

Blue and Gold

Special 50th Reunion Edition

Luther High School North

September 14, 2019

GONE O LUTHER

By Kathie Korn

On September 3, a new school year began at the Chicago high school at 5700 W. Berteau. There were 435 anxious new students. They were all new to the building, because it had become the new campus of Rickover Academy, a Chicago public school. The familiar school building, which opened in 1953, was no longer Luther North.

In June, 2017, Luther North College Prep, formerly known as Luther High School North, administered its last exams and hosted its last commencement. To varying degrees this development prompted nostalgia and sadness for LHN alums, including the Class of '69.

The building at 5700 W. Berteau then sat vacant for the next two school years.

But on October 24, 2018, the Chicago Board of Education authorized the purchase of the property from New Life Properties for \$10,735,000. The contract also included \$65,000 to cover the cost of relocating religious artifacts (more about those on p. 10) and other property. CPS would use the former LHN campus for the Hyman G. Rickover Naval Academy, a highly regarded school then housed within Senn High School.

Rickover's website announced this development enthusiastically:

"The school has wonderful facilities which include newly renovated science labs, a beautiful band room, a black box theater, two huge gymnasiums and plans for a maker space. The campus also boasts a quarter-mile, 6 lane track, a regulation football/soccer field and plenty of parking."

Rickover began making plans to relocate to its own campus for the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

Before the school year would begin, CPS undertook extensive rehabilitation of the building, at an additional projected cost of \$22 million. The work includes a new roof, new security system, and asbestos abatement. In late August, a visit to the site showed that the project was far from complete, but Brad Sargus, one of the construction managers, explained that a very limited portion of the school, on the second floor, could be used by students when school opened. The construction took longer than anticipated because there was far more asbestos than expected.

Rickover had invited the community to an informational meeting in April, where we learned several interesting facts. We met in the cafeteria, passing by the familiar food service line on our way in.

Rickover offers a college prep curriculum to selected students city-wide. It weighs most heavily the student's desire to join the program, as expressed in an application essay. Its target enrollment now that it has a building of its own, is 750.

Until this year, Rickover operated as a school within a school at Senn High School. It has an excellent rate of admissions of its graduates to college. It does not encourage its students to enlist in the military directly after graduation, and its rate of graduates entering the military is lower than other CPS high schools. The military structure of the program is intended to foster leadership skills in its cadets, who wear uniforms to class and have dress uniforms for special occasions. In the current issue of Chicago magazine, Rickover ranks 37th among Chicago's public high schools.

Rickover students are subject to a system of merits and demerits. For example, those with sufficient points will be permitted to leave the premises at lunch time. At the community meeting, where a neighbor seemed concerned about this, the principal explained that they



need to excuse some students from lunch in the cafeteria, because the fire code limits occupancy there to 190 (!). (Either the limit has been reduced--or inspectors looked the other way when we were students.)

Rickover's offering of sports teams does not include football. Rickover cadets sustained too many injuries when matched up against powerhouse schools like Lane Tech. They will instead use the field and stands for lacrosse and soccer. Rickover also competes in IHSA swimming and recently sent at least one student to the State championship meet. Of course there is no pool in their new home, but they have made arrangements for the team to practice at Foreman, which has a pool and low enrollment, and is nearby at Belmont and Laverne.



Rickover's mascot is the Sea Dragons, named for an early nuclear submarine. Admiral Rickover was known as "the father of the nuclear navy" and he was also a mentor to Jimmy Carter. This mascot is unique in Illinois, and quite possibly in the country. In contrast, in a 2012 report there were a total of 32 Illinois high schools whose mascot was "Wildcats," making it the second most popular choice after "Eagles."

Rickover's school colors are the same as ours, although they embellish their names as "Navy Blue and Vegas Gold," according to an IHSA listing.

They enjoy support from businesses and other Friends of Rickover, who fund extracurricular activities, including an annual dance for the cadets at the Chicago Yacht Club.

Linda Lunt, a Luther North Board member, is hoping to arrange an all class reunion to be held at Rickover in the spring of 2020, so that we can all see the building after its makeover.

Luther North's declining enrollment required it to close, but the possibility exists that the Board will someday have the resources to open another Lutheran high school in Chicago. For now, it's good news that a high school will live on and that a remarkable institution has revitalized our old home. ■



Our New Look

When we did layout for the original Blue and Gold, we used scissors and tape, and the typeface was whatever the print shop provided. Today's special edition is set in the Visage family of fonts, designed by our classmate, Garrett Boge, who is a celebrated lettering artist and designer. Garrett has worked as a calligrapher for Hallmark, as a consultant to Microsoft, and as director of typography for ElseWare Corporation. Between 1996 and 2001 he spent a large part of each year in residence in Rome, part of that time as a visiting artist at the American Academy, where he researched Roman inscriptions and created a number of display fonts based on them. He is credited with over sixty original type designs. He retired in 2008. His collected papers are in the collection of the Newberry Library. We are honored that he contributed his distinctive fonts for our use here. ■

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LUTHER NORTH'S HISTORY

(Some of Which You Probably Didn't Know)

By Kathie Korn



This is a postcard depicting Luther Institute, which stood at 120 N. Wood St, near the old Chicago Stadium, until the City took it for an urban renewal project. According to the history page of the Luther North website, the City also assisted in finding replacement properties. But we will get to that.

In an issue of *The Lutheran Witness* from 1915, there is a description of the cornerstone laying service for Luther Institute, where one pastor addressed the assembled crowd in German and a second spoke in English. Both addressed the need for Lutheran education, because, especially in the high school . . . years, “they imbibe the idea that science contradicts the Bible.” Most of its students were preparing for business careers in the Commercial Department.

Luther Institute in Chicago was one of the first Lutheran high schools. Milwaukee’s was the first. Unlike Lutheran primary schools operated by individual congregations, a high school required more support, and its older students could be expected to travel longer distances from their homes. The concept of a group of congregations pooling their resources to provide an education beyond elementary school was unique and exciting.

By the 1940s, the school was overcrowded. One graduate recalls that it did not have enough lockers, and freshmen were assigned spaces on desks and tables to keep their coats and books. Whether because more space was needed or because of urban renewal, it was decided to close Luther Institute and open three geographically separate high schools, Luther North on

the northwest side, Luther South near 87th and Kedzie, and Walther Lutheran in Melrose Park. Of the three, only Walther remains open. Luther South closed in 2014, and the property, in poor condition, is still for sale. Luther North has been reincarnated as a naval military high school. See page 1.

But we are only interested in Luther North. The school’s website suggests that the City of Chicago assisted in finding locations for the schools which spun off from Luther Institute. I have not found precise information on how it was determined to build a new high school at 5700 W. Berneau. (I doubt that it was an attraction to the street name; F.G. Berneau was a prominent French Socialist.)

How was it that there was sufficient land on the northwest side in the early ‘50s to build a modern high school with surrounding athletic fields? There is “bungalow belt” housing both east and west of the site that appears to have been built in the 1920’s or even earlier. Portage Park had been established in 1915 and had attracted settlement in its vicinity.

According to WBEZ the eventual site of LHN had once been a semi-pro baseball stadium—“Rock-Ola Stadium”—which was named for an enterprise that built juke-boxes. The team which made its home there was a women’s team, the Music Maids, part of the National Girls’ Baseball League. This league was a rival of the All-American Girls’ Baseball League, dramatized in the movie *A League of Their Own*. The two leagues could not play each other because their rules differed. Only one permitted overhand pitching. Geoffrey Baer did a segment about the NGBL, which is available



online. I have watched it repeatedly but have not been able to pick out a photo of Rock-Ola stadium. The NGBL folded in 1954' it is unknown whether the loss of Rock-Ola Stadium contributed to its demise.

A little aside about Rock-Ola. It is logical to think that the name was a mashup of Rock 'n Roll and Victrola, but it was actually the surname, without the hyphen, of the company's founder, David Rockola. He founded the company long before the rise of rock 'n roll. It was fortuitous that he chose a business that fit his name so well.

I have found a few more bits of evidence of the former stadium on the LHN site. There is this construction picture on Luther North's website:



Could that be stadium seating in the center of the frame?

There is NGPBL memorabilia for sale on eBay, including references to "4200 N. Central" as the Rock-Ola Stadium's address. I resisted the temptation to buy a copy of the League's official magazine from 1950. Its cover price is 10 cents, but it is listed at \$2,999.99 (Buy It Now).

I wish we had known about the former use of the LHN property when we were students there. It would have been interesting to learn about the Music Maids. They won the league championship in 1946. The keen investigative reporters of the real *Blue & Gold* might have tracked down and interviewed some of the players.

I learned another fascinating fact about the area while researching this article. Long before Luther North gained its site at 5700 Berteau, there had been an earlier Lutheran institution of higher learning quite nearby. In 1893, Swedish Lutherans purchased an 80-acre tract of land on the south side of Irving Park,

between Central and Austin, and created a subdivision called "Martin Luther College Subdivision." They planned for a college, a church, and lots for homes. They built Martin Luther College on the southwest corner of Irving Park and Menard, where there is a parking lot today. The college never took off, which some attribute to its remote location at the time. But its founders relocated their assets to Rock Island, Illinois, where they established Augustana College.

Luther North was built to educate 1000 students. But in the late '60s we had more than that. Remember the construction of the new gym? We probably needed that because Illinois was the first State in the nation to mandate daily physical education. Undoubtedly that project created significant debt.

Enrollment increased even further, hitting a peak of 1400, when North Park Academy closed shortly after we graduated.

By 2010, however, the *Chicago Tribune* referred to LHN as a "debt-laden institution" and described a process in which several organizations had bid to save the school by paying off the debt and gaining partial use of the property and eventual ownership. The Article is written just before the Association reached an agreement with non-denominational New Life Church. At the time of the article, enrollment had dwindled to about 250, so it was feasible to share space.

The New Life space-sharing deal allowed LHN to remain open for seven more years. A name change to Luther North College Prep was doubtless intended to attract additional students. But the low enrollment never bounced back to a sustainable number, and by 2017, closing was the only alternative.

Over their history, Luther Institute and Luther North have produced more than 10,000 graduates. Events like this Reunion and a possible upcoming all class reunion will assist in preserving our sense of community.

That urban renewal project that befell Luther Institute? Today there is a non-descript apartment building at 120 N. Wood St., and the neighborhood, if it was ever blighted, appears to be gentrifying. Within a few blocks there are at least three craft breweries (Finch, Great Central, and Forbidden Root), and the area is becoming known as the Chicago Brewing District. Somehow I think some of those German-Americans who watched the cornerstone laying for Luther Institute might approve. ■

IT WAS GREAT, IT WAS FINE

By Tom Golz

It dawned cool and cloudy, a fairly typical late summer day in Chicago. Lifeguards at Foster Beach would be absent that morning, marking it as the first day after the Labor Day Weekend. Schools across Chicago would be opening their doors today to start a new year. It was Tuesday, September 7, 1965.

Drive-time newscasters voiced worries that Florida would get hit hard by Hurricane Betsy, now approaching land with undiminished force. Down in Houston, Texas, astronauts Gordon Cooper and Charles Conrad were in an isolation unit, getting a debriefing after spending a record eight days in space inside the Gemini 5 capsule.



1965

On the other side of the world that morning, 12 USAF B-52 bombers were dropping a half-million tons of explosives into a jungle stronghold of the Viet Cong forces. It was an escalation of our engagement in the war in Viet Nam, and a harbinger of things to come, though we didn't know it.

Those of us about to travel to 5700 W. Berteau Avenue that morning had other things on our minds. In a short while, we would take our first leap into a virtual boiling pot of 1,000-plus other adolescents, known collectively as Luther High School North, Chicago. We were to mix and simmer together for four years, each of us to become an ingredient in a particular stew called the Class of 1969.

We soon would learn our class boast, "We are great, we are fine, we're the Class of '69!" Maybe we had good reason to consider that greatness was ahead for us. After all, we were born into an era of unprecedented American prosperity and power. Our generation was brought up to believe that it should shoot for the moon—and that we very well might get there

This optimism was a gift from another generation that had just been through dark times of world war and economic depression. It had lasted through those times to experience the dawn of a new American era, promising a bright future for its post-war babies. That generation—our moms and dads—also built us a sprawling, modern high school, situated on full city

blocks of land, far removed from Chicago's crumbling inner city.

LHN, as it was called for short, was meant to be a launching pad for many of us to become the first generation in our families to go to college. It opened its doors in 1953, with a capacity to accommodate 1,000 students—a landmark for a Lutheran high school. The first wave of Baby Boomers hit Luther as Freshmen in 1960. In our own Freshman year of 1965, enrollment surpassed planned capacity by a few hundred students. We were pushing the envelope.

In fact, we were a class of envelope pushers. We pushed up against the student dress code, our boys with long hair and our girls with short skirts. We pushed the bounds of behavior, spawning a loose group of rowdies dubbed, "The Sophomore Mafia." Even the Blue & Gold pushed the boundaries of student speech, bringing down the wrath of Principal Duensing and the school board for publishing an editorial saying that our chapel services were "boring."

Of course, most of our days were consumed by the simpler pleasures of classes and cafeteria conversations. As a class, then, we may share such common memories as:

- The sound of hundreds of locker doors banging shut between classes;
- The indescribable flavor of Mrs. Halvorsen's meat loaf;
- The strict fashion rules for Greasers and Doopers;
- The electric energy of the crowd at Wildcat basketball games;
- The excitement of an opening night of a play;
- Watching the ceaseless snow threaten to bury us on the day of the Great Blizzard of '67;
- The misery of staying awake in class on a hot day without air conditioning;
- The smell of formaldehyde from pickled fetal pigs in biology class; and
- The sweet refuge of the free territory of the Senior Union.

But, it's hard to talk about the character of our class without referencing the incredible times we lived through. During the years of 1965-69 the politics of our nation were in a constant turmoil that seemed to parallel our teenage angst. (*Continued on page 6*)

Consider that, in the year 1968 alone, our country witnessed the assassinations of King and Kennedy, massive urban riots (including one in Chicago), President Johnson stepping out of the election race, violence in the streets at the Chicago Democratic Convention, and the upset election of Richard Nixon as a law-and-order candidate. All occurred against the backdrop of the increasingly unpopular War in Viet Nam, a looming presence for us males required to register for the draft when we turned 18.

Popular culture during our time at LHN went through a tandem revolution. Perhaps more than any other medium, rock music reflected these changes. On one wavelength or another, Top 40 stations had been providing sonic anthems and pimple cream ads to teens since the 1950's. In our time, we turned to WLS and WCFL. In our Freshman year, sock hop favorites like "Gloria" by Mount Prospect's Shadows of Knight, and "I Think We're Alone Now," played by Tommy James and the Shondells in our gym, predominated the airwaves. All normal teenage drama stuff.

But pop music changed when the Beatles, at the forefront, demanded to be taken seriously as musicians and thinkers. Over the course of four years they went from simple love songs like "Help!" to the trance-like "Strawberry Fields Forever" to the flower-powered "All You Need Is Love" to the politically charged "Revolution". Meanwhile, the Hippies in San Francisco, the anti-war protesters on college campuses, the Black Panthers in inner cities, and even the clean-cut Smothers Brothers on TV, were taking on the evils of "The Establishment." The media called this disconnect between us youth and our elders, "The Generation Gap." Even the Monkees told us on TV, "We're the young generation / And we've got something to say." It was as if we had been given carte blanche to question all the traditional values of LHN. Did any generation have it better? But, don't scan through our "LOG" yearbooks from those years for evidence of this rebellious spirit.

From the LOGs we've kept, LHN appears to be an island of mainstream American normalcy—homecoming parades, game days, musicals, choir tours, chess clubs, and dances in the cafeteria. In some ways, the Class of '69 looks like all of the LHN Senior classes that came before us. And in many ways, it was, for better and worse.

The "better" part may be amply on display in our yearbooks, but the "worse" part was deliberately left out, as if some of our classmates weren't there. I'm not talking about stories of those who avoided the spotlight

for one reason or another. I'm referring to our many LGBTQ classmates who were officially ignored and verbally abused if they even hinted that they may not be straight.

I'm also remembering that I was in two plays that featured actors in blackface(!), and that our 1968 straw poll election was won by segregationist candidate George Wallace. This, in spite of the fact that we had a handful of African-American students at LHN, including two sports stars in our class.

My point here is not to make anyone feel guilty. Rather, it is to remind us how things were, and that we missed important voices that were and are essential to telling the story of the Class of '69. And that brings me to an admission that I can't tell the story of our class—no one can.

I tried demographics, common experiences, historical context, and personal observation, all to no avail. That's because there are approximately 250 different versions of the story of the Class of '69. No two are the same, but all are true. We must, in the end, lean on each other to understand the meaning of our lives together as the Class of '69.

Still, I can unequivocally state that the Class of '69 was both great and fine. I can't tell you why, only that for me it's true. Perhaps it's because, since I graduated from LHN 50 years ago, I have never felt the same sense of community that I did with all of you. And when I look through those yearbooks, I'm convinced that every single one of us was an indispensable ingredient that gave us our unique flavor.

So, I have a recommendation. At our 50th Reunion, let's think back to when we started at LHN, to September 7, 1965. Let's imagine that we are, this time around, like those astronauts Conrad and Cooper, just returned from space. It is, in our case, that vast space of 50 years between leaving the orbit of LHN and now. We come together in a room that was set up for our debriefing. It is now time to lean in towards each other and ask, "How was your journey?" ■



1969

The Beat Went On . . .

By Kathie Korn

Tom's essay reminded us of events outside of school which occurred during our high school years and helped bring us together.

The remainder of 1969, after our graduation, was especially eventful. The news media have recently noted many (other) 50th anniversaries. In the summer of 1969, Apollo 11 landed on the moon and safely returned its crew to earth. Thousands converged for three days of peace, love and music (and mud) in Woodstock, NY. The Stonewall uprising marked a step forward for gay pride. The grape boycott continued, led by Cesar Chavez, raising awareness of the plight of

migrant farmworkers. The Manson family embarked on a terrifying killing spree in L.A.

Later that year, the Weatherman faction of Students for a Democratic Society brought three "Days of Rage" to Chicago. The Children's Television Workshop realized that little kids might prefer a format like *Laugh-In* to *Romper Room*, and created *Sesame Street*. The Chicago branch of the Black Panther Party was decimated by a law enforcement raid in the early morning hours of December 4, 1969. A Native American group seized Alcatraz Island. Throughout this time we experienced America's first televised War, and various groups were trying to raise our consciousness about the environment, women's liberation and other causes. ■

ON STAGE AT LHN

By Pat (Natschke) Lenius

The Luther North Thespians, students and faculty, undertook some ambitious productions during the years the Class of 1969 attended LHN.

In the fall of 1965, they presented *The Gospel Witch* by Lyon Phelps, a three-act verse play based on the atmosphere of the Salem witch trials in New England.

Also in the 1965-1966 school year, LHN presented two "minor" productions: *The Littlest Angel* and *The Bad Children*. Performed around Christmas, *The Littlest Angel*, focused on a little boy who was having trouble adjusting to his sudden transformation into an angel. He requested the toy box he had left beneath his bed and received it; but then gave it as a gift to the baby Jesus.

The other production was a musical and a satire: *The Bad Children*, which retells the story of Hansel & Gretel, casting them as brats, while the witch is charming and has a college degree in witchcraft.

The second big production of the 1965-1966 school year was the Pulitzer Prize-winning Thornton Wilder drama, *The Skin of our Teeth*. The original Broadway production in 1942 starred Tallulah Bankhead, Fredric March, Florence Eldridge and Montgomery Clift.

The comedy *Charley's Aunt* and the musical *Bye Bye Birdie* were performed at Luther North in the school year 1966-1967.

In *Charley's Aunt*, Lord Fancourt Babberley, known as "Babbs," agrees to impersonate a friend's aunt.

However, the real aunt arrives and mayhem ensues. The three-act farce by Brandon Thomas was first performed in England in 1892 and on Broadway in 1893. Jose Ferrer, Roddy McDowall and Raul Julia are among the actors who have portrayed Babbs in stage revivals. Jack Benny played the role in a popular 1941 film version.

The original 1960-1961 Broadway production of *Bye Bye Birdie*, a Tony Award winner, starred Dick Van Dyke as Albert Peterson. Other actors who have performed in that role include Peter Marshall, Tommy Tune and, more recently, John Stamos.

Harvey and *Merchant of Venice* were performed at Luther North in the 1967-1968 school year.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy *Harvey*, written in 1944, has been adapted for film and television multiple times. A 1950 film version starred James Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd, an eccentric man whose best friend is an invisible 6-foot rabbit. A Broadway revival in 1970 starred James Stewart as Elwood and Helen Hayes as his sister, Veta Louise Simmons. In 2012 Jim Parsons performed the role of Elwood in another Broadway production..

One of the lines often remembered from the play is: "In this world, you must be oh so smart, or oh so pleasant. Well, for years I was smart. I recommend pleasant." Another popular quote was said by Veta (*Continued on page 8*).

Louise Simmons: "Oh, Myrtle, don't be didactic. It's not becoming in a young girl. Besides, men loathe it."

Shakespeare's 16th-century play, *The Merchant of Venice*, tells the story of Antonio, a merchant in Venice, who has to default on a large loan he obtained from Shylock, a Jewish moneylender. The play has inspired many adaptations and several works of fiction. Over the years the play has been performed in productions for television or movie release featuring actors such as Lawrence Olivier, Orson Welles, Maggie Smith, Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, and Joseph Fiennes. Modern audiences may be troubled by the central themes of the play, which appear anti-Semitic. The play's stance on Jews and Judaism remains a point of contention.

The Diary of Anne Frank and *Teahouse of the August Moon* were both performed in the 1968-1969 school year. Noted director Garson Kanin directed the original Broadway production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* in 1955, starring Susan Strasberg as Anne. Natalie Portman played Anne in a 1997 Broadway production which also starred Linda Lavin as Mrs. Van Daan. Lavin won a Tony Award for Best Featured Actress.

Teahouse of the August Moon opened on Broadway in 1953 and won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award. The original cast included John Forsythe as Captain Fisby, a young army officer who is transferred to a tiny Okinawa island town and assigned to implement "Plan B" which includes teaching the natives American customs, holding democratic elections and building a schoolhouse. A culture clash arises between the American soldiers and the town residents. The play was adapted for a film in 1956 which starred Glenn Ford, Eddie Albert and Marlon Brando. In the 1970s some audiences found the portrayals of the Okinawan characters offensive. The play also showed the happiness Captain Fisby found when he accepted the cultural differences.

Two other musicals were performed in the years the class of 1969 attended Luther North: *Brigadoon* and *Camelot*.

The story of King Arthur and his round table, Queen Guinevere and Sir Lancelot is told in *Camelot*, which opened on Broadway in 1960 with Richard Burton, Julie Andrews and Robert Goulet in the lead roles. The play won four Tony awards. It was adapted into a movie in 1967, which starred Richard Harris, Vanessa Redgrave and Franco Nero.

Brigadoon is a musical about a mysterious Scottish village that appears for just one day every 100 years.

Two American tourists discover it and one falls in love with Fiona, a young woman from Brigadoon. The original Broadway production opened in 1947. Many revivals have followed. A film version was made in 1954 that starred Gene Kelly and Van Johnson as the tourists, with Cyd Charisse as Fiona. In 1966 a television version featured Robert Goulet and Peter Falk as the American tourists; Sally Ann Howe played Fiona.

A few classmates were contacted to share memories of the plays and musicals. Below are their comments:

Marti Hemwall: "My first play was *Camelot* -- I think the spring of 1968? I hadn't auditioned but one of the dancers had gotten injured and someone recruited me as a last-minute replacement despite my very questionable dancing ability! In one scene the dancers played the horses during a joust, which was particularly creative (yet amusing). I also played Mrs. Frank in *Diary of Anne Frank* in the 1968-69 school year. It was an intense experience working with such a powerful script. The emotions during that play bonded the cast. The funny moment was when someone brought a can of soup to use in the pan on the attic stove (not sure why we thought we needed real soup). It turned out to be garlic soup, which smelled up the whole stage!"

Gary Daniels: "I think we put on *The Gospel Witch* in the fall of 1965, and *The Skin of Our Teeth* in the spring of 1966. I had the part of a jailor in *The Gospel Witch* and was a telegram delivery boy in *The Skin of Our Teeth*. As a Freshman, working in these plays allowed for closer interaction with upperclassmen and I made a number of friends as a result."

Carol (Becker) Henderson: "I helped with the music for *Brigadoon* and *Camelot* and always helped with the sets, too. I was named a National Thespian. (Edit. Note: Gary Daniels and Tom Golz were also National Thespians.) I played Veta Louise Simmons (Elwood Dowd's sister) in *Harvey* and enjoyed it immensely. I have been trying to remember one phrase from my part that we all used and it gave us the giggles. I cannot believe I ever memorized this HUGE role. Hahahaha!!! We had so much fun with the theater!!"

Tom Golz: "Valerie Friedell directed *The Merchant of Venice* in our Junior or Senior year. I remember that Geoff Bent played the lead role of Elwood Dowd in *Harvey* (a good fit!). In our Freshman year, a stellar set of Senior players did a one-act play that was a fairy tale set in the woods (*The Bad Children* based on Hansel & Gretel)." ■

THE SECRET ORIGINS OF LUTHER NORTH

By Tom Mand

Thanks to my clandestine work for the federal government over the past years, I have had access to secret “Eyes Only” documents in the Smithsonian Institution’s historical archives. Only because Luther High School North has ceased to exist, can I risk revealing the true origin of the name of our alma mater.

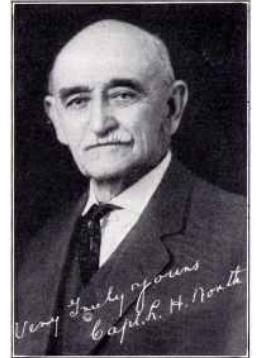
The shocking truth is that our high school was named after one Luther Hiram Samuel North (1846-1935), American soldier, cattle driver, scout, and buffalo hunter. During his storied life, he was viewed as a friend, foe, and even leader to Sioux Indian tribes. He also accompanied Buffalo Bill Cody, General George Armstrong Custer, and Corporal Randolph Agarn (memorably portrayed by actor Larry Storch on old TV’s *F Troop*) in remarkable adventures.

Known by his contemporaries as a Renaissance Man of the Old West, he was largely forgotten after he died. That is, until 1951, when the name Luther Hiram Samuel North (LHSN, for short) was approved for a new Chicago high school, thanks to a certain Lutheran school board president who happened to be a descendant of North’s. However, the proposal was quickly quashed by President Truman himself, after he heard about it through the Show-Me-State grapevine that had tendrils throughout the Missouri Synod.

As legend has it, President Truman had received information about Luther Hiram Samuel North. As the story goes, North once was a member of the Red River Valley Boys, a cowboy social club that J. Edgar Hoover called a communist front. “We can’t let Missouri Synod folks name a high school after a possible Commie—just

think of what Joe McCarthy would do with that,” Truman is rumored to have said. “Why not pick some dead religious leader that is beyond reproach. Don’t you guys have another Luther you can use?”

And so, our high school simply became Luther North, ostensibly in honor of Martin Luther the theologian, although a few still alive will claim that the name is a code for that legend of the West, Luther Hiram Samuel North. Please understand that, if you ask me about this, I will deny ever having written this article. This newspaper will self-destruct in ten seconds. ■



EDITORS’ DISCLAIMER

(a.k.a. Don’t blame us for Fake News)

Although Luther H.S. North was an actual historic figure—a real soldier, cattle driver, scout, and buffalo hunter—and the subject of at least one published biography, available for perusal today at the memorabilia table, we have been unable to verify other facts in this article. Any of them. Mr. Mand refuses to name any of his sources, because he “will not be responsible for putting [our] lives in grave and immediate danger.” For this reason, we are printing Mr. Mand’s article solely for the entertainment of our readers, with the caution that...wait...did you just hear someone walking across the roof? ■

“SURVEY SAYS”

We received 73 responses to our pre-reunion questionnaire. That is probably not a statistically significant sample, but the pop culture results are nevertheless fun to review. Not every respondent answered every question, so the total for any question might be less than 73.

For a favorite TV show from our high school years, we received 26 different answers. There were only six shows which received more than one vote. The top three shows, in ascending order, were *Star Trek* with 4 votes, *Mission Impossible* with 5 votes, and *Laugh-In* with the whopping total of 9 votes.

In the favorite movies category, there were 28 different choices, of which 9 got more than one vote.

The top 3 movies, include a tie between *Thunderball* and *Cool Hand Luke*, with 5 votes each, but *The Graduate* topped them both with 8 votes.

In the favorite songs category, there was the most variety, with 41 songs mentioned. The winning song got 5 votes, the second-place song, *Cherish*, got 3 votes, and there was a 7-way tie among the songs that got 2 votes. Most songs got only 1 vote.

The winning song was released as a single in the UK in July 1967, so smack in the middle of high school. It topped the *Billboard Hot 100* for only one week. It was later included on a popular album and a film. Try to figure it out from those clues before our emcee makes the big reveal. ■

OUR LEGACY of CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS DISPERSED, ENDURING

By Kathie Korn

During its 64 years of operations, Luther North's campus at 5700 W. Berteau was adorned with many works of art which expressed its Lutheran character. Only a few of them are discussed here.

Class of '69's Gift of Stained Glass

We commissioned Dave Kohl, LHN's art teacher, to make a three-panel stained glass piece, which hung in the entranceway of the school. It is now in storage. As it was created and installed after we left, you may not know what it looks like, but there is a photo of the three panels on the cover of our Memory Books.

I learned that the storage is paid for, so the Board is not in a hurry to move it, but if our class makes a proposal to "re-gift" it, the Board will consider it. Those who were involved in deciding to make this gift should discuss whether there is a good site where it can be appreciated again.

Class of '68's Gift of Exterior Plaque

On the west wall of the new gym, there is a plaque depicting the familiar Luther Rose. According to Wikipedia, this image "was on the seal that was designed for Martin Luther at the behest of John Frederick of Saxony in 1530, while Luther was staying at the Coburg Fortress during the Diet of Augsburg."

Its religious nature notwithstanding, it will remain in place at Rickover for the present. It has been determined that it cannot be removed without destroying it.

Class of '70's Gift

Never mind, their gift to the school was new sod for the football field.

Martin Luther Wood-Carved Statue

He now resides in the main lobby at Walther, which already had a large wooden statue of their mascot, a Bronco. So it now looks as if Martin Luther might be ready to saddle up. Walther students call him "the Dude."

Where did this statue come from? There is some indication that he belonged to Luther Institute, but the provenance is lost.

In trying to find out more about him, I learned that he once had a missing foot, but that Ed Grapatin, industrial arts teacher in our era, made a very skillful repair.

We are pleased that a replica of this statue is joining us today. He is agreeable to posing for photos. Our thanks to John Simko and Bear Construction.

Brickwork

Has CPS noticed the large cross next to the main entrance? Odds are that it's not going anywhere. ■



SPORTS (continued from back page)

PROFESSIONAL SPORTS SCENE BACK IN '69

BASEBALL: On June 11, 1969 (Graduation Day), local MLB team standings were:

NL East				AL West			
Team	W	L	GB	Team	W	L	GB
Cubs	35	18	-	Twins	30	24	-
Mets	29	24	7.0	A's	27	24	1.5
Pirates	27	29	10.5	White Sox	23	28	5.5
Cardinals	27	29	10.5	Pilots	24	30	6.0
Phillies	19	32	16.0	Royals	24	32	7.0
Expos	13	38	22.0	Angels	18	35	11.5

CUBS: To date, our graduation has not been linked to the Cub's demise. The starting position players were: Catcher: Randy Hundley; 1st Base: Ernie Banks; 2nd Base: Glenn Beckert; Shortstop: Don Kessinger; 3rd Base: Ron Santo; Left Field: Jim Hickman; Center Field: Don Young; Right Field: Billy Williams; Starting Pitching rotation: Fergie Jenkins, Bill Hands, Ken Holtzman and Dick Selma. And of course, Manager Leo Durocher. Did you have a favorite?

WHITE SOX: By the late 60's, the White Sox played in the shadow of the Cubs, and were an afterthought to many local baseball fans. To a few of us, White Sox "redemption" finally came in 2005 when they won the World Series.

FOOTBALL: In 1969, the Bears finished in the basement with a record of 1-13. Notwithstanding the record, the roster included many memorable players: Dick Butkus, Brian Piccolo, Gayle Sayers, Dick Gordon, Mike Pyle, Ed O'Bradovich & Doug Buffone. Remember any of these quarterbacks? Jack Concannon, Bobby Douglas and Virgil Carter.

BASKETBALL: The Bulls were in the 3rd year of existence and finished the 1968-69 season with a 24-48 record. The leading scorer was Bob Boozer, who averaged 21.7 PPG. Michael Jordan was six years old.

HOCKEY: The Blackhawks finished with a record of 34-33-9, and failed to make the Playoffs for the first time since 1961, when the team won the Stanley Cup. The head coach was Billy Reay. Notable players were Bobby Hull, Dennis Hull, Stan Makita, "Pit" Martin, Erik Nesterenko, and Pat Stapleton. The Black Hawks' dry spell finally ended in 2010, when they won the first of 3 Stanley Cups in this decade. ■



NOTES on SPORTS

By John Simko

LHN TEAM RESULTS 1968-69

Varsity Football: 3W - 6L

Varsity Wrestling: PSL Champions

Varsity Basketball: PSL Conference record: 12W - 2L; PSL Tourney: lost to Timothy Christian in Championship game

What about the girls?

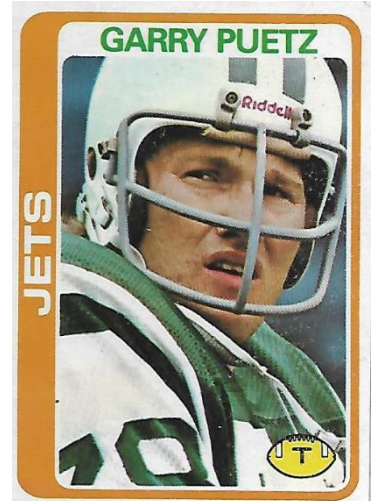
It took the IHSA until 1972 to sponsor girls' interscholastic competition, so we had none...but our varsity cheerleaders were the best! Our "team" included - Seniors: Mary Lutz, Sandy Schwarz, Andy Dickholtz, Barb (Christa) Vragel, Jean Bone, Caryl Heck, Nancy Koetke. Juniors: Jill Cablk, Joyce Antemann, Nancy Schrock. Manager: Karen Sylthe,

LHN's Athletic Hall of Fame

LHN's athletic hall of fame includes our own:

- Garry Puetz (Football), who played at Valparaiso University, and was named to the Kodak College Division All America team in 1972 & 1973. Drafted by the NY Jets, he played for a total of 5 NFL teams, including the Super Bowl Champions, Washington Redskins, in 1982.

- Ambrose Ratcliffe (Basketball), who sadly passed in 2015.
- Mike Randazzo (Baseball) - Some fondly remember the Ridgewood game, when (running on a hunch) Mickey slid under the catcher's failed tag, stole home and scored the game winning run. Mickey also played ball in a semi-pro league after graduation.
- Our entire 1968-69 Varsity basketball team.



The reverse side of Garry's trading card says that he is "articulate and amusing."

(Sports continues on previous page)

IDEAS FOR LATER

As our reunion ends at 5 p.m., there is a whole evening ahead in the great Chicago area:

The Elgin Symphony is playing Liszt and Rachmaninoff at Hemmens Cultural Center, 45 Symphony Way in Elgin at 7:30 p.m. The symphony is highly regarded with a vibrant young conductor and Downtown Elgin is a nice place to explore before or afterwards. Call the Box Office, 847-888-4000, to check ticket availability before heading out there.

Or you could return to the neighborhood of our youth, take a look at Rickover—still a work in progress—and stop for pizza at Pete's #2, the site of Double Z's. There are also a number of restaurants and coffee shops in the Portage Park vicinity.

If it's nice weather, there is mini-golf at Mountain View Adventure Center in Des Plaines at 510 E Algonquin Rd.

If you are still hungry, or just wish to sit down in a restaurant to continue conversations with friends, here are some nearby options with a range of cuisines:

RoccoVino's Italian Restaurant 1085 Nerge Rd, Elk Grove Village, 0.2 mi; Hirano Japanese Kitchen 500 Park Blvd Ste 177, Itasca, 0.9 mi; Naxos A Greek Island Restaurant 933 W Irving Park Rd, Itasca, 1.5 mi; Fox & Turtle Restaurant and Bar, 400 E Orchard St, Itasca, 1.9 mi; Mazmez Middle Eastern Grill 642 Meacham Rd, Elk Grove Village, 1.2 mi; Starbucks (for addicts) 102 Biesterfield Rd Elk Crossing shopping center, 1.3 mi. ■