



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

# KHS '57!

Special Issue

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**Columbia, MD** – The COVID-19 virus seems to be peaking in our area just now but so far Joan, Rachel and I are well and well-fed. Joan has taken over the grocery shopping and restaurant pick-ups. Marylanders are supposed to stay home except for necessities and mask-wearing in public has become mandatory. Almost everything here is closed for the duration. I managed to get a haircut just before the general shutdown--otherwise I'd be looking like a balding mountain man about now.

Joan and I haven't been forced to change our routines all that much. She typically does her work from home on the computer and I spend most of my time in the house reading, etc. or maintaining the yard. Daughter Rachel lives with us and is now teaching her high school math classes from home via computer hookup. The Howard County schools will probably stay closed for the rest of the academic year.

Historical comparisons are never exact but all this somehow reminds me of the pre-vaccine polio scares of long ago, something none of us will ever forget. We'll get through this and we should be grateful that we're in a better position to deal with the pandemic than many are. Great to hear from everyone and best of luck.

– *Dean Linder*

**Foristell, MO** – I live in a large house on 8 acres of mostly wooded land. We have dogs, cats and 12 chickens and a rooster that give us eggs which I sell now and then.

I spend my time crocheting, reading, learning stuff on the internet. My kids and grand kids and in-laws all have essential jobs where they work some pretty long hours. They are all well, no COVID, but tired most of the time.

I'm not allowed off the property nor is anyone allowed here but family, so I'm getting a bit of cabin

fever. I do have a few friends who call or email once a week or so, so I do get information and fellowship. All in all it hasn't been that difficult to "stay at home". Hope you and yours are well.

– *Judi King Wessler*

**Summerfield, FL** – It was wonderful hearing from everyone.

We live in a Del Webb community in Summerfield, Fl. We only venture out to the grocery store and of course, the pharmacy. A lot of our community activities are closed, however, our golf course is privately owned and we are able to play golf with strict guidelines. Only one per person per golf cart, no taking out the flagstick and all the rakes have been removed from the sandtraps which is ok by me. I am playing 2 days a week.

We have an addition to our family; a 2 year old Shih-Tzu named Baxter. He keeps us on our toes and gets us out walking 4 times a day.

Fortunately we remain in good health. God is good and he will get us through these challenging times.

– *Sondra McCuskey Hocker*

**Palmdale, CA** – There is little news since all of us are experiencing the same life coping with covid-19. Like everyone else, my children, grandchildren and I are following the CA mandate religiously, and again, like others, communicating by phone, text and email.

I live some 45 miles north of my family members, all of whom are closer to Los Angeles proper. My immediate area of some 170 thousand has only 151 cases of the virus as of earlier this week.

Of course, I miss being with my family, but when one sees cars lined up as far as the eye can see heading

toward a food bank, the "inconvenience" of staying home pales by comparison. I was glad to learn that none of the respondents to the Newsletter have been touched by the virus. We're all blessed by that reality. If we have food to eat, a roof over our heads and our families are well, we are indeed blessed! I heard a quote from an African-American minister who said, "The Bible doesn't say, 'it came to stay', it says, 'it came to pass.'" This, too, shall pass!! Take care of yourselves, and stay well!!!!

– *Marline Elam Hunt*

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**Lanexa, KS** – Greetings to the classmates of the best ever 1957. Words can't express what is happening now:

Being confined to the house is really getting old!! But it's for our benefit; being the big 80 we gotta stay strong. Then when we do leave the house having to wear a mask makes me feel like a robber!!

Hope you and yours are doing well. The weather here is cloudy with a rain coming in, Snow on the Missouri Iowa border, and it's April!! We all have lived through snowstorms. Wasn't it 1973 when we had almost 2 feet of snow, no electricity, and all the good stuff? Never fear, we shall survive this too. Best of health to all, stay safe, and be sure to wash your hands again and again.

The best to all, never give up, just keep smiling.

– *Joann Mihalovich Eagen*

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**Tucson (Saddlebrooke Community), AZ** – April 16: Just before noon, Mountain Standard time, I got this wonderful email from good old friends from the great class of '57. What a pleasure...anytime, but especially now.

It sounds like we are all hunkered down and doing fine and doing pretty much the same things. We are doing fine also, ordering from Amazon and Walmart Pickup so we don't need to leave home at all. We even have plenty of TP. Lucky us HA!

Every thing here is shut down, like at Dale's place, except for golf, so I still have that pleasure twice a week which gets me out for some exercise and socialization.

I miss my weekly Bridge game with friends and the monthly book club. Jerry keeps up his walking every day

with a neighbor so that gets him out for awhile.

Other than that it's Netflix and Amazon Prime bingeing, reading, facetimeing with family. I have cleaned out a few drawers, a few of this and a few of that but why rush into anything with this social distancing going on. One thing we are disappointed about is that our 60th wedding anniversary in May will be pretty quiet and boring.

All in all we have no complaints and know that this will be over at some point. Meanwhile we hope all of you stay safe and healthy. God Bless.

– *Phyllis Conley Cadden*

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**Yarrow, MO** – (Part 2) Well, since my malfunctioning piece of Apple equipment known as outdated 6S cut me short on the first edition of response I'll take up where I left off.

We still live in Kirksville, and still live at our beloved Spring Lake house (44 years now). I have 2 of my 4 offspring still in Kirksville: my oldest, Tina and my youngest Jon W., who is now Chief of the Kirksville Fire Dept, a firefighter-paramedic.

Dan, my oldest son is in the St Petersburg Florida area, and my youngest daughter Dianna, is a DO living in far NW Montana, one of 3 docs in a rural clinic attached to the Kalispell Hospital.

Only my 2 youngest presented us with grandkids, and have 11 between them. Dianna has Hannah, Joe, Brandon and Madison plus step children Hunter, Maya and Cole. Jon and wife Francesca have Lily plus Frans daughters Megan, Allison and Gracelyn by a previous.

My health has failed, diagnosed with COPD over 20 years ago, but thanks to modern medicines I keep waking up each day, able to smile with my family. We've all suffered from not being able to spend time together during this damned virus outbreak.

Looking forward to our annual visit to Montana to visit our youngest and family, Dianna in far NW Montana... about 6 miles from the Canadian Border. A beautiful valley surrounded by mountains

Oh, eat your hearts out guys... I have become personal friends with Tom and Nancy Oar, stars of History Channels "Mountain Men" TV series. My daughter and hubby have a private remote cabin (also

used as firefighters cabin during forest fires in the area) on the Yak river just about 3 or 4 miles downstream from Tom/Nancy's house. I got acquainted with them about 5 or 6 years ago when he had a friend in the hospital where my daughter works. They are just exactly as they appear on the show.

A History channel team shows up at their house in about November, and follows Tom/Nancy around all winter doing "their thing", then leaves in the spring. The footage they shoot is pieced together to make the show that appears the next late summer/early fall along with the other Mountain Men stars; a separate team follows each individual who stars in the series.

Here's to us survivors: long may we enjoy life!

— Jon Cook

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**Kirkville, MO** – This morning, April 17, 2020, I woke up to 4 inches of wet snow. A beautiful sight but hard to believe.

Two years ago my daughter Alicia and her husband Dave moved to Green City. Dave was needed to help with the farms. Alicia works for the Kirkville Public Schools. She oversees the Parents as Teachers program.

Jason, my son, lives in Troy, Mo. He has two stores in St. Louis called U Break I Fix. Both stores are still open, people need their cell phones and computers working. I am so lucky to have both of them so close.

It is difficult to believe how life has changed this year. My health is good and I am doing everything I am told to do. Hope all of you are doing the same. Please stay safe and well.

— Dorothy Troester

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**O'Fallon, IL** – Hi '57 classmates!

To begin, I'd like to thank Ted for getting us energized to reconnect during this, the year of Covid 19.

As I read through the first wave of submissions, I couldn't help but be mesmerized at the focus of virtually all of them--The Covid 19 pandemic. To be sure, it is a plague on humanity and particularly those with vulnerabilities-i.e. us.

On the other hand, there have been positive side effects to SIP (Shelter-in place) and other contrary behaviors imposed on us. Families are eating meals together. Couples are taking walks side-by-side, many holding hands like it was 1957 again. Our hyper-busy

lives have slowed down to where we can appreciate simple pleasures—a spring shower, a soda with our best friend even if six feet apart, going for a drive in the country with no purpose but to enjoy the drive and the one with you—just like it was 1957.

We now have time to ponder the past eighty years versus the situation we currently find ourselves in. If you look hard enough, you can find a lighter side to this situation. For example, in the past few months I have dealt with toilet paper rationing, but thanks to Lysol, my hands have never been cleaner. I received an advertisement to sign up for a Caribbean cruise for five hundred dollars, paid to me upon arrival and survival, neither of which were guaranteed. I find that stores are all closed, except those that are open. The Governor dictated that I cannot leave my house for any reason, unless I have to, and then I can. He further confused me by saying everyone needs to stay home, but it's important to go out. All of this Shelter-in-place stuff is definitely unfair to anyone just finishing their house arrest sentence. Speaking of arrests, bank robbers are having a field day. For the first time in history, they can walk into a bank wearing a mask and no one says a word. Unless of course it's a Lone Ranger mask, in which case they are laughed out of the bank.

My neighbor refuses to shake hands with anyone in town. I asked if that is because of Covid 19 virus? He said, "No, it's because there isn't a store in town with any toilet paper." The news media shows us esteemed doctors who agree gloves will not prevent catching the virus, but they can still help. So, I'm wondering, do they help prevent or catch? In any event, have you ever tried to get your car keys out of your pocket with gloves on? Don't do it in public. People think you're a pervert.

Some self-proclaimed seers proclaim that all this was brought about by evil spirits. Others cite China or bats or people eating bats or batty people. My personal belief is that the best way to appease the Pandemic Gods would be to abolish most governments and especially those maniacs elected or appointed to govern us.

Perhaps one day, we shall look back on these early months of 2020 philosophically and write stories to benefit future generations. For my part, when and if we are ever released from jail, I'm seriously considering "Reverse Quarantine." That's where I leave the house and don't come back for two months.

Good health to the "Class of '57" and your families.

— John Moore