



MHS Class of 1958

Newsletter

July 2013

website:www.mhs1958.org



REUNION DATES AND FACTS TO REMEMBER.

October 5, 6 and 7, 2013.

This is a Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel across from the South Hills Village Mall in Mt Lebanon. You may check in Friday if necessary or Saturday. The Hospitality Room is 821. This large and comfy hospitality room will be open at 1:00 on Saturday for the remainder of the Reunion where we will provide snacks and drinks. Depending on the donations we receive, we are also considering offering pizza in the hospitality room, for anyone who is interested, on Saturday evening. (You do not have to be registered for the banquet to join us). We may also be able to offer coffee and pastries Monday morning for those who don't wish a full breakfast. The hotel pool will be open with a cash bar.

In response to queries as to the cost per person for the banquet:

Included in this \$80.00 figure are

- (1) one hour cocktail hour before the banquet, Bartender during the dinner, one free drink per person,
- (2) 21% service charge on the meal, plus 7% sales tax and 7% liquor tax.
- (3) renting of the hospitality room, plus the stocking of the hospitality room with snacks and drinks.

We realize we are all on fixed incomes and that inflation is beginning to hurt, but please consider that 5 years ago, at the 50th reunion, the cost of the banquet was \$60.00. The 50th reunion was a milestone for all of us, but think about it.....78% of our class remains to celebrate our 55th anniversary. DONATIONS GREATLY APPRECIATED

Judy Leach

504 Jackson St

Monongahela, Pa 15063

Griffith Jones Update

from Julie Jones

Griff came home Thursday, 4/18. He is doing well. He is walking short distances with a hemi-walker. He is adjusting well to being home. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Note from Norma: This might be a good time for another round of cards and best wishes to let Griff know we are thinking about him.

Griffith Jones

118 Horseshoe Rd

Newark, DE 19711

Phyllis Rankin Hann, Sondra Kennel Katnik and Norma Mountain Haywood are all recovering from their various surgeries.

Memorials

Judy Martin Leach has donated books to the Monongahela Library in memory of Sondra Dragone Lettrich and Lois Williams.

From Priscilla DavisWebb

We have hit a snag with the obituaries as many came from the Waashington Observer online. It was free but now you have to have a subscription to read them. If you know of any of our classmates or their immediate family who has passed on, please let me know. I will send out a notice. The Post-Gazette, Valley Independent, Daily Notes and Tribune Review online are still free so any obits that show up there will be passed on to you.

Hope to see your smiling faces at the reunion in October.

Priscilla

2250 Lancelot Dr

North Huntingdon, PA 15642

Decisions **Robert Roule**

We've all had those moments when we slapped our foreheads and thought, "Gee, I could have had a bloody Mary." We're constantly making decisions, some of which turn out to be not so good. Rarely are these decisions life altering and if they are, we have no way of knowing what the outcome would have been if we taken choice B instead of choice A.

My wife, son, another couple and I were rock hounding at Franklin, N.J., many moons ago. Franklin sits in the 200-or-so acres of New Jersey that is pretty. It's also an area with a lot of fluorescent minerals and many homes have chimneys built of the fluorescent rocks and are lighted with black light at night. The effect is quite striking as the minerals fluoresce in different colors. Our party wasn't looking for fluorescent minerals; we were looking for rhodocrosite crystals. Rhodocrosite is a manganese carbonite mineral that forms a pink to deep rose cube crystal. Aside of their beauty, the crystals are worth quite a bit of money -- not in the diamond or emerald class, but certainly not chump change.

We spent a goodly portion of a Fourth of July scouring the tailings of a zinc mine for crystals. The temperature was flirting with the 100 degree mark and we were all covered in sweat and a fine dusting of zinc and whatever else was mixed in with the tailings.

When we're rock hounding, we tent camp and after that night's supper and more than a few beers, it was time to head to the shower house and get rid of the day's grime. The campground was very modern with ample showers, each equipped with a coin-fed meter for water. What? Pay for water. Never! (Bad decision No. 1) So, I, still covered in grime, headed back to the campsite feeling quite smug that I had saved somewhere between 50 and 75 cents. Lying in our tent later that night, I heard the "pitter patter" of raindrops falling on canvas. I stuck head and hand through the tent's flap and discovered the rain was quite warm. An idea was born. I decided that I would use the rain to wash in. (Bad decision No. 2) So with a wash cloth and bar of soap in hand, I stepped into the gently falling rain. I worked up a good soapy lather in hair, on face and upper body.

Now German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said that whenever we have an idea or a plan, we also sow the seeds of destruction for that plan or idea. You know, you plan a picnic and it rains. So, too, did the seeds of destruction enter into my "free" shower. Yep! As soon as I was covered in soapy lather, it stopped raining. It was decision time again. Either I let the soap dry and forget about a shower, or I fork out the coins and use the campground's facilities. So with coins in hand and vowing to keep my cheap streak in check, I headed for the showers.

We never did find any rhodocrosite crystals, but we did come away with a lot of happy memories. And, if any other camper had per chance to view my folly, I hope he or she is still laughing at the soap covered visage begging for the rain to resume.

Donation

Father O'Malley answers the phone. 'Hello, is this Father O'Malley?'

'It is!'

'This is the IRS. Can you help us?'

'I can!'

'Do you know a Ted Houlihan?'

'I do!'

'Is he a member of your congregation?'

'He is!'

'Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?'

'He will.'

Chance Meeting

On Jan 11, 2013, Dennis ran into John Timko at the Mall.

This happens every 10 or 20 years or so, according to Dennis.

Dennis and John were classmates from grade 1 at Williams School.

John mentioned that he loves the newsletter.



Sondra Dragone Lettrich

Dr. Sondra D. Lettrich, 72, of Greensburg, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013. She was born Aug. 15, 1940, in New Eagle, to the late Frank and Margret Dragone. She was a graduate of Monongahela High school and held a bachelor of science from Penn State University in elementary education, speech and hearing, a master of education from University of Pittsburgh in special education (deaf education), and a PhD from University of Pittsburgh in special education (deaf education). She was employed by Seton Hill University and served multiple teaching positions over her 26 years of service as a professor as well as the administration positions: three years as the director of the graduate special education, four years as the chair of the division of education and five years as the director of the graduate inclusive education. Dr. Lettrich is best known at Seton Hill for her expertise, passion and commitment to preparing future teachers to meet the needs of all students. She initiated the special education certification program at Seton Hill and the graduate program in special education. Dr. Lettrich conceived, designed and implemented the integrated program in elementary/special education for undergraduate education students, which was often cited by professional colleagues as a model program for inclusive education. She later designed a graduate program in Inclusive Education for secondary classroom teachers so that they would be prepared to meet the needs of special needs students. Most recently, she designed and implemented Seton Hill's graduate certificate in autism. She was passionately committed to the effective use of technology in the classroom. She directed the University's federally funded professional development program - Technology Assisted Learning for Inclusionary Practice as well as the Methods of Inclusion Project. She presented extensively on technology-enhanced learning. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Margret Dragone, formerly of Monongahela; and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Joseph and Millie Lettrich, of Charleroi. She is survived by her husband, Donald J. Lettrich of Greensburg; her two sons, Donald R. and his wife, Erika, of Mt. Pleasant, and David N. and his wife, Amy, of Greensburg. She had three grandchildren, Kasey, Joseph and Natalia. In addition, she is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Donna and Charles Rose; sister and brother-in-law, Carol and Richard Walters, all of Monongahela; brother-in-law, Robert Lettrich, of Charleroi; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, and grand-nephews.

JoAnn Williams

JoAnn Williams, 73, of Monongahela, died Wednesday, March 6, 2013, in Washington County Health Center, Chartiers Township.

She was born March 20, 1939, in Ginger Hill, a daughter of the late Gomer Robert and Clara Shaffer Williams. Mrs. Williams was a 1958 graduate of Monongahela High School.

For a number of years, she did house cleaning for many families throughout the Mon Valley and also was a caregiver to many. Until a few years ago, she helped in preparing ravioli, gnocchi and steak bites for Ponce's Place in Monongahela.

She enjoyed trips to the Outer Banks, N.C., with her husband, Bob, who may have gone fishing, but Mrs. Williams got to lounge on the beach.

Mrs. Williams loved spending time with her grandchildren including dance recitals with the girls, going to Cody's football games and watching him wrestle on television, watching Caitlyn and Nicole cheer and attending twirling competitions with Sami, in which she was always there to lend a hand.

She had a passion for gardening, especially tending to her roses. In her later years, she enjoyed traveling with her friend, Van Burnworth.

Surviving are two daughters, Jody Burnworth and husband Thomas of Monongahela and Bobbie Wiercioch and husband Edward of Muse; four grandchildren, Sami Jo Burnworth, Cody, Nicole and Caitlyn Wiercioch; and a sister, Ruby Daugherty and husband Clem of Finleyville.

In addition to her parents, deceased are her husband, Claude F. "Bob" Williams, who died January 23, 2006; three sisters, Mary Ann, who died in infancy, Thelma, who died in childhood, and Doris DuCarme; and a brother, Gomer Williams.

Our most sincere sympathy goes out to:

Raymond Lindley on the death of his mother, Lois, who passed away in June at the age of 101.

Jane McNamee Lengyel on the passing of her father, John, in March at the age of 99.

Back to Stockdale
by D.Yerkey

If you have been browsing our Website, you know that we posted three newspaper articles and one flyer ad about the Stockdale Oldies Dance. These articles and publicity are possibly the reason for the recent successful revival of the Stockdale VFD fund raising dances.

Background: The original record hops ran from December 21, 1957 to August 1964. The revival series began February 16, 2008 with a belated 50th anniversary dance that drew 1,100 people. Dances have continued since then on a twice-a-year basis. A decision to limit attendance to 600 was made because the 1,100 was crowded and unwieldy to manage. It is now much more comfortable with more space on the dance floor. The dances are held only in the spring and fall with plans now being finalized for the next dance. The date has not yet been set.

Rick Sebak, award winning producer and writer of documentaries for WQED and PBS, was the special guest at the most recent dance. Special *Meet and Greet* guests are featured at all of the dances.

So, being the big spender that I am, I pre-purchased 2 \$10.00 tickets and took wifey Lola to one of my old haunts after 50 + years of absence. Dance for 4 hours and all the water that you can drink....how can you beat that?

The actual attendance for this dance was 522. DJ Ralph Trilli was spinning a nice mix of tunes and the dance floor was jumping throughout the night. It appeared that everyone was enjoying themselves and having a super-great time. It's really nice to see Seniors laughing and being active in their later years. It sure beats MRIs, Cat Scans and Metoprolol.

In reality I probably only danced Stockdale six times while in High School. I always traveled with Metro Petrosky and several other classmate in one car. Now that I think about it, it was Metro who convinced us to dance at Stockdale. God bless his soul.....he gave me memories and something to now write about.

I also remember that most dancers at Stockdale were from Charleroi and surrounding areas, so we were a little out of place there. Dancers from Monongahela usually frequented the Italian Hall in Monongahela because it was close to home. Slops was the DJ at that time.

I recognized a few people from the area, but not as many as I would have thought. All in all, it was a pleasant evening with the Missus.....with the added bonus of getting some much needed exercise.

*still
dancing,
but not as
long.*



*Sat, April 6,
2013.*

Marriage Humor

Wife: 'What are you doing?'

Husband Nothing.

Wife: 'Nothing...? You've been reading our marriage certificate for an hour.'

Husband: 'I was looking for the expiration date.'

Wife : 'Do you want dinner?'

Husband: 'Sure! What are my choices?'

Wife: 'Yes or no.'

FLORIDA MON VALLEY REUNION

by Robert Roule

About 140 former Monongahela Valley residents and their spouses gathered on Feb. 23 for the annual Mon Valley Florida Reunion.

This year's event was held at Beef O'Brady's family restaurant and pub at Clearwater.

Jane McNamee Lengyel was one of many members of the Class of 1958 to attend. Jane said, "We took over Beef O'Brady's." Jane said there were a lot of people from Monongahela High School, representing a number of classes. I spent time with Pete Donina, his sisters, Patty and Judy and their husbands. John and Patty Allen were there as well as Christine Skinkis McNeese. She said, "I heard Ray Racunas was at the reunion, but I didn't see him."

Jane cited others who were there. Roger Golomb and his wife; former cheerleader Beverly McNary of Finleyville; Anselminos of New Eagle the Cromptons, just "so many to name." She said "we had a great time" and she and husband John plan to attend next year's event.

Louis Sepe of Dunedin, Fla., was one of the former valley residents coordinating the festivities. Sepe, a 1951 graduate on Monongahela High, said, "We share a common bond –that is, our roots are in the Mon Valley – so the doors are open to anyone who wants to attend"

The Mon Valley Florida Reunion was created by three former Monongahela businessmen: Joe Fida (automobile license services and insurance), Lee Venanzi (appliances, bowling alley and beer distributor) and Ralph Losey (butcher and meat market).

Sepe acted as master of ceremonies. "I inherited the Job when Ralph Losey moved back to the Mon Valley. I enjoy it."

Over the years the reunion has drawn celebrities such as baseball Hall of Famer Stan Musial and Bruno Zacchini, the Human Cannonball. Zacchini was the man who was shot out of a cannon at Kennywood Park for many years. The next Mon Valley Florida Reunion is scheduled to be held on Feb. 22, 2014.

Parts of this article were reprinted from The Valley Independent of Monessen.

SEE PHOTOS ON FOLLOWING PAGE.

LISTEN UP LOCAL CLASSMATES THIS IS A BUCKET LIST EVENT

Save February 22, 2014

From Dennis Yerkey

The **Florida Mon Valley Gathering** is always held in the afternoon of the last Saturday in February. Because it was so successful this year, probably due to local newspaper articles and the promotion on our website, I presume that this rather laid-back and unorganized gathering will take place again in Clearwater next year. I believe plans are being made to change the venue to a large and fancy place.

If anyone from the Pittsburgh area is interested in heading to Clearwater next February, please contact me at d.yerkey@comcast.net or Judy Leach by mail. It would be a great time to leave the February cold behind for a long weekend of fun, joviality and sophomoric behavior. (In other words, a Spring break like the good old days)

We have three individuals signed up so far. Plans are to take the same flight, stay at the same hotel, and to put a 1,000 miles on a rental car riding around Florida. We will hold on to a string at all times so we don't get lost. This is my stomping grounds, so I will certainly have a few good ideas up my sleeve. Give me some feedback, folks....let me know what you think about this idea.

Begging Letter

from

Norma Mountain Haywood

Please plan to come to the reunion and share teenage memories with us. Who else can you talk to about Monongahela in the 50s, disc jockeys, Fats Domino? Who else can you complain to about John Conte?

. We plan to have fun just talking and visiting. I am hoping to talk to people I didn't know in high school.

We are also planning an Open Mic night. That should be interesting. One of our committee members is going to teach us the jitterbug. A couple of us "girls" are going to pretend to be two old women talking about the problems of growing older. We would be happy to include anything you would wish to do to entertain us!

We are all aging gracefully, but as I experienced last winter, it can all end in the blink of an eye. Come and reminisce with your old friends while we still can.

Some Photos From the Mon Valley Florida Gathering

