered with mustard. Had to laugh when the newsletter said we could even include food we snuck out for off campus. I, quite frankly, cannot remember not going off campus. Not sure I even have a clear recollection of what Roosevelt's cafeteria looks like. Perhaps my experience is somewhat different than others -- someone must have been eating at school.

Nancy Borghi: I floated all around at lunch but have memories of a place on the west side of 42nd which name escapes me at this time. I do remember a lot about the lunchroom but by high school the only thing I would buy were the delicious lunch lady cookies. There was also music and the playlist included "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida" and "Build Me Up Buttercup". And in tenth grade the cheerleader group practicing their cheers.

Ric Bean: My favorite lunchtime meal when I was at Roosevelt was going off campus to the McDonald's on 63rd and Grand. My other favorite lunchtime activity, when I was a parking lot monitor (Making me a parking lot monitor? Really? What were they thinking?) was occasionally finding an unlocked car and smoking marijuana...

John Oler: Although I probably didn't go there as much as I think: Henry's Hamburgers on Ingersoll. Especially for a pork tenderloin.

Marty Helgerson: I have two memories from the days of prodigious appetites and little regard for health food: The first is jumping into Karen Nelson's red MG and bombing it to McDonald's on Grand to get whatever burger was popular at the time and, of course, french fries. After school, we'd often also drive to the Guinea Grinder, for an Italian ground sausage sandwich and/or extremely garlicky garlic toast, dripping with butter. The second memory is tucking into my normal fare at that upstairs snack bar adjacent to the TRHS gym -- if it had a name, I've long forgotten -- where my meal-du-jour was comprised of BBQ potato chips, a Hostess cherry pie and a Dr. Pepper. I still love BBQ potato chips and Dr Pepper but have moved on from Hostess products.



Not a fave. For some reason, the TRHS lunchroom cuisines didn't elicit warm memories among our class.

Class of 1971 50-Year Reunion: A Conversation

By Peggy Gassberry Jenkins and Margee Miller

Margee: It's great to catch up with you, Peggy and chat about our upcoming 50-year reunion. Doesn't seem like 55 years ago that we met in 7th grade at Callanan!

Peggy: Some of my best memories are from our time at Callanan. Funny how some recent stories I've heard make it seem like I was not at the same schools as some of our classmates. But it is great to reflect on that time.

Margee: It is interesting to think about the entire public school education of the Class of 1971 at Roosevelt. We came from a variety of grade schools throughout central and western Des Moines, including our two: Greenwood and Bird.

Peggy: Callanan was our melting pot and that poured over into Roosevelt. Funny, though, I never really heard about Greenwood until my own sons were supposed to go there and we open-enrolled to Hubbell.

Margee: I felt as though we lost track of those Callanan friends who didn't go to Roosevelt and I think that was because Callanan in the mid-1960s was a great place with an inclusive environment. We were probably the smallest of the junior highs that fed into Roosevelt. And certainly we were the most integrated in terms of class and racial makeup. Many of the events in 2020 with BLM reminded me of the societal turmoil and social commitment that were part of our daily worldview while we were in junior high. Did you feel the same?

Peggy: That is true, unless they stayed in the neighborhoods and attended Tech High School. If they went on to East or North we sometimes saw them at games. Hoover was still pretty new. I even attended Hoover's 1969 Prom.

Margee: You have said to me, Peggy, that as we get older the feeling that meeting up for this reunion is important. It's a time to see each other and learn who we are in our sixties. We remember those who won't be with us at reunion but whose good memories still entertain us and who will always have a special place in our hearts.

Peggy: Yes, each day, week, month and year we lose a classmate. Now with Covid-19 ravaging our nation, my hope is that we'll have the herd immunity needed to meet and celebrate. I had a moderate case of the virus, which lasted three weeks. We have reached that age that we can appreciate our lives and memories. This time should be to meet and reflect, not to discuss our differences, but our similarities, and the joy of coming together.

Classmates such as Dwane Estes, Virgil White, Steven Wells, Dan Conrad, Vivian Bryson and Patty Coons have been with me since Bird Elementary. Some of those left Bird and joined back up with us at Callanan and on to TRHS. A couple even went on to Drake University, as I did. I'll be sad that my bestie Sandy Wolder is not alive to celebrate with me, but her spirit will be with me!!!

--- Peggy and Margee

Favorite Event?

What was your favorite event at TRHS? A theater or music performance? Dances in the Girls Gym? A thrilling athletic contest? Or something else? Send your answer to newsletter editor Al Cabbage at al-cabbage@northwestern.edu. We'll include a selection in an upcoming issue of the newsletter.

Roosevelt Fundraising Campaign Launched; Class Gift Planned

The Roosevelt High School Foundation recently launched **Roosevelt For Generations**, a \$5 million fundraising campaign and collaborative effort between the Foundation and Des Moines Public Schools. The campaign will address current facility needs, allow innovative approaches to teaching and learning and strengthen Roosevelt's endowment, which supports students. Key projects include a complete reimagining of the school's library into a new space for collaborative learning and working in teams with appropriate resources; a new multipurpose field; and expanding the endowment.

"The projects in this campaign will benefit Roosevelt students for years to come and allow our school to continue to provide an outstanding education," said classmate Mollie Cooney, a member of the campaign committee. In honor of our reunion, we plan to make a class gift to the campaign. For details on the campaign and info on how to make a contribution, go to our reunion website, www.trhs1971.com. A link to a brochure detailing the fundraising campaign will be in the left-hand column. If you make a gift, be sure to note that it's part of the Class of 1971 class gift.

Quiz Time: Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

OK, classmates, a test to see how good your memory is of foreign languages – or at least their teachers. Match the name of the teacher with the language they taught. Answers at the bottom of the newsletter.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Ms. McLaughlin | A. Latin |
| 2. Ms. DiBenedetto | B. Spanish |
| 3. Mr. Graham | C. Vulcan |
| 4. Ms. Fant | D. German |
| 5. Mr. Spock | E. French |

Keeping Informed and Joining the Conversation

The best way to keep up-to-date on reunion is to check out our Reunion website and Facebook page, both of which are updated regularly. The class website URL is: <http://www.trhs1971.com>. Once you've joined the website, you can see reunion info as soon as it's posted, update your personal info and view classmates' info as well. You can also reach out to classmates by sending messages through the Message Center and see the latest messages in the What's New link. Info about the reunion also will be posted on the Facebook page. The Facebook page is located at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/211185149334>

Finding Classmates

Help us find classmates. If you're in touch with any classmates who haven't heard about reunion plans, please forward them this newsletter and/or send us their contact info so we can add them to mailing list. The list of those for whom we don't have contact info is on the web at: http://www.trhs1971.com/class_classmates_missing.cfm

Quiz answers:

1.B; 2.E; 3.D; 4.A; 5.C. Live long and prosper!