

HixNews

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

The Editors:

Buffalo Bob Casale '61

Linda (Piccerelli) Hayden '60

Bob (Gleason) Wesley '61 (Web Master)



Photo Courtesy of Bob Casale '61



Photo Courtesy of Robert D'Amico '78

Our Email Address is: editors@hixnews.com

Welcome To HixNews.Com

We've added a new dimension to HixNews by including all of the past issues of the Newsletter that were prepared and posted on the Internet by Nacia Miller. We're very appreciative that Nacia has been kind enough to send us the files. You'll find a hyperlink added to the bottom of each menu. Send us your comments about the archives and we'll post some of them in the August issue of HixNews. Thanks once again, Nacia!

Send additional suggestions to: webmaster@hixnews.com

We'd like to encourage more readers to send us photo's and stories that we can add to the newsletter each month. It's not limited to 'the old times', because your friends and classmates would love to hear about what you're doing now. We'd also love to get stories about your experiences at HHS, and also your fond memories of Hicksville and the surrounding area. Without contributions from our readers, it becomes quite difficult to fill the pages.

There's a great article about the '67 graduation that got rained out, submitted by Ken Marcus '67 on page 9. In this month's *Down Memory Lane* page there's an article by Suzanne (Garrett) Cullen '56. It's a great story about her memories of Hicksville and the surrounding area. So, grab yourself a cup of coffee and sit back and relax. The following pages should bring back many happy memories of your days at the home of the Comets, Hicksville High.

Dear Alumni...

Please, when you send correspondence about anything, please - please put your full name, maiden and married name, the year you graduated and include your current email address.

We have had several problems trying to resolve who is sending us correspondence.

**Thanks for your help,
The Editors**

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I want to thank Phyllis Jackson and Barbara Maynard for contacting me. If it were not for HixNews I wouldn't have been found. I guess it would be a good idea to give a brief synopsis of my life since graduating in '64. I became an L.P.N. and then went on to college to finish my R.N. I graduated Stony Brook University with my B.S. degree, and for the next thirty years I practiced nursing until retiring. My husband and I live in Aquebogue, which is on the North Fork of Long Island. I'm very interested in gardening, and became a Master Gardener a few years ago through the Cornell Extension Program. I have three beautiful cats, and for exercise I walk and swim. I'm an avid reader and occasionally take adult educational courses in forensics, computers, and even taught English as a second language for several years.

Barbara is also the sister of my dear, deceased friend, Diane Maynard. For those of you who knew Diane, you'll know I'm not exaggerating when I describe her as a tall, willowy, pretty, blonde, sweet and kind, and very much in love with William Chomyk '61. In Diane's senior year she often came to school tired because she went with Billy on his milk route before school started. I'm sure her mom didn't know of these outings!! Diane and Billy married after he graduated college and went on to become a fighter pilot for the Air Force. He lost his life on a mission in Vietnam and I don't think she ever recovered from her loss. Later she went on to become a Flight Attendant for American Airlines. Diane died almost twenty years ago and left behind her teenage son, Davey. Thank you, Barbara, for writing to me. You all can email me at nyjudy2000@yahoo.com. I'd love to hear from my old classmates and friends. - Judy

I would definitely be a customer for some of the items you mentioned. It seems like a great way to help defray the cost of the site. I'd even be willing to pay a fee to receive the newsletter, or donate some funds (actually my husbands funds, but isn't what's his also mine???) - Carole Ferguson, '61

Hi All - I'd like to relate a story to you about just how small a world we live in. I'm a grad of 1960 and have gotten around to becoming a bus driver in my later years. I was attending a defensive driving class conducted by my new employer along with some other co-workers. During a break, we talked about things like birthdays and hometowns, and one of the people there was also from Hicksville, *AND* he graduated in 1960 also. His name is Phil Bowdler. I went home and got out the old yearbook and sure enough, he was on page 20 and I was on page 18. What a way to run into another classmate!! I'd also be interested in purchasing a T-shirt or other item to help offset the cost of HixNews. - Maddy (Bianco) De Louisa '60

What a great idea to sell items to help support HixNews! How about also setting up a place to send contributions? - Susan Stahley '75

Since I'm an avid collector of all things T-shirts, I would certainly buy one or two if you decide to use that a fund raiser for the cost of HixNews. - Eileen Sheila (Greenberg) Ingala '61

I think the T-shirts and stuff are a great idea for helping to offset the cost of HixNews, especially when you have a name like HICKSVILLE!! - Phyllis (Jackson) Diercks

Hi Guys - I get real pleasure reading the goings on in Hicksville and keeping up with old friends. With your help, two years ago I had a mini-reunion with two of my old friends; David Baldwin and Emmett Mitchel. Keep up the good work. - George Barfitt (Baritt) '56

Hey, Yes! Sell stuff with HHS on it. You guys are doing a wonderful job. Will see you this Summer or Fall when I leave. Will I regret leaving Florida when I experience my first NY Winter in a long time??? We'll see. I lived in MN for a long time, so maybe it'll be OK. I lived in extreme weather - FL, TX, LA, and MN, but when I lived in New Zealand on the South Island which was right on the Pacific Ocean, the weather reminded me of Long Island. I'll adjust!! - Joan (Komar) Langlois '61



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I cannot remember what year it was. A long time ago is all I can remember maybe 1956 or 1957. A friend of mine, Elwood Streeter and I were on the grounds of the Wantagh State Parkway and were tracking and recording bird species for our club, the 'Bird Tracking Species Club.' We were riding our bikes south, when off in the distance we saw a parachute, and then a plume of smoke rising from the ground in what we thought was the vicinity of the Southern State Parkway. We started heading toward the smoke because the parachute disappeared. As we followed the smoke, it appeared to be closer than the Southern State Parkway, so we headed a little eastbound and got to the Levittown Parkway, then headed toward Newbridge Rd. When we got to Newbridge Rd., it appeared as if the smoke was directly in front of us. We crossed Newbridge Rd. and headed down Flamingo Rd. toward Jerusalem Avenue. When we got close to the intersection of Blacksmith and Flamingo Roads, we turned onto Blacksmith Rd. and headed east. Off in the distance we could see fire fighting equipment on the scene. The fire appeared to be under control, and the smoke billowing upward was from the chemicals used to fight the fire. It turned out to be a jet fighter from Republic Aviation that was returning to Farmingdale and had engine problems. The pilot attempted to land in a ball field across the street from Jerusalem Avenue but fell short in his efforts. After ejecting from the plane, it landed on top of an automobile that was just vacated by an insurance agent who was making a house call. The pilot landed safely and was found near Newbridge Road in East Meadow. - Buffalo Bob Casale '61

Nice job on the Newsletter. Loved seeing the photos. Phil Anselmo sat in front of me in homeroom - such fond memories. Thanks for all your hard work. Since I moved to Colorado 15 years ago, I've been out of touch with my old classmates. Thank goodness Linda Frimmer found me on the computer. I'd love to have you all check out my Website: <http://www.judymorganart.com>. - Judy (DeVincentis) Morgan '58

What a great job on this Newsletter! I look forward to reading it, and especially enjoyed the trip 'Down Memory Lane'. I live off of Jerusalem Avenue near Hempstead Turnpike, and it's hard to imagine even though I've experienced years of change in both Hicksville and Levittown. I'm also interested in supporting this Website in any way I can. Thanks again. - Dottie (Gallahue) Donovan '61

Hi to all - It's so good to hear from our good old Hicksville High friends. The photo's are priceless. Thank you so much for all your efforts, and I will be going to the 1965 HHS Reunion. - Kandy Everson

Thank You For Your Response

We received a wonderful response regarding the sale of T-shirts, pens, mugs, etc., and we're forming a plan of action to turn that into a reality. But what surprised us more was the amount of people that suggested they'd also like to support HixNews with a small donation. After much discussion between the editors, we've decided that setting up an account for the support of HixNews is an excellent idea for several reasons.

The first being that we, the Editors, won't have to pay the monthly charge for HixNews.com out of our own pockets, and secondly, it will allow us some funds for the initial purchase of the items you'd like to see available.

Sooooooooooooo - Once again we're asking for your thoughts on this suggestion that seems to be supported by so many of our readers. Please know that not one penny will be used for anything other than the support and maintenance of HixNews.com.

We'd like to thank all of our readers in advance, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas about this. - The Editors

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Birthdays In July

- 1 - Kay Iller Byrne, 1956 (SC)
- 2 - Wendy Karen Stuart, 1957 (MA)
- 3 - Frederick Heck, 1970 (FL)
- 3 - Donna Lombardi LaFramboise, 1966 (CA)
- 3 - Louis Sirocusa, 1968 (NH)
- 3 - Loretta Lorenzo Seibert, 1956 (CA)
- 4 - Eileen Greenberg Ingala, 1961 (KY)
- 4 - Lynne Ann Lombardi, 1971
- 5 - Arline Barna, 1956 (FL)
- 7 - Nancy Alfano O'Geary-Smith, 1966 (IA)
- 7 - Dottie Gallahue Donovan
- 10 - Thomas Fellenz, 1949
- 10 - James Rodecker, 1966
- 11 - Marie Calandrillo Alcock, 1951 (NY)
- 12 - Gary Gaffney, 1970 (FL)
- 14 - Joyce Rusch Healy, 1948 (CA)
- 14 - Tony Plonski, 1964
- 15 - Jeanette Martello Lupis, 1959 (FL)
- 15 - Connie Blesi Schipani, 1972 (GA)
- 16 - "Woody" Wood, 1968 (HX)
- 16 - Kathy Reilly, 1973
- 17 - Cynthia Claus Ferguson, 1974
- 23 - Elyse Marlin Leshin, 1961 (AZ)
- 26 - Linda Piccerelli Hayden, 1960 (NJ)
- 27 - Carole Kiever Ohliger, 1957 (PA)
- 27 - Bill Powers, 1963 (CA)
- 28 - Charlie Cava, 1955 (FL)
- 30 - Vinnie Luisi, 1972, FL
- 31 - Barbara Fellows Cava, 1956 (FL)



Anniversaries In July

- 7/1/1973 - Judy (Pugliese) and Warren Alfano
- 7/1/1978 - Christina (Moulton) and Rick Morian (TX)
- 7/2/1966 - Adele (Herrmann) and John Ziegler (AZ)
- 7/3/1965 - Ed and Valerie (Palmer) Towsley (NY) - 40 Years
- 7/5/2002 - Arlene (Andrade) and Vic Sahadachny (MD)
- 7/7/1984 - Christine (Shea) and Steve LoMonaco
- 7/18/1964 - Linda (Piccerelli) and Claude Hayden (NJ)
- 7/18/1982 - Mary Ann (Walkowski) and Bob Westervelt (WA)



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

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New Readers This Month

Editor Linda (Piccerelli) Hayden Adds: To all, a hearty welcome to HixNews.Com. We hope you will all feel free to participate with memories and thoughts that you may have about Hicksville High, and your times growing up on the Island.

New Names From [Classmates.com](#)

Editor Buffalo Bob Casale has sent emails to the following former students of Hicksville High School to make them aware of HixNews.com. Their names were listed as new Classmates.com members.

John Coletta '57	Nelson Garcia '58
Anthony Bisaccio '61	Steve Forrest '64
Diane Bassett Brown '65	Nick Carrerra '65
Francis Cohen, '65	Robert Collins '65
Carol Egan '65	Arthur Mauceri '65

(Teachers & Staff)

Robert Sklarz 1958 - 1982
Gerald Barker - 1960 - 1980

Returned Newsletters

Returned Newsletters for the month of June totaled 13. The list follows, and the Editors ask that you please look it over to see if you're in contact with any of them. Have them drop us an email with the correct information to: editors@hixnews.com

chowfriend@msn.com - Simmons, Susan Coppola '69
mcooperman@bellsouth.net - Cooperman, Robert M. '65
onecoolnana4@msn.com - Byrne, Kay Iller '56
AGJA@webtv.net - Tessitore, Agnes Arthofer '57
moselyax@msn.com - Leo, Bob '65
dbenn@bright.net - Bennett, Dale & Linda F. '65
peter.maiorino@nbc.com - Peter Maiorino '64
tomsullivan69@msn.com - Tom Sullivan '63
tbellacera@sanjuan.edu - Tony Bellacera '66
info@maiiriteplus.com
karl@coralsprings.org
ckengel@mindspring.com
flajudy@adelphia.net

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
Linda (Zuckerman) Rausch '60 is looking for Richie Bizzaro '60
Susan Spector '62 is looking for Loretta Noce '62
George Barfitt (Baritt) '56 is looking for Henry Rosello
Ann (Krex) Friedman '65 is looking for Laura Krakoff '65 and Lynne Cohen '65

If anyone knows the whereabouts of these folks, send us an email at:

editors@hixnews.com





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Write to: editors@hixnews.com

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The Class of 1955 is holding it's 50th reunion this year on October 15th.

Saturday morning tour of the old High School
Alumni honored at the Homecoming football game
Saturday evening banquet at Captain Bill's - Bay Shore
'A Video Journey - HHS Class of 1955' will be shown after the banquet
A Sunday Brunch is planned

Contact:

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 your Name, Maiden Name, Address, Hicksville High School, Class of 1965, or call (732) 617-1000. Event details and a signup sheet can also be found on the Reunion Page of Classmates.com. Invitations will be sent out in July, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible. Our initial response has been excellent and we are hoping for a huge turnout. So sign up and urge all your friends from the Class of '65 to do the same.

Charles Brooks '65 - cab415@aol.com
Ann (Krex) Friedman '65 - sashav47@aol.com

HixNews editor Buffalo Bob '61 will be taking pictures and doing interviews for the Oct. issue. Bob spoke with Ed Delaney '61 at Delaney's Restaurant and Bar and planned the Sunday brunch after the reunion. The cost is \$33 per person (separate from reunion cost), and that includes unlimited mamossas and/or bloody mary's. Other drinks are available at the bar at your expense. It's a three hour deal, and the buffet will include eggs, home fries, sausage, bacon, toast, and perhaps French toast. PLEASE let me know if you're interested at bufbob@juno.com. I must know ASAP. Payments must be in by August 31st, and your checks can be sent to:

Robert Casale - 195 Lauman Lane - Hicksville, NY 11801-6522

Hicksville High School Reunion 2005 UPDATE - 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, Saturday, August 20th, 2005. The hours are 7PM 'til 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.

A Sunday Brunch is planned for 11:00 at WICKERS, 206 Old Country Road in Hicksville. The approximate cost is \$25 p/p. This price will probably change depending on whatever money we have left over from the previous night. We do need, however, a minimum of 35 people to participate. Please let us know if you'll be there in advance.

We will accept payments through July 1st, and the cost is \$50 p/p not including the Sunday Brunch. We'll need a \$25 p/p deposit NOW to hold your reservation, and the balance at your earliest convenience. According to Art, there are more than 100 deposits in so far, so it's going to be a gala event. Please send your checks payable to:

**GRACE WAY
51 VINCENT ROAD
HICKSVILLE, NY 11801
Away@optonline.net**

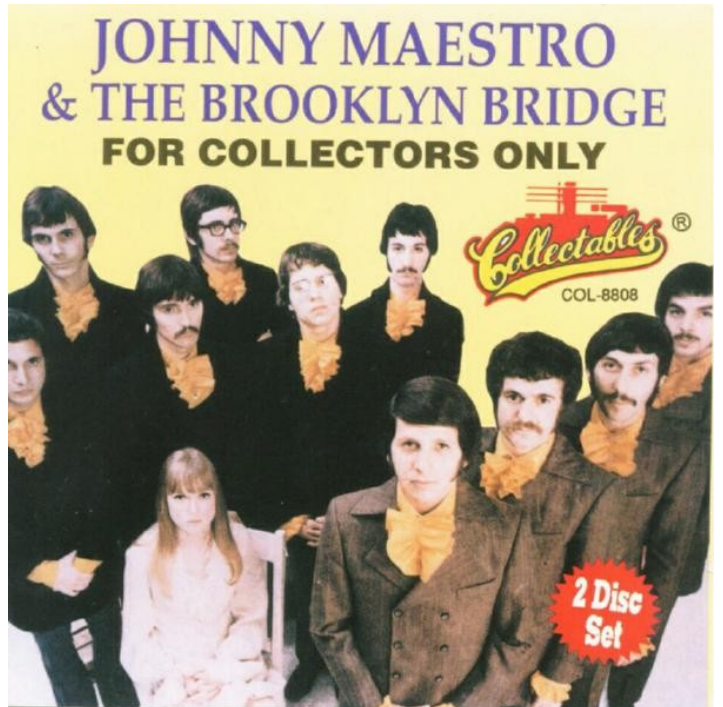
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The Editors are happy to announce a new member to the Hicksville High School Hall of Fame The Brooklyn Bridge!

We're bettin' everyone's curious about why we've selected them to the Hall of Fame, but you'll have to wait until next month's issue for the feature story and it's association to HHS.

In the meantime, how about some comments from our readers. Tell us what you know about The Bridge, and/or why you think they should have an honored spot with HixNews.





Class of '67 Graduation

As I look forward to my second daughter's high school graduation this week, I reflect on my abortive HHS graduation ceremony, and those times. I lived on Albany Street for 10 years, right across Newbridge Road opposite the HHS tennis courts. Every year people attending the HHS graduation parked on our street. Finally it was my graduation day, the Class of '67. The principal, Ray Rusch, was in his first year, succeeding Leon Galloway. The class advisor, Carmine Masi, had just recovered from a devastating auto accident. Chet Jaworski was the assistant principal for discipline. The football team went undefeated and won the Rutgers Cup. Billy Joel wasn't famous yet, and wasn't among the grads. Israel had persevered in the Six Days War. We lost three of our grads to a tragic auto - train collision only weeks earlier. Sgt. Pepper had just been released, and would become the soundtrack for that summer between high school and college (in my case, Stony Brook). The worst of Viet Nam, and its impact on all of us, was et to unfold. Most families had one car, one telephone (black), one tv (black and white). A hamburger stand called "Burger King" had opened on Hempstead Turnpike and featured something called a "Whopper." Closer to home were Ed's and Wetsons. Howard Johnson's on Old Country Rd. was a popular night spot. The relatively new "Twin Theaters" at the then roofless Mid Island Shopping Plaza had reserved seats for major feature presentations (e.g., Dr. Zhivago). The Air Conditioned Prudential Theater still thrived. The best pizza anywhere was at Frank's Alibi. For a couple of bucks for gas and the toll bridge, you could spend a great day on the powder sand at Jones Beach. I had just ended a part time job at Mays in Levittown, where I was assigned to the "Mod Shop," and was ready to spend a second summer at hard labor on the loading dock at Sanita Paper Products on Duffy Avenue (Flex Straws, Minty Pix, paper cups).

I drove a '66 VW beetle, which I would not surrender for another twelve years. Anyway, we assembled in the gym, and filed out to the bleachers on the football field. When "Pomp and Circumstance" concluded, and as the class president (Brian McMennemon) began the customary opening to his remarks, "Faculty, parents, friends, fellow students"), the sky burst and the rain began to pour. The graduation was cancelled. Everyone scattered. The grads were directed to the gym. In light of the over emphasis on sports at HHS, it was only fitting that the phys ed teachers dispensed our diplomas (I recall Harry Renn saying, "Marcus, you get two.") So, the 'Class of '67 had no graduation ceremony. I had "normal" graduation ceremonies for college, grad school and law school. But somehow those did not make up for the washed out HHS graduation, which was to commemorate the completion of thirteen years of public school for about 1000 kids in the same school district and with similar "baby boom" backgrounds. I wondered if I could ever see any of those people again, and was glad that many attended several of the reunions I made it to. As the Class of '67 40th anniversary approaches, maybe we should kick off our reunion on the football field on a sunny afternoon before repairing to Villa Victors? - Ken Marcus '67 (MI)

I never knew this newsletter existed until my friend Ann Krex emailed me the May Issue. Another friend of mine knows Bob Leo whose on the Looking For People list. He said he'd let me know what it is, and I'll forward it to the Editors. - Dave Berger '65

I think the idea of selling customized stuff would be great. The last time I visited Hicksville, I ventured into Goldman Bros. to buy a "Hicksville" T-shirt, only to find they didn't have any. I'd definitely buy items to help offset the cost of keeping up this great Website. You guys/gals are doing a great service. Keep HixNews comin' our way. - Laura Spector

Paul Korman (class '69) and his Motown Review continues to rock the island, Long Island that is. Went to see this exciting group perform at Nickerson Beach on Lido Blvd in Long Beach on Saturday the 25th of June. They were invited to perform as part of the 2005 Summer Nassau County Parks & Recreation Department program. There are only exciting things in the future for this group. They will be at the Westbury Music Fair in the near future and will be performing again at Hicksville High School as the opening act for Leslie Gore. This is another performance as part of the Summer 2005 Program. You can email Paul for particulars at mr4string@aol.com. - Bob Casale, class '61



By Suzanne (Garrett) Cullen '56

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I just read Pat Driscoll's article in the latest issue of HixNews and enjoyed it. I remember riding my bike on Jerusalem Ave., but I was in Jr. or Sr. High, and my parents were not too keen on my riding too far from home. I was usually with my cousin Claire who was a bit older. It was fun back then as the traffic was minimal and there were not as many things or people to fear. I also went horseback riding with Arlene Keller's brother John. We rode on the property where the new High School was built on Division Avenue.

The club near the Motor Parkway was The Hicksville Aviation Country Club. [\(Photo on Page 11\)](#) My mom spoke of it quite often, and both my mom & dad flew in those open cockpit planes as passengers when they were young. Dad would not fly commercially, but I would think they're far safer than the ones he flew in back then. He was a Detective for the Nassau County Police Department and had to pick up a prisoner in San Francisco and had to bring him back for trial. Even then he went by train and it must have taken him forever. My mom told me that she saw Lindbergh fly over on his way to Paris. Since there were hardly any planes around in those days, it had to be quite an event. I wish now that I had asked more questions about the area back then so I could contribute more HixNews now.

My grandfather raised potatoes, cabbage, corn and cucumbers on his farm. He made sauerkraut and maybe pickles too. The pickle house (where the vats were) was on Broadway just South of their old farmhouse. He sold cabbage to Lomanns, which is still in business making red cabbage in jars. Next time you're at the market take a look.

We had fun without all the electronic stuff that the kids have today. We climbed trees, played baseball, rode bikes and always kept busy doing something all day long. I also

I remember when the Ringling Bros Circus was on Old Country Road just West of the Wantagh State Parkway. My Aunt Ruth took me and my Cousin Betty to it as I recall. I also remember going on a field trip to a glass blowing factory somewhere near West John St. or Duffy Avenue. That trip was etched in my mind because it was a fascinating experience.

I can remember seeing Dwight Eisenhower when he was running for President. It was on a school day, and all the students went outside to watch the motorcade as it passed by the Old High School on Jerusalem Ave.

One day my dad took me to the midget races at the old fairgrounds in Mineola. That was exciting and fun, especially since I got to spend the time with my dad. How many remember the roller skating rinks in Mineola and the one on Hempstead Turnpike near Jahn's Ice Cream Parlor? I didn't skate too often but it was a lot of fun trying. There were no sidewalks where I lived so practicing with the old steel roller skates was out.

The photo of the Sweet Shop in the June issue is the newer one, not the one that was next to the bakery. Do you remember the store on the corner of Nicholai Street and Broadway? It was owned by a Greek family and two of their children were in my class but I don't remember their names. There was also a soda fountain that served Horton's Ice Cream was down near Old Country Rd. and was owned by the Lindemann family, and my cousin married one of the Lindemann sons. I also have fond memories of The Alibi and their great pizzas. Jay Pogiali's father owned the restaurant where Jeanne Neumann and Artie Schultz went often for a slice or two. Mr. Schultz, Artie's dad, owned the gas station on the point right next to The Alibi.

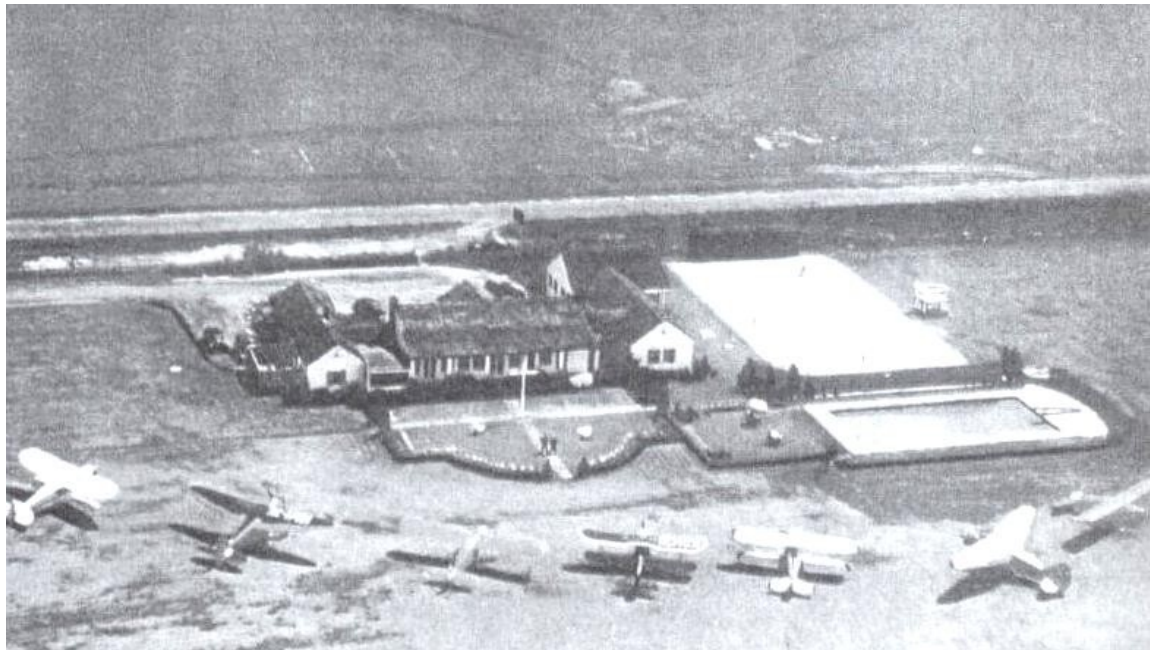
Hicksville is so changed now. I know everything changes with time, but most of the old landmarks are gone and I only go there for my dentist appointments. Now that Grumman is gone it's not the same place. I grew up with the sounds of their planes flying overhead and now they're gone also. Oh well - I guess we're getting older. We have seen a lot of history in our lifetimes.

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We'd like to thank Robert D'Amico '78 (CT) for submitting these great photos of HHS. You'll find the photo on the right on the Home Page of HixNews



Between 1928 and 1947, the Long Island Aviation Country Club made flying history just South of Hicksville. Here, clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, and plane hangers were available. Charles A. Lindbergh taught his wife, Ann Morrow Lindbergh to fly from this field, where notable aviators and the Gatsby set housed their aircraft. *Scanned by Pat Driscoll from 'Images of America HICKSVILLE' - a book sold by the Gregory*



Here's a few photo's of the Jr. High School taken by Buffalo Bob Casale '61 I'll bet these pics bring back many happy memories to some of the old-timers

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Photo's submitted by Bill Canham



Pictures here are James Caldwell, Gail Jochum, Helen Weidhoft, Vicki Knaster, Joanne Jakobi, Eileen O'Halloran, Linda Sullivan, Phil Leonhard, Richard Himmelstoss, Jack Hansen, Glen Picket, Nora Baliseirio, Bob Heiss, Art Clemenz, Harry Potter, Dave Goldstein, Gail Orfice, Bob Heller, and that's me standing on the far right. Our teacher was Mrs. Jane McGill. This was our 5th Grade class.



Here's the 6th Grade class photo showing Linda Listort, Anne Romano, Gail Orfice, Dave Goldstein, Art Clemenz, Richerd Himmelstoss, Jolene Punicki, Gail Jochum, Nora Balsierio, Joanne Jakobi, Bernadette Strockbine, Helen Wiedhoff, Beverly Reid, Richard Rau, JoAnn Pace, John Coyne, Jack Hansen, Victoria Knaster, Bob Heiss, Arlene Isaksen, Harry Potter, Phil Leonhard, Glenn Picket, and me standing on the far left. Our teacher was Mr. J. McAllister, but I seem to remember that we had two teachers that year.

In Memoria



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John F. Funfgeld, lifelong resident of Hicksville, passed away on May 27, 2005. Beloved husband of Margaret (Peg) for fifty-two years. Loving father of Greg and his wife Nanci, Paul, John and his wife Marisa, Debby Wolffanger and her husband Bill, Gary and his wife Michelle, Michael and his wife Christine, and Nancy Lagas and her husband Paul. Dear brother-in-law of Madeline Small. Fond brother of Robert and the late Harold. Also survived by fourteen grandchildren. Services were held at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hicksville. You may contribute to the Trinity Lutheran School John and Margaret Funfgeld Scholarship Fund, or the Good Shepherd Hospice.

By Alfonso A. Castillo - Staff Writer, Newsday

For the people who knew Amadea “Army” Tomaini only as a kindly school teacher, photographs from his past may come as a bit of a surprise. They might show him in the guise of a Cold War-era Russian, tossing a spindly opponent out of a wrestling ring, or as a brutish gridiron thug, happily inflicting pain on others.

“He was supposed to punch the center in the mouth and knock the guy out,” said his son, Steven Tomaini, of Rockville Centre. “The guy would be out for a few plays, and then my father would be kicked out of the game . . . He was tough.”

Tomaini died May 25th in his Crawfordville, FL home from heart failure. The longtime Hicksville resident and educator was 87.

Tomaini grew up in Long Branch, NJ, the son of Italian Immigrants who farmed tomatos. Always large in size, Tomaini played football in high school and for Catawba College in NC, where he studied history and physical. education. He later earned a graduate degree from Columbia University.

After college, he worked as a strong man for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, where his 8-foot, 4 inch brother, Aurelio worked as a giant.

In 1945 he played one season with the New York Giants as a tackle. It was that year that well-known sportscaster Walter “Red” Barber gave Tomaini his nickname “Army,” because of his size. Barber called the nearly 6-foot, 245-pound Tomaini “the largest man in football.”

Tomaini left football to try his hand at pro wrestling, competing in the New Jersey wrestling circuit. As the sinister Mad Russian, and the mysterious Masked Marvel, Tomaini became a featured attraction in the ring and a savvy entrepreneur outside of it, owning several New Jersey small businesses.

But Steven Tomaini said his dad’s hard-nosed exterior often belied a “mellow little pussycat.” Every Christmas Eve, he would tell his sons they would not be getting any gifts this year, then send them to bed heartbroken. “We went down the next day and there was this decorated tree with presents. Somehow, he always pulled it off.”

After suffering an injury in the ring, Tomaini left his smashmouth livelihood behind and pursued his other passion, teaching. He taught physical education and history at high schools in New Jersey and North Carolina before coming to Hicksville in the late 50’s. For 20 years he taught physical education and coached football and baseball in the district, for which he once served as Athletic Director.

In addition to his son Steven, Tomaini is survived by his wife, Betty of Crawfordville; children Fred of Asheville, NC, Dennis and Christopher, both of Crawfordville, Santo of Naples, FL, and Mitzi Proctor of South Burlington, VT.; and 12 grandchildren. - *Copyright 2005 Newsday Inc.*