

eMa-Hi Times *ala '59*

First edition in almost 50 years --- Winter 2008

Letter from our Class President, Mike Lucas



We all know that the 50th class reunion is a couple of years away but planning ahead will make the event even more special. Some of our advance-thinking classmates have gone even the next best step by getting everyone up to date about what to expect by proposing a class news and information network, **the eMa-Hi Times ala'59**.

The thought of actually having a 50th class reunion may not affect some of you like it affects others, but I can tell you that I am eagerly looking forward to seeing old classmates again. When we were in school, who could imagine that we would someday be looking at #50!! The idea of an **eMa-Hi Times '59** can not only help get things rolling, it can also help keep classmates up to date about what's happening now. All the previous reunions have all been super, each one seeming to top the last one. So many people worked very hard to make each reunion the best, and they always were the best. Each reunion has been really special. We have lost classmates along the way, and we have tried to remember them in some way.

Some of us have not thought that attending was important or worth the effort, but for most of us, **The Reunion** has been a great time to renew friendships and to remember how close of a class we really are. Now we have a chance to communicate with all our classmates before and after our reunion, and we have a volunteer staff to put that news and information into print. Some of you live in the Coos Bay area, some live not too far away, and some of us live several miles away and have not yet attended a reunion, but for all of us class news can keep us informed and closer together, and what better way than by email.

Jane (Kutch) Mercereau, Ruth (Walters) Snodgrass, Bob Eddy and Frank Huntley (and others) have all worked to get this idea going and it is up to all of us to make it work. They have already thought of projects and ideas for inclusion in follow on publications. Everyone can contribute, respond, suggest, edit, complain, or just simply comment on the subjects presented.

I think a Class of '59 remembrance project of some sort given to good old MHS is a worthy idea and is something of which we could all be proud. It may cost us some time and a couple of bucks, but something to celebrate our 50 years since graduation would be a lasting tribute to the school and a recognition of our class efforts. I think all of us feel that graduation from MHS was very important event in our lives... I wonder how many remember what we donated to the school when we graduated?

Looking forward to the fall of 2009, help support the **eMa-Hi Times**.

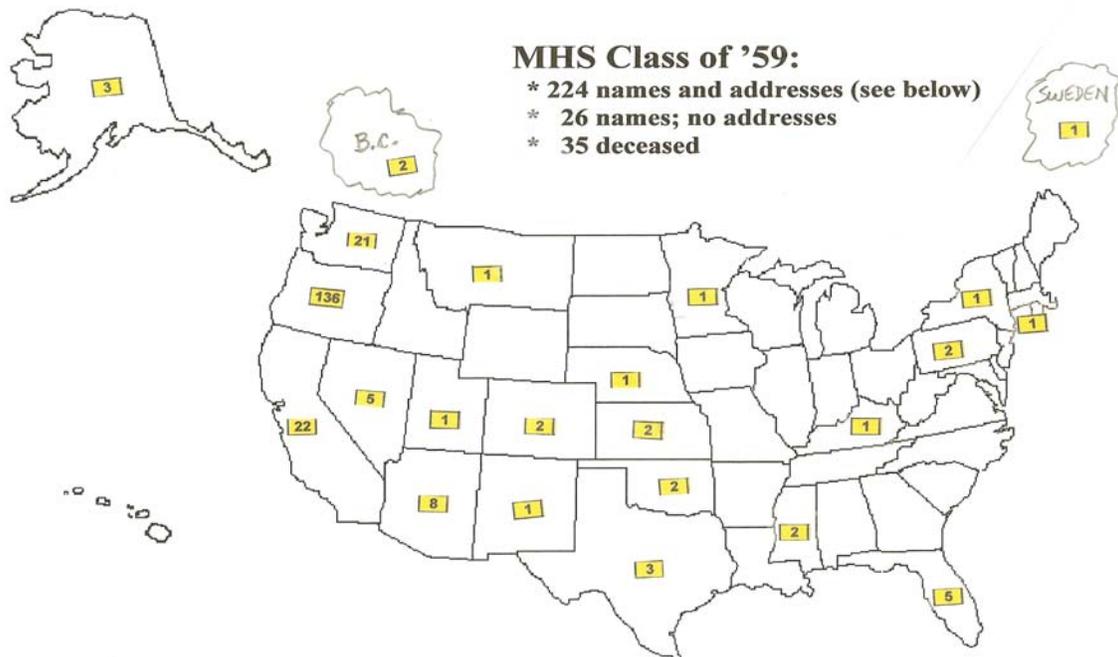
Michael Lucas

Where are we today?

A group of classmates (*Marilyn Whipkey, Rob Ingram, and Bob Eddy*) have been directing the "search efforts" to locate the current address information for our classmates. They want to thank all of you who have participated by providing the links they've been able to follow. And a special thanks to *Sylvia (Burles) Clark* for passing on the tip (to use the web based "ZabaSearch" tools) from the librarians who "search" for a living.

- We have the names and addresses of 224 classmates.
- We have still to find 26 classmates (no address) – see the **Class of 59** page in the **Alumni** section of the Marshfield website <http://www.marshfield.coos-bay.k12.or.us/default.htm> for the list of "missing" classmates.
- 35 of our classmates are deceased.

Please pass on any information you may have about the "missing" classmates (where a sibling lives, etc.) to the search team by sending that information to the class email center – mhs59@comcast.net. The map below shows a count of your classmates by state (or province or country).



If you'd like the address information of one or more of your "old friends", just email mhs59@comcast.net.

REUNION CORNER

Reunion Suggestions & Comments

The initial email, announcing the plans to revive the Ma-Hi Times, brought forth a number of questions, comments and suggestions about the upcoming reunion. Since the committees have not yet been formed, we're just passing the inputs on with the hope that more comments and suggestions will be coming from you-all, the 59ers. Your comments can be addressed to mhs59@comcast.net.

Comments and Suggestions ...

is there a site to read suggestions, past reunion comments, etc.?

who is receiving suggestions etc. for next reunion?

is there a site to discuss and share school memories?

what do you know in the way of volunteering etc.?

i would appreciate a reply as i only have

this email address to respond to, and could not find a site to receive/share info.

for those of us who are single, live out of town, or not interested in a "tailgate party", how about something more real and relating to those of us who no longer know most of school friends and would like to gather somewhere other than in back of someone's truck/car, in the weather, and at some sport event? and, why not somewhere to gather like at the school, or anywhere that people can mingle and talk etc. without going to a place as the "eagles" etc. trying to find our way through to where meeting place is. comments? and who is this being sent to? who decides what, etc.?

**Jo Ann
Wright/Warner**

(Thanks for your suggestions and questions, Jo Ann. At this point, the comments are only published in this eMa-Hi Times, and they are circulated to all classmates who

have provided us with an email address).

I'd very much like to attend out '59 MSHS reunion next year if I can work it into my schedule. In an earlier communication you mentioned something about a fall date. I happen to be a college prof in Salt Lake City, and we usually start the fall semester around the third week in August, so any date after that will probably make it impossible for me to be there. Obviously I wouldn't expect you guys to establish the date of the reunion to accommodate me, but I'm wondering if there might be a significant number of others for whom a summer date would be better. This is just my vote in case things might still be up in the air.

All the best wishes to you.



Gary Topping

**Louise Reinhart Miller
Georgetown, KY**



Hi - I just want to say that I think it will be fun to catch up on what my classmates are doing with their lives and to begin to plan for the reunion. I have never been able to attend one of our reunions because we have always lived so far away and have no family living left on the west coast. To make a trip to Coos Bay for a one or two day event was always a little hard to justify. However, retirement makes traveling easier and I would love to attend a reunion and return to visit the NW. We did return to visit the NW 3 summers ago traveling from Canada to San Francisco and had a wonderful time. Hopefully we will be able to attend the "big one" in 2009. I look forward to it and to renewing friendships. I have kept in contact with only 3 high school

friends for all of the past 48 years but only one of them is an actual '59 classmate so I'll have to review my yearbooks. I actually do know where they are! Good luck with all your plans.

A big thanks for working on the reunion and all the ideas.



**Connie Tedford
Knapp**

I like the list of ideas, and I'd be happy to contribute. May I also suggest photographs. How about a set of essays on "Where I Live Now?" Please let me know how I can help.



Marv Stottlemire

Comments received from classmates upon reading the obituary of Junior High teacher Mo Fitzsimmons

I still remember the "helping verbs" jingle, and I really loved school while in Mo Fitzsimmons class. Thanks for sending this to us.



Sylvia (Burles) Clark

The seventh grade was a mile stone. I went from Milner Crest Grade school to the old high school. This was the first time we had individual teachers for each subject. Mo Fitzsimmons was one of our favorite teachers. He taught social studies and history. We had a better appreciation and interest for history.



Rob Ingram

Maurice Fitzsimmons was a memorable teacher in the old classroom in the 1898 High School, used as Marshfield Junior High in the 1950s. In his seventh grade class, he was a strict disciplinarian and a teacher who insisted on memory work. Some of us, I suspect, may recall his mantra for the "Helping Verbs." He required each of us to master it and stand by his desk and recite it.

So from memory:

*Is are am
Was were would
Shall will, may might
Can should*

*Do did have
Ought had been
Has must
Be could*

*Thank you, Mo
Fitzsimmons for
twenty-two helping
verbs that have
proven useful all my
life!*



**Stephen Dow
Beckham**

=====
**Marshfield
Trivia leads
to extended
discussion**
=====

QUESTION: What ever happened to the Senior Bench?

ANSWER: It fell apart while being moved by a crane to make room for a wheelchair ramp.

**This is what I
(Franklyn Huntley)
received from the
"Historian" of the
Class of 1956:**

I think the Sr. bench was put in place by the front steps, just to the left of the bottom step under the window of the office, about 1936 or 38. Only Seniors were allowed to sit there and pity the poor soul that didn't honor that tradition (I haven't the slightest idea what happened to an underclassman that sat here). It was made of concrete and about 4 foot long with a back to it. I think it was donated by one of those 30's classes. I was sorry to see it not there but could understand how it could disintegrate when trying to be moved. Good to hear

from you. Boy time really flies; it seems like just yesterday when we were all growing up in Coos Bay. All the best.

Bill Whiteman

My mother-in-law did some research and says that the Senior Bench was donated by the Class of 1921.



Franklyn Huntley

You were a born and bred Coos Bay kid if you:

Crossed Coos River to get to Allegany on a ferry.

Rode Frank Hall's narrow-gauge railroad in Charleston.

Ever saw a movie at the Noble theater.

Remember eating Cutlip's ice cream.

Shopped The Hub sales.

Socialized at Duke's Drive Inn and the Top Hat.

Remember the twisty road to Reedsport.

Recall Dexter's dump near Dead Man's Corner.

Recall the Zebra Lounge, the Balboa, and Cedar Grove.

Rode a passenger train out of Coos Bay.



*Eleanor Spencer
Dinkins*

SCHOOL (BUS) DAZE



Jo Ann Wright/Warner

it's another foggy morning, cold and damp. and after hurrying to ready ourselves for school, the four of us were trailing down the hill to catch our school bus. tho it was

still quite dark out, we were laughing and talking about some adventures we had that weekend.

it was then, that my older sister double-dared me to climb over the fence gate where the steers were grazing at the other end of the field. now, she knew i was scared to death of those steers because they invariably would spot me and come galloping at me at a heated pace. but the double-dare was too much or i temporarily lost my sanity thinking i could outrun them or jump back over the gate.

so over i went, here they came, and i lost my footing on the dewy grass. trying to get to the gate became a lost cause so reaching the post that held the barbwire, i scrambled to exit there instead. well, there went my new skirt getting caught and ripping in the wire! but once

over, i did manage to get to the door of the bus. thankfully, it had been a little late.

so started my day. our first bus was a little one. maybe 10 seats in all. we left Daniels Creek and met with the Dellwood bus at Coos River school. transferring there to head to the third bus waiting (or not) under the Allegany bridge with the kids from that area. if there was room to sit in a seat, we would. otherwise, it became "laptime". that's when the girls would soon find the right guy's lap to scramble onto. if they lucky, it would be the "hunk of the week".

our trips were an hour and a half---one way! the kids in town were already in their transition from the 8 o'clock classes to the 9 o'clock classes when we would arrive at school. our day's in school started at 9 and ended at 4. we usually arrived

home around 6. it made for a very long day.

that is, if the buses ran smoothly, the transfers went ok, or no bus problems. sometimes the little bus would maybe have a little problem. could be a slide on the road, a washout, a tree in the way, or being bumped off the road into a ditch by a log truck. once, our bus hung over a cliff as on a turn the brakes went out. but not to worry, we just crawled out the back emergency door expecting the adventure or seeing the bus teetering and maybe going over.

so went the days to school and back. we could say the "town" kids had an advantage of the 8 to 3 classes, shorter days, etc. but, sometimes, with a smile, the thought of their short, humdrum trips to school must have been very boring. there is a lot to be said about

riding three buses, transfers, close encounters with other kids (ahem-sometimes too close), and the adventure of just getting to and from school that kept us wondering... what's in store for us today. it certainly was not the highlight of school that stands out, rather our trips!

“What Grandkids say and do”

Grandkids are great! If you'd like to share a memory of them with your classmates, just send it in to:

mhs59@comcast.net

Four years ago, our 10 year old granddaughter (Victoria) and I were preparing to head up to Canada for what was to be her inaugural “fishing trip”. Our three youngest granddaughters were visiting at the time and the oldest (Alexis), who was then 6, overheard the

discussions of the planned fishing trip. She asked her mother (our daughter) if she could go with her older cousin to catch some of those salmon. Her Mom told her, “those are big fish and Victoria is 10 years old – but, maybe Papa will take you fishing when you're 10.” Without missing a beat, Alexis responded, “when I'm 10, Papa will be *too old!*”

(Just for the record... Alexis is about to turn 10, and doesn't think Papa is too old to take her fishing this summer!)



“Papa” Bob Eddy with granddaughter Victoria.

“Missing” Classmates

We are still missing contact information for a few of our classmates (see below). If you have current information, or any suggestions regarding how we might find these folks, please contact us at:

mhs59@comcast.net

Ruth Linna	Allen
Harold	Baird
Violet	Clemens
Jon	Collver
Walt	Gainer
Ron	Galusha
Linda	Haack
Janet	Hammel
Judith Annette	Herbison Humphrey
Harold Richard	Holmes
Biddy	Hopper
Marcia Milrae	Houston Szent-Gyorgyi
Edwin A	Langworthy
Rosalea	Lyons
Raymond L	McElmurry
Carol	McQuigg Davis
Bobby	Melton
Kent	Morris
Janet Marie	Ott Mohammed Awad
Bill	Rider
Hazel	Speights
Ronald Paul	Stoehr
Janet Marie	Taylor
Carolyn Lee	Taylor
Ed	Waggoner
Harry	Williams

A note from the eMa-Hi Times staff

First of all, thanks to those who provided materials for this issue. We'd like to encourage you to again look over the list below of various topics we'd like to present in following issues. Don't be shy (even if you were in the '50's!). You can send your information to our class email address: mhs59@comcast.net.

- Reminiscing – articles about “the good old days” – maybe contrasting today's life – how different or how much the same.
- Suggestions regarding ideas for the upcoming reunion: dates, plans, activities, etc.
- Those things that grandkids “say and do.”
- “Best day of my life” – so far.
- Recommended places to vacation/visit, based on personal experience.
- The first thing I think of when I remember a particular classmate.
- Recognition of life's changes: deaths, births, retirements, moves, etc.
- Letters to the Editor
- What I learned at Marshfield that influenced my life.
- Which MHS teacher influenced my life and why.

Hope to hear from you soon!