



A Special Newsletter by and for the
Kirksville High School Class of 1957

KHS '57!

Special Issue

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Editor's Note: On Wednesday, April 15, I sent a note to all class members with email addresses, inviting them to write a note about their recent experiences with the general COVID-19 disruption of their lives. The following are the responses received by noon on April 16. The invitation still stands: If you have something to share with your classmates, send it to twmittler@crimdellgroup.com. (My usual email address is still good, but the ISP I use for that is terrible about sending out group messages.)

Jefferson City, MO – Shops are dark; grocery shelves are empty. These past weeks were like no other in our lifetime. Kids finishing up the school year by I-pad. Parents are working from home. On my daily walk I am meeting and greeting "neighbors" I have never seen before. In Missouri, almost every 4th grade class makes a trip to Jefferson City to visit the capitol, touring the wonderful museum and learning about Thomas Hart Benton. the capitol doors are locked tight to visitors. There is a bright side however. Some children and their parents organized a "bear hunt". Thru the media, families were invited and yes, encouraged, to put a stuffed animal window then drive around town seeing how many animals they can find. And children have gotten very creative doing chalk art on their front walk. Holy Week was celebrated on the computer. One church photo copied parishioners' photographs from the church's directory and then taped to the empty pews! Yes, we are all in this together; It will pass but never forgotten. – *Sonya Smith Hollingsworth*

Pascagoula, MS – Being right here on the Gulf Coast, the weather is warm, in the mid 70s, and all is going as expected. Home is being home continuously, and locally we've been doing OK with the virus. Our problem seems to be that we are on the corridor between Texas and Florida, and that traffic is constant and full. Along with it, there are true hot spots of viral contamination, so travel is out of the question.

Golf has not been joined for three weeks now, but I am truly beginning to feel a strong pull from the course. Maybe another week -: Still playing the Trumpet whenever possible, but am getting more into photography. It doesn't take as much wind. – *Earl Turner*

Holmen, WI – Judy and I have pretty much gone into hibernation, since I am a prime candidate to catch the virus, with my COPD and heart problems. Judy orders online from our favorite store and Walmart for groceries and they put them in the car with very little contact. And being married 58 years, she won't come within 6 feet of me now anyway, so, we're safe there. Lol. This time of seclusion has really not been a challenge for us. We FaceTime with family often. This is the toughest for us, not being able to hug our two little great granddaughters. But, the Lord has taken care of us very well, and we trust in Him to do so in the future. We pray for all of you to get through this time. Let's hear from all of you like Ted mentioned. Stay safe and Lord Bless. – *Doug&Judy Conyers*

Claremore, OK – Oklahoma is considering going back to work around the 30th. Fred and I are doing ok, but have stayed on the ranch for the past month. Our daughters have kept us in supplies. Social distancing is practiced and no public gatherings. America will bounce back with lots of time and by the grace of God. – *Patty Curtis Northrop*

Brookings, SD – Doing OK here now. We are awaiting the impact upon our community as we have SDSU university here. We are 50 miles north of Sioux Falls where cases of COVID-19 virus are showing up. I did make it to the KHS class reunion and had a good time there. Hope All goes well. – *Carl Rose*

Columbia, MO – My most exciting event this week has been a visit to the grocery store. My most pleasurable hours have been long-distant calls with old friends. My least pleasant task has been tracking down a missing cost basis for my tax accountant. My biggest setback turned into my biggest triumph: Virus-induced printing problems prompted Harlequin Worldwide Mystery to delay publication of the mass market paperback edition of *Show Me the Sinister Snowman* (the fifth and last book in my mystery series) from May until January; the editor agreed to correct four errors in the back cover copy.

Cancer slowed me down and kept me home most of last year. I wrote a book based on an idea that emerged when medication banished sleep. The writing and plotting reeked, but continuing to work kept me on an even keel. Now that I've recovered from the cancer and the chemo, I'm editing the manuscript to see if this book can be saved.

If you'd like to read the first chapters of my seven published novels and learn my views on Jane Austen, the New Madrid earthquakes, and writing, visit my neglected website (with blogs) at <http://carolynmulford.com>.

– Carolyn Mulford

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Salt Lake City, UT – Greetings from Utah. Carol and I are just pretty much staying in, except for daily walks around the neighborhood. We did go grocery shopping at three places yesterday and were happy with the compliance with CDC recommendations by both the stores and customers. We wore both masks and disposable gloves. The situation in Utah is essentially the same as all other states, although there is not any stay at home order from the Governor, but a 'directive', which evidently doesn't have the power of anything other than a suggestion. Our major problem with Corona virus infections here was in and around Park City, Utah with all the skiers from everywhere.

Our daily life isn't really changed too much. However, we spend more time reading, trying to do hard Sudoku puzzles, and minor tasks around the house. Also, my daily nap schedule is certainly enhanced - both in number and duration. I am, as usual, feeding all the "livestock", by which I mean, deer, ermine/weasel, birds, skunks, and the occasional raccoon (detestable

creatures that they are. . .). We are ready to see our spring birds returning any day now. I expect the first Hummingbird within a couple of days.

My reading has gone from trashy escapism novels from the now closed libraries to books here at home which have literary value. I just finished James Fenimore Cooper's books, *The Deerslayer*, and *The Last of the Mohicans*. If anyone suffers from insomnia, may I recommend the *Deerslayer*. OMG, it is a very heavy slog. Now I am in the middle of *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Dumas - an enjoyable read. I am considering rereading *Tale of Two Cities*, although the original reading in high school continues to bring back bad memories. HA

Anyhow, we are doing very well. Hope all is well with you and yours. Stay home and stay safe. This, too, shall pass. . . – Gene Linder

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Payson, AZ – Texting seems the only way of communicating these days, which keeps everything pretty abbreviated. Now that we all have time on our hands maybe we can learn a little more about many. My husband is within three weeks of his 87th birthday so he has grounded himself as he is in the age of least survivors. He is a adamant reader and we are both connected to the greater library of Phoenix on our tablets so we have an abundance of material. I still run the senior fitness program for Payson so we have been closed now for 3 weeks. Our town has had 3 cases of the virus and have finished two full weeks with no new ones! Spring is in full bloom and it is beautiful in our Arizona Mountains. I lounge on my deck, under the river birch, every afternoon and realize the shelter in place "order" isn't all that bad. Hope everyone else is staying safe. – Linda Read Rickard

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Plano, TX – All's well as of today in the Plano, Tx area. We're enjoying the sunshine and trying not to plunge into the gloom and doom that's happening from nature and mankind. I can't help but be reminded each time I see a graph where the last line is 80- that we're being placed at the edge of the cliff. I use to be offended by 35 and over, but I long ago accepted the inevitable. Here's hoping all are safe from the virus and we all can enjoy our family and friends once more. – Dan and Barbara Figert

Sarasota, FL – So sorry that our class members number has decreased by half and how looking back we realize how short our stay here really is. Nada and I are hunkered down in our Villa here at Stoneybrook in Sarasota, Fl. obeying the authorities and staying close to home. Everything is shut down and all events for Spring have been cancelled.

At Stoneybrook, golf, tennis, the pool, workout center, and club house are closed. People are permitted to walk the beautiful golf course and we can ride bikes on the cart paths. My hair is getting so long I will soon have to braid. Guess having hair is a blessing at this age,

We have cancelled all travel reservations through May, but will drive to Hot Spring Village AR.. to our summer lake home Memorial Day. There have been no signs of the virus in our families so that is a Praise. My oldest grand daughter Taylor Willman, Dana's daughter, has been accepted into Dental school at Kirksville.

I have nine grand children and they range from 8 to 23 in age. Tiffany lives in Kingston Ma. and has three teenagers at home. Mark lives in Manhattan Ks and has three beautiful girls. Tatum, Talia, and Taizley. Dana lives in Goldsboro NC, and has one out of college, one a Senior in College and a son will be a Senior in High school. How time flies.

Always pleasure to hear from and about our class members. God bless and keep us . Hello to all.

– Dale Tindall

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Yarrow, MO – The only two class members I really visit with regularly any more are Ted and Jeanne, most others that were very close to me have passed.

I see posts from others as well, and am friends with most that frequent Facebook, where I constantly upset the modern world with my conservative rants.

Well, since I've been pretty much homebound for a couple of years now, this "social distancing" only meant I got company for a change; my wife Marsha (not retired) is working from home! – Jon Cook

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Odessa, MO – Starting in mid February, I developed upper respiratory infection and later bronchitis with low grade fever, weakness and a horrible loose cough that lasted until just about a week ago. If the cough had been a dry cough, I would have thought MAYBE it was coronavirus. Probably not. I am GREAT NOW and

hopefully will stay that way.

My son-in-law does all the shopping for me and his family. Daniel and Becky are both in the Odessa school system. Becky is a 5th grade teacher and staying in touch with her 24 students. Daniel is Principal of K-2 building and hands out packets to parents once a week.

I am staying busy reading, talking to friends on the phone, watching television, watching movies ON DEMAND and NETFLIX, playing bridge online and games on my phone. Grannies in my neighborhood -- no more than 6 or 7-- have gotten together in my driveway several times bringing their own chairs, coffee and staying 6 feet apart. As far as I know, there are no cases of corona 19 in Odessa but there are in the county.

Looking forward to warmer temps so I can sit out on my deck or go over to Becky's and sit on their deck. Of course, I had planned to go to Kirksville this spring but that hasn't happened. Don't know when I will get there . . hoping by July 4. I am hopeful that things will be a lot better soon even if it is not the way we lived before. For now, Church will be online and Bible Study on ZOOM. Hope everyone had a nice Easter and staying well. – Jeanne Truitt Coy

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Corpus Cristi, TX – Mel and I are isolating ourselves in Corpus Christi. We miss going to Church but enjoy our garden and watching the birds..We are lucky to live on a golf course so we enjoy the open spaces. Corpus has 83 cases and one death yesterday. We have had some warm weather don't know if that will help or not, hope so.

Our family is well. We have a daughter in Corpus who does groceries etc. Only our youngest son is working with Exxon in west Texas (petroleum engineer) We do have a granddaughter in Brooklyn and a grandson in Houston we worry about, they are both working from home. Looking forward to hearing from everyone.

– Ann Steele Eliades

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Davenport, IA – Good to hear from someone I know/remember!

I'm healthy and well except for the usual complaints associated with 80 years of age. My wife of 59+ years (Janice Farmer of Atlanta, MO) and I are remaining close to home due to "Virus".

We remain living in our home of the last 20 years. Enjoy hearing from classmates and their activities.

Go Tigers! – LaVern Peterson