



WELHISCO

**REMINDER:**

16 Months until  
Reunion 2009

View  
Alumni Member [\[List\]](#)

**Mystery Necklace Continues**



(Not the actual necklace)

**"Lunatic" sends note to Flashlight, addressed to ladies:**

It reads:

To the Ladies of '65;  
About the necklaces (you received after Reunion 2006), we hope you liked them...they were from all of us to all of you. Reading you liked and enjoyed them in the Flashlight (July '07) was thanks enough but you *COULD* thank us again when we meet at Reunion 2009.

No, you haven't guessed who the "instigating lunatic" is (Aug '07).

Again, it was a pleasure and privilege growing up and attending school with you all!!!

Your friends and classmates

**From the editor:  
And the mystery continues**



*Jimmy Haislip '54*

Al Smith (left), former High Sierra Jazz Band leader, congratulates Jimmy Haislip, legendary trombone player from Cornet Chop Suey who took the stage at Jazzaffair, 2003. Jim's on the right

The sad beginnings to be found in dysfunctional families often set the stage for tragic endings. All the elements of tragedy were in place for **Jimmy Haislip '54** but he was proven to be one of those who overcame the odds. Tragedy was not to be the ultimate fate of this young man.

Born 1936, Jim suffered from child abuse and epilepsy acquired from brain damage incurred when he was struck by a car at age 6. As he grew up he drifted into alcoholism and eventually had a nervous breakdown.



Jimmy started Wellston Junior High in 1949 when he was 13, becoming instant friends with David Dungan. Dave played the tuba in the high school band. (In order to have enough band members the high school would recruit from the Junior High.)

Jim was asked if he'd like to try the trombone to which he replied 'yes'!

The extent of Jim's formal trombone lessons consisted of Mr. Gratius, then music director, showing him how to play a few notes, showing him how to take the trombone apart then put it back together again, and letting him take the trombone home for the summer, so he could practice.

Mr. Gratius was replaced by Maurice Schaum as director that fall. In the spring of 1950, Mr Schaum, formed a dance band, known as the Weltones. The purpose of the band was to train future musicians plus provide music for school dances as well as for outside engagements. Their first public appearance was at a home basketball game that year.

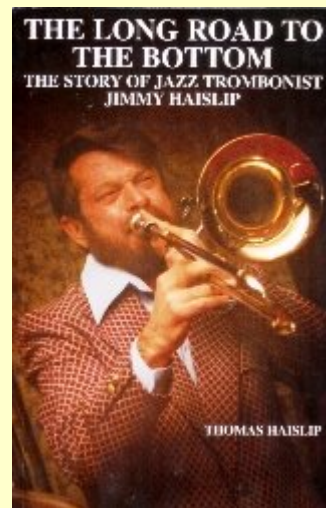
They would meet daily at 8 am filling the halls of Wellston with both sweet and hot music. The band became one of the most active organizations in school playing at basketball games, auditorium sessions,

school dances, and the Wellston Community Center. Six members, **Frances Stamm, James Haislip, Bob Percival, Gene Moehlenkamp, Jim Thompson, and Don Connors** formed a Dixieland Band.

Jim majored in criminal law and criminal evidence, graduating from the St. Louis Police Academy with honors where he spent 13 years before changing vocations. He is considered to be one of the top 10 jazz trombonists in the country, celebrating a career that spanned some 55 years.

Haislip sat in with jazz greats such as Bobby Hackett, Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, Bob Crosby and many more international artist. He appeared on the TV and radio versions of Arthur Godfrey's talent scout show, played on the Tonight Show, Garry Moore's I've Got a Secret, Ed Sullivan Show and many other appearances around the country at various studios. Over 100 recordings, with various artists, credit "Jimmy Haislip - Trombone" ..

Jim's love for playing the trombone and his love for Dixieland music has taken him all over the world. He played with several well known bands at Gas Light Square among other gigs in St. Louis, New York City, and New Orleans. He never became rich, money wise but he certainly loved what he was doing at the time.



His brother, Tom Haislip, wrote of Jim's life growing up in Wellston and the trials and tribulations Jim experienced on the road to the bottom, before he turned his life around.

Jim found Christ and his conversion to Christianity was nothing short of a miracle. Jim is now a minister and Director of Hope Ministries in St. Louis. Visit his [website](#)

"A boy named George Koby pitched for the Cardinals"

~ Joe Garagiola 1964

By: Robert Haefner

George Koby, attended Wellston Schools from K - 12th grade, graduating in 1943. George excelled in sports, lettering in all, however baseball was his favorite. He was tall and he threw the ball hard. At times he was wild enough to intimidate most batters.

The classmates of 1943 were asked to pick special features from the boys in their class to create the "perfect boy". George was chosen for his perfect "athletic ability".

George played street ball with Norm Siebern, Don Carter, and the Haefner brothers. He set the bar high, showing his friends how professional sports were within their grasp. Later in life he showed determination, hanging in there, proving the medical experts wrong. His life story is interesting and inspiring, read on - he was a survivor. [MORE!](#)



George Kolby '43

LIFE THEN & NOW



I lived at 1277 Ryan Terrace till I was in the middle of 6th grade. Our home was built in 1905 and owned by my grandfather. June Douglas '59 lived across the alley from me, Virginia '53 and Janice '61 Clark lived on

Wagner at the corner of Ryan Terrace. My sister and I learned to ride bicycles on the cinder strewn alley. JoAnn Williams '60 lived at the corner of Wagner and this alley, two doors from the Clarks. Larry and Lyman Winder lived on Ryan Terrace, as well as Virginia Gossett '60. These are pictures of our home then and now. It's STILL standing - barely - 103 years later. St. Louis County owns the home now - only two other homes are left on our street, one being lived in. Its fun sharing pictures. I'd love to see some input from others especially from the class of '59.

**Barb Hill '59**



1277 Ryan Terrace, Front view



The home still stands - barely...



Picture taken in the backyard of our home at 6238 Lenox.



JoAnn Williams '60



Sitting L-R: Carol Beeman '60, Mary Ann Crecelius '60, Second Row L-R: Josephine Chiesa '61, Doris Voepel '60, Marjorie Grady '48, Betty Ellsworth '60, JoAnn Williams '60, Cheryl Horne '61, Third Row: Janet Scott '60, Jo Harmen '64



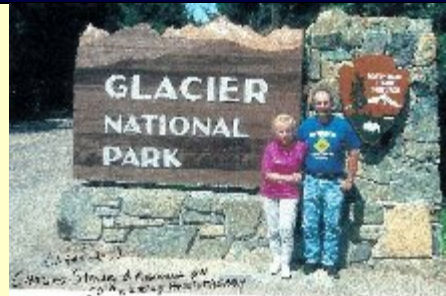
Marjorie Grady '48, Cheryl Horne '61, Josephine Chiesa '61

The Red Shirts met at JoAnn Williams home for their annual spring tea party. The girls have been meeting for lunch once a month since November, 2003, the third Wednesday of each month. Six ladies attended the first meeting. The group has now grown to 23. When a member can't attend every meeting, she knows she will be missed. The next 'special' luncheon will be in July when they celebrate Santa's (Jim Chapman '60) birthday. (I'd say a Christmas in July meeting was really special.) Most of the girls try to attend, after all nobody wants to tick off Santa! Santa is the only man invited and welcome to attend the meetings.



Carolyn Miner '60 joins cousins Ken '65 & Pat Miner '62, and Pat's husband Jerry Slatton '57 on Mother's day visiting Pat and Ken's Mom. Carolyn lives in

Illinois, Pat and Jerry live in Arkansas. Everyone traveled to Salem, MO where Ken and Mrs. Miner Live, celebrating Mother's Day with her.



Charles Stanley '50 and his wife Madonna Celebrated their 50th Anniversary at a party with their family and friends before taking off for God's country. They took a leisurely tour of Glacier National Park then Yellow Stone Park before returning home.

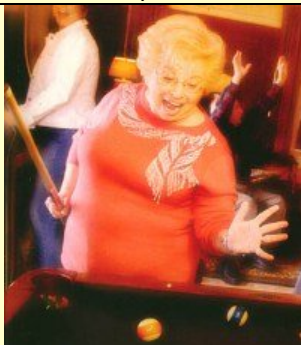
### Senior Moments with Senior Pictures

By Sandy Gibbons '57

Our eyes open and close and what remains is our memory, subject to argument and fading, but the eye of the camera opens and closes and what remains is history.

For better or for worse, whether you like them or not, the photos used in the Flashlight are most likely our senior portraits. Most of them were made with we students swathed in tulle or in a rental tuxedo, at Rembrandt Studio in Wellston.

In 1956 or 57 I saw everyone's senior picture first. Those proofs that were less than perfect, and yes Dear Reader, there were a few, I disposed of, out of consideration for your young ego. You are most welcome.





David (Poncho) Canny '51 (pictured in red shirt) was a boxing coach for many years. In the picture he is seen with pugilist Bob "Thunder" Thurman. Bob developed into a top notch amateur boxer and eventually turned pro as a kickboxer, being the forerunner of today's mixed martial arts. He was featured on CBS Wide World of Sports and many ESPN shows. Bob became a World Champion in his respected weight class. Today he runs a very successful security company.

Read the rest of Poncho's story: [\[MORE\]](#) ➔



Frank and Nadine Clark



Frank on board ship bound for Iwo Jima



Charles B. Clark Francis E. Clark Harvey M. Clark

Clark Brothers Oil Painting

Larry Duffy, reporter for the "New Town Courier", wrote an article in their May issue about our Frank Clark '43, the plight of Frank's painting, and the story of his brothers. We feel it is a heart warming story worthy of sharing with our alumni. To read the story [\[MORE\]](#) ➔

**Pictures from the Shoe Box**



Corbett Monica with Jimmy Haislip and his band at channel 2 approx '57. Chuck Norman was host along with Bruce Heyworth



Corbett & Gene Krupa guest soloist at channel 2



Loretta Skeeth '54

**Vintage Photos From the Shoe Box!**



*We'll post them online.*

How do you store your pictures? Framing, scrap-booking or sticking them in shoeboxes? With the advent of digital photography, there are several options sharing the photos you love, making them last a good, long time: You can either: [Email](#), scan or use US Postage (If photos are to be returned, please include return US Mail postage.) **Send in your shoebox photo's so they can be shared with everyone.**



I never enjoyed anything so much as your recent newsletter! I always knew Chuck-A-Burger was at Page and Ferguson. The picture of Clara L. Fricke warmed my heart. We lived next door to her on Page. Please let her know we think of her and her Mom and Dad often.

**Gene and Estella (Smith '51) Tiernan '46**

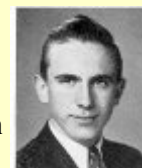


Friends, the May edition of the Flashlight is very interesting. There is a hidden section that I just happened to find. It is at the end of the section showing the 1958 picture of Mr. --Course under the listing Senior Day 1958. If you check on the "MORE" link you get a very large section of pictures of Wellston or what remains of Wellston. There are also a number of early Wellston High pictures. JoAnn, you should have highlighted this link. **Dave Esche 62**

**Dave: Space is very limited in what can be posted in the Flashlight, reason why articles are attached [MORE]**



Just a short note to let you know that we are still alive but more or less confined to our local area in Lynchburg, Virginia. Gladys has had a stroke and is partially paralyzed on her right side. We are still able to live in our own home. We will be unable to attend Reunion 2009 but do appreciate getting all the info about WELHISCO activities. **Richard and Gladys (Althen '41) Oldham '39**

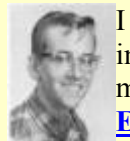


Please REMOVE me from your mailing list. I graduated in the class of '45 from Wellston, **OHIO!** Thanks, Jane Massie



Melba and I have just read your May copy of the Welhisco Alumni Newsletter and congratulate you and your team on the excellent organization and newsletter you have established.

We have been involved in reunions for Wellston, class 1941 reunions for over 18 years. Our next newsletter will be the 68th edition. September will be our next annual picnic. We also meet for lunch the first Thursday of the month at the Bridgeton Home Towne Buffet. We know your efforts are well appreciated by hundreds of our old friends and classmates. Geo and Melba (Smith '41) Smith



I attended Wellston from elementary through high school, living on Lennox Ave. Neighborhood neighbors include Russell Hamm, the Dentons, Bennetts. I knew the Gatlins, Thackers, Crowders, having great memories of all. I wonder where everyone is now and how their lives turned out. Someone out there [EMAIL](#) me, I'll respond. **Tom Manley '67**

What a delightful surprise! When I saw the "Trojan" on the envelope I thought it was from U.S.C., since I did graduate from there and get communications from them several times a year. I had forgotten that Wellston High School also had a "Trojan" as a mascot. Our class of '41 has a newsletter and also events planned through the year. California is too far removed from Missouri to go for lunch though. Thanks for its opportunity to keep in touch. Sincerely, **Vernetta (Eyster) Semon '41.**

Stanley Dodd '41 called, asking us to say 'Hi' to everyone for him. He said his health is good and he's looking forward to seeing everyone at Reunion 2009. Stan plans to attend with his sister, Donna '55, from Arizona. Stan ordered a Buzz Book so he could keep in touch with his friends and classmates. Stan keeps up with alumni news through his sister who mails the Flashlight for him each month.



Thanks for the information regarding Miss Niles. Appreciated the early photo of her and Jerry Stegall. Thanks also for the info regarding the early history of Wellston schools. Are there any pictures of the old Welsmar School before it was torn down and became Spencemar School?  
**Roger Noon '62**



We really enjoy reading the Flashlight and stories of Wellston High School. The memories of the loop, the movie theaters, drive inn's, Chuck-A-Burger, and all the other stories. What a nice way of keeping up with alumni news. Thanks!  
**Charles and Kathleen (Bonney) Busalacchi - both 1957**

# WELHISCO ASSOCIATION NEWS

## REUNION 2009 UPDATE

The Embassy Suites is now accepting reservations for Reunion 2009 weekend, October 2, 3, and 4, 2009.

When making reservations be sure to mention you are attending Wellston High Reunion for a special rate of \$124.00 + tax per night.

**Phone: 636-946-5544**

Friday and Saturday night festivities will be held at St. Charles Convention Center, starting with a Mixer on Friday, **Oct 2**, followed with a Dinner and Dance Saturday night, **Oct 3rd**.

Sunday, **Oct 4th**, Picnic luncheon will be at the American legion Hall, Post 312, 2500 Raymond Drive, in St. Charles, very close to the Convention Center.

**Mark these dates on your calendar!**

### VOTE

Attending Reunion 2009? [\[Answer\]](#)

Which events?

[\[Answer\]](#)

Staying at the

Embassy? [\[Answer\]](#)

Other polls you'd to see?

Email us [\[MORE\]](#)

There are a few copies of reprinted BuzzBooks still available. Send check for \$10.00 to:  
WELHISCO Alumni  
PO Box #774  
O'Fallon, MO 63366  
Phone numbers have been updated



Larry Brown '63 wanted to do something nice for his fellow class-mates, something memorable for their 40<sup>th</sup> in 2003. His class was small; he needed to add more classes, hosting it in an elegant setting, making it very special for all. He decided to invite the classes' of 1958 - 1965. At the time neither Larry nor his committee realized they were in the process of laying the foundation for our alumni association.

From Larry's database, a buzz book was created with a few hundred names he had gathered. Today this book contains over 1,300 names and growing. A missing list has been developed and a ClassMatesRemembered list for our dearly departed.

Larry was instrumental in creating the draft developing the bi-laws for our Alumni Association. He served as director of two reunions before the association was formed with officers and trustees appointed. .

Our association is now in full swing with its own EIN (tax number) and is able to piggy-back onto the school district's tax exempt number. As of this writing we have 215 members dating from 1938 - 1969 with more joining each day. This would never have been possible without Larry's involvement, foresight and dedication. Larry Brown '63 will be remembered as the "Father" of our Alumni Association, the man with an idea - an idea of hosting a reunion.

Members with email address will receive a notice when the Flashlight has been posted online. They will receive (2) special editions of the Alumni Newsletter each year, special perks at the reunion, email notices and voting privileges.

If your newsletter hasn't arrived yet, let us know at: [WelhiscoAlumni@aol.com](mailto:WelhiscoAlumni@aol.com). Please send us your correct mailing address so your info can be updated.

## Joe Hunter '54 - Trustee



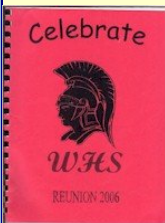
Joe Hunter '54 has been appointed Trustee of our alumni association. Joe is a retired electrician and hog farmer. He has raised 30 sows from birth to market. He loves to trout fish and getting lost on his Harley.

Joe says living on his 28 acre farm keeps him real busy these days. What he use to be able to do all day long now takes him all day to do!

## Pat Miner '62 - Secretary of buzz Book



Pat Miner agreed to be the keeper of the buzz book, adding updates as they become available. She is working closely with the 'Trustee' making sure all changes are added to both the buzz book and Class List when they come in.



### ALUMNI ART CONTEST

Several suggestions have come in for the buzz book cover. If you are interested in submitting an idea please let us know. We have so many talented artist alumni; it'd be nice to share it with us all. Art work must be submitted no later than June, 2009.

## Classmates Remembered

Theresa O'Connor '63 wrote a beautiful poem dedicated to and remembering our departed alumnus. [To Read](#)



John Hawley '64  
Passed 5/20/08  
Pneumonia from heart complications  
[Guest Book](#)



Larkin Daniel '42  
Passed 5/20/08  
Brain Aneurysm  
[Guest Book](#)

### Condolences to:

Thelma McQuay '48 in the loss of her husband, Jerry, March 23, 2008. [Obit Notice](#)

Dorma Lee Koch '44 in the loss of her husband Larkin Daniel 5/20/08

Ken Besancenez in the loss of his brother, John Hawley

Shirley Blake '64 in the loss of her husband, John Hawley.

Frances '66 and Judy '68 Blake in the loss of their brother- in- law John Hawley

**Larkin Daniel '42:** After retiring from Union Electric Company, Larkin Daniel, (better known as Dan) tried his hand at remodeling. His first project was finishing the basement of their old home. No sooner then Dan finished his project, he and his wife, Dorma Lee Koch '44, moved to O'Fallon where he started fixing and correcting what the builder forgot or just didn't do. Dan and Lee loved traveling, seeing the countryside in their motor home. They met with their classmates for lunch every month and have for many years. They were very active in supporting the reunions, being the first to become members of our Alumni Association. Dan will sadly be missed.

### Where in the World is **Robert Goodwin '59?**



Check out the link taking you to the missing alumni list in your class. They may not even know they are missing!! If there's someone on the list that you know the whereabouts of (dead or alive) please email us the information, or have them contact us. As you see there are only a few classes with people missing. Most classes have someone who takes the initiative to keep their class list current. While this is not an easy task to undertake, it does make the job easier for the Reunion Committee. Check all the classes, because someone's brother, sister, aunt, uncle, parents or even neighbor, might be on the "Missing List". The list spans a period of over 30 years. [MISSING ALUMN](#)

**Editors**

Bill Voos ('48)  
Sandy Gibbons ('57)  
JoAnn Williams ('60)

Mary Kay Parker '56 - President  
Jim Shaw '45 - Sec/Treasurer

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E-mail

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**Fishing for  
Friends ...  
JOIN US!**



**Missing Alumni List  
Please Help**

**Click here**



## FUNNIES FOUND ON THE INTERNET

### SENIOR CITIZENS

**ARE THE NATION'S LEADING CARRIERS OF AIDS!**



**HEARING AIDS  
BAND AIDS  
ROLL AIDS  
WALKING AIDS  
MEDICAL AIDS  
GOVERNMENT AIDS**

**MOST OF ALL,  
MONETARY AID TO  
THEIR KIDS!**

[Boggie Time](#) →

### My Dog Mace

A mechanic who worked out of his home had a dog named Mace. Mace had a bad habit of eating all the grass on the mechanic's lawn, so the mechanic had to keep Mace inside. The grass eventually became overgrown. One day the mechanic was working on a car in the backyard and dropped his wrench, losing it in the tall grass. He couldn't find it for the life of him, so he decided to call it a day. That night, Mace escaped from the house and ate all the grass in the backyard. The next morning the mechanic went outside and saw his wrench glinting in the sunlight. Realizing what had happened he looked toward the heavens and proclaimed, "A grazing Mace, how sweet the hound, that saved a wrench for me!"



### TAKEN FROM THE DEAR ABBY COLUM:

Dear Abby, My mother is mean and short tempered. I think she's going through mental pause.

Dear Abby, You told someone whose husband had lost all interest in sex to send him to a doctor. Well, my husband lost all interest in sex and he IS a doctor. Now what do I do?

Dear Abby, Our son writes that he is taking Judo. Why would a boy who was raised in a good Christian home turn against his own?

Dear Abby, I've suspected that my husband has been fooling around, and when confronted with the evidence, he denied everything and said it would never happen again.

Dear Abby, What can I do about all the sex, nudity, fowl language and violence on my VCR?



