



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

# KHS '57!

Special Issue

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**Fort Worth, TX** – I really enjoyed reading the newsletter and so many names mentioned bring back fond memories. I only attended the 9th and 10th grade in Kirksville in 1954, 55, and then finished high school at Greentop. I have kept in touch with Art and Jaceda Buchanan and did attend one of the Kirksville reunions. My father, Vernon Nelson taught science at the Ophelia Parrish Jr. High.

My husband and I started the Vintage Flying Museum in Fort Worth in 1990, and we operated a B-17 Flying Fortress for 31 years. After he passed, I sold the B-17, (now called "Ye Ole Pub") and I have continued to run the museum. The museum now has over 25 aircraft on display. It keeps me busy and I am truly blessed with some wonderful volunteers! We currently have the CAF's B-29 "Fifi" and the B-24 "Diamond Lil" at the museum which is a great addition. One of the hangars is actually a B-29 hangar, so it is quite unique. With this Covid 19 virus, airshows are cancelled, and it will really impact these historic aircraft from touring the country and raising funds. We are all hoping that we will be able to open the museum soon and we can get back to whatever normal was or will be!

I have 3 kids, April, Bob and Teri. April is a pharmacist, Bob flies 747's for Atlas, and Teri is a pediatric cardiologist. My husband was a orthopedic surgeon and graduated from KCOM. He loved to fly, hence the B-17 acquisition and I also got my pilot's license. I have 8 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Life is good! I taught choral music for 8 years in Michigan and in Texas and also worked for the FAA as a contractor in Runway Safety.

Enough of my background and I hope I haven't bored you with all this!

– *Chuckie (Nelson) Hospers*

**Oak Grove, MO** – It was nice to hear from some of our classmates. The very best to everyone.

– *Clifford Hays*

**Salt Lake City, UT** – Greeting from Utah - again. I thought I would write another email because the "newsletters" Ted is sending are very interesting and pleasurable to read. Life continues without significant change here. We live in Millcreek, Utah in Salt Lake County, not to be confused with the political morass of Salt Lake City, Utah. We rarely go into Salt Lake City because of the things going on there. In former years we would go to the opera, sporting events, shopping, and various festivals downtown, but conditions have deteriorated, IMO, where it is a problem. I won't go into all the issues, but the elected city and county officials have created a number of issues and treated other matters, such as homelessness, in a way to encourage undesirable behaviors. I think Jon Cook, with his conservative views, will completely understand what I am saying.

Millcreek, Utah is a three-year old incorporated city of about 65,000 folks in Salt Lake county. We live on the 'east benches' of the Wasatch Mountains about a thousand feet above the valley floor at the 5200 foot level on Mount Olympus, which is over 9000 feet high. Our house is a block from BLM land and, as a consequence, we get a lot of wildlife close to us. For example, we have deer in our lot year round, but usually five or more winter at the bottom of our lot. During heavy winter snows, I feed them deer pellets from a local farm store, usually a few hundred pounds a season. The deer also eat plenty of the bird seed we put out. We usually run through two or three thousand pounds of bird seed annually.

Other wildlife in the area includes a bobcat who lives just outside our bottom fence. We keep our domestic cats in at night, but have lost two of them over the years to the bobcat. Other neighborhood pets,

including small dogs, have suffered as well. He visits our yard in the dead of night (based on wildlife camera photos) and drinks water we have for wildlife. Although the neighborhood reports Moose, Mountain lions, coyotes, and such, we haven't seen them. We also have rabbits at this elevation, and Rocky Mountain squirrels, very different from the ones in the Midwest. Additionally, we have a variety of ground squirrel, of which there are about 50, called Rock Squirrels. They burrow and have an underground tunnel system all over our backyard, So far the northwest corner of our house hasn't collapsed into the tunnel system.

I didn't mention our continuing series of earthquakes. We had a 5.7 magnitude earthquake a month ago across the valley which caused millions of dollars of damage. This has been followed by over a thousand aftershocks. This week there have been two that we felt, both measured 4.2 on the Richter Scale. You may not have heard of any of this, although there was a brief mention on national nightly news when the big one happened. Because we live in the intermountain west, it is in a "news shadow" - this is comparable to a 'rain

shadow'. That is to say that nothing much between the Sierra Mountains in California and the Colorado front of the Rocky Mountains is considered newsworthy by the national media.

Spring is coming as the temperatures next week are to be in the 60s. Our hummingbirds have arrived, both the Broad-tailed, and the Black-chinned. Haven't seen a Calliope yet this year. Cassin's finches in great numbers have come, too. Now we are awaiting the arrival of Lazuli Buntings any day, followed in a couple of weeks by the Black-headed Grosbeaks. An exciting time of year for me. Over the more than 35 years we have lived here, we have seen 65 different species on our property. The most recent new bird, is a Great Horned Owl, who evidently has taken up residence within a hundred yards or so of our house. We see him often, sitting on a power pole at twilight.

Hope all are continuing to avoid the Corona virus. I enjoy dealing with wildlife much more than with people. I have been practicing 'social distancing' for decades before it was "popular". '57 classmates are a delightful exception to this practice of mine. Take care all - stay home and stay safe.

– Gene Linder

*Editor's Note: You probably noticed that this is not a full two-page newsletter. I'm sending it along unfilled because Gene, Clifford (still a man of few words!), and Chuckie sent in these notes several days ago, and I thought you deserved to read them while we're all still alive (I think). But the invitation still stands: If you have news or just ramblings that you'd like to share with the class, send them along. I'll wait until I have a couple of full pages next time, but I will send them out. Promise.*

– TWM