

HixNews

Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends of Hicksville High School
Hicksville, New York

The Editors:

Bob Casale '61

Linda (Piccerelli) Hayden '60

Bob (Gleason) Wesley '61 (Web Master)



Welcome To HixNews.Com

Welcome to the first online edition of HixNews. The Editors have kicked it around awhile, and we've finally decided to expand the newsletter so we may offer new and exciting topics of interest. One of the big changes that you will notice is that we now have lots of room to include photos from our readers. Current photos or old time memories - it doesn't make a difference. We'll include them, along with a story that you can provide us about the pictures.

The photo's you send to us via email should be in the JPEG format, and also try to keep the size down to a maximum of 100k. Our Chief Editor, Bob Casale '61 has offered his services if you don't have a scanner of your own. We can make arrangements to have your pictures scanned and ready for publication.

So, sit back and relax. The following pages should be entertaining as well as informative about the news and happenings of the Alumni of HHS.

Our Email Address is: editors@hixnews.com

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The Newsletter

We'd like to personally thank each and every one of you for writing your comments about the April issue of HixNews. But even though we've 'kicked it up a notch' to an official Website, we thought we'd include a few of the many great letters we received from our readers - The Editors

I would like to send kudos to everyone involved with the production, past and present, of the great HHS Newsletter. I appreciate the dedication and motivation of those Alumni who had the original dream and followed through on it. As far as the new format, I can only say that it's awesome!!! - Carol (Kiever) Ohliger '57

Great new look to the Newsletter, Bob! My congratulations to you and your co-workers as this has to take much work from all of you each month. Also, my belated thanks to Pat Driscoll. She did a great job and will be missed. All the best from Chapel Hill, NC. - Joe Carfora '66

This month's revised newsletter is amazing. Beautifully done, and accolades to the computer whiz with all the graphics. It's so professional looking. Just goes to show you the talents of Hicksville HS Alumni. - Dorothy (Kunz) Drago '50

The new version of the HHS Newsletter is great. Congratulations and thanks to all who have worked so hard to create all the graphics. As usual, it was very informative. It's great to hear all the things everyone remembers about our town and school. A BIG thanks to Pat Driscoll for her dedication and hard work over the past years. - Elyse (Marlin) Leshin '61

One Of Our Own Needs Help

Tory Zabatino is 23 years old and a graduate of HHS, Nassau Community College, and then Marist. He is diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia and is in need of a bone marrow transplant and monetary donations for the chemotherapy. The Editors have verified this request, and you can send your donations and support to:

Ryan S. Donovan
Performance Anylist Citigroup
111 Wall Street, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3509
Tel: (212) 657-9384 Fax: (212) 825-7963

Get Your Copy of the 2004 Reunion

Anyone that would like a DVD of the May 2004 HHS Reunion held at the Holiday Inn in Plainview, NY, please contact:

Gary Holstein
3620 Fiddler Lane
Bethpage, NY 11714
GaryDaPlumber@hotmail.com

Editor Bob Casale Writes: If you want to see some familiar faces, get a copy of this DVD. I just watched it again and loved seeing some old friends. It brought back memories of the reunion a year ago. That alone is worth the price of the DVD.

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Anniversaries & Birthdays

ANNIVERSARIES

5/4/1963 - Anthony & Rosaria Genovese (FL)
5/10/1958 - Tom & Mary (Kiever) Ohliger (PA)
5/13/1980 - Robert & Mary Bialick (L.I.)
5/19/1969 - June (Olsen) & Ed Cullen (FL)
5/22/1983 - Wayne & Carol (D'Aquila) Siebner
5/25/1991 - Susan (Voelbel) & David Dalton (TN)
5/28/1955 - Joan & Bill Stahley (FL)
5/?/1962 - Tony & Eileen Toscano

BIRTHDAYS

1 - Chris Calma '76 (FL)
3 - Laurie Maurice Churchill '79 (PA)
4 - Grace Callegas Way '50
5 - Pat Burton Pirkle '68
8 - Bob Karen '64
12 - Harriett "Harri" Molese '56 (NY)
12 - Kurt Stietz '60 (NY)
13 - Ginny Mohr Trombetta '57 (L.I.)
16 - Judy Frimmer Dow '63
21 - Glenn Hayes '75
22 - Wendy Harris Ascenzo '68
26 - Joe Barna
26 - Thomas (Tom) Carman '74
27 - May Perduto Horn '68 (FL)
28 - "Clem" Baldwin Moors '61 (FL)

Anniversary Errors for the April Issue

4/1/1978 - Michelle (Jordan) and Guy Kowalski
4/9/1983 - Ruth (Jordan) and Gary Kowalski (HX)
(These errors were only in the MS Word version sent to a few readers)

April Birthdays We Forgot

3 - Stephen Spector, 59
21 - Audry (Olsen) Lent
28 - Lauri Spector, 78

Send Your Birthdays & Anniversaries to: editors@hixnews.com

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About Our Readers

New Readers This Month

Robert Birk '52
Barbara (Ray) Novinski '55
Carol (Backman) Katz '60
Valerie (Palmer) Towsley '60
Walter (Buddy) Weber '63
Karen Kelly '69
Thomas (Tom) Carman '74
Don Joyce '77
Carol (D'Aquila) Siebner '77
Sandy (Meyer) Sanger '77
Mike Puccio (no date)

Editor Linda HaydenAdds: To all a hearty welcome the Hicksville Newsletter HixNews. We hope you will all feel free to participate with memories and thoughts that you may have about Hicksville.

New Names From classmates.com

The Editors have sent emails to the following former students of Hicksville High School to make them aware of HixNews Newsletter. Their names were listed as new classmates.com members.

Linda Clock '65
JoAnn Dalaimo '63
Robert Kravis '60
Bob Rabbitt '65
Michael Samberg '64

Returned Newsletters

Returned Newsletters for the month of April total 10 after resending in several formats and from various sources. The list follows, and the Editors ask that you please look it over to see if you're in contact with any of them and have them drop us an email with the correct information - Thanks. Send To: editors@hixnews.com

chowfriend@msn.com - Simmons, Susan Coppola '69
bill@fishunlimited.org - Smith, Bill
mcooperman@bellsouth.net - Cooperman, Robert M. '65
treehouse1@attbi.com - McGee, Karen Drake '77
onecoolnana4@msn.com - Byrne, Kay Iller '56
AGJA@webtv.net - Tessitore, Agnes Arthofer '57
mark@srcorp.com - Schnurman, Mark '83
wgirnis@yahoo.com - Elkis, Wendy '77
moselyax@msn.com - Leo, Bob '65
dbenn@bright.net - Bennett, Dale & Linda F. '65

People Lookin' For People

Karen Kelly '69 is looking for Ann Marie LoGatto '69
John Connelly is looking for Jennifer James '90
Bob (Gleason) Wesley '61 is looking for Jeff Foster '61
Carol (Kiever) Ohliger '57 is looking for Betty Kenny '57

If anyone knows the whereabouts of these folks, please email Linda at: gocomets@nac.net

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Honoring Our Veterans



Dear Alumni..

We are encouraging all Veterans to write about their experiences in the military. Also, if you have a Veteran story about one of your children or grandchildren please send it along. The address is at the end of this article. For a lot of us, there are many good memories that we can share with our friends. It is unfortunate, too, that we were involved in some conflicts during the past 40 years that find us sharing opposite views. As bad as the Vietnam War was, the intention of giving South Vietnam freedom from the oppression of the North was the right thing to do. Our exposure in Iraq in the nineties and now is to help present a Democratic society to the people who have been scorned by Saddam Hussein. But, we were there and I'm sure there are some memorable experiences that you can share with our readers. I will start the ball rolling with a story that is vivid in my mind. Bob Casale, Chief Editor

Cyprus, an island nation located in the Mediterranean Sea, lies approximately 60 miles from the coastline of Syria, and about 40 miles from the shores of Turkey. Only Sicily and Sardinia, the two largest islands in the area, have more than the 3500 square miles that form this quaint island. Long Island in New York is about the same length but not as wide as the 60 mile north-south extent of Cyprus.

Much history has played a major role in the cultural background of this region, dating back to an era when Legions of soldiers rested here after battles they fought in the Middle East. Many other ethnic groups including the Greeks, Turks, Phoenicians, Egyptians and, most recently, the British, had an influence on or control of the people of Cyprus. The strongest contingencies have been the Greek Cypriots that formed a majority and the Turkish Cypriots that form the minority. They have lived in constant struggle for years and occasionally, their differences result in emotions that explode into local confrontations that don't make headlines, but form a part of everyday life.

The British relinquished control in 1960, and the Republic of Cyprus was created with its capital at Nicosia. It was February of 1963 when I received orders to go from Bremerhaven to Cyprus. I was delighted to be going to a warmer climate and Cyprus was heralded as choice duty for a navy guy. We were attached to the American Embassy and for all intents and purposes, we were working for the embassy and most ties to the navy were not evident. We traveled from Germany to Cyprus in civilian clothing. We would not don a uniform for the next 18 months, except for the occasional inspection that was conducted at the gymnasium at the American Club facility outside Nicosia. We were housed at the Cleopatra Hotel, a facility that was used exclusively for the marines and navy men that were stationed on Cyprus. The hotel was situated in the newer part of the city, separate from the walled city of Nicosia that would be a focal point in subsequent months.

Nothing of any significance occurred until December of 1963 when several confrontations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots escalated the peacefulness to hostility. Battles were fought in all areas of Cyprus, day and night, but the most significant battles were fought at night when bands of men roamed the streets. No real battles were fought in the newer quarter of Nicosia. Most were confined to the old, walled city where small arms fired disturbed the still of night and could be heard for miles. At our hotel, we could hear the noise and, as a precaution, kept the drapes drawn and lights off so as not to attract attention of a wayward sniper looking for a target.

Travel was restricted significantly and it had a dramatic effect on our work schedule. We were not going to maintain the schedule where we would work two eve watches (from 2pm until 10pm), two day watches (from 6am to 2pm), and, finally, two mid watches (from 10pm until 6am). Our watch schedule was changed to 12 hours on and 12 hours off. Then, to make matters worse, Turkey threatened to invade the island, so our government made a major decision. About 75 % of all equipment was crated for shipment off the island and the same percentage of personnel and their families were given orders to alternate locations. I stayed as part of a skeleton crew that would maintain the integrity of the base on a severely restricted schedule. One other person that remained was a marine by the name of Lee Margaris. Lee and I were friends but it would be an event that would occur in the not too distant future that bonded our relationship.

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Honoring Our Veterans Continued

Months passed quickly and because of the reduced American population on the island, supplies lasted for an unusually long period of time. Then, when checking reserve levels of supplies, it was determined that certain key items were nearly exhausted and it was necessary to replenish the dwindling surplus. Special Services, an entity that handled this task, was none existent. Many services were enjoined under one roof following the exodus of personnel and in order to satisfy the replenishment, it was necessary to call for volunteers to make a trip to the storage facility in Famagusta. Without going into great detail, my friend, Lee Margaris and I agreed to make the trip.

We mapped out a route that would keep us off the main roads because there were numerous roadblocks between Greek and Turkish villages on the more popular, paved, roadways. The blocked roads were maintained by local residents that were fully armed and a confrontation at one of these points could have dangerous consequences. It would take much longer, but we felt safer.

We gassed up and took some extra time to mount an American flag on a post that we secured tightly to the front bumper of the truck provided by the American Club Commissary. In theory, as we drove along at a comfortable speed, the flag would unfurl in the breeze and there would be little doubt as to the nationality of the inhabitants of the truck, or so we thought.

It was several hours of tedious driving when we approached what we discovered later was the halfway point of our trip. I asked Lee if he wanted to switch...he preferred to continue driving. Our progress was slowed by not being familiar with the route we were taking. I was concentrating heavily on the dirt road in front of us looking occasionally in the rear view mirror only to see columns of dust billowing up behind us obscuring the passing terrain. The road turned left, then right, then left again and was wide, then narrow, then wide again and it reminded me of a video game where you controlled a joy stick that would navigate you through many passageways.

I was unaware of the two cars that were following us. When I did see them through the dust, I commented to Lee that we had company and he explained that he had been watching them for a mile or so.

"Why didn't you tell me," I asked.

"There's no reason for both of us to be frightened," was his response.

We came to a wide point in the road and one of the cars accelerated rapidly and darted in front of us. The second car remained behind. We were not going very fast at the time, so when they started to brake, Lee did the same and it was only a few hundred feet until we stopped, the truck part way on the road and part way in a ditch that ran parallel to the road.

The next several moments of time are etched in my brain forever. Both cars emptied of people that raced quickly toward the truck with guns drawn. A swift analysis of their nationality...we, Lee and I agreed....they were Turkish. I have never been up close and personal to a machine gun but the one pointing into my face was an introduction that chills my loins to this day. Lee was meeting a similar gun on his side of the vehicle.

We were being encouraged to get out of the truck by our visitors and we were eager to please. I think I tripped over my own feet getting out of the truck. What's that old expression...all assholes and elbows....

I felt like saying to Lee, "I guess this is a hijacking," but my mouth wouldn't move. My other concern was not wetting my pants, but I think all bodily functions were shut down at the time...and I was breathless.

I noticed that one of the group remained standing off in the distance next to the lead car. He had a big gun draped across his chest and another bigger gun pointing in our direction. The others in the group relaxed the hold on their weapons and sorta had them dangling at their sides.

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Honoring Our Veterans Continued

They forced us into the front of the truck and we were standing next to the American flag, now hanging limp on the post. I refrained from reaching out and holding it open so they could see the stars and stripes. I didn't have to because this scruffy looking dude who probably hadn't showered in a year said, in decent English, "Americano!?!?" I wasn't sure if it was a statement or a question.!!

The next utterance was a question. "What do you have in the back of the truck," he asked?

Lee and I answered simultaneously, "Nothing,"

"Then you will be happy to show us, yes" was his comment.

"Absolutely," was our response.

They must have thought we were transporting Greeks from town to town because they positioned themselves behind the truck with guns at the ready as we opened the doors. Nothing happened. The truck was empty. All of a sudden, they were our best friends, patting us on the back and trying to be friendly. All we could do was smile.

We continued our drive to Famagusta, picked up the supplies and were now ready for the return trip to the commissary. We decided to forsake the back roads, the alternate route, the safe route, that caused us major concern and that created a fear for our lives. We would take the quickest and most direct route. with the road blocks...and that way, we would feel secure...or so we thought.

The return trip was slow, but uneventful. Not anything like the trip to Famagusta. We arrived to meet the crew that would unload the truck. The commissary chief was all smiles. He had stuff. We were all smiles. We were alive.

One of the guys unloading the truck called to Lee and me to come inside the body of the truck. Most of the supplies had been unloaded and we walked inside and toward the back of the box where the truck body meets the truck cab. It was a little dark even though there was a bulb in a socket at the top of the truck body that lighted the interior. Nighttime was approaching and the waning sunlight was being replaced by darkness outside the interior of the truck. There was sufficient sunlight, however, that was visible through five small holes that were now part of the truck body so close to the cab that Lee and I inhabited for most of the day. Bullets intended for the Americanos made the five holes!!!

p.s. This incident was frightening, to say the least. I never gave much thought to my bond with Lee Margaris and lost touch with him over the years. I ran a trucking business with my Brother in law, Otto Gabrielsen, and we worked out of a warehouse in Long Island City. There is a tremendous Greek community there and Otto and I frequented a gas station that was owned by Tony who was originally from Athens. A wonderful man, he helped us tremendously during the gasoline shortage of the 70's. Our last stop before heading back to the warehouse was at Tony's to gas up. I was pumping gas into one of the trucks one afternoon and looked between the pumps at a fellow pumping gas on the other side...it was guess whom??? Lee Margaris. I never realized he was Greek until that day and thought about our "terrorists" and what they might have done had they known that Lee was Greek!!!

Please Share Your Comments And Submit Your Own Article

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Upcoming Reunions

The Class of 1955 is holding it's 50th reunion this year on October 15th. They've selected Captain Bill's restaurant in Bayshore, L.I. Other plans are being discussed and will be decided within a reasonable amount of time so you can make your plans. Your contacts for information and tickets are:

Ray Muller - rdmoe@yahoo.com
Flo (Olsen) Hogan - flosmom@optonline.net
James Tweeddale - prayfrpeace@aol.com

The class of 1965 is having its 40th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 17th, 2005. It will be held at Hyatt Regency Wind Watch, Hauppague, NY. To register for an invitation or information, please email: info@reunions-unlimited.com and give the Name, Maiden Name, Address, Hicksville High School, Class of 1965.

Classmates.com has a special reunion information page for us, where you can respond, and also see who else responded. Also, if anyone from past reunions has an address list for the Class of 1965, the information would be greatly appreciated. Please email Charles Brooks '65 at cab415@aol.com.

Hicksville High School Reunion 2005 - Art Lembke '49 pokerdot@msn.com announces a Hicksville High School Reunion that is open to all Hicksville Alumni. We expect to have Alumni from the classes of '48, '49, '50, '51, and '52, but you never know who may show up - certainly not Elvis or Billy Joel, but there will be notable people attending.

The reunion will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Heitz Place in Hicksville on Saturday, August 20th, 2005. The hours are from 7PM until 11PM. There will be a one-hour open bar from 7 to 8 that will include Hors D'oeuvres, then the rest of the evening is a cash bar. A hot buffet will be served, followed by coffee and cake. We'll also have a 'Wonderful' D.J. for the evening, so you can tiptoe the light fantastic.

The reunion committee is also trying to plan a brunch on Sunday, and we already have a secret agent out there looking for a good deal. The cost of the brunch is not included in the per person fee, but will be posted in a future HixNews Newsletter. The committee will accept deposits through June, and the cost is \$50 per person. We will need a \$25 per person deposit NOW to hold your reservation. According to Art, there are about 80 deposits in so far, and he expects the number to exceed 100. Please send your checks payable to:

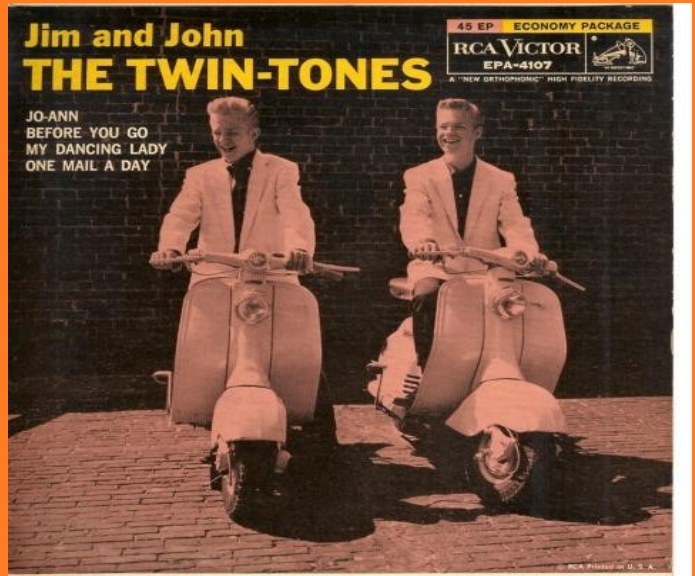
GRACE WAY
51 VINCENT ROAD
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
(516) 931-2529

(This Just In - Chief Editor Bob Casale had a discussion with Ed Delaney at Delaney's Restaurant & Bar on South Oyster Bay Rd.. in Hicksville. They talked about a Sunday brunch after the reunion, and have tentative arrangements pending approval by Art Lembke '49. We'll keep you posted if they make final arrangements.)

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Hall of Fame



EPA-4107

THE TWIN-TONES

NEW DANCE IVY ROUND	TEENAGERS FLIP NEWS	RECORD EDITOR TURNER TABLE
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EXTRA!
Sixteen-year-old twins, Jimmy and Johnny Cunningham - known as The Twin-Tones - rock out for RCA Victor on first platter date!

HICKSVILLE MAKES ROCK-ROLL HISTORY
Twin-Tones Jimmy and Johnny attend Hicksville, Long Island, High School, play guitars and other instruments in school orchestra . . . discovered by local record shop owner.

WHAT MAKES THEM ROCK!
Their blond hair and shiny personality brought howls at a recent rock 'n' roll show.

THEY EVEN WRITE SONGS!
Jimmy and Johnny composed the beat ballad that should make a top seller--*Jo-Ann* (Side 1, Band 1). . . Great for fish beat!

FOR DANCING . . . ROCKIN' SIDE
Dig the beat on *Before You Go* (Side 1, Band 2) !!



SIDE 1 Jo-Ann • Before You Go
SIDE 2 My Dancing Lady • One Mail a Day

© by Radio Corporation of America, 1957
This is an RCA Victor "New Orthophonic" High Fidelity Recording.
EPA-4107 Printed in U. S. A.

The Editors would like to thank
Bill Powers '63
for sending us these great photo's

The Webmaster, Bob (Gleason) Wesley '61, played upright bass on several of their gigs, so these photos bring back some happy memories to me.



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General Info

As for Alan Aker - I am told he is, in fact, in Boca Raton, FL as some form of eye doctor - not sure of the discipline. He was WIA in Vietnam as an Armor Corps Officer after graduating from West Point around *66 or *67. I have been trying to find a moment to call upon him and say hello; he was a very great leader and associate while at Comet Headquarters (Hicksville High).

Last month on April 7th I spoke before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. I am representing Henry Arthur & Associates, Inc. as a Service Disabled, Veteran Owned small business (SD, VOSB), a company I began three years ago. It was my first time speaking before a House Committee. (Hey----where's my old desk mates Steve Baum and Pete Anselmo? Can't speak without my coaches!) - Ken Strafer, Fairfax, Virginia

The newsletter is good...as good as the previous one, but different. Any news is welcomed! Thank you to all for the effort! You are truly a dedicated bunch and your work and time is appreciated!

FYI: I'll be moving back to the Hicksville area - well sort of - soon. I have accepted a position at LIU's Brooklyn Campus. I am looking forward to attending some local HX social events after I get settled! Gotta work on re-learning my NY accent, again. I hope *you all* will help me with that! OOPS!!! Gotta get rid of that Southern 'you all' and change it back to 'youz guys!' Along with other places, I lived in TX, LA, VA and FL, so that is where I picked it up...Been gone from the LI area since 1978! - Joan Komar Langlois *61

I know it is too late for April, but I wanted to brag that Don and I will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary on April 17. Except for Lee Lincoln and Bob and Joyce Casale, I haven't seen anyone from Hicksville in a whole bunch of years. Lee lives pretty close to us here in FL and we've been able to visit each other's home. Keep up the good work, and if any old, oops, former classmates are near this part of FL, they're welcome to stop by. We live in The Villages (South of Ocala, North of Orlando). - Carole (Snyder) Ferguson, '61

Hi Hix - I'm entering the Tennessee Senior Games in late May. I'm entered in five swimming events, so wish me luck!! I hope to make Hicksville proud, but who knows. - Sue (Voelbel) Dalton '65

The 'Real' History Of Gertz Plaza

At the time the "Plaza" was built, I lived at 15 Gardner Avenue -- across the street from the Old Sandpit between Duffy Avenue and West Johns Street. Fairway Farms (the original site) was just a few blocks away on Burns Avenue.

To begin with, the word "Ger" means "mound," "pile," or "heap" in old, archaic Prussian. In the same language, the ending "tz," defines the word as something foul-smelling -- like a pile of manure.

It may surprise many of us, but, the owners of the property on which Gertz was ultimately built, were, in fact, German. None (but I) can recall the family, who, originally, developed the site to be used for breeding swine. After WWI, however, when the family lost a Pork and Beans contract, it sought to stay in business by attempting to convert "swine chips" into natural gas. That endeavor failed and the property was sold.

The successor was an Australian family, who brought its sheep breeding skills from "Down Under" to Hicksville. And, as I recall it, the venture was a smashing success, until disposal of sheep dung became a serious problem. Many neighbors began calling their representatives in Mineola to complain about the stench, especially, when the wind shifted either north or south.

That's when the property was sold to a Saudi family, who replaced the sheep with camels. Initially, the youngest of the sons became an enthusiastic camel herder. Shortly, however, he tired of shoveling "you-know-what" and left Long Island to return to his Arabian homeland, where, word has it, he's been seen with Elvis Presley.

For years now, the elder Saudi brother has been searching for his younger sibling, to no avail. Unless he finds him soon, there will be no other recourse but to sell the property again. But, (as fate would have it), it appears that an eager Hindu family is prepared to purchase it for breeding elephants and selling natural fertilizer -- the source of which will be abundant. Victor Sahadachny, '57

The Editors are staying away from this one - hahahahaha!!

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Photo's Page 1

**St. Ignatius Kindergarten
Graduation - 1952**



**Mrs. Loretta Rau's 3rd
Grade Class (381)
at St. Ignatius
February 1955**

St. Ignatius Communion - 1960



We'd like to thank George & Phyllis Diercks for submitting these Photos

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Photo's Page 2



East Street. School
1939

East Street School
May, 1938
Art Lembke's 3rd
Grade Class



The photo on the left is the late Jean Cardella. Art Lembke made it larger to give to Jeans daughter. She didn't have a photo of her.

Thanks to Art Lembke for sending us these well preserved photos

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In Memoriam

Sheldon (Shelly) Menzin, '65, died on Wednesday, April 6th, 2005 at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital from acute leukemia. Shelly graduated from Hofstra University in 1969 and from the College of Surgeons and Physicians, The University of Dublin, Ireland, in 1974. For the last 30 years, Shelly has been practicing internal medicine in Brooklyn, NY. Shelly leaves a wife, Marjorie, and three children: Jason, Jonathan, and Lindsay.

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