



Parsons College E-News

Volume 7, No. 4

Winter 2014

Was "HELL WEEK" really that bad? You bet your molasses-coated burlap underwear it was!!!



The Ice Cream Social



A break in the Onion Race



Awaiting the next task



The dreaded Penny Push

What was HELL WEEK really like? We guess the answer depends on which fraternity/sorority you chose and what the traditions and philosophies were of that organization at the time. We're going to take a look back to the early 1960's and recapture some of the antics and morose activities of one particular fraternity which shall remain unnamed.

To the best of our unadulterated memory, here's the way the system of pledging played out. First, there was RUSH WEEK. All those interested in pledging visited the various fraternity/sorority houses and met the active members. The intending pledges decided if they felt comfortable with the membership, their interests, and if they wanted to become part of that organization. The members in the meantime, determined if they were attracted to the candidate and if they wanted that person to become a brother or sister for life.

Decisions were made, invitations were extended and pledge classes formed. Greek life in today's world is totally different, as the acceptability of pledging and initiation procedures and tactics have changed dramatically. As far as we're concerned, pledging in the early 1960's defined the extreme, and was the definition of HAZING and HARRASSMENT to the letter.

In the spirit of building brotherhood/sisterhood and camaraderie, lasting friendships and dependence upon each other, it was deemed necessary to put the pledge class through a number of trying and exhausting mental, physical and humiliating experiences.

The active members RULED and you didn't have to ask to be reassured. You were schooled to respect the actives, obedience to the actives, knowledge of their hometowns and the history of the organization and whatever else they deemed essential, all in a very military, no-nonsense manner. In this particular pledge class, there were 40 members, 32 survived.

Some called it character building, some called it character assassination but most of the pledges just called it pure Hell. Oh yes, there was no doubt, the active members RULED and you didn't have to ask to be reassured.

At any given moment the pledge might be instructed to drop to the ground and rip-off 30-40 push-ups. The actives had a game called "Bombs Away," where the pledge laid face-up with mouth-open beneath the staircase while the white of an egg and yoke came streaming down from above into your mouth. There were the "onion-eating races." The "fire drill" where pledges were required to extinguish a sizable fire with mouthfuls of alum-water.

(Continued on page 2)

HELL WEEK – (cont'd)

Then there was the “special fraternity pizza treat,” a piece of bread soaked in a bathtub of vinegar, crushed tomatoes and Tobasco sauce. And the fraternity “homemade ice cream eating races” where 2 pledges sat face to face with a 5 gallon barf-bucket between them, scooping out sizable portions of lard and a raw oyster sautéed with vinegar from a 4-oz Dixie cup.

The “olive and the block of ice” was one of the most hellacious of the mandatory games. As the nude pledge class stood at attention each pledge was required to sit on the block of ice, retrieve the olive from the block of ice then scoot to a trophy cup and deposit said olive. It was truly a day of cold buns. They were requested to participate in a number of late night marches where the pledges would be blind-folded and dropped off miles from town adjacent a desolate cornfield and expected to march home. The downside to the march was that the pledge class was required to wear burlap underwear which the actives happily lubricated with molasses.

There were a couple other fraternity specials called the “brick drop” and “autographing the egg.” For the “brick drop” the pledge tied a piece of cord to a brick and the other end was tied to...well, you take a guess. You then stood blind-folded and on a stack of Coke cases and were required to drop the brick. Yes, there was a moment of suspense and anticipation but the actives proved to be good brick catchers.

“Autographing the egg” was a jewel. Each pledge was given a hard boiled egg and instructed to have it autographed by the members of a specified sorority. A special pen was to be used. It was also tied to a cord and the other end of the cord was tied to a body part. The sorority members were requested to use the affixed pen. Bad day for a game of tug of war.

As we look back, perhaps the most individually daunting of all was the “penny push.” The pledge class was marched to the old sorority house across from the entrance to Carter Drive. They were each given a penny and the mission was to push the penny from the sorority porch down the long cement steps and walkway to the street. Usually this exercise took place in the winter with snow and ice on the ground.



The Dreaded Penny Push

Needless to say, there was no difficulty identifying this fraternity pledge class the following day as they all stood out flamboyantly with large flaming red, bloody scabbed noses.

The culmination of this particular groups “Hell Week” concluded with the traditional 20-mile march and passing the black ball phase. The march was an all-night affair and was halfway monitored by the actives. The pledges straggled in between 5-6am. They were then crammed into the upstairs shower (yes, all 32), and one by one, called to the dark meeting room in the basement.

They were tired and bewildered and some probably didn’t care if they made it or not. But nonetheless, the pledge was ordered to stand on a stack of Coke cartons and face the active group. All the lights were turned out and a huge spotlight was beamed at the pledge’s face. There was general conversation about the pledge’s performance and then they were asked to open the black ball/white ball box. If there were less than 3 blackballs in the box the pledge made it. If there were three or more blackballs they were dismissed.

You opened the box and to your shattering dismay there were 4 blackballs in the box. The group erupted into screams of dissent and disbelief and sadness. You looked into the box again and, yes, there were 4 blackballs.

About that time the lights turned up full blast and the active body stormed you on the Coke stand and hugged you profusely and welcoming you with CONGRATULATIONS while confirming that you were now a member of the fraternity...and you had just made it through HELL WEEK!!!

“You think education is expensive, try ignorance!” 65'nWise

Looking Back!!!! by Bob Long, PC'35

(My dad, **Bob Long**, a Fairfield native, went to Parsons from 1931 until graduation in 1935. Following are a couple excerpts from – “Home Grown” - his 1988 published memoir on growing up in 1920-1930's in Iowa. Fraternity life and pranks weren't all that different for some of us 30 years later in the 1960's. **Ron Long, PC'63**)

Fraternity Life in 1932...

I pledged to join Omega Kappa Tau fraternity, and went through Hell Week initiation in February, 1932, after the first term grades were in (membership was contingent on passing grades). About 15 pledges lived in the fraternity house on Carpenter Street, near campus. We slept in the 3rd floor loft which had open windows and no glass (to establish our macho). The winter winds whipped through at night, along with the snow, but it seemed we were doing most everything except sleeping.

Being obedient to the active members, we were on call day and night to perform feats or go on fools' errands. After just getting to sleep at night, we would be rousted out and told to go to the cemetery and locate a certain tombstone and get the dates from it, or run downtown and get a Coke for someone.

One night, four of us were sent out to bring back a live cat and a live pigeon. Since I lived in town, we could stop at home sometimes for needed supplies, such as flashlights, and possibly a car. We entered an old barn with flashlight in hand north of town and found unsuspecting pigeons roosting on the high rafters. We found burlap (gunny) sacks, and I climbed up and bagged a pigeon. The cat wasn't so easy to capture. One of our fellows lived in Ottumwa, and said, “there are a million cats around the CB&Q roundhouse there,” where his father worked. We drove the 25 miles to Ottumwa, bagged a cat, and returned to the frat house about 5am, triumphant. It was a thrill to be in the roundhouse among the many giant Burlington steam locomotives.

The actives all had wooden paddles which they used on the pledges when they thought it necessary, though this was not over-done in our case. On campus, between classes, the pledges often had to run the gauntlet through a double row of paddle swingers, much to the amusement of the gathered crowd. The old assignment of learning the Greek alphabet and reciting it under a cold shower was part of our stint. I can still recite it, even without the shower.

It was all good fun and nonsense, and nobody got hurt—at least not seriously. Close friends **Jim Taylor**, **Allen Fence**, and **Glen Brier** joined other fraternities, and to prevent these different directions and interests from wedging us apart, we formed our own informal tongue-in-cheek fraternity called Eta Beta Pi, which translates to “Eat a bite of pie.” We then “pledged” three or four other friends, including **Arve Charlton**, and set up our own initiation. This consisted mainly of leading the pledges blindfolded through some of the underground tunnels on the campus which carried heating pipes to the various buildings. There were only one of two access trap doors, and we had already explored them. They were the local version of the catacombs.

(Continued on page 4)

Next Issue – SPRING, 2015
News Deadline is March 1, 2015

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

Getting a new email address? Receiving multiple issues? If so, please notify Nancy of address change and any duplication.

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

Next E-News Deadline – March 1, 2015

SPOTLIGHT– (cont'd)

There was an annual freshman vs. sophomore fight or melee, which was a rough and tumble affair. That year the more numerous frosh were to tie the hands of all the sophomores in a half hour. At the end, only four sophs had their hands tied, one fellow had a broken ankle, all had bruises and strains. It was crazy, and was abandoned within a year in favor of such competitions as the tug-of-war across Crow Creek, which skirted the north edge of the campus.



The “Tug-of-War” became an annual event won by the upper classmen indicating freshmen continued wearing their beanies.

The Horse Skeleton Caper (1934)...

Meanwhile, I was not above a few memorable campus capers, usually with **Jim Taylor**, sometimes **Ernie Nehre**, and others on different projects. One night we hung an alarm clock by a wire down inside one of the large organ pipes in the chapel. It went off with excellent resonance, if not harmony, during the next morning’s chapel service.

The most elaborate prank was when we spirited a horse skeleton out of a locked storeroom in the biology department. By hoisting one of our smaller cohorts up through a ventilating shaft, we gained access to the inside lock, and took the horse out while the resident night guard was out to dinner. Hidden in the tall shrubs at the side of Foster Hall, the horse waited patiently for us.

We rendezvoused at 2 am, and carried the beast to the chapel. We had our own method of entrance to the chapel through a basement window under the apse. This allowed us to go inside and open the main entrance doors. During the day we had stowed away a heavy log chain, and filched a number of open padlocks from gym lockers (a dirty trick, but the students were able to retrieve them later, and with innocence). We chained the skeleton to the grand piano on the chapel stage with several padlocks.

Our hopes for the morning chapel service to open before the horse was discovered were not quite fulfilled, as the caretakers found it a little earlier. However, all was not lost as it took them quite a while to hacksaw the chain to release the animal. Students coming into chapel were hilariously greeted by the hurried exit of the horse in chains.

An interesting follow-up investigation of the incident as a news report for “The Portfolio” fell into my hands as one of the editors. I interviewed various people in security, biology, etc., and wrote a feature article, “The Horse Skeleton Mystery,” which was published in the following week’s “Port.” The conclusion was that the horse could not have carried out the caper alone, but must have had help. **President Greene** of the college expressed considerable displeasure at the whole incident.

*(Home Grown: An Iowa Memoir, 1920s-’30s, 128 pages, soft cover, is available for \$10 (which includes shipping) from **Ron Long**, 232 Pendryn Hill Bay, Woodbury, MN 55125)*

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PCAA moving forward with Carnegie Historical Museum project

The Parsons College Alumni Association is happy to announce that **Dr. Kay Ferguson** has been given authorization to pursue grants on behalf of the PCAA to assist our efforts to preserve, restore and present the artifacts housed in the Carnegie Historical Museum.

Dr. Ferguson initiated the idea of teaming up with the City of Fairfield and Jefferson County and various civic and service groups to preserve, protect, secure the history stored within, and hopefully expand our Parsons presence in the CHM.

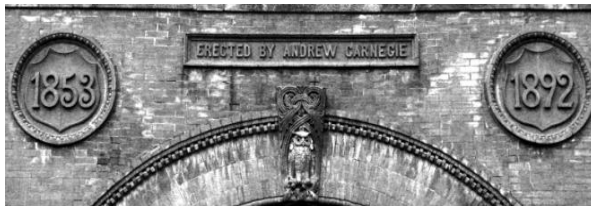
The building is the former Carnegie Library at the corner of South Court Street and Washington. It is the first Carnegie Library funded by Andrew Carnegie outside of Scotland and Pittsburgh, PA and served as the prototype for 2,700 more to be built across the country.

The CHM is the home and keeper of the PAST and FUTURE of Parsons College and must be preserved. Our PCAA (and Parsons College Foundation Fund) mission all along has been simply stated: "To preserve and perpetuate the history, memory and legacy of Parsons College."

Dr. Ferguson will continue working with **CHM Director Mark Shafer**, with hopes that various other organizations will participate and that, through grants and a future means of opening the door for alumni donations, we will be able to make this happen. Should you wish to contact us and participate, please direct your response to **Kay Ferguson** at: KFerg2@cox.net...

Had enough of old-man winter? Moving south? Great! Send us your NEW E-Mail

We'd prefer not to have to track you down but we will if necessary, OR at least Nancy will. We need you to take a minute and send us your NEW e-mail address. Changes to addresses, phone numbers are great but don't forget that email address. Mail to: **Nancy Wirtanen** at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com. PLEASE KEEP US IN YOUR LOOP AND YOU WON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE OF THE ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER.



The Carnegie Historical Museum is the home of Parsons College history, its' memorabilia and artifacts. CHM occupies the 3rd floor and in need of upgrading and expansion. Current historical pieces need to be digitized and presented. The hard-to-read engraving in the horizontal box above says: ERECTED BY ANDREW CARNEGIE. The Barhydt Memorial sits on the corner...



**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 neffaces@lisco.com

Dr. Bob Tree speaks candidly on the history, and shares some thoughts, of the Carnegie Library and Historical Museum...

Dr. Tree writes..... I finished **Susan Welty's** chapter on the Public Library from her book "A Fair Field," which brings up the Carnegie Library and how it started and what it is today.



I rather like your term of "floating" for the library. It started in **Dr. Shafer's** office and he was the first librarian in the mid-late 1800's. He was also a skilled taxidermist. It appears that he really was the person who started the museum. He did many of the birds that are still there today. From his birds, other collections began arriving from all directions. Space to house the collections and books became an increasing problem which put pressure on the Board to build a building.

Enter **Senator James Wilson** and **Andrew Carnegie**. Wilson, a Board member, knew that Carnegie was assisting some communities east of the Mississippi in obtaining libraries. He conceived the idea that Fairfield should have the first Carnegie Library west of the river. You know the rest of that story (In 1892 Carnegie built the library in Fairfield).

The joy of owning a new building of their own did not last long. It was soon realized there was not enough income to operate the building. So, Senator Wilson appealed to Carnegie for help, but died shortly after making his appeal. Wilson's eldest son took over but none of his appeals were ever answered. Ms. Welty suggests that Carnegie may have learned a lesson from that experience because, she wrote, "All future library grants required that the recipient establish an endowment fund."

In 1899 things fell into place. The Library Association deeded its assets to the City of Fairfield in return for assurances the City would take care of the Public Library, which it has done. The then Mayor promptly appointed the members the Library Association Trustees of the Library. To this day, the mayor fills vacancies on the Board by appointment.

I neglected to say, the question of whether, or not, the city should take over the library was put to a vote. The issue was voted upon by eligible residents, and for the first time, included women voters. The ladies overwhelmingly approved the takeover. And although the men were not quite so enthusiastic, the approval vote was a very clear majority and nothing has changed since and the city continues to support the facility.

Fairfield, its residents and supporters have been very generous over the years. There has been quite a bit of fund raising in Fairfield in recent times. Something over 6M for the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center (FA&CC), and just the other day, I read in the Fairfield Ledger that the swimming pool and gymnasium addition to the Recreation Center will cost 8M. It was also announced that an unidentified donor pledged \$50,000 for outdoor, lighted basketball courts, adjacent to the Center. A good approach on behalf of books, the numerous exhibits housed in the museum and the Parsons memorabilia, would probably get good support. I also think it would behoove the Board to go after grant money and not put full hope on the electorate.

To get the ball rolling, I liked the thought about high school students helping out with the museum work load. It also made me think, "what about some students from Indian Hills Community College becoming involved?" The I.H.C.C. is a renting resident of the Carnegie Building. If a provision to include some of their students in the project were part of a proposal, their board might see its way to be helpful. That could lead to the inclusion of MUM support. After all, it is part of the community and its students could also make use of the Museum.

It is interesting how one thing leads to another. **Ward Lamson** conceived the idea of a lending library in 1853. Then, I doubt Dr. Shafer, who became the "floating" librarian, thought he was creating a museum when he put in a cabinet of his own stuffed birds in his office on exhibit. And later, Andrew Carnegie built the building in 1892...

(Editor's note: When Dr. Tree talks history, we are compelled to listen. The above story is comprised of excerpts from his response and comments to the Carnegie Historical Museum article written by E-News Editor, John Blackstock, which appeared in the Fall E-Newsletter)

Wall of Honor *NOW OPEN* for Class of 2015 Nominations

The Parsons College Foundation Fund has announced it is now taking nominations for the Class of 2015 Wall of Honorees. Nominations will be accepted through March 1. The selection committee will then meet and the inductees of the 7th Class of 10 will be announced in the Summer issue of the E-Newsletter.

A nomination form may be obtained by contacting PCFF President **Dave Neff** at: 641-919-4640 or by email: neffacres@lisco.com. We recommend you supplement the form with written information, further highlighting the distinguished career and achievements of your nominee.

Currently there are 59 honorees on the Wall of Honor. We intend to increase the total to 100, as initially committed. The ideal candidates, much like the current members, should have recorded a distinguished career, regarded as outstanding in their field, been recognized, and having made a difference. They may also have impacted their community, and others, in a number of ways - through hard work, leadership, taking charge and making things happen.

“The annual Wall of Honor program has gained immense popularity. We, the committee, share major excitement with the city of Fairfield the first full weekend each October as we bring back these distinguished Parsons College students/alumni. And we look forward to hearing their success stories (and challenges), and the role that Parsons College played in the preparation of their individual pursuits of excellence and ultimate success,” Neff said.

“As I review each of the biographies of the current honorees, I find myself repeatedly standing back and saying ...OH WOW!!! We can't wait to meet the Wall of Honor Class of 2015,” Neff concluded...

WANTED!!!

I am looking for a 1964 Peira Yearbook. If you are able to help me out I would be happy to pay you for the book. My name is Tom LeBoutillier and my email is: Lebouts@bellsouth.net. Thanks, Tom , PC'64...

Marion Jennings, PC'71 joins PCAA Board and assumes secretary post

We are proud to announce Marion Jennings, PC'67-'71, has joined the Parsons College Alumni Association Board of Directors. Marion will also assume the duties of secretary. She replaces Dixie Hogan Hoekman who resigned from the secretary post, but remains a board member.

Marion is originally from Youngstown, OH, and received her BA degree in Elementary Education at Parsons. She was a member of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority. Marion continued her education at Elizabethtown College in Elizabeth, PA, earning an Associates Degree in Business Management.

Prior to retirement she spent over 30 years in an executive administrative capacity for a number of international businesses, and is a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

She and her husband, Ted, who is also from Youngstown, have lived in Lancaster County, PA for the last 39 years. They are avid sailors and can be frequently found sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. Marion and Ted have one son (and family) living in Arizona. Welcome back to Parsons!!!

Color me GREEN for Parsons, St. Patty's day and GREEN beer, eeh??

It's Kelly Green time!!! St. Patrick's day is GREEN. Parsons College is GREEN (and white) and what loyal Parsons grad would be without a GREEN beer on March 17th. There's plenty of time to order your GREEN Parsons T-shirt or golf shirt. As we recall, St. Patty's day was our first excuse for a spring party. So whether it's sunny and dry, or cold and wet, now is the time to order that special person the GREEN that he or she needs. If you've already done so, good for you. If not, it's time to splurge. Your sweatshirt and/or hoodie is also just around the corner and everything comes in GREEN and white and most sizes run from S – 3X. Plus, don't forget to checkout our complete line of merchandise including, caps and visors, on page 19 (*last page E-Newsletter*) and follow the quick and easy ordering instructions...

REMEMBER WHEN??? by Doug Marion, PC'70

"I'm an Iowan and I graduated from the best small college in the USA – Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa."

Over the course of my career I've said and continue to say the above in response to people's questions directed my way. For sure at least a few thousand times. When I worked for Flying Tigers in Seattle (1972-1976), my sales territory included Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. Lots of sales calls with great, Iowa-like people. I always tried to be friends or friendly and courteous. Honor, integrity and being from Iowa always seemed to win favoritism. Ditto at Argus Publishers Corp. in West Los Angeles, CA. circa 1976 – 1995. People enjoy relating to others via their interests, efforts and attitudes.

During my magazine and television work, I casually wondered if I would ever get the chance to let Parsons College and fellow alums know they were being mentioned and highlighted? Examples of customers and contacts included engineers and public relations staffs at GM Divisions, Ford, Chrysler Corp then television directors and execs at The Nashville Network, Fox Television, CBS/Los Angeles and others.

Strangely, my career success entailed being able daily/weekly to obtain freight to ship/deliver on DC8 and 747 cargo jets then later - creating and writing monthly car magazines. I planned, then wrote, as many as 21 stories per issue with 200 total photos for over 10 years. The editorial deadline was always the third Thursday of every month.



The view from one ecstatic Doug Marion who had just successfully finished climbing the mountain of graduation and now streaking west to a world of opportunities...

When I casually and matter-of-factly replied I was born in Iowa and graduated from the best small college in the USA – Parsons College in Fairfield, I can't tell you how many times people from all the firms I've mentioned above, as well as car owners from all over the USA who graduated from major colleges, gave me a smile and a thumbs-up while usually saying one of two things: "I've heard of Parsons" – or – "I know someone who went to Parsons." Thumbs up to all. Amen!!!

It wasn't until I was driving through Montana on I-80 in my yellow '56 Nomad station wagon on the way to California and grad school that I realized I was a certified "college graduate." So, I snapped this photo as a lifelong happy remembrance.

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!!

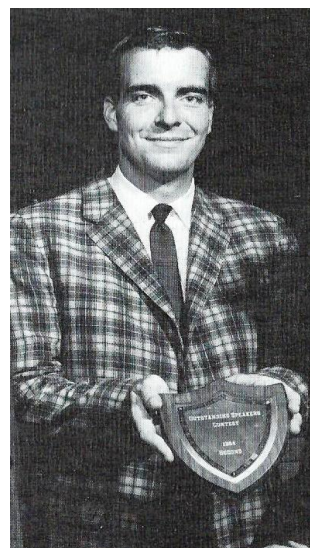
THE ALUMNI WRITE...

TREASURED MEMORIES FROM PARSONS...

Paul Read, PC'67 - Maryville, MO (pdread24@centurylink.net writes... How surprised I was to open the Parsons Newsletter (*Mystery Quiz Answer*) and see the photo of **Ralph (Young), Meredith (James)**, and myself on a frozen football field! I have the 8 x 10 original framed with the rest of my treasures from my Parsons days. At the time this was taken, my wife and I had just had twin daughters (I think they were six-weeks old when that photo was taken, so dating Meredith was definitely not an option!). Ralph and I Co-Captained the Wildcats that year. Reading the Newsletter is always a joy and brings back many happy memories of our days in Fairfield, Iowa. Thanks for what you and your team do!! I retired five years ago from teaching and coaching football and track at the college, high school, and middle school levels. My wife Myrna and I are enjoying retirement and spending time with our 11 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren...

THE PLAQUE THAT NEVER WAS...

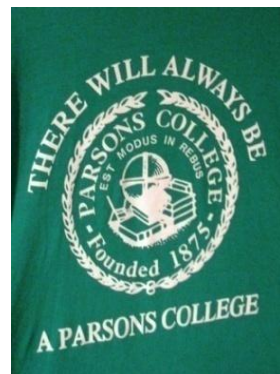
Thomas LeBoutillier, PC'64 - lebouts@bellsouth.net writes... I appreciate your efforts and for those efforts I have a story. If you look through the 1964 yearbook you will find one picture under DEBATE. It is a picture of an oriental girl and me holding up a plaque. Upon a casual glance one would think we were the heroes of the debate team and were holding up our trophy of greatness. The truth is, I was kicked off the debate team earlier in the season. As the story goes, the debate team members paired off to debate varied subjects during the year. An unnamed student decided I was going to be his partner so the teams were set. As the season progressed, my partner didn't seem to share an interest in doing weekly research and we weren't very prepared for each of our debates. One week he "no showed" for any research and I was up until 5:00am the night before preparing our arguments. When I woke up in the afternoon, I had slept through the debate and was removed from the team. I never complained about it because I was taught that when you screwed-up you live with it. At the end of the season I ran into the teacher assigned to the debate team and decided to tell him the whole story. He said I should have come to him earlier and he would have straightened it out, given me a new partner, or something. So that was the end of it until the 1964 yearbook came out!



Tom LeBoutillier presents the "PLAQUE" that never was.

HOME, HOME ON THE RANGE...

Chuck Olmsted, PC'61 - CM9466@gmail.com writes... Well, it's finally cooling down around these parts up here in Stevensville, Montana, so I have been in the fall projects mode. I only have one left to do, clean up some dead fall (translation: that would be trees). I have about 135 acres of ponderosa pine to burn come this spring. Only item left on the agenda after that is elk and deer season. Trust I will end up sending a couple hundred pounds of meat back home to Colorado with my son, Pat. Right now my supply is down to a couple pounds, so I also need to restock myself. Then I am off to Arizona for the winter (all play, little work). And yes, I will get in touch with our old friend **Whitey (Whan)**. I have not been back to Iowa in five years. It seems like everyone I want to see there has moved to Arizona or Southern California...



Parsons Alum shares sample of his new book: "You can't make this stuff up!"

Dan Squires, PC'61 – dansquires@att.net writes...

In a later note, I'll share more about the book I'm writing, entitled, "You can't make this stuff up." Here's a sample item (I have dozens ready to go): When I graduated Parsons, I returned to RCA's Missile Test Project at Cape Canaveral from the leave of absence (LOA) I took to finish college. They hired me as a recruiter and in my second week, I took a completed employment application from the receptionist; she had looked to the right (so the applicant couldn't see her) and mouthed to me that, because she was then on the phone, she would call me about this applicant. She had already told the applicant that a recruiter would come out and take her back for an interview.

So I picked up the application and started to walk back to my office to wait for the call from the receptionist. All of a sudden, I burst out laughing, thinking that the applicant was still in the lobby, way out of earshot. Instead, note: you'll recall that before Title 7 and civil rights legislation of 1964, employment applications used to be terribly discriminatory...asking all kinds of personal questions, e.g., have you ever had any back injuries, have you ever collected Worker's Comp? Height? Weight? Sex?, etc. When answering the Sex? question, this applicant had checked the M _ AND the F_ and wrote and circled in-between the two: Wed. ... indicating, of course, that she had sex Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Like I said – "You can't make this stuff up!" (Editor's note: Can't wait to read your book!)

"PARSONS COLLEGE ON EBAY"

Doug Marion reports: Many alumni spend time during their winter and other closed-in months enjoying their Parsons College Peira yearbooks. They truly bring back memories of many friendships, sanctioned events and personal doings.

We also turn on our computer and venture to "eBay" (www.eBay.com), then type in "Parsons College Fairfield, Iowa." It's always hard to imagine what might be for sale in any given week or month. Over the last decade we have purchased some Peira yearbooks to enjoy and to also use as reference for our E-Newsletter.

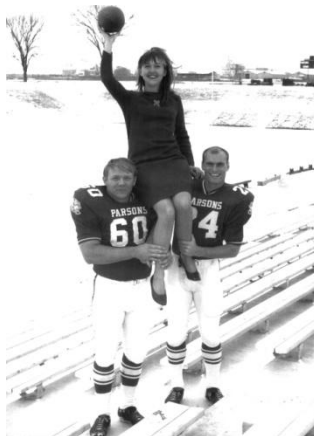
Recently on eBay were original Parsons College coffee cups and saucers, vintage campus photos and photo postcards and 1925 – 1972 Peira yearbooks. The dedicated sellers were private party, pawn store, antique shop and used book stores. Peira's available at that time were '59, '65, '69 and '72. Best wishes for 2015. Happy shopping!!!

WANTED!!!

I am looking for a 1964 Peira Yearbook. If you are able to help me out I would be happy to pay you for the book. My name is Tom LeBoutillier and my email is: Lebouts@bellsouth.net. Thanks, Tom , PC'64...

The Fall Mystery Quiz – THE ANSWER!!

We're talking ROYALTY here – PECAN BOWL ROYALTY. The boys, **Ralph Young (60)** and **Captain Paul Read (24)** of the Wildcats highly ranked football team are hoisting **Meredith James, PC'67** in celebration of the team's invitation to the Pecan Bowl in Abilene, Texas to play North Dakota State University, and Meredith's selection as a candidate for the prestigious honor of PECAN BOWL QUEEN. We thank **Peter Willmott, PC'65** for supplying us with this interesting photo...



What is Meredith doing?

- A- She just scored a TD?
- B- Being escorted to PE Class?
- C- Posing for the front cover of the Parsons football program?
- D- Redefining a "double-date?"
- E- Off to Pecan Bowl royalty?
- F- Flipping a football to decide between dating Ralph OR Paul?

Greek and Social News...

Sigma Pi Gamma Zeta Chapter posts 13th reunion in St. Petersburg, FL

The Alumni Association of Gamma Zeta Chapter held its 13th reunion October 8 through 12, 2014 on St. Petersburg Beach Florida. Reunions have been held in the northeast, mid-Atlantic, southeast and mid-west regions and in California.

Although the Chapter, which was chartered in 1963, became inactive with the 1973 closing of Parsons College, formerly located in Fairfield, the Brotherhood is still strong due in no small part to its nearly 130 alumni association membership and a very active alumni association website, which facilitates constant contact and interaction among the Brothers.

This year's reunion, also attended by a number of wives and significant others, included group functions - a sunset sail, dinner boat cruise, tours, golf and the traditional Orchid Ball, along with beach time and of course, the reported "often embellishment," of days long past.

Planning for the 14th reunion is already in the planning stage. And **Butch Strayer** reports that about 10 Sig Pi's and wives attended the 'open invitation' gathering at the *Hurricane Sunday*, along with a number of other Parsons Alums...

(Continued on page 12)

**WTBA's, Rummer's,
VIP's, Tapper's,
Troop's???**

**Where are YOU???
We know you're out
there!!!!**



Sigma Pi 2014 reunion attendees (alphabetical): Bruce Banister, Bob Buckles, Henry Coan, Bruce Crowley, Ken Crofoot, Mark Fennelly, Greg Gallacher, John Garvey, Gerry Gerard, Calvin Hill, Dave Howard, Doug Lake, Harry Lowe, Joe Miguel, Bob Payne, Dave Reed, Joe Reidel, John Robbins, Chauncey Sage, Butch Strayer, Dave Thorell, Jack Turbitt, Bill Urban, Tom Vafiadis, Dana Weigel and Jim Williamson...

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Editor's Note: To submit Greek, social, or personal news, send request to Nancy Wirtanen at: nwirtanen@yahoo.com for consideration. E-News reserves the right to edit all material and downsize due to limited space. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily represent those of E-News or the PCAA. The Parsons College Alumni E-News is not affiliated with the Parsons News-line, or George Jordan III.

Holy Crap!! So you're 70?



Get over it! There's a lot more Parsons Alums on the way!!!



Happy Birthday, Marilynne!!!

Alpha Xi Delta Sorority gals gathered at Deck 64 in Boca Raton, Florida on October 31, for a surprise 70th Birthday celebration for their beloved sister **Marilynne Wepsala Urquhart**.

Top photo: **Lynette Meiser Hughes** (R) provides the message to Marilynne (sunglasses). Bottom photo: (L/R) Lynette and **Pam Plummer Anello**.

Standing: (L/R) Marilynne, **Cheryl Peasley**, **Sandy Hermel Parker** and **JoAnna Peters Chicco**. Special invitee, **Paul Mclsaac** is seated in the middle. Parsons Alum **Fred Emde** also attended but was not shown in the photo. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARILYNNE!! MANY MORE!

(Continued on page 13)

Lambda Chi's announce plans for their next Florida Reunion bash in March

Lambda Chi Alpha/Phi Delta Omega alumni have planned their third Florida reunion, taking place in St Petersburg on March 2 and 3, 2015. Group rates are available for a block of rooms at The Hampton Inn and Suites, 80 Beach Drive, (727-892-9900). Other Parsons alumni are invited to stop by to share some memories. Contact **Ron Long** (v83756@comcast.net), **Bill Winger** (wewinger@msn.com) or **Jim Wonnacott** (208) 929-2147 for more info...

Alpha Chi Rho's proudly hoist the fraternity flag at their Williamsburg, Virginia reunion



Alpha Chi Rho (AXP) members reunion at the Ft. Magruder in Williamsburg, VA over dates of September 11-14, 2014. Brothers in attendance (alphabetically) were: John Almack, Bill Bangham, Boyd Blankenship, Chip Drant, Jim Egan, Ron Engelsen, Bill Fullerton, Greg Johanson, Ray Martin, Wayne Price, Les Schneider, Tim Stambaugh.

"Life is too short.... Smile while you still have your teeth!!!"

65'nWise

Sigma Phi Epsilon/Zeta's 5th Bi-Annual Reunion Storms Nashville

It was a dark and stormy night, oh wait, the weather was great and Nashville was greater. Between October 23 and 26th, 2014, 32 Sig Ep brothers and their wives (significant others) met in Nashville for their 5th Bi-Annual reunion. "It's hard to believe we've been having these reunions for 10 years already, but the good times keep getting better and better," said chairman **Larry Marino**.

Attendees enjoyed all of Nashville attractions, from Broadway bars and honky-tonks, to the museums of Johnny Cash, Country Music, and others, Earl Scruggs historic record shop, the Grand Ole Opry House (the Ryman Auditorium), golf, and even a Predators/Blackhawks hockey game. Our Hospitality Suite was open every day from early afternoon until late at night and there wasn't a minute that someone wasn't in there enjoying the food, drink, and camaraderie of the brothers.

We've all said it before, it's like these past 40 or 50 years never existed and we were all just sitting in the fraternity house having another great day. No doubt we talked about the same stories we have before, with just a little more embellishment this time, but we also heard some new stories about past lives and events that had many of us rolling on the floor with laughter. Won't bore you with details, but one story was told about a drive-thru funeral home in Chicago. I'm sure you can imagine the fun lines from that conversation as we fell off our chairs laughing.

What would we do without Larry Marino?? The master planner taking a few moments with wife, Maryrose Gallagher Marino to enjoy some of the sights of Nashville, TN. We can't thank Larry enough for his vision and perseverance in getting the job done and getting us back together each year! HAIL TO LARRY!



Along with all the fun conversations, there was also discussions about those who have passed and the great times we all had with these brothers. We remembered those who were ill and could not attend the reunion. That underscored the importance of these events and coming together to forget past grudges and reflect on all the good there was at the fraternity house and our experiences and education at Parsons College. And to remember how that part of our lives has allowed us to progress to where we are today.

Our dinner on Saturday night was emceed by event organizer **Larry Marino**, and before giving thanks for the meal, each brother got up and took a fresh red rose to their wives or partners. After dinner, **Hobie Bannister** presided over an informal meeting to discuss any thoughts about this year's reunion and to bring up suggestions about our next meeting place. Locations nominated were San Antonio, TX, Santa Fe, NM, Velas Vallarta, Mexico, and a cruise. An email vote will be taken at a later time for a decision. We hope everyone responds and as many as possible will attend the next reunion.

These events just don't happen and become a success without a lot of help from the brothers. In particular, thanks go out to **Herb and Barbara Weiss** for all their efforts in keeping the Hospitality Suite up and running, **Dave Neff** for handling all the financial issues, **Bob Habetler** and **Gene Calvin** for taking care of some outside activities, and the support and tolerance of all our wives/partners for allowing us to become kids again and go back all those years.

Those attending were: Chris Adams, Hobbie & Dawn Bannister, Lynn & Debbie Banta, Miles & Lana Bextine, Hank Brenner, Gene & Karen Calvin, Ned Casady, John & Rosalind Connor, Jim & Sue Cornick, Ernie & Sue Eveland, Vince & Alice Fasano, Dave & Rose Fenstermaker, Steve & Vickie Gilliatt, Mike & Marlene Gilpin, Paul & Pat Gustafson, Bob & Mary Habetler, Larry & Ginny Hudak, Pat & Marilyn Kurz, Ron Langner & Patti Neely, Bill & Shari MacFarlane, Larry & Maryrose Gallagher Marino, Jeff & Betsy Megee, Greg Mountsier & Helen Telgarsky, Jim & Sue Myron, John & Karen Nair, Dave & Sheri Neff, Gary & Toni Olson, Fred & Linda Ortiz, Dave & June Peters, Rick & Maxine Romano, Herb & Barbara Weiss and Gary & Mary Wilgocki.

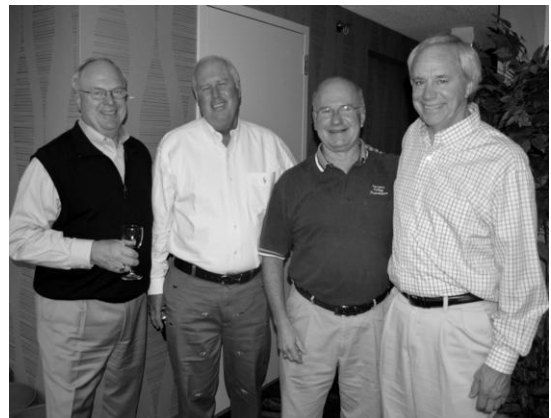
(Continued on page 14)



SIG EPS/ZETAS ROCK!!! Front Row; L-R, Bill MacFarlane, Larry Hudak, Vince Fasano, Ned Casady, Fred Ortiz, Gene Calvin (with Crest), Ernie Eveland, Herbie Weiss, Dave Neff, Rick Romano (obscured), Back Row; L-R, Jim Cornick, Jeff Megee, Greg Montsier, Jim Myron, Pat Kurz, (obscured), Mike Gilpin, Hank Brenner, John Nair, John Connor, Lynn Banta, Bob Habetler, Chris Adams, Larry Marino, Ron Langner, Gary Olson, Steve Gilliatt, Hobie Bannister, Gary Wilgocki.



Are you f@#\$%&*\$\$% kidding me? Steve Gilliatt and Hank Brenner seem to have landed on a hot topic!!



Past Presidents of Sigma Phi Epsilon/Zeta's: L/R – Hobie Bannister, Jim Myron, Dave Neff and Larry Hudak.



The Iris City Cleaners in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa has created a Parsons logo mat. The decorative mat is 3' x 4' and made of nylon pile fabric with cleated nitrile rubber backing. If interested in purchasing this piece of memorabilia, contact Ed Longanecker via email at: emlong2@iowatelecom.net, fax at 319-385-9707, or call 888 485 9707. The price is \$62.95+ shipping. (See page 17 for more PC memorabilia)

Letters to the Editor...

Thank you again for a great newsletter. I was happy to see my Alpha Xi Delta big sister, **Fran Carson McDonald**, in this edition. I wish you could help me get her email address. I should send you some of my Parson's photos. I don't know why I didn't take more photos while I was at Parsons. I treasure the ones I have.....such great memories.

Cheryl Peasley, PC'n/a - cheripeas@verizon.net

(Editor's note: Ms McDonald does not currently have an email address but we believe she lives in Clinton, IA)

Just received the Parsons fall newsletter today and as usual it is filled with wonderful news and information about our days at Parsons and in Fairfield. There was a wonderful explanation of where our annual dues go which made me wonder if I was up to date with my dues. The one thing that is missing there is when our dues are due each year. Could you please let me know and it might be good to add it to the next newsletter. Thanks again to you and all the others who work so hard to bring us such wonderful information from our days at PC..

Bruce Jordan, PC/TKE'60 - BruceKJordan@ymail.com

(Editor's note: Annual dues for the E-Newsletter and the Alumni website are due each July and this info should be already posted in the publishers box.)

*(The following is a CORRECTION to the photo submitted and shared by **Paula Chomka McGrath** in the Fall issue of the Parsons Alumni newsletter.)* Most, but not all of the coeds in the photo are Alpha Gams as previously reported. **Susie Graves** (Delta Zeta) is fifth from the left and I (Alpha Xi Delta) am the seventh from the left. As far as what prompted the photo, often times the yearbook photographers would make a phone call to the sororities and request some of us to be available for impromptu photo ops. I suspect that may have been what was behind this particular grouping. If the photo was taken with a coed's camera it may have been taken by someone who wanted their own copy or wanted it for their sorority scrapbook. Any and all other interpretations regarding this photo are welcome.

Ellen Barbaro Frech, PC'n/a - ellenfrech@icloud.com



These campus beauties who were previously thought to be all Alpha Gams also include Susie Graves (5th from left) and Ellen Barbaro Frech, (7th from left).

Another great newsletter! I look forward to them and enjoy them greatly. Is there any way I can be of assistance to you or anyone else working to preserve our PC legacy? I will send you a bit of a bio on my wife, Katrina, and I for the next newsletter. There are so many classmates and PC associates that I would like to know about. Keep up the great work of getting out the newsletter.

Dick Shelton, PC'62 - dickrecon@qwestoffice.net

Dr. Echard taught a course in International Relations, which was an in depth analysis of World War I and II. That was one of the reasons, in addition to my father, that I went to Normandy this past year. When are nominations open for the Wall of Honor and what's the criteria? *(Nominations open December 1 to March 1. (Editor Note: Distinguished career, and/or, over and above community service.)*

Robin Wilkins, PC'62 - robinwilkins@mac.com

(Continued on page 16)

Thanks for the great newsletter. I look forward to them and love them!
Rick McLean, PC '70 - andygask@aol.com

Hi... enjoy the newsletters and the pictures. I graduated in 1971 after transferring to Parsons after Midwestern College closed that year. So I only have one year of Parsons College memories. On Facebook there is a group titled, "Iowa's Lost Schools." You can access at: (<https://www.facebook.com/lostschools>). It would be a great place to post pictures of the Parsons buildings and history. Just a thought, keep up the good work!
Carl Duling, PC'71 - dules@webdesignbyduling.com

(Editor's note: If you're in search of photos and Parsons history you will find an abundance on our PCAA website at: www.parsonscollegealumni.com.



Your Editor's asked for information on the Parsons people from the "golden old" days, one's that I know about. Actually, many were my wife's good friends but I also knew them well. Here they are with what contact and status info I have:

Theresa Gallaher Philben, PC'43... 1400 Enterprise Road, Apt.N-132, Lynchburg VA 24502.
terryphilben@aol.com. In assisted living but doing well.

Ruth Dreyer Sondgren (Carl) PC'43... 119 E. Boca Raton, Phoenix, AZ, csundgren@cox.net. I believe Ruth has dementia and in a care facility.

Frederick P. Ford, PC'30 - '50's (librarian)... Had 4 children, and believe all graduated from Parsons:

Mary Carolyn Ford Voter (Roger), PC'41 ... Both deceased.

Albert S. Ford, PC'43... Died in SE Asia WW II in 1944. Albert was first husband of my wife.

Kathryn Ford Greene, PC'n/a... 1 Oaknoll Court, Iowa City, IA, 52246. Poor health in care facility.

Hubbard Ford, PC'n/a... Villa 1-817, 800 S. 15th St, Sebring, OH 44672. Info is several years old.

Evelyn Watts Gamrath (Robert dec), PC'n/a... Living in Fairfield and doing well.

There are probably other living member of classes of that period but I don't have info on them.

Philip Allen, PC'40 - PW.Allen@comcast.net

The Winter Mystery Quiz – THE QUESTION!!

Who was Benny Belch?

In the 1960's a character named **Benny Belch** infiltrated our campus. Who was Benny Belch? What did he do? What did he represent? Why was he on the Parsons campus? What was his significance? Help us identify this character by sending your best guess and explanation to our editor as we really don't know either. Guesses are to the right...



Your Clues!!

- A – Politician
- B – Dr. Bob's Cousin
- C – Campus Cop
- D – Hotel Clerk
- E – Bartender
- F – Comedian
- G – All of the Above
- H – None of the Above

Please submit an explanation with your answer. The answer will appear in the Spring issue of E-News...

In Memoriam...



Craig Jensen

Craig Jensen, PC'64 of Loveland, Colorado died suddenly at McKee Hospital after suffering from what was believed to have been a stroke while driving home from the library October 24, 2014. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High in Council Bluffs, Iowa and Parsons College. While at Parsons, Craig was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity where he forged a number of lifelong friendships. He rarely missed the annual reunions each summer back in Panora, Iowa. Craig met his wife Marilyn (Thomason) on a blind date set up by his brother shortly after graduating from college. They recently celebrated 49 years of marriage. Craig served in the US Army division of the National Guard but spent most of his working career with Maritz Motivation as a salesman. Their frequent relocations included stops in Detroit and Indianapolis. Upon Craig's retirement in 2005, the Jensen's moved to Colorado to be close to their grandchildren. Craig was a classic "enjoy life now" type of guy who looked you in the eye, had a strong handshake and listened to whatever you had to say. He knew how to make people feel good about themselves. In addition to Marilyn, Craig is survived by a son and daughter (and families) and two grandchildren. Funeral arrangements were handled by the Viegut Funeral Home in Loveland...

Olof Wilhelm Hogrelius, Jr., PC'67-'69 died September 28, 2014 in Durango, Colorado. Olof was born in Hackensack, NJ and grew up in Hillsdale and Woodcliff Lake before moving to Princeton, NJ. An accomplished builder, glass artist and consummate philosopher, he left a wealth of loving memories for all who befriended him. After graduating from St. Peter's Prep in Peekskill, NY and serving his country in the US Navy, Olof attended Michigan State University and Parsons College in Iowa. There he met his wife and mother of his children, Francoise Morel. They lived in France, Pennsylvania and Tucson, AZ. In 2007 he found paradise in Pagosa Springs, CO. Olof was a beloved friend to many and is survived by two sisters, two sons and six grandchildren. Pagosa friends joined the family in a memorial celebration of his life at his home on October 4...



Olof Wilhelm Hogrelius



Mary Kay "Kay" Logan

Mary Kay 'Kay' Logan, PC'mid-'60's... of Kattskill Bay, passed away on Thursday, September 25, 2014 at Glens Falls Hospital after a brief struggle with cancer. She was 73. Kay was born in Ottumwa, Iowa, graduated from Ottumwa High School and attended the University of Iowa and Parsons College. Throughout her life, Kay lived in Massachusetts, Old Westbury, Plattsburg and Rexford, NY before retiring to Kattskill Bay in Lake George, NY, where she resided for the past 20 years. She was an active supporter and volunteer at a number of church and health and human services agencies, including the Northeast Parent and Child Society, the Leukemia Society, Glens Falls Food Pantry, North Country Ministry and Sacred Heart "Renew"

group. Kay was a wonderful cook and feeding people brought her great joy. She loved decorating, traveling and having fun with family and friends. Bringing people together from all walks of life thru her willingness to help anyone in need was also a joy to her. Kay was a generous person as well as a warm and gracious soul who will be sorely missed by the many people whose lives she touched. Kay is survived by her daughter and her fiancé, a son and a number of other relatives. A Memorial Mass was celebrated at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Lake George, NY. Arrangements were taken care of by the Singleton Sullivan Potter Funeral Home, Queensbury, NY...

(Continued on page 18)

Charles "Ed" Willis, PC'65...husband of Sue Ellen Willis, died Sun., December 14, 2014 at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky. Born in Boone, Iowa, Ed was a graduate of Parsons and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. After retiring from Link Belt he worked as an administrator for the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Ed was a member of Southland Christian Church and a Kentucky Colonel. Survivors include his wife, two daughters (and families) and six grandchildren. A graveside service and burial was held at Blue Grass Memorial Gardens. The Kerr Brothers Funeral Home of Lexington, Kentucky handled the funeral arrangements...



Charles "Ed" Willis



"Skip" Falasca

William M. "Skip" Falasca, Jr., PC'63-'66, age 69, of Lynn, Massachusetts, passed away on October 31, 2014 at Merrimack Valley Hospice in Haverhill. "Skip" was employed by the Boston Herald for 18 years until his retirement in 2007. He previously worked for WTC Air Freight Company and was a member of the Teamsters Union, local 259. "Skip" was a standout athlete at St. Mary's High School in Lynn. He captained the 1962 hockey team, was an All-Star, and co-captained the championship Marian baseball team. "Skip" was selected to the Boston Globe and Herald All-Scholastic baseball teams and was twice selected to the Hearst Newspapers All New England Sandlot baseball team. He also competed on All-Star teams that played at Fenway Park and the Polo Grounds in New York. After high school "Skip" attended Parsons College, a national collegiate baseball power at that time, on a full scholarship. He was drafted in 1966 by the Detroit Tigers and played in their minor league system until suffering a devastating career ending knee injury while playing in the Carolina League All-Star game. Most recently "Skip" was honored with induction to the St. Mary's High School Sports Hall of Fame. However, his greatest joy came from spending time with his family. "Skip" is survived by his three children (and families), their mother and three granddaughters. The funeral was held at Solimine Funeral Home, which was followed by a mass at St. Mary's Church in Lynn...

David Gabriel, PC'48 of Aurora, Colorado passed away September 12, 2014 in the company of friends and family. He was 89. David graduated Parsons with majors in business and music. He became an accomplished pianist and organist and enjoyed playing both throughout his life. David was a proud veteran of World War II and served on the crew of a B-17 in the European Theater. Throughout his career of more than 40 years in the property & casualty and crop insurance industry, David held a number of distinguished management and leadership positions. He was the former president of the National Crop Insurance Association (NCIA), predecessor organization to the NCIS. In retirement, Dave was a board member and president of both Heather Gardens Metropolitan District and their Association. He was also a Mason and attended Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church. David is survived by his wife of more than 63 years, Carol Jean, four children (and families) and eight grandchildren...



David Gabriel



Judy McClain Cornelius

Judith Ann McClain Cornelius, PC'64 of Lutz, Florida died December 24, 2014. She was 72-years-old. Judy was originally from Ottumwa, Iowa. She attended Parsons and graduated in 1964 with a degree in Business Education. During her time at Parsons, Judy was secretary of the I.S.E.A. and was named to Monx Head. She was an active member of the Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority and served as 2nd Vice President her senior year. Judy is survived by her husband Tom, three children, Brad, Scott and Kristin (and families) and five grandchildren. A private service was to have been planned for a later date...

THE PARSONS COLLEGE MEMORABILIA SHOP...

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