



Parsons College E-News

Volume 5, No. 1

Spring 2012

Dr. Bob Tree to be Honored by Iowa Wesleyan College With Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree, May 5th *Contingent of Parsons Alums Made Presentation to IWC President...*



1956 – A young Bob Tree during his first full school year at Parsons.



1961 – Dr. Tree bracing for the rapid growth of Parsons College.



1964 - Department Head, Dr. Tree built a top-notch History Department.



1969 – Dr. Tree, Marshal of the College riding out tough times during the late 1960's.

Dr. Jay Simmons, president of Iowa Wesleyan College, has advised the Parsons College Alumni Association that **Dr. Robert L. Tree** will be recognized with an Honorary Doctor of Humanities Degree - honoris causa - at the college's commencement ceremony at 1:30PM on May 5, 2012. Several months ago a contingent of Parsons alumni traveled to Mt. Pleasant, IA with great intentions. The group, consisting of **Dr. David Bateman, PC'61**; **Gene Copeland, PC'60**; and **Dave Neff, PC'69**, made a presentation to Dr. Simmons requesting that IWC honor Dr. Tree with an Honorary Doctor Degree. Bateman was the initiator and presenter of the request, Copeland, the facilitator and Neff, coordinator of information.

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They gathered information, along with letters from many of the organizations and associations which Dr. Tree participates and supports. Those documents were then hand-delivered by the three to the President of IWC. Upon receipt, Dr. Simmons said, "This is a first. I've never before had a contingent make a personal delivery requesting an honorary doctorate degree." In addition to his 18 years at Parsons, and a number of years teaching at Fairfield High School, Dr. Tree also made an impact at Iowa Wesleyan. He originally joined IWC teaching adult night classes on a part-time basis. The following year, college officials asked him to fill in for a professor who was on leave of absence. That professor never returned and Dr. Tree ended up taking over three courses and working another 11 years. Upon his retirement he was presented the IWC Alumni Association Faculty Service Award. A celebration is being planned upon Dr. Tree's return to Fairfield. A very proud Parsons College Alumni says, "CONGRATULATIONS!!!"

We Need Your News!

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. BOB TREE...

(Editor's Note... The following dialog of questions and answers between PCAA's Dave Neff and former Parsons professor and Marshal of the College Dr. Bob Tree took place recently while riding to and from Fairfield to attend a basketball game at Dr. Tree's alma mater, Grinnell College. That conversation centered on the closing of Parsons College. E-News has edited the content into Question/Answer form with Neff generating the questions and Tree supplying the answers...)

NEFF: Was there an organized effort to save Parsons College?

TREE: Yes, there was a consortium of banks, local and around the region, who had intentions of helping save the college.

NEFF: Which banks were involved in the effort to help Parsons remain alive?

TREE: The Iowa State Bank & Trust, the First National Bank, both of Fairfield, and the Merchants National Bank of Cedar Rapids.

NEFF: What specifically did the college do to qualify for their support?

TREE: In a last ditch effort to save the college, collateral was provided to the banks in the form of books from the Wright Memorial Library.

NEFF: Obviously this didn't workout. Why did it fail?

TREE: Very simply, the college was still unable to pay on their loan and the books were called in as the collateral for the loan.

NEFF: What happened to those books?

TREE: The books were sold to the University of Houston and the dollars were used to payoff the loan. Edna Beestrum, our librarian, who knew the library and the books, was hired by the University, coordinated the year long transfer and subsequently moved to Texas.

NEFF: Were there any other extenuating circumstances related to the transfer?

TREE: Yes. The University of Houston hired a battery of semi-trailer trucks to service the move. Well, they packed those semi-trucks to the brim. Interestingly, as the trucks headed south into Missouri and hit the weight stations they were so overweight "hefty fines" were levied by the Missouri Highway Patrol.

NEFF: What action did the University of Houston take?

TREE: Obviously they paid the fines. But on the next round of semi-trailer pickups, they only loaded two courses deep of books and material onto the trucks before sending them on their way back to Texas.

NEFF: So, was the closing a result of a total financial collapse by the college?

TREE: No. Actually the long-term mortgage loans on the campus buildings with lender Connecticut General were all up-to-date, in good order, and full accreditation had been restored several years earlier.

NEFF: Then what was the problem?

TREE: It was the short-term loans with the local institutions that broke the camels back.

NEFF: This was in the spring of 1973 and the college was fully accredited. Did the closing take the school and students by surprise.

TREE: No, I don't think it took anybody by surprise. It was common knowledge that at the end of the graduation ceremony Parsons would close.

(continued on page 3)

Conversation – (cont'd)

NEFF: What was graduation day like on that June 1, 1973.

TREE: All graduations are happy-sad occasions. But this one was even more so because, as the 34th National Guard Band played on, we could all be happy for the graduates, but we all knew that our College would not be open as usual on Monday morning.

NEFF: Then what happened?

TREE: On Monday morning the campus was locked up and shutdown.

Interestingly, fast forward, a Parsons College graduating class of 2012 would have been the 137th to receive a diploma. It's been 39 years since the doors of our alma mater have been shuttered. The youngest student/alumni is venturing into his/her 60th year of age. One year after closing, the campus was purchased by the Maharishi's for a reported \$2.0M. Major changes have been made to the once beautiful campus and the school currently operates under the name of Maharishi University of Management (MUM)... We, the alumni of Parsons College will always wonder and ask amongst ourselves....what could have been????

A Note of Gratitude from the Charles Reed Family...

The recent Wall of Honor weekend was more than an induction ceremony for one family. For the **Charles Reed, PC'49**, family it was a final reunion of sorts. Friends and relatives of the Reed family returned to Fairfield in numbers to posthumously honor Charles Reed, his distinguished career, and induction to the Wall of Honor. Mr. Reed was a decorated U.S. Army veteran. He was proudly presented at the ceremony by his daughter **Lynda Reed Leech**, who made the trip from her home in Pueblo, CO.

During the October weekend festivities of honoring her father, Lynda experienced discomfort in her shoulder. Despite the pain, that did not deter her from having a happy and carefree weekend. However, over the next couple months the pain worsened, a cancerous lung tumor was discovered, and Lynda passed away on February 6, 2012... Recently, Lynda's cousin, **Carla Clavelle**, reflected on that beautiful October weekend in Fairfield and what it meant to their family:

"We will always cherish that weekend with Lynda and the happy memories of celebrating her dad, getting to know the family better, and enjoying Iowa, a very lovely part of the country. The festivities for the induction were very impressive and the weather couldn't have been more beautiful. It was a great weekend that was planned when another one of our cousin's told Lynda about the Wall of Honor tradition. She went to work on it and we know she had to do quite a bit of research and digging to pull the details together for her dad's nomination.

"Charles Reed's roots were in Iowa, and Parsons College played a large role in launching his distinguished Wall of Honor career. Those connections spilled over to Lynda and led to her affection for her Iowa family and roots. In fact, our grandfather's company, based in Minnesota, built the Fairfield High School, and it was during this time he met my grandmother. They lived on a farm in Keosauqua and were dear to me.

"I will forever feel a strong connection to Fairfield and I'm happy that my uncle - Charles Reed - will always have a presence there, through the Parsons College Wall of Honor. Thank you for all you do to preserve the memory of Parsons and its distinguished students and alumni."

(Editor's Note: Carla Clavelle is the niece to Charles Reed)

Mystery Quiz... The Answers!!!



DAVE BRUBECK



PAT O'BRIEN



FAYE EMERSON



JOE E. BROWN



COUNT BASIE

What a star studded line-up of celebrities who visited Parsons over the 1961-62 school year and this is only a sample of the talent. How could you forget? But in case you did, E-News is here to remind you. The answer to the mystery quiz, from left to right: **DAVE BRUBECK** appeared with his quartet at the Fry-Thomas Field House; **PAT O'BRIEN**, the popular Irishman, starred in the Festival '62 stage production of "Our Town", and gave an inspiring Knute Rockne halftime speech to the Wildcats football team; the lovely **FAYE EMERSON** was featured in "The Matchmaker"; **JOE E. BROWN**, the hilarious one, brought us to our knees in "Father of the Bride"; and the famous **COUNT BASIE** followed up in FESTIVAL '62 with a classic concert to a capacity crowd...

JACK AND MARTY TAYLOR DONATE PRIZE PARSONS ARTIFACT TO FACC

The Parsons College Foundation and Alumni Association have received word that friends, **Jack and Marty Taylor**, plan to donate a bench to the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. The bench, which was one of the Taylor's prize personal possessions, was constructed and made with stones salvaged from the demolition of the Parsons College Carnegie Library. Jack and Marty, who formerly owned the Broadway Grill and at one time managed the Fairfield Country Club, have requested that the bench be placed outside the FA&CC entry adjacent the Parsons Alumni Hall. Over the years the Taylor's, both employed, and served, a throng of Parsons students and developed many lasting friendships. Several local residents and FA&CC representatives are currently working on the details and approval to have the bench transported and installed at the center at no cost. Plans to design a name plate which will be provided by the Taylor's are also underway. Due to recent health issues, Jack and Mary have decided to sell their Fairfield condo and move to assisted living at the Parkview Care Center...



Dan Ratekin, PC'58, Steps Up With '55 Peira Yearbook

Another Peira has been added to the collection. **Dan Ratekin** has placed a rare 1955 Peira in our hands and we say THANK YOU. We're still in quest of the '66 BIG BOOK and our search continues as E-News also looks for yearbooks from 1971 and 1973. If you can help, please contact **John Blackstock** at 636-926-7881 or email jblackstock@prodigy.net.

LOOKING BACK... by Roger Du Bois, PC'67

Greetings from the North Pole in Minneapolis. The roads leading in and out of Fairfield were many and the experiences and memories of this "C" student are as vivid as if they happened yesterday. I recall winning the Senior Oratory Speech contest in 1967 over one of our college's "Who's Who" people, but I was left off the program because a professor thought I might not graduate.

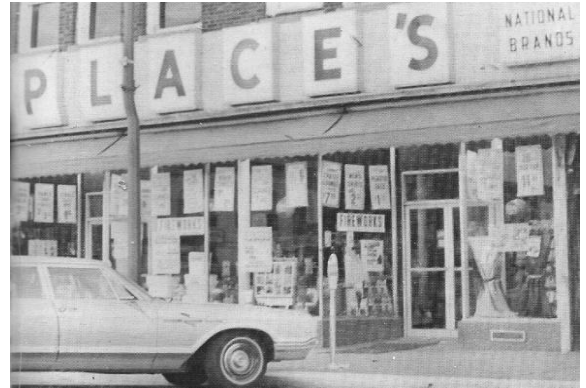
A day does not go by without remembering a memory or two from my Parsons days. I think of those days with thanks and look at all the "what-if's", like what would have happened if I had not attended Parsons. As I recant, it's hard to believe that at age 16, I was about to quit high school and move to Florida to become a professional golf caddy. Had it not been for my participation in the North Shore High School choir on Long Island, NY, I would have headed south. Totally impressed with my enthusiasm and ability to read music, the director allowed me to sing in the select men's group called "The Hoarse Norsemen." The choir was rated the number one non-select choir group in New York state.

In the band, I was switched from baritone to tuba and shortly after the director helped get me into the Nassau/Suffolk County All-State band. This experience led to securing a partial music scholarship to Parsons College. Prior to 1963, this "Nervous Nellie", who flunked Driver's Ed because he was too nervous, had virtually never traveled beyond the surrounding states of New York. When I crossed the border into Ohio, some four days after high school graduation, and the land became so flat, I felt like Columbus looking for the New World.

Just outside of Chicago, I spotted the first train I had ever seen that was longer than the 5-car LIRR commuter. It was over 100 cars long (I counted them) and even had a caboose. The excitement of moving west was as exhilarating as the day I got married, and the day my first child was born, and the day I rented a Mercedes in Paris and was told it would do 120mph.

As we approached Fairfield, it seemed like the temperature was over 100 degrees. I had never seen a town square. After checking me into Howard Dorm, my parents and I explored this "Twilight Zone World" of a small town. We walked into Place's Department Store and were terrified when the sales person

approached us and asked, "How can I be of service?" Remember, we're from New York and we'd never been approached in this manner, or by someone who was genuinely friendly. My first instinctive thought was, "Does this person want my wallet, my life savings, or both?"



Place's – One friendly Department Store....

At this point, I'm wondering what, as a "C" student, could be gained at Parsons. Would completing 4-years and earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree actually help me. Those were some of the thoughts that pierced my young mind.

In a recent issue of E-News, there was a photo of Howard Dorm. That photo rekindled a stream of memories. I loved it and it brought back the day I stood outside that dormitory on Highway 1 with this huge sign which read, COLLEGE STUDENT TO NEW YORK CITY. A few days earlier I had taken a driver's test using a classmate's car. I backed over a cement wall and flunked the test. I had to redirect the \$15 I'd saved for the ride home to NYC to help repair the damaged bumper. That marked the beginning of my hitch-hiking days which I estimate covered over 30,000 miles.

These are just some of the indelible thoughts and stories from those special years. It was most enjoyable living in Fairfield. Despite my menial "C" average, the Liberal Arts Degree allowed me to be interested in so many things while opening a number of doors. I often wonder how many of us take the time to reflect on those days and share the experiences and memories with family and friends. I am so grateful because, had I not been a marginal student, I may have never attended Parsons College...

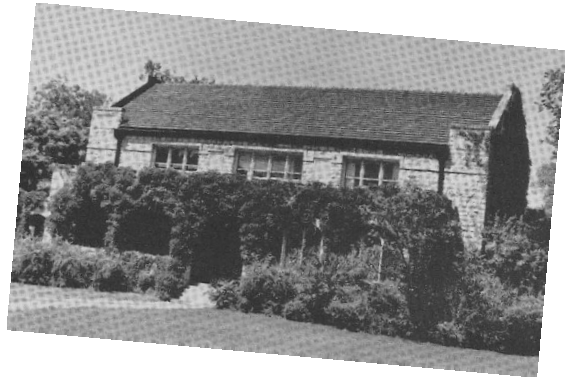


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**THE BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS
OF
PARSONS COLLEGE
WAS ONCE DECORATED BY THESE
BUILDINGS OF OLD...
Can You Name Them?**



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Remember When... with Doug Marion '70...

(Doug Marion, PC'70 received this note from an old Parsons friend. Doug is a nationally acclaimed automobile magazine writer/photographer, and also adviser to our E-Newsletter. The writer of this note is Tom Goetz, PC'64-'65, currently president of Antech Laboratories in St. Louis, MO... Just another Parsons guy with crappy grades who's done quite well.)

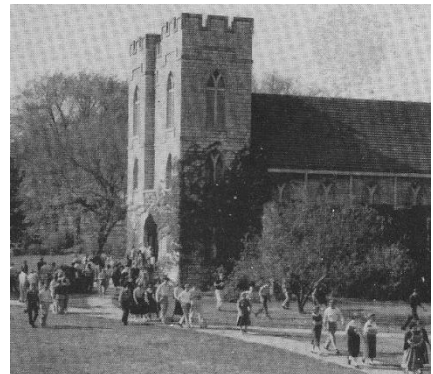
Hey Doug, good to hear from you after all these years. I've followed you through different magazines and glad you have made a success of yourself. You are highly respected in the automotive magazine industry.

I was only at Parsons from May, 1964 to mid-1965. My grades were not so good, and with the draft for the Vietnam War in full swing, I decided to shift gears and take a job offer with McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis to try and get a deferment. I was hoping to be building F4 Phantoms and avoid the draft. But the deferment didn't happen and I was drafted into the U.S. Army in May, 1966. I was shipped off to Mannheim, Germany where I spent my whole military "career" with Uncle Sam...

While I was working at McDonnell, I bought a new 1965 Impala SS, 300hp, 4-speed. That car was a favorite and served me well until the time I got out of the Army. My brother drove it while I was gone and put 100K miles on the clock. Three days after returning from the military, I bit the bullet and marched over to the local Chevy dealer (Barford Chevrolet) and bought a new 1969 Z28. That lasted until the first oil embargo in 1972, when a new VW was more in order.

I remember vividly you taking your 409 down the big hill on Highway #1, just north of town. Perhaps you were taking it to a weekend race at Kahoka? Don't know if you remember or not, but **Steve Stark**, also from St. Louis, used to come up with me and watch while you were adjusting the solids in the parking lot across from the house.

In case you haven't been back, you should know everything has changed on the campus and in Fairfield since you were last there. The Maharishi school has even torn down the old and beautiful Barhydt Chapel that was in the National Registry. That caused quite an uproar amongst the local town folks but the bottom line...Barhydt Chapel is gone...Keep in touch buddy!!!



Barhydt Chapel – "Gone but not forgotten!"

REMEMBERING THE PROFESSORS... By the late 1960s, Parsons listed its superb teaching brigade by four merit titles: Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Instructor. The staff total in 1968 was 108 - including three Emeriti. Most alumni consider Parsons an amazing academic institution.

So, we're sending out a call to you to add to this classroom salute. Let us not forget the executives and management staff who ran the college. Lastly, did any fellow classmates help you?

I owe my BA degree to legendary coach and teacher, **O.B. Nelson**. It was he who taught me how to overcome being a slow reader. My last two years at Parsons were on my own dime and I never missed a class. Putting O.B.'s words into action, I made Dean's List four times.

The Business Department's **Eugene Hull** was teaching the "Industrial Relations" class my senior year. In his lecture one day he said, "All successful companies and all successful people ACT. Everyone else reacts". That stuck with me to this day. His quote helped me rise to the top of my profession.

(continued on page 8)

Remember- (cont'd)

I went on to major in Business Administration and minor in History – but the opposite took place. Bookstore manager. **Ethan Towne** also taught Accounting I & II. I labored through both and attained “C” grades. But when it was time for calculus and trigonometry, I knew I was toast, so I swapped majors.

History Department chairman and superb professors, **Ben Rogers** and **Dr. Richard Barton**, were two profs of extreme merit. Rogers graduated from Harvard University in 1940. Barton, who was from Michigan, got his PhD in 1958 and came to Parsons in 1963. Need I say more? Okay, I will.



Two of the great professors in the History Department – Ben Rogers (L) and Dr. Richard Barton (R)...



Parsons had a stellar Drama Department also. Remember Sydney Spade, Anna Lois Whiting and H. Neil Whiting??

Hull, Rogers and Barton (and many others) graded first by test score, attendance was second. They appreciated serious students and their grades reflected it.

My TKE friend, **Joe Cortazzo**, let me join the frat's study group for the Economics final exam with Assistant Professor, **Roger Clites** (Milligan College '50, UT MA '54, Parsons arrival in '66), at the helm.

Having three year's full-time work under my belt and on my resume, I enjoyed Economics. Everybody in the study group did well on the final exam.

The Economics Department's **Howard Dorsett** and Roger Clites taught well and were always available to talk with or discuss business-at-large.

Where this saga goes depends solely on editorial space. We have a list of all 108 teachers and hope to salute many of them in the future. Feel free to add your memories. That's what E-News is all about.

If you have a favorite professor, or a favorite story you would like to share with the Parsons family, please send it along to **Doug Marion** at: dougmarion@aol.com, or **John Blackstock** at: jblackstock@prodigy.net.

Parsons College Alumni Website

Check out our FREE 3-DAY trial viewing of the Parsons College Alumni Association website at:

www.parsonscollegealumni.com.

It's a WINNER!!

We Need Your News, Stories, Memories!!!

Parsons is Alive - Spread the Word!

Your E-News wants to reach as many Parsons Alums and friends as possible – YOU CAN HELP!! We request that you send a copy of this e-newsletter to at least five people and/or pass along five names with email addresses to Nancy Wirtanen at nwirtanen@yahoo.com.

Where Are They Now?? ... Abner Cunningham, PC/PSE'59-'62

Abner Cunningham, PC/PSE'59-'62 (abnertidd@gmail.com). Abner has spent his life roaming the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn and the inner urban streets and alleys of Chicago. There's no fancy title like President or CEO behind his name. Abner is 70-years-old and a social worker at a small VA Hospital in his hometown of Chicago. He arrived there after retiring from almost 20 years of doing psychiatric social work in outreach to homeless mentally ill in the big city.

Abner now professes to do medical social work. Of his 180 clients, all of whom reside on Chicago's south side and are African-American, he admits to closely following only about 85 of them. The group is comprised of veterans from WWII, Korea (mostly), the unclassifiable, and some even well into their 80's. We like jazz together, usually! And we also go to their homes.

As a minister, Abner's first parish in 1968 was in Brooklyn. It was a black church and he loved it. After starting his career as a Lutheran pastor, he recalls that job, as one in which he felt like an imposter, but did a passably good imitation of the real thing. His aspirations were high. He wanted to be like Karl Malden, another Chicago kid who starred in the movie, "On The Waterfront", saying, "I wanted to be a priest with a good left hook if needed.

"Although I never needed the hook, I tore the pants on my black suit playing 'permanent quarterback' with the schoolboys in the lot across from the church. 'Mr. Brown', whose first name we never knew, coached the kids to a regional Pop Warner football championship in the early 1970's. He was a good man, did his magic, and sent a couple of his kids to the NFL," Abner said.

He still serves as pastor when needed. Recently he covered as pinch-hitter for a little nearby Presbyterian church where they welcome art and political gatherings. He also does an occasional wedding and sermon, but really likes the mingling social work best.

While Abner's church continues the search for a new part-time pastor, he and several others are taking turns at the pulpit. "That's just how it is," he says, "but," he added, "they did ask me to do the Easter service, so I guess I can still speak loud enough for my fellow old-farts to hear. My ex-wife told me, I was a good pastor for bad people, but a bad pastor..... and you can complete the rest of that sentence," he concluded...

Parsons Alumni Association Board of Directors

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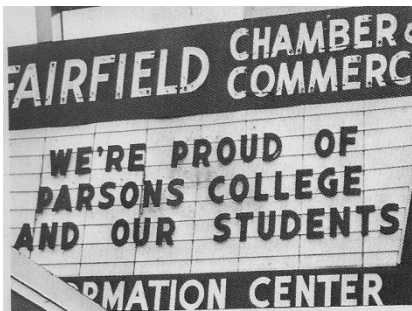
Ed Longanecker emlong2@iowatele.net

Marshan Roth ldyhk1360@yahoo.com

Next E-News Deadline – June 15, 2012

The Alumni Write...

Lee Kane, PC'55 (FisherKane@aol.com) writes... Read with great interest the obituaries in the winter E-Newsletter. I knew four of the deceased. **Hal DeGoode**, who worked for Equitable Life for 35 years was four years older than me and I went to his funeral. **Lee Harrison**, was another local boy. He worked at Gobble's for years and when they sold out he formed his own clothing company. **Bertha Kasowski** lived down the street from me with her mother and older sister. And **Bruce Vandever**, from Keokuk, was coming to Parsons when I was leaving. ... Other happenings in my life include - I received copyright for the 111 poems I submitted to the Library of Congress - I was inducted to the Iowa Senior Olympics last year and am in the Iowa High School Hall of Pride - Even with my bad knee, I can still shoot free throws (basketball). Just the other day I made 47 of 50, shooting 37 in a row. I've been written up in the Des Moines Register, and around these parts, I'm known as the "Poem Guy" and "Dr. Free Throw". Thanks for all you do with the E-News. It really tears me up that they tore the (Barhydt) chapel down, to see our college gone, and what has happened to it over these past 40 years. As a former Fairfield resident, I think it hits home more than most...



The message board says it all

Bob Phipps, PC'67 (bphipps@lisco.com) writes... I attended Parsons from 1965-1967, remained in Fairfield until 2007 when I retired and moved to Venice, FL. While in Fairfield over those 30 years, I was co-owner of the L.T. Evans Insurance agency and spent the last 10 years as Executive Vice President of the Fairfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Association. During that period, I had a great time welcoming back former Parsons grads who had not returned since graduation and they were always amazed at our community. For those of you who remember **Wayne Klepinger**, the former manager of the Brown Shoe Fit store on the north side of the square, he's now 96-years-young and living in Sun City Center, FL. Please feel free to contact me if I can help with the history or any other information about Parsons...

Jim Tonelli, PC/PKA'66-'67 (delrev@comast.net) writes... In 1966-67 there were a number of Pikes, actives and pledges, on the Parsons wrestling team. Photos of past remind us of so many of the Greek and social groups. When it came to weekend fun, Parsons was indeed on the map. Tonelli, a pledge from Wilmington, DE, recalls, "Brotherhood and Pike GPA were top priorities. We studied hard all week and relaxed on the weekends. We had our share of nice cars and motorcycles. We liked fast cars and used to go drag racing in Kahoka, MO on Saturday night. And like WTBA and other groups, we Pikes enjoyed our motorcycles, too. Academically speaking, I was always impressed by the availability of the tutors as well as the nice classrooms. But on the weekends, the various parties, including the Toga parties with grain alcohol and grape drink, held near Hilltop Pizza and Foster Auction, were a blast... After the LIFE MAGAZINE story, a follow-up was done by Huntley-Brinkley TV news and was filmed at the Pike/Alpha Xi house. My friend **Rena Rink, PC'n/a**, and I were watching in the lounge at the time, and the director had the cameraman 'rim light us'. This filming was intended to show the good side of Parsons College on national TV. Later, at the Winter Formal '67, Rena was named 'Dream Girl' and sadly, shortly after that, Parsons lost its accreditation. Many students left Fairfield, including me. I eventually graduated from Salem College in West Virginia, but my heart was and is still at Parsons...



PKA pledge prank results in active Rich Talon being relieved of his pants. Prior to this event, Talon was dropped off in northern Iowa wearing nothing but a dress.



Pike John Grube (R) reaping the rewards of his time spent drag racing his 1966 427 Corvette. His crew and co-drivers were Jim Tonelli (L) and Neil Roosevelt (C).

Greek & Social Club News...

ZETA/SIG EPS...The Zeta/Sig Eps and friends will reunion at the Honey Creek Resort on Rathbun Lake, in Moravia, IA, over the mid-week dates of May 21-24, 2012. A block of rooms has been reserved at a \$79 per day rate at the resort. Room reservations can be made by calling 877-677-3344 and identifying yourself with the Zeta/Sig Eps group. In addition, there will be a registration fee of \$100 per person which will cover all group meals. The registration fee can be sent to **Dan Gullion**, 1410 S. Cage, Pharr, TX 78577, but at this late date, we recommend you call or e-mail Dan for updated information at, 641-226-4216, or dgullion@mchsi.com; or contact **Terry Hoage** at 936-661-4037, or rettrh@yahoo.com...

ZETA/SIG EPS... Now taking reservations for a second 2012 reunion, **Larry Marino, PC'66**, tells us there's still time to sign-up for the 4th Bi-Annual Mini-Reunion which has been scheduled in New Orleans during the mid-week dates of October 23-25, 2012. Those interested in more information or wishing to pre-register should get in touch with Larry at: LMarino312@yahoo.com...

TKE'S RETURNING TO PANORAMA.

Host **Ron Lang, PC'62**, says time and availability are running out for making reservations for their annual June reunion. The mid-week dates are Monday, June 18 (arrive) to Friday, June 22 (depart). So, if you intend to head to the beautiful Lake Panorama Resort and Golf Club in Panora, IA, west of Des Moines, now is the time to get hold of Ron at: 641-431-3343, or: langslagoon@aol.com to make that reservation...

(continued on page 12)

THE TROOPS MARCH IN...



Well, E-News has confirmed that the TROOPS social organization has marched in but we haven't heard or seen the expected parade of news and information. Could it be that they've already marched out???

Greek & Social Club Sweepstakes Ranking

A number of Greek & Social Clubs rallied behind the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center over the last several years to help pave the way for the Parsons Alumni Hall. Following is a summary and ranking of those participants:

Where The Boys Are (WTBA)	\$11,400.00
Phi Sigma Epsilon	\$11,050.00
Zeta/Sigma Phi Epsilon	\$8,380.00
Tau Kappa Epsilon	\$6,950.00
Rum & Chowder Society	\$5,500.00
Delta Zeta	\$2,455.00
Pi Kappa Alpha	\$1,200.00
Sigma Pi	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$48,435.00

Contributions were received prior to the Sweepstakes from Zeta/Sig Eps (\$58,000.00) and the TKE's (\$100,000.00) for a GRAND TOTAL OF \$205,415.00..

Next Issue - Summer 2012 News Deadline is June 15, 2012

*Your news and photographs are needed.
Please submit as a jpg and provide information
about the photo*

*If you need help contact Nancy Wirtanen
nwirtanen@yahoo.com*

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change and any duplication.**

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS AN ISSUE!!

THE DELTA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY has checked in and according to **Joel Fisher, PC'67-'70** and **Pamela Roberts Skinner, PC'70**, we've been reminded that the Delta Sigs were alive and active on campus during the 1960's, but they're also alive and well today. Having said that, one may have thought they would like to have shared some Delta Sig news...



DIXIE HOGAN HOEKMAN, PC'65 JOINS PARSONS ALUMNI BOARD

Parsons College Alumni Association President Nancy Wirtanen has announced that Dixie Hogan Hoekman, PC'65, has been voted onto the Board of Directors. Ms. Hoekman is originally from Fairfield and a welcome addition to the board. She and her husband are currently living in Des Moines. "We are delighted to have Dixie aboard. Her addition is a major plus for the PCAA," Wirtanen, said. Upon being approached to join the board, Ms. Hoekman responded, saying, "I feel very honored to be invited. I owe so much to Parsons and for the education I received there." Ms. Hoekman (WJH50@aol.com) replaces board member and secretary, Shelley Hodes, who recently resigned...

LEE GOBBLE HEALTH UPDATE

Reports from Fairfield indicate that **Lee Gobble, PC'38**, store owner, landlord, employer and friend to so many Parsons students is having his ups and downs. "Lee has his good days and bad days," one observer said. Some days he recognizes people and other days he doesn't. He used to bounce back quickly from those down days, but not as fast anymore," our observer continued. A recent trip to the emergency room at the Jefferson County Health Center also discovered some kidney problems which tell us the sad news that they could be starting to shutdown. Should you wish to send Lee a card, here's his address: Lee Gobble, c/o Sunnybrook of Fairfield, 3000 W. Madison Ave, Fairfield, IA 52556...

**Etch your name in
Parsons College
History!**

Buy A Brick!

Help support our mission to preserve the memory of Parsons College – **BUY A BRICK!**
For details and information call Dave Neff at 641-919-4640 or email at neffacres@lisco.com

Go Wildcats!!!!

Letters-To-The-Editor...

Thanks very much for sending the newsletter. However, the pdf didn't seem to want to work. I wish I were in a position to contribute a significant amount to the window fund, but it will only be a meager bit. What a great project. It is good to be back in touch. I will try to be more communicative. Peace!!

Rodney Peters, PC'61

rodneypeters2339@yahoo.com

Nice job!! Thank you for the hard work you all do to keep us together!

Arnie Rothschild, PC'69

Abmormal@aol.com

Interesting newsletter as always. You might want to contact **Paul Brier** about the number of his family members who attended/graduated from Parsons. Quite a story there and he might be willing to share. Sorry to hear about **Marshall Darling**, He was a good friend at Parsons and took me to the Den for my 21st birthday. It was a Monday and all the other bartenders were there and quite surprised to learn that I was just turning 21! Ah, the good ole days..

Nancy Kirby, PC'62-'66

nkirby1944@embarqmail.com

I was proud to attend Parsons College. I was a active member of Sigma Pi Fraternity, served as president of my class for three of the four years I attended Parsons, and was awarded an academic scholarship three of those years...I am certainly glad to see the windows of Barhydt Chapel restored. I was honored to be best man in two weddings at Barhydt. However, here's my idea: I would much rather see our PC alums and friends buy the entire campus back and set up a legitimate college. As I travel the land and see all of the new "for profit" colleges, I wonder, why can't we bring back our grand institution???

Dave Howard, PC'64-'67

comdh2@aol.com

I like the E-Newsletter. It is much easier than going to the website to access it.

Steve Lepow, PC'64-'68

S_lepow@yahoo.com

I liked it too!

Suzanne Guvett Corrigan, PC'64-'66

mdcconsult@att.net

Our PC went down and I lost the fall E-Newsletter with the article that I had written. Is it possible to send me the last issue ~ again ~ the current issue is great. Best regards,

Thom Giuntoli, PC'63

bagltd@sc.rr.com

(Editor's Note: If you have not already done so, please contact Nancy Wirtanen for additional copies of the Winter E-News.)



Hey **Ron (Lang)** just read latest PC Winter E-News and noted your address and TKE reunion at Lake Panorama in June. My mom's family was from Jefferson and had property there for a number of years. I attended PC from June '61-62 and lived at Ballard Hall with **Phil Quinn** who was one of my roomies. Would you happen to have any contact info for him? If so, I ask that you forward it on to me. I know that's like a lucky rabbits foot, only clover. My dear child bride of 45 years has begged me incessantly to attend the Iowa State Fair for these many years and this year I'm relenting. I think she's as fascinated with the thought of seeing the bullet holes in John Dillinger's car (as was I) and the always present lure of the corn dogs, butter cow, and Angus judging...

Paul Farr, PC'61-'62

paulfarr75@comcast.net

(Editor's Note: This note was written to Ron Lang with hopes of locating Phil Quinn. If you know his whereabouts email Ron at: langslagoon@aol.com.)

(continued Page 14)

Letters – (cont'd)

Thank you for the work you do. Please mail me the name and address of where to send a donation to help off-set the costs of all that you and others do. In the Mystery Quiz photo are, Pat O'Brien (2nd from left), who played stage manager in 'Our Town'; Fay Emerson (3rd from left), who played Dolly Levi in 'Matchmaker'; and Joe E. Brown (4th from left), who starred in 'Father of the Bride.'

Robin Wilkins , PC'62

robinwilkins@me.com

(Editor's Note: Address for donations made payable and mailed to: Parsons College Foundation, c/o Iowa State Bank & Trust, Co., P.O. Box 1010, Fairfield, IA 52556... Attention: Dave Neff)

Saw your APB for the 1966 Peira. I don't know if I can help with the right one, but I do have the 1965-1966 yearbook, which says 1965 on the spine but it covers the 1965-1966 class. If this is what you're looking for, I can help. It certainly qualifies as a "Big Book" weighing-in at several pounds. Let me know.

Dan Roads, PC'mid-60's

dan.roads@elansales.com

(Editor's Note: Thanks Dan, but sorry, wrong book..)

Love the bulletin!!! The thing I am PO'd about is the destruction of our campus by those Martians who bought it. But it sure was great when we were there. I've met a few people since, who have put up their tents and enrolled there. I think they need to check their medication!

Ken Amato , PC'66

amato1609@gmail.com

Sorry I can't help with the Peira request, but it's interesting I only attended Parsons in '66-'67, so why do I have the '65 and '67 Peiras?

Dick Fikes, PC'mid-60's

dcfickes@atmc.net

(Editor's response: Dick, thanks for the response... regarding Peira '65-'66-'67, the only thing we can think of is that somebody must have switched books on you while you were looking the other way and drinking a Falstaff, or two... Dick's response: In all likelihood, it was a few more than two. I remember when we could get four cans of Schlitz and a bag of popcorn for a \$1.00 at the Den. And there were no pop tops back then.)

Check for Parsons College Foundation is in mail today. As always, you do a fantastic job with the E-News. More appreciated than you realize. Later!!

Pete Andersen, PC/PSE'64

peteandersen15@msn.com

Thanks for another great newsletter. It is really interesting for me to read about PC. Last spring I visited Fairfield and stopped by the campus. Brought back some good memories of the time I spent there.

Jim Bush, PC'60-'63

jl2001ret@msn.com

What a great newsletter! So much info - so many names from the past. It brought back so many wonderful memories. Thank you for doing this for all of us..

JoAnna Peters Chicko, PC'62-'64

jchicko@comcast.net

Thank you for such an interesting and newsy winter Parsons newsletter. I enjoyed the features and the comments from former students...

Marilyn Switzer Parker, PC'55-'58

mjasp25@cs.com

Another great issue. Thanks to everybody again. It's been distributed to the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity...

Ron Long, PC'63

Y83756@comcast.net

Thanks for the newsletter. One small thing, there was no space or inclusion of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity. We were there, I remember well!!

Joel Fisher, PC'67-'70

joelafisher@yahoo.com

Thumbs UP on the newsletter! I like the ease of it...

Suzi Millron Roe, PC'67-'71

suzimr@zoominternet.net

Excellent as to format and content!!

Richard Goldstein, PC'n/a

drgoldie@brightok.net

I've just finished up my rehab from lower back spinal cord fusion. And now I'm pain free for the first time in years. Great newsletter!

Jon Loeb, PC'64

jloeb2007@yahoo.com

Thanks - It's not everybody that gets into this type project.

Luis Ramon Seville Somoza, PC'67-'71

irseso@hotmail.com

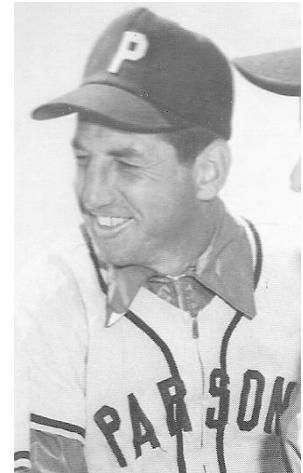
Many thanks for the copy of the Winter E-Newsletter. I love reading it. Seems like each edition gets better and better and more in depth. Thanks for sharing.

William "Biff" Kummer, PC'68 (no email)

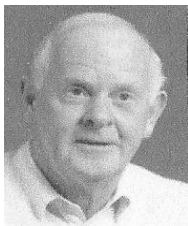
In Memoriam...

Janet Whitehead Smock, PC'mid-'60's... It's been reported but unconfirmed that Janet passed away after a battle with breast cancer in December of 2004. She was a resident of Punta Gorda, FL and attended Parsons during the mid-1960's. No further information is available at this time...

Dr. John W. Wahrer, PC'50/Faculty... John Wahrer was Parsons College through and through. He was born in Charleston, lived in Donnellson and Ft. Madison, in addition to Fairfield. John died December 28, 2011 at the Regency Care Facility in Norwalk. He was 83 years old. John Wahrer did it all at Parsons. He played sports, graduated in 1950, and followed up after several years of service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War with a stellar coaching career. At one time or another, John coached and/or managed just about every sport offered. He later became Athletics Director in the final years prior to Parsons closing its' doors. Dr. Bob Tree, former dean of the college, remembers John as a good man and a fair man. "John Wahrer's coaching style was all about the kids. He cared for his players, treated them with respect and treated them fairly. His players came first. As Athletics Director, I can tell you there was not one complaint ever filed regarding fairness, scholarships, scheduling, or budgeted of dollars," Tree said. John was an asset to the college and to the physical education department. He was a member of the Keokuk Elks Lodge, enjoyed all sports, was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes fan, and most of all, enjoyed watching his grandchildren's sporting events. John, who was preceded in death by his wife, Patricia Gaumer Wahrer, is survived by two sons, a daughter, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. ..



Dr. John Wahrer, Parsons student, athlete, graduate, professor, coach, manager and athletics director...



"Red" Harrison

Daniel "Red" David Harrison, PC/Zeta/SPE'58... Mr. Harrison, of Fairfield, passed away February 13, 2012 at Jefferson County Health Center. He was 74. "Red" was born and raised in Fairfield, attended Parsons and graduated in 1958. During his college days he was a member of Zeta/Sigma Phi Epsilon. Arrangements were handled by the Behner Funeral Home of Fairfield and a memorial service was to be scheduled at a later date. No further information is available at this time...

Dr. Orrin "O.R." Ralph Parks, PC'49... Dr. Parks, of Centerville, died January 9, 2012 at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. Orrin was born in Moulton, IA and graduated from Newton High School. Shortly after, he joined the United States Marines Corps and was a radio gunner in the B-25 squadron serving in the Pacific Theater. Following an honorable discharge, Orrin attended Parsons and graduated in 1949. He then married Alice Pauline "Polly" Kunzman of Fairfield, and followed that by earning a Master's Degree from Iowa State University in 1952. Orrin became a math teacher and taught at Thornburg, Chariton, Clinton and Centerville Schools and retired in 1984 after 35 years of teaching. He had a number of hobbies but was most proud of having traveled to all 50 states, and his participation in the restoration of ghost towns. Orrin was a board member of the Historical Preservation Corporation and worked with a number of civic organizations. In addition to his membership to the United Methodist Church in Centerville, where a memorial service was held, Orrin also served on the Church Board and was a Trustee. He is survived by his wife, Pauline, and one son...

(continued on page 16)

Memoriams (cont'd)

Charles D. Ferguson, PC'55/staff...Parsons E-News has learned that Mr. Ferguson of Omaha, NE died February 9, 2012. Charles attended Parsons College from 1951 to 1955 and graduated. He was a member of the Wildcats football team and played under coach **O.B. Nelson** and **Tib Young**. Charles met his wife, who also attended Parsons, in Fairfield and later went to work at the college. He earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Northwestern University in Chicago. At Parsons, Charles became the Dean of Students and held that position until the spring of 1970 when he was promoted to the Vice President of Hiram Scott College, one of several Parsons satellite schools, in Scotts Bluff, NE. He is survived by wife Kay, three children and five grandchildren. Funeral services were conducted by Heafey-Heafey-Hoffman Dworak-Cutler Mortuary and Crematory of Omaha. Should you wish to contact the family, condolences may be sent to: Kay Ferguson, 3622 N. Post Road, Omaha, NE 68112...



Charles D. Ferguson

Richard "Dick" McMullen, PC'63-'64... Ron Long reports Richard McMullen, 71, passed away December 26, 2011 in Cedar Rapids after a brief illness. During his working career, he worked in the family business at Midwest Foods where he enjoyed the interaction with customers and the suppliers. In his later year, Richard became a guard at U.S. Securities. While at Parsons, he was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. Richard was a life long Iowa sports fan, especially wrestling, basketball and football. He is survived by his wife, Julia; son, Brent; and stepsons, Bruce and Brian, and five grandchildren. Arrangements were handled by Cedar Memorial West Chapel...



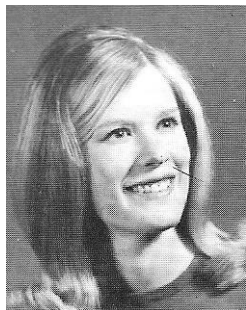
Donna Kay Zillman
1947-2007

Donna Kay Zillman, PC'69... E-News has learned Donna passed away December 24, 2007. Donna was born and raised in Fairfield, IA and graduated from Parsons College in 1969. While at Parsons, she majored in English, worked on the Peira staff and was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Donna was 60-years-old and resided in Tucson for over 27 years. She spent the majority of her career working in medical administration. Donna is survived by a host of relatives and was a huge animal lover and supporter of the Humane Society. She also was a founding member and supporter of the "Tee Up For Tots" program, a local charity helping pediatric cancer research while also assisting cancer families in southern Arizona...

Robert E. Seltzer, PC'65-69 ... Bob died Dec. 23, 2011 at his home in Bellevue, Ohio, from complications of coronary artery disease. He was 69. Bob attended Parsons from fall '65 to spring '69. While there, he was a member of the 'Where the Boys Are' social organization. Bob was the coordinating editor of the 1968 *Peira* and president of the Parsons Sharpchuter's Club. Upon leaving Parsons, he returned to Bellevue where he lived with his then wife, **Christine Miller, PC/AGD'68**, and son, Adam. Growing up near Lake Erie, Bob was a skilled sailor. He crewed for the Chicago to Mackinac race a number of times, and safely skippered a 45-foot sailboat during a sudden and deadly all-night storm on Lake Erie. In his later years, Bob lived in Oregon and in 1982 he was awarded a BS Degree in Social Science from Western Oregon University. Bob also studied painting and became an artist and was a member of the Watercolor Society of Oregon. He is survived by his son, his mother, two sisters and a brother. A memorial service and an art show of Bob's paintings are planned for June in Bellevue...

(continued on page 17)

Warren B. Gohn, PC'n/a... Mr. Gohn, 83, of Fairfield, died March 1, 2012, at Parkview Care Center in Fairfield. Warren was born in rural Lockridge and was a lifetime resident of Jefferson County. He was married to Marilyn Jean Angstead in 1954. She passed away in 2010. Warren graduated from Lockridge High School and Parsons College. He served in the United States Army Signal Corps prior to working 26 years for the Iowa State Radio until 1983, and later drove an over-the-road semi-trailer for several years. Warren was a member of First Baptist Church of Fairfield and is survived by a son and family living in Bloomfield. Arrangements were handled by Raymond Funeral Home of Fairfield and no service was scheduled...

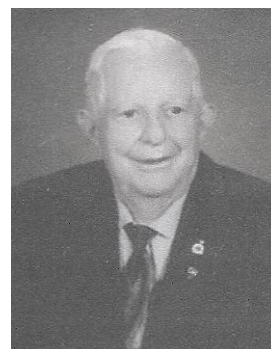


Mary Shay Krane

Mary Shay Krane, PC/DZ'67... Mary passed away at her Denver, CO home on November 6, 2011, following a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 66. Mary was born in Virginia but moved shortly after to Colorado. At age 16, with the passing of her mother, she was thrust into caring for her siblings. Mary became many things to many people. She graduated from North High School in Denver and attended Parsons College (1963-1967) where she earned her Bachelor's Degree. While at Parsons, Mary worked on Peira yearbook staff and was a respected member of the Delta Zeta sorority. She married her college sweetheart, Sigmund Krane (Lambda Chi), and moved back west.

Mary then enrolled at the University of Denver and obtained a Master's Degree in Social Work. This enabled her to launch an outstanding and distinguished career helping other. Mary's most impressive resume includes, working with the Mayor of Denver and city officials of the Department of Human Services; co-founding and becoming President of the Colorado Alliance for the Mentally Ill; and serving as Executive Director of the Denver Ear Institute. But it was the impact she made during her final years, helping thousands of children by soliciting for volunteers to assist, mentor and tutor needy children, that made her most proud. Mary was divorced and never had children of her own, but the humongous family of children she helped over the years was immeasurable. Her peers accorded Mary the highest honor by referring to her as, "the ultimate social worker."

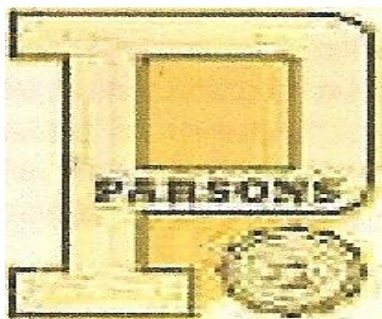
Wesley Hamilton Bartlett, PC'38... Parsons College lost one of it's most cherished alumni last month. He was also one of the inaugural members of the Parsons Alumni Wall of Honor (2009). Wes Barlett, age 96, of Algona, IA, died March 26, 2012 at the Kossuth Regional Health Center in Algona. He was born in New Sharon, IA and graduated high school in 1934. Wes received a Bachelor's Degree from Parsons in 1938 and did graduate work at University of Iowa following his marriage to Mary Foster. Early in his career, Wes worked as a laboratory assistant at Parsons, operated a Federal Bird Banding Station, taught at a number of high schools, a junior college and at Iowa State University. But in 1945, he moved back to Algona where he took over the family business (Foster Furniture Company) and ran it successfully for the next 42 years. Wes was very



Wes Bartlett

(continued on page 18)

involved in his community. He held many chairmanships and belonged to too many boards, commissions, associations and committees to mention. Wes was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Consistory Scottish Rite Body Masonic Order, Abu Bekr Shrine Temple, the Kossuth Shrine Club and was a member of the First Methodist Church. But it was with Kiwanis International where he spent 66 years and made his major mark and contribution. Wes served as Algona Club President and progressed to President of Kiwanis International in 1971-72. He is a Life Member and has received major and well deserved recognition from Kiwanis International. Other awards Wes has been accorded over the years include, Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Parsons, Iowan of the Year, Algona Senior Citizen of the Year, CircleK Appreciation Award, Key to the City of Springfield, IL and the World Service Endowment Medal. He is survived by a son, daughter, daughter-in-law, their families, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A celebration of Wes' life was held at the First Methodist Church in Algona...



Publication Information

Publisher/Editor: John Blackstock '64

jblackstock@prodigy.net - 636-926-7881

Advisor: Doug Marion '70

dougmarion@aol.com - 949-212-7758

E-News Dues (July to July): \$5.00 /year;
donations accepted. Mail to:

Dave Neff '69

c/o Parsons College Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1010
Fairfield, IA 52556.

Editor's Note: To submit Greek, social, or personal news, send your request to Nancy Wirtanen '73 at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com for consideration. E-News reserves the right to edit all material and downsize where necessary due to limited space. The Parsons College Alumni E-News is not affiliated with the Parsons College Newslin or George Jordan III.

Do you know this man??



Take a guess... Could he be:

- A - Campus security patrol?
- B - Parsons Bill's brother?
- C - The popular mailman?
- D - A college professor?
- E - JCPenny Store Manager?
- F - Lewis Parsons grandson?

If you don't know and can't figure it out, NOT TO WORRY, your E-News will supply the answer in the Summer edition...

LEE GOBBLE'S LIMITED INVENTORY OF PARSONS COLLEGE MEMORABILIA OFFERED TO ALUMNI...

If you've ever thought about or contemplated owning a piece of Parsons College memorabilia, there's no time like the present. While this limited supply lasts, you can own a Parsons T-shirt, sweatshirt, golf shirt and/or a Parsons beer mug. Our beloved friend and fellow alumni, Mr. Lee Gobble, PC'38, who is moving in on his 98th year of age, has generously passed on the remaining inventory of his Parsons College T-shirts, sweatshirts, golf shirts and beer mugs to the Parsons College Foundation with instructions to liquidate the collection at a fair and reasonable price. So, on a first come, first serve basis, here are the remaining ON HAND styles and sizes of these Parsons treasures and the listed prices:

Description	Unit Price *	Size/Quantity					
		S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Sweatshirt - green with white Parsons logo	\$20.00		11	11	8		
Sweatshirt - white with green rose Parsons logo	\$20.00		4	3	10	3	4
T-shirt - green with white Parsons logo "There Will Always Be A Parsons College"	\$15.00		2	7	1	5	
T-Shirt - green with white Parsons logo	\$15.00		2	14	14	21	10
T-Shirt - blue with white list of schools – Harvard...Parsons, U.S. Army, etc.	\$15.00		2	2	11	2	
Golf Shirt - green with white PC embroidered logo on left breast	\$15.00	3	5	15	6	4	4
Golf Shirt - white with green PC embroidered logo on left breast	\$15.00	2	1	5	3	4	6
Utopia T-Shirt "Maharishi Flyers with Domes – A Taste of Utopia"	\$15.00				33		
30 - Mugs with Parsons College logo	\$15.00 Ea						

* ADD Shipping/Handling Charges: Orders of 1 to 3 Items \$5.00; Orders of 4 to 6 Items \$10.00

ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS: Contact Dave Neff by phone (641-919-4640) or email (neffacres@lisco.com) with your order, including the ITEM, SIZE, and QUANTITY. Dave will verify and confirm back to you the availability of your requested item(s) and the total amount of purchase. At that point, make check payable to: **Parsons College Foundation Fund** for the designated amount, which will include, shipping and handling, and mail the check to the following address:

Dave Neff
Parsons College Foundation Fund
P.O. Box 1010
Fairfield, IA 52556

Upon receipt of your check, Dave will mail your order via United States Postal Service. We're excited to extend this great offer and we hope you take advantage of the opportunity to grab a piece of Parsons College memorabilia...

