



NOTRE DAME  
HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

SPRING 2020

## Dons Gather In Phoenix

Living in Southern California, I've never had the opportunity to attend the quarterly Dons '62 luncheons hosted by **Ray Neihengen** and **John Zei** at Moretti's. So, when I knew I was headed to Phoenix for spring training I reached out to the 9 Dons in the area and suggested that we meet for the 1st class luncheon outside of Chicago.

Even though **John Sterner** is still MIA and **Ed Callahan** and **Bob Eiter** (flu) cancelled, we had a great turnout—Kathy & **Bob Lemancik** seated next to Carol & I with **Bob Wilhelm, John Brennan, Don Stevens, Steve Yadron, Tom Anderson,** and **Steve Lochen** standing (L-R) in the photo. Anderson, Brennan & Wilhelm were the Snowbirds of the group while the rest were natives, so to speak. Thanks to Dawn Yadron for taking the photo and to husband Steve for recommending the Tavern Grille,

Scottsdale's answer to Hackney's according to Yad.

Everyone but Lemancik had attended the 50th almost 8 years ago. I circulated my '62 Maridon yearbook, a copy of our graduation program, the Senior issue of the Focus, as well as lists of the deceased, missing, faculty, and 50th anniversary attendees. For 3 hours the table was full of storytelling and memories. Lemancik even resurrected an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade photo from St. Martha's in Morton Grove that included **Dick Cook, Jim Devine, Bruce Dickman, Al Krause, Terry Platz, James & John Sterner,** Steve Yadron and himself. For sure, a great time was had by all. Special thanks to the 3 wives who attended and provided some calming influence to the hyperbole!

Lochen, Stevens, and Wilhelm (Vail CO) have already told their stories in prior newsletters; Anderson (Poplar Grove IL), Brennan (Grand Junction CO),

Lemancik, and Yadron have all promised to reveal their sketchy past in future newsletters.

The good news is the group "elected" Steve Lochen to chair the '62 Dons 2021 Spring Training luncheon. How about adding a Cubs game to the agenda?

## 1962: A Great Vintage!

Leaders of the World: Kennedy (USA), De Gaulle (France), Nehru (India), Khrushchev (USSR)  
 US Events: The first Wal-Mart, K-Mart and Target were all opened; Phil Knight developed the first Nike running shoe  
 Sports: Yankees beat the SF Giants in the World Series; USC won the NCAA Football Championship  
 Entertainment: Beatles recorded their first single, Love Me Do  
 Songs: Big Girls Don't Cry & Sherry; Green Onions; Peppermint Twist  
 Musicians: Four Seasons, Ray Charles, Beatles, Bob Dylan, Chubby Checker, Roy Orbison

TV Shows: Hallmark Hour won the Emmy; The Beverly Hillbillies; The Dick Van Dyke Show

Economics: Average cost of new car was \$3125; Dozen eggs \$.32  
NDHS Faculty Members: Fr. Bernard Foley (Student Affairs); Fr. Thomas Markos (Studies & Guidance)

## ***Stories In Their Own Words***

### **Tom Anderson from Poplar Grove, IL**

You've asked an almost impossible task of me to write a 'Story' of my life since graduating ND in 1962. In the 58 years since then (a blink of an eye), way too much has happened, but by far the best thing was marrying my wife (Janis) 51 years ago. We have two children, Steve and Stacey, and twin girl grandchildren, Sara Lane and Sophia Lynn Klein.

Since I wasn't top of our class, MIT was out of the question, so I went to Northrup IT taking aeronautical engineering courses and graduating in 1965 just in the nick of time to get drafted on October 1. I was fortunate to have enlisted in the Air Force National Guard and spent almost 2 years on active duty going to airborne electronics & refueling schools in Mississippi and Florida. So, my love of aviation was embedded in my DNA.

However, I never worked in the industry; instead I spent 38 years working in the component

manufacturing industry, 30 years with Emerson Electric selling thermostat and control systems to major appliance manufacturers. I really enjoyed that career as it allowed me to live & work from home; to be with my family and help raise my kids is something I will always treasure.

That was brought home when my son Steve, an Army Ranger, was wounded in 1993 in Mogadishu Somalia. He's now a civilian employee with the Navy at the Puget Sound Naval Station, Bremerton WA. I was also able to help Stacey pursue an aviation career. She became an airline pilot, then with the FAA as part of the aviation evaluation group in Seattle as part of the 737 Max certification team.

airplanes. I'm now restoring a 1940 Aeronca Chief but have a Kitfox that I completed in 1998 and a Murphy Rebel that I finished in 2013. We now live on an airport 70 miles northwest of Chicago.

There are a whole bunch of like-minded folks and since my retirement in 2007 we've been able to take some flying trips in our home-built airplanes: to Alaska, landing in all lower 48 states, flying the Lewis & Clark trail at 500 feet above the Missouri river for 2300 miles out to Astoria OR, among other trips. I feel truly blessed to live in such a wonderful, vast & beautiful country, that allows us the freedom to pursue our dreams.

ND certainly provided the foundation for my life and I really



All the while I was able to fly little airplanes and then to finally develop a hobby, some would say pretty extravagant, of building

cherish the friends we've had for now over 62 years - some I've known for over 70 years.

## Bob Clarke from Wheaton, IL

After Notre Dame, graduated from St. Ambrose College in 1967 with a bachelor's in Business Administration. Soon thereafter I started a career in commercial banking which lasted 40 years.



Most of that experience was in "asset-based lending" at its early stages when it was replacing "factoring" as a type of secured financing. In ABL, collateral turnover is the principle source of repayment rather than cash flow. Interest rates were 3 percent over prime, at least, and float on collections were 3 days plus. The boss' son-in-law's business had a loan and he got 5 days. Our department was the most profitable area of the bank, but the boss didn't want our customers to realize how profitable it was, so our office resembled Berlin after WWII. One year the bank had our windows washed and we found there was a building across the street. I did a lot of job hopping in my early years and at one time worked at a suburban bank where the president was someone that I

went to Holy Cross grade school with. Talk about networking! My career ended in 2008 when LaSalle Bank was acquired by Bank of America and I along with several thousand others was laid off.

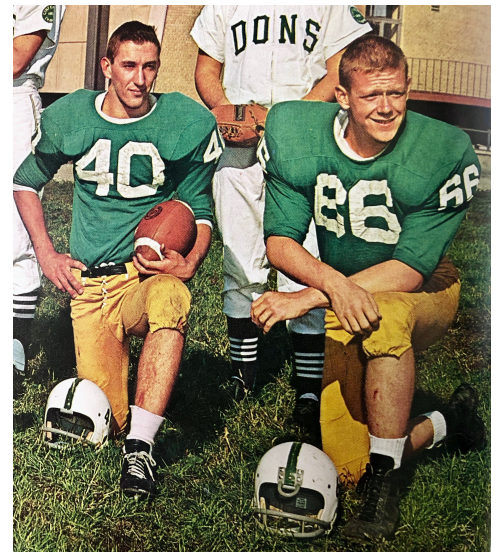
In 1973 I married Clare D'Douza who was an exchange nurse from India studying at County Hospital. Marrying Clare certainly changed my understanding of having an extended family--I have one sister while Clare has 11 brothers and sisters. Clare just had a major birthday and she got calls from Germany, Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, and the US. We have two children and four grandchildren; we are lucky in that they live nearby. We love to travel and have vacationed in Australia, New Zealand, India, Israel, the Galápagos and most of Europe. We had planned to go to the passion play in Germany this summer, but that trip had to be canceled. We have lived in Wheaton for the last 35 years. I have volunteered for over 20 years as a resume coach for a job support ministry, as well as currently volunteer at Marianjoy and the Arboretum.

I love college & professional sports but have not played any organized sports since failing to make our 6<sup>th</sup>-grade touch football team at Holy Cross. Should any head coaching positions open up, however, I'm ready.

**Editor's Note:** Bob mentioned to me in an email that he was glad to see a fellow "Indian" in the newsletter. An inquiry from the editor led to the little-known fact

that instead of "10 little Indians" there were actually 9 Deerfield Indians in the class of '62: **Bob Basche, Don Bauer, George Burgett, Tom Carroll, Bob Clarke, Jim Dosch, Tom Frost, Dennis McLoughlin and Robert Wood.** That's quite a group of Dons!

Later in this issue the *Focus* story features the 1961 Championship Football Team. Following are two stories from the two co-Captains of that team, #40 Alan Loboy and #66 George Risher.



## Alan Loboy from Milwaukie, OR

In the Spring of 1966, like many of us, I was still trying to figure out what I was going to do after graduation from Notre Dame University. Get a job, go to graduate school, enter the military? One day, as I was taking a study break playing some basketball in the student gym, one of the graduate football assistants mentioned that my high school, Notre Dame, was looking for a teacher and a coach. Short story - I

set up an interview with Fr. O'Neill, then principal, and the head football coach, Fran Willett. Shortly thereafter I was gainfully employed and would remain so for the next 48 years. My class load included five classes. Non-teaching assignments included assistant athletic director, assistant football coach, and assistant baseball coach. The next ten years were a whirlwind. I got engaged to a wonderful woman, Judy Ferlic, whom I met senior year of high school. It was an on again - off again, on again - off again relationship, until it was definitely on again. We were married in early 1967 and over the next nine years had four children: Colleen, David, Matthew, and Zachary.

Like 1966, 1976 was also a year of change. This time it was a major physical move to Oregon. I had been looking to go west for some time and when I received the job offer at La Salle High School, in Milwaukie, Oregon, I took it. Head football coach, Athletic Director, PE/Health Department Head. A full plate, but what I wanted. The years at La Salle were good. I even brought the school its first state championship - in Tennis! But I was lucky. The team had some talent. In 1983, Judy and I had our fifth child, Sara.

1988 was a difficult time for us all, as Judy fought and lost a battle with cancer. Fortunately, we are blessed with family, friends, and our faith. One of those friends was Merrie and in 1990 we were married. Merrie came with four



children. Kind of a package deal. Eventually, they added five more grandchildren, for a total of twelve grandchildren. This year will be our 30th anniversary. Professionally, I had gotten my masters and also my administrative credential. After several interviews I accepted a position as Principal in a K through 8 school, St. John the Apostle, in Oregon City. I enjoyed my ten years at St. John's, and I must admit that part of the enjoyment was seeing a school that was struggling come out the other end being healthy and sound. I retired from full-time teaching at the age of 60 but continued doing substitution work for the next ten years.

The greatest blessings of my life have been Judy, Merrie, my children, and grandchildren, ages 21 to 1 year. My career in education, which I kind of fell into by accident, was a personally rewarding one. Six of the children are college graduates and three, soon four, of the grandchildren are in college. One of my sons, Matt, married a Spanish woman, Ana, which has given us the opportunity to visit Spain many times. In fact, Merrie and I walked El Camino de Santiago a few

years ago, one of the best experiences of my life. I would recommend it to anyone.

Another of those blessings is the continued relationships that I have with those who know me best - my friends from NDHS. **Larry Raymond** and his wife, Eileen, are always there with a bed whenever I get back to Chicago. I have managed to see **George Risher** and **Steve Lochen** on trips down to California and **Tom Anderson** when in Chicago. **Bob Buonincontro**, his wife, Mary, and I had a good visit when he was out here on a wine tasting tour. Lately, I have also had the good fortune to be in Chicago when the class luncheon has been scheduled. Good to catch up with **Ray Neihengen**, **John Zei**, and **Dennis Bielinski**. **Jack Gerken** has also been in contact the last few years and we renewed acquaintance with **Chuck Reali** one night over dinner in Portland. Turns out Chuck lives nearby in Vancouver, WA.

That's about it for now. Stay healthy. Keep the faith.

### **George Risher from Santa Maria, CA**

After graduating from 4 wonderful years at NDHS, I attended Idaho State University, in Pocatello, Idaho, on a full football scholarship. It was quite different from Chicago, but I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the new environment. It was there that I met my life-long love, Pam Bennett. We were married the day after graduation, with both our

families in attendance. As we embarked on our life together, I was lucky enough to begin teaching and coaching at my beloved alma mater NDHS, where I renewed old relationships with priests, teachers and staff. I was living the dream when Uncle Sam and my local draft board decided they wanted ME!

My summons letter confirmed I was off to Basic Training, Airborne School and then further training at Fort Bragg and the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Forces Training, where I was awarded my Green Beret. I remained in the Army and Reserves for the next 30 years. I served with Infantry Divisions and Civil Affairs Groups. This included over 19 deployments to Korea and Hawaii. This was a major influence on my life.



In 1970 Pam and I moved to California where I received a master's degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. We were so happy in California that I continued my teaching career there with the Orcutt School

District, instructing History, Physical Ed and Special Education. I recently retired after 40 dedicated years. Additionally, we built a real estate investment company that has kept us very busy, even in retirement.

We also began our family at that time, raising 3 beautiful children, Patrick, Heather and Ryan, who have blessed us with 4 grandsons and a granddaughter dog. They are living in Ocean NJ, Atlanta and Orange County CA. A large part of our retired life has been spent visiting with these young joys in our lives. With life-long wanderlust in our blood, Grammie Lightyear and I have traveled to a variety of foreign and domestic destinations, all bringing us a lot of pleasure.

Being a part of the NDHS family has always been an important part of my life. It was an honor to Co-Captain Notre Dame's FIRST undefeated football team. A few years ago, it was such a pleasure to attend a team reunion celebrating the team and our irreplaceable coaches, Joe Yonto, Jack Cole and Jack Burke. I was blessed to play with so many great players and human beings such as **Al Loboy, Steve Lochen, Jim Prasch, Jim Starshak, Denny Bielinski, Ray Neihengen** and **Larry Raymond** to name only a few. With a 300-word limit, I can't list every single person who was so special and important to the team! God bless and stay healthy through this trying time!

My best in Our Lady, GO DONS!

## **Bob "Ozzy" Schwartz, Nashville, TN**

Just before graduation, Larry Raymond, Bob Buonincontro, Tom Cassidy and I went up to Lake Nipigon in Ontario for a week. What a learning experience! One thing I learned the hard way was to hold a shotgun tight to the shoulder! Larry and I went fishing while Tom and Bob went hunting. Next time you see Bob or Larry, ask them about the canoe capsizing! We left for home 16 hours late and just made it to graduation practice. Many great memories.

After high school I went, along with 30+ school mates, to the Univ. of Notre Dame, where I participated in Army ROTC. After graduation I was commissioned an Armor Officer, but more significantly assigned to helicopter flight school. During flight school, I married the love of my life, Nancy Garr (SMC '67).

So, in 1968, I was sent to Viet Nam, like several of you, for a year in which I logged 1500 combat flight hours. (For you guys that went on to UND, I gave classmate Bob Petrero a ride and ran into Skip Medina on R&R). Following Viet Nam, we were stationed in Texas, where all four of our children were born – first one at Ft. Hood, and the others in Waco.

My first civilian job was in investment sales and then with a retail chain. After 13 years, we tired of being away from both families and moved to Nancy's



hometown of Nashville TN, with Genesco – primarily a shoe manufacturer, where I helped start their Mitre Sports division (Soccer/Rugby). That was apropos, because I helped found the Nashville Youth Soccer Association and ref'd and coached for many years.

In 1985 I had the opportunity to start a printing business with a colleague, a business I am just getting ready to pass on to my youngest son. Thirty-five years – doesn't time fly!

Throughout the years, Nancy and I have been very active in our parishes: leading sharing groups, teaching RCIA, parish councils, and especially involved in the Charismatic Renewal, where I've led – and still lead – worship in prayer meetings. I also emcee a yearly "mid-south" conference in Nashville.

Children: our oldest son graduated from Notre Dame in 1992, followed by two daughters

(Middle Tennessee State and UT-Knoxville). Our last son graduated from NYU. Eleven grandkids in Nashville, Scottsdale, and Denver. So, we travel a lot to the West! Other interests: tennis, golf, music (guitar, not French horn). And like many of you, I do a good bit of volunteer work at our airport USO center and driving "old" people who can no longer drive. As long as I stay healthy, I'm not called by God to be a couch potato. I feel He still has a lot more for me to do for Him.

### Chuck Reali Update

Hey Google, where is Marston MO? Marston is a town in southeast Missouri located along the banks of the Mississippi River, 2 hours north of Memphis and 2-1/2 hours southeast of St Louis. Hey Google, who want to go there, what's there? Nothing but a smelter.

And that's how the Christmas card from **Chuck Reali** on Battle Ground, WA started. Chuck's been

living across the Columbia River from Portland and **Al Loboy** for a long time, owning Real Axis Machining with his son, Jon, after running aluminum smelters for Alcoa et al for years and catching some nice fish in the Columbia.

But Chuck couldn't say "no," so he agreed to become CEO of a failing smelter in Marston in July of last year. Machiavelli would be proud as he fired all of the major management positions and started digging the company out of hole. China and Russia are his main competitors, but he always did love a good fight.

However, he discloses his real reason for his move at the end of his New Year's message...he's now only 480 miles away from Notre Dame where his oldest granddaughter will enroll as a freshman this fall. Hoping to see Chuck and Jon for a few football games this year.

### Senior Issue of *FOCUS*

Continuing the replay of the last issue of *FOCUS* dated May 18, 1962, including the Class Will, Four Years of Advice, the Year of Accomplishments, and nearly four pages of (embarrassing) photographs...

This issue will focus on the Year of Accomplishments (in Football). In September (of '61), a mass of fans came out to see dominant Taft melt a Notre Dame football squad. As expected, the game was close with a final score of 14-13 in favor of the Dons.



**1961 UNDEFEATED FOOTBALL TEAM – ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CEREMONY**  
 JIM STARSHAK, RICH GORZYNSKI, TOM LAMBERT, THE LATE PHIL KEMP, MIKE FIELD, DENNY BIELINSKI, BOB BUONINCONTRO, LARRY RAYMOND, CO-CAPTAIN ALAN LOBOY AND RAY NEIHENGEN (SEE STORY BELOW)

Eight victories in a row failed to dispel the theory of some that despite their impressive record, Notre Dame doesn't really play anyone. How far this is from the truth when we remember that Coach Yonto's football aggregate defeated Spaulding of Peoria, away, to gain an impressive victory over the #4-ranked team in the state.

For this we thank the likes of Co-Captains **Al Lobo** & **George Risher**, and fellow seniors **Denny Bielinski**, **Bob Buonincontro**, **Henry Gibbons**, **Steve Lochen**, **Neil Morris**, **Ray Neihengen**, **Jim Prash**, **Larry Raymond**, and **Jim Starshak**, among others. The '61 squad was inducted into the NDHS Athletic Wall of Fame in February 2017 as the first undefeated football team in the school's history

## In Passing

I realized last night that the classmates that we've lost have never had the chance to tell their "Story in Their Own Words." Maybe that can change. With the sudden passing of **Ray Komajda** on February 11 in Annandale VA, our number of deceased Dons is now at least 75. Ray was one of the 34 Irish Dons in the class of '62, all graduating from the Univ. of Notre Dame. Previously, this group has lost **Jim Tiedge** in '91, **Pete Stahl** in '98, **Bob Courtney** in '12, **Joe Doherty** in '16, and **Mike Strubel** in '17.

Many of us went our separate ways at ND, but I was fortunate to have known Ray for most of the years; both living in the same dorm freshman year and both studying engineering. Ray was in aerospace engineering and Air Force ROTC. Ray actually came home to California with me during spring break sophomore year.

After graduation, Ray headed to Purdue for a master's degree and then worked in aerospace near DC until he retired in 2014.

Like many of you, I never saw Ray again until there was a knock on the door at the Marriott in South Bend late one night. Upon opening the door, I stared at the intruder who then said, "You probably don't remember me?" Luckily, I knew he was coming to our 50<sup>th</sup> university reunion and I guessed right. So, for the next 3 days, we all told a lot of stories.

Ray was semi-retired at the time. He previously lost his wife to cancer but had two beautiful daughters and eventually three grandsons in the DC area. He loved his "hog" and showed us pictures of himself riding his motorcycle across the US, especially in the Southwest.



Wish we all could have heard your whole story. R.I.P. Irish Don!

## **Last Word(s)**

I don't know if it's this pandemic.  
Or the sudden loss of a good  
friend. Or the constant idiocy of  
DC. It makes one want to take a  
deep breath and wonder...

But I do know that we've had the  
pleasure of talking to a lot of  
"long-lost" classmates over the  
past ten+ years, of editing 30+  
"Stories in Their Own Words," of  
lunching with old friends and  
some classmates we never knew,  
and of publishing seven editions  
of this quarterly newsletter.

This is a good thing that we've  
done. I only hope that we can  
finish telling the remaining 180+  
stories.

*We're all just walking each other  
home.* Ram Dass

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