



MHS CLASS OF 1958

Newsletter

Volume 5

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Number 2



<http://mhs1958.org>

55th Reunion

Can you believe it? The committee is planning a meeting this month to start things rolling for our 55th reunion in 2013. We sent out an email questionnaire asking for ideas for this event. The consensus seems to be a three day informal weekend. No DJ or band, just oldies on a CD player for those wishing to dance. Everyone wants to visit and talk. Okay, now. Let's hear from everyone! I bet we have some really good ideas out there just waiting to be heard! If you have any suggestions, please send them to Judy Leach 504 Jackson St Monongahela, Pa 15063

Congratulations

Tim and Carol Aley McFeely celebrate their 50th anniversary on July 21, 2012.

From Linda Gayhart Heimbuecher

My oldest son, Bob (53) ran the Pittsburgh Marathon on May 6, 2012. I was so proud of him. He told his wife how long he felt it would take him and he was over that by 7 minutes. They had 23,000 in the race. He was glad he did it but said it was his first and last. time.

My Many Trips

Submitted by Priscilla Davis Webb

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore. I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often. I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm. Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get! I may have been in Continent, but I don't remember what country I was in. It's pretty unpleasant there, especially when I sneeze.

MHS CLASS OF 1958

Fall Frolic

(A Casual Get Together - Tight levis, duck tail haircuts and poodle skirts OK)

Sunday September 30, 2012



WHERE: Hey Andy's Pub & Restaurant

Monongahela - Near Eat-n-Park

WHEN: Sunday Sept 30, 2012

TIME: 2:00-6:00 pm

- 2:00 Arrive
Mixer - 1/2 hr Free Bar
Cheese hors d'oeuvre - Gabfest - Pictures - Socialize
- 2:30 Hot Buffet Baked seasoned chicken, Beef tips over rice pilaf
California mix vegetables, Penne with meat sauce
Tossed garden greens salad, Rolls, butter, coffee
- 3:00 Grayslock's *Robert Roule* special cake and coffee
- 4:00 Door Prizes by Thelma and Bea
50-50 Drawing \$5.00 a ticket
\$50.00 Finish the song title contest
- 4:30 Jitterbug dancing demonstration
All join in. EMS will be on site. Oxygen available.

\$15.00 Each (Includes the gratuity)

MUST PAY IN ADVANCE SEND YOUR CHECK BY SEPT 15, 2012

Judy Leach

504 Jackson Street Monongahela Pa 15063

724-258-4357

A \$5.00 donation for our Web Site would be nice so we can post photos.

Overnighters can stay at the Hampton Inn Belle Vernon (Near Wal-Mart)
1525 Broad Avenue Extension, Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, USA 15012
Tel: 1-724-929-8100

<http://mhs1958.org> for more info

MHS Website

If you do not have a computer, but would like to browse our MHS1958.org website, visit your local library.

Most libraries now have internet access with helpful staff nearby.

This is all you need. <http://mhs1958.org>

Terry Criswell and Ellen Brice Robinson - we need your new email address. (b1d2grammy@aol.com)

JOYCE ROBERTS HUGHES

Joyce L. Hughes, 71, of Prosperity, died Sunday, October 2, 2011, in Washington Hospital. She was born April 16, 1940, in Monongahela, a daughter of the late James L. and Margaret (Peggy) Chadwick Roberts. Mrs. Hughes worked for Montgomery Ward from 1964 until 1970. Following the birth of her daughter, she was a homemaker. For 41 years, she fought a courageous battle with Lupus. She leaves behind her beloved dachshund, Holly. On June 9, 1967, in Washington, she married, Charles Leo Hughes, who survives. Surviving are a daughter, Heidi L. Hughes and fiancé Albert M. Franjione Jr., and several nieces and nephews. Friends were received from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in Piatt & Barnhill Funeral Home, 420 Locust Avenue, Washington, where services were held at 11 a.m. Wednesday October 5, with Pastor Russ Baird officiating. Interment followed in Washington Cemetery.

HAZEL LEE (WYNN) THOMAS

After a long illness, on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, age 71, of Beltzhoover. Beloved wife of David E. Thomas, Sr.; loving mother of Leroy Thomas and David (Denise) Thomas, Jr.; beloved grandmother of Kendra Wilson and Destiny Thomas; loving sister of Sim (Omega) Wynn and the Rev. Shirley (Verl) Long; also a host of nieces and nephews. Hazel worked for many years at Kaufmann's Department store as a salesperson in the greeting card section. Hazel loved traveling "in a minute." She enjoyed her family and friends. A Memorial Service was conducted by her loving sister, the Rev. Shirley Long, at the James J. Barry Funeral Home, 608 Warrington Ave.

JOHN HARSH

John Harsh, 71, of New Eagle, died Thursday, February 23, 2012, in Kindred Hospital, Oakdale. He was born March 29, 1940, in Manown, son of the late Andrew "Creamy" and Theresa Capasso Harsh. Mr. Harsh was a graduate of Monongahela High School, Class of 1958. He was a Vietnam veteran, having served in the U.S. Army, and was Catholic. In his younger years, he enjoyed playing basketball. For 20 years, Mr. Harsh was employed by Kroger in Washington and Bethel Park until their closing. He retired in 2005 after 10 years of employment as a meat manager at Foodland in Mt. Washington. He was a life member of Sutman Yohe Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1409 in Black Diamond and Arroas Hay Makers Association No. 253 and the Hoot Owls Athletic Association, both in New Eagle. He enjoyed fishing, boating, playing golf, doing repairs around his home, cutting grass and flower and vegetable gardening and was an avid sports fan. Mr. Harsh was very proud of his children and loved spending time with his grandchildren. Surviving are his wife, Ada Sampson Harsh, with whom he celebrated 49 years of marriage June 27, 2011; daughters Paula and husband John Baker of Houston and Barbie and husband Steve Travers of Seattle, Wash.; sons John Harsh of Albuquerque, N.M., and Andy and wife Robin Harsh of Pittsburgh; eight grandchildren, Andrew, Steven, Brandon, Regina, John, Caden, Connor and Holly; and sisters Virginia and husband Ron Hudak of Finleyville and Barbara and husband John Behanna of Monongahela. Friends were received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Monday in Frye Funeral Home Inc., 427 West Main Street, Monongahela, where a blessing service was held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 28, with the Rev. William Terza officiating. Committal services and interment followed in Monongahela Cemetery with full military honors accorded by the Mon Valley Honor Guard and Firing Squad.

GEORGE "PAT" YOUNG

George "Pat" Young Jr., 71 of Washington formerly of Monongahela, died Tuesday, June 19, 2012 in Monongahela-Valley Hospital. Born October 31, 1940 in New Eagle, he was the son of the late George P. Sr. and Alda (Odelli) Young. After graduating from Monongahela High School in 1958 Pat began working as a truck driver for Louttit Transfer in Monongahela, following that he began working at the former Fox Grocery Co, the Wetterau Co. and then until his retirement, the Supervalve Co. in Belle Vernon. He was a member of Teamsters Union, Local 857 and was an avid hunter and outdoorsman who enjoyed watching NASCAR, football and hockey. Surviving are four sons, David Young of Monongahela; Donald Young of Carroll Twp.; Dennis Young of Monongahela and Daniel Young of Eighty-Four; a daughter and son in law, Diane and Bill Talaga of Carroll Twp.; their mother Loma Young of Monongahela; and seven grandchildren Bill II and wife Erika, Jennifer, Dustin, Sara, Kaitlynn, Joey and Danika Lea. Preceding him in death was his brother Kenneth Young. Friends were received at the Marshall Marra Funeral Home, 216 Chess Street, Monongahela, where services were held with the Rev. Mark Woomer officiating. Interment followed in Monongahela Cemetery.

(Judy Leach donated books to the Monongahela Library in memory of these classmates.)

Sympathy

Our most sincere condolences go out to the following classmates:

Dolores Scott Norris on the death of her husband, McKinley, in February.

Rose Campbell Kukovich on the loss of her husband, Edward, in April.

Barbara Murray Watterson on the death of her husband, Paul, in June.

Kathryn Locke Koskoski on the loss of her mother, Violet Locke in March.

Lola and Dennis Yerkey on the death of her father in April.

Frances Carden Baumgardner on the loss of her sister, Virginia Hays, in February.

Julia Stoffel Schack on the death of her sister, Alice, in March.

Joy Gandley Bellicini on the loss of her brother, Robert, in June.

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. Try everything twice. On one woman's tombstone she said she wanted this epitaph: "Tried everything twice. Loved it both times!"
2. Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. (Keep this in mind if you are one of those grouches!)
3. Keep learning: Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever... Never let the brain get idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.' And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!
4. Enjoy the simple things.
5. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. And if you have a friend who makes you laugh, spend lots and lots of time with HIM/HER.
6. The tears happen: Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. LIVE while you are alive.
- 7.. Surround yourself with what you love: whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge.
8. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.
9. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is.
10. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.
11. Forgive now those who made you cry. You might not get a second chance.
12. Remember! Lost time can never be found.
13. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

From Ron Guydan

Sorry to hear about John Harsh. He was a good friend in school. We are losing classmates and their spouses fairly quickly now that we are 70+. our 55th reunion can't come too soon if you ask me. Stay safe and healthy!!!!

Civic Arena is Demolished

Demolition work began on the Civic Arena, the igloo-shaped former home of the Pittsburgh Penguins, on Sept 26, 2011. A preservation group failed in its efforts to get courts to keep the building from being torn down so it could be reused. Preservation Pittsburgh argued that the retractable steel-roof on the 50-year-old building made it worth saving. The building, for a time, was called Mellon Arena. It was across the street from the Penguins' new arena, Consol Energy Center. Under terms of an agreement to finance the new building, the Penguins are committed to redeveloping the old arena's 28-acre site. The team plans a mixed-use development including retail, commercial and residential space.



"Life is not the way it's supposed to be. It's the way it is. The way we cope with it, is what makes the difference.

KENNYWOOD FACTS

By Dennis Yerkey

On March 14, 2012, I attended a presentation by Andy Quinn, whose great-grandfather purchased Kennywood from Andy Mellon in 1906. Kennywood was sold in 2008 by the 77 remaining owners to a concern in Newport Beach California. They report to Madrid, Spain. Spain reports to England. Andover Investments really owns it.

Some interesting facts:

- . It is now a National Historic Landmark.
- . It was established in 1898 as the end of the trolley line which brought men to work in Pittsburgh steel mills.
- . Kennywood used some of the first light bulbs on three of its buildings.
- . 70% of the attendees come as part of a picnic; school, church, union, company, community, ethnic days, etc. This is unique
- . It is the only 1 of 6 amusement parks in the United States that allows you to bring in food.
- . The oldest building is the cafeteria, which is still there.
- . The dance hall was in use from 1902 to 1952, when it burned down.
- . The oldest ride is the Old Mill, which was named The Tunnel of Love the first 15 years.
- . The first roller coaster was built in 1902.
- . The Jack Rabbit was built in 1920. It is now 92 years old. Of 2,900 coasters in the world, only the Jack Rabbit has a double dip.
- . The Thunderbolt (formerly The Pippin) has an immediate down hill.
- . The order of priority of costs: 1 Payroll, 2 Insurance, 3 Lumber for coasters, 4 Utilities
- . The Turnpike ride was made in Beaver County. There were 28 built but Kennywood is the only one remaining
- . The swimming pool held 2.2 million gallons of water. It closed in 1973 due to constant maintenance. It always cracked and leaked.
- . The Racer, a continuous loop coaster, is one of only 3 in the world.
- . The Merry-Go-Round was purchased for \$25,000.00. It is now worth \$4 million as American Art.
- . The Rocket has been torn down, but the park still has the rockets.
- . The Ferris Wheel was not invented in Pittsburgh, but was invented by a Pittsburgher.
- . In 1991 the Steel Phantom was added. It had a 235ft drop at 83 mph. Some people complained of injuries so it was redesigned for a softer ride.

Part of the park is redesigned and updated every year to keep it fresh. Rides are removed and sold out of country for liability reasons. New rides may take 5 years to build.

(I videoed the presentation and may put it on DVD to use as a fundraiser for the Alumni Association. Let Norma know (normajh88@gmail.com) if you would purchase one for \$10.00

It would bring back a lot of memories. DGY)

Kennywood, what great memories.

My fondest times were going early with my friends taking along a change of clothes to store in the locker for our evenings, We wanted to look good then to stroll around. We got there when it opened and rode everything we could taking many repeat rides on the racer. Later In the day my parents would come bringing a lot of food. We always made plans to meet at a time and place. After resting and eating we would go change and freshen up to spend the evening just browsing around and meeting others. We, of course, had used up our tickets by then.

I went to Kennywood last year for the first time in almost 20 years. I made a granddaughter stand in line for almost an hour to get me fries from the Potato Patch, It brought back all those good memories. Maybe I will do that again. There is just no other park that can compare to Kennywood.

Christine Skinkis McNees

I haven't lived in Pa. for close to 50 years, and the other 20 years are too far back for me. Good news? I do remember there is a Kennywood.

Joann Adametz Heckman

More Kennywood Memories

Independence Day had come and gone and the talk among the Gregg Street urchins shifted from buying cherry bombs and silver salutes at the Jungle Club to the highlight of the summer season: the first Wednesday in August. Monongahela's Community Picnic Day at Kennywood Park was just around the corner.

"How many tickets did you buy?" was often heard as we bought discounted advance ride tickets. "I got \$10," one boy would say, while another would trump that with, "I got \$15." And so it went as the days slowly slipped toward August.

On the day before Community Day, street talk was, "I'm taking the first train in the morning and the last train at night." The Pennsylvania Railroad ran two trains in the morning to Kennywood and two trains at night back to Monongahela. The coaches were of the Fairmont Flier class and certainly not like those on the railroad's crack Broadway Limited or The Senator. The coaches were drab, barely clean and had uncomfortable seats, but to us the cars were like Cinderella's coach.

The "Kennywood Express" left Monongahela's Second Street station and dropped its passengers off below the bluff on which Kennywood was situated. A brick walk wound its way up the bluff to the park and some kids ran the whole way.

I suppose the highlight of a particular summer was that I was finally tall enough to ride the roller coasters: the Racer, the Jack Rabbit and the Pippin (renamed the Thunderbolt after some changes were made to the wooden coaster's track). Of the three, I liked the Jack Rabbit with its double dip that lifted riders off their seats.

Historically, the park is located on what was part of Anthony Kenny's farm and around the time of the Civil War, the site was a popular picnic spot for locals, known as Kenny's Grove. It was also the site of the July 9, 1755 Battle of the Monongahela, where British General Edward Braddock was mortally wounded, ending his expedition to capture the French Fort Duquesne during the French and Indian War.

In 1898, the Monongahela Street Railways Company, partially owned by banker Andrew Mellon, seeking to increase fare profits on the weekends, leased the land from the Kenny family in order to create a trolley park at the end of their line.

The park's history meant nothing to us as we went, sometimes running, from one ride to another. We were kids. It was summer. We were at Kennywood and life for a 10-year-old sure was sweet.

Robert Roule

Kennywood Park seems long ago and far away. I loved Noah's Ark, the wonderful music of the merry-go-round and trying to decide which animal I wanted to ride. The excitement and anticipation of a day at Kennywood was almost as exhilarating as being there! Those were the days my friends!

Rosemary Bindi Sanderson

I went to Kennywood one year with my son and his family. Our autistic granddaughter loves the roller coasters and any ride that twirls. My son and daughter-in-law can't ride the twirly rides, so Gram gets to do it. Di and I went on the Tilt a Whirl and I had it spinning the whole time. Di is laughing, Bob and Cath are laughing watching us. We get off and everyone is smiling until Di threw up. So I had to curtail my excessive spinning after that. We often talk about it. For Christmas one year, my other son joined WQED and got me 3 CD's. One was Pittsburgh in general, the Strip district and Kennywood. I just watched them again the other day and enjoyed them so much.

Can't help but mention the Old Mill with your boyfriend! I was going through my "memories" box and found a silver disc that was made at Kennywood. It says "Larry loves Linda August 5, 1953." It was from Larry Sasselli, my first boyfriend and my first kiss. Just a nice feeling of having a boyfriend.

Linda Gayhart Heimbuecher

I remember going on the train to Kennywood, and packing a bag with evening clothes to go to the dance in the evening. That was so much fun!!!!!!

Thelma Wilson Lutes

More Kennywood Memories

I can't remember a whole lot about Kennywood days. I do remember going on a train with my Aunt Mary, Uncle Jim and Louis getting on at Courtney when I was really young. I remember the school picnics, but don't have memory of the things that went on. . My Mom and Dad didn't go that often. Mom always stayed home with my Nana. Jay said he remembers having family get togethers there.

Jay and Rose Marie Ambrose Donovan

I have so many wonderful memories of Kennywood. As far back as I can remember, "Kennywood Day" was a yearly tradition for our family. We would get so excited that we would begin a month before talking about all the rides we were going to go on, and we would even make lists of those rides. The excitement would grow and grow to the point that, a few days before, we couldn't sleep thinking about it. My Dad would tease us that he heard it was going to be a very rainy day, and we might not be able to go. We would see the smile on his face and know that he was kidding. My Mother would always make a delicious lunch that included fried chicken, potato salad and baked beans, and my Dad would make his famous tossed salad. My Mom would even bake rolls for the occasion. We always stayed in the same grove where we would anxiously watch the Jack Rabbit going around the tracks while my Mom prepared the lunch. We were too excited to eat.

I remember one year in particular. I was eight years old. My mother stayed home preparing for the birth of my brother (he was born a few days later). Somehow I became separated from my Dad and realized that I was lost. I panicked. I felt so alone. A policeman happened to see me in tears, and, to make a long story short, he called for my Dad over the PA system and soon we were rejoined. I was never so glad to see my Dad. On a funnier note, I'll never forget the year my friend and I were riding the Octopus. She laughed so hard, she wet her pants. When we got off the ride, I wondered why she was trying to wipe the seat with her hands. Then I realized why. She was so embarrassed.

For many years, Regina O'Hern, would come with our family, and after lunch we would meet up with our other friends and classmates, and we'd have a ball riding together. We didn't want the day to end.

For many years after Bob and I were married, we carried on the tradition of "Kennywood Day". We would meet Mom, Dad and my brothers and look forward to the wonderful food Mom would bring. From the time our kids were babies and throughout their teenage years, we kept up the tradition. They were wonderful years that I will never forget. Now, we take our grandchildren every year and watch the same excitement on their faces, and we think back - - - - -

Connie Mamie Vlah

I was the luckiest kid in Courtney! I not only went to Kennywood for our school picnic, but my Dad was a coal miner and so we went on that day, as well. I remember crossing the trolley tracks from the parking lot and walking through the tunnel to the park, the huge figure over Laugh In The Dark nodding and laughing, and the clicket-clack of the coasters followed by screams as they plunged over the rest of the track.

I went on the school picnic with friends, but was allowed to take someone on the Miners' Picnic day so my parents would not have to ride with me. I remember one particular year when we took my cousin, Adrienne. She was more interested in boys than in the rides. We met boys from Yukon and I naively thought they were actually from the Yukon Territory in Canada! I had no idea there was a Yukon, Pa.

I also remember trying to understand why the ride tickets had a luxury tax on them - - my first introduction to taxes.

Later, when I was in pharmacy school, my friend from Castle Shannon referred to the coasters as "dips". She and I went with two guys from school and they were both non-coaster riders, so Maureen and I rode them while the boys sat it out. She and I were on one ride that looked like a small Ferris wheel with closed carriages. As the wheel turned, the carriages would turn upside down, When we got off the ride, I asked if she heard someone screaming the entire ride. She replied, "Yes. That was you!"

Norma Mountain Haywood

*If anyone else has Kennywood memories to share, please send them to me for inclusion in future newsletters. Norma Haywood
7845 Brockway Sharon Rd. Burghill, Oh 44404*

