

# The 1955 trojan *Alumni* PRINTS

Winter 2000

• Send news articles and/or photos to Frank Hunter, 480 Bosphorus Ave., Tampa, FL 33606 • Email fhunter@sptimes.com •

Issue 2

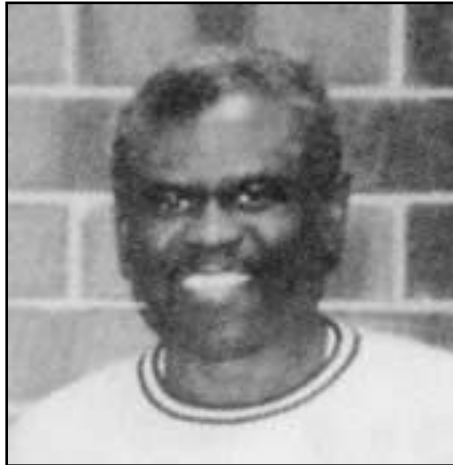
## A Life of Athletics

### Profile... Curt Gentry

After graduation from PHS, Curt attended Miami University on a basketball grant-in-aid for two and a half years, participating in football and baseball. In 1959 he signed a baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds but never made it out of training camp. In 1960 he played basketball with a team similar to the Harlem Globetrotters called the Harlem Globe Satellites for a short period of time (the guy he replaced returned to the team). Curt says "I could still shoot very well but could not do any of those Globetrotter ball tricks". Later that year he made the Class D team of the Detroit Tigers at Decatur, Illinois. Then he was called to take his Army physical. Returning to Decatur, he learned he had been released from the team. He was drafted into the Army in October of 1960, and spent two and a half years playing ball.

In 1962, Curt applied to several colleges and was accepted at Maryland State College. So he received an "early out" from the service. At Maryland State, he started all over again as a 24 year old freshman. Curt says "I never really thought about playing pro football, I just wanted to receive a degree. However, the school is renown for sending guys to the pro ranks, so from my sophomore year on I concentrated on getting into pro football and earning my degree."

After playing 4 years of football, 1 year of basketball, 2 years of baseball, and 1 year of track, he was the 17th draft choice of the Chicago Bears in 1965. In 1966, he received his bachelor's degree in physical education, recreation, and health; graduating third in his class. Curt played defensive back for the Bears for three years. While there he created and popularized the "bump and run" style of pass coverage and



shares a Bears' record with three interceptions in one game. At the age of 33 he decided to say goodbye to football after moving around the league with several teams.

In 1971, he began a college football coaching career; starting at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass. and ending in 1980 at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. While coaching at Northwestern University Curt earned a master's degree. After football in 1981, he went to Waco, Texas to teach at Paul Quinn College. In 1987, he was hired at the College of Lake County in north Suburban Chicago where he is presently on the faculty. He played a great deal of golf, traveled, and had a lot of charity endeavors. He may be the only person ever in the state of Ohio to make all state in three sports and probably one of a few athletes to play three sports professionally. Curt says, "the educational and athletic training that I got from Washington Grade School and PHS got me ready for the world."

### Note from Roger Howard

I worked for the Columbus Dispatch for 39 years. My wife, Marcia and I raised 7 children and they gave us 5 grandchildren. I have been active in Church matters and have written a commentary on the New Testament, several books of the Old Testament and some booklets on religious subjects. Most of the time I have taught an adult class. My wife and I were very active in genealogy until her health failed. I am sorry I missed the reunion but just never worked out a way to get there.



### Class Web Site?

I would be happy to build and keep up a web site for us. Let's include all classes that would like to be on the site. I know that I ran with many of the different classes and many others did to. The ranks are thinning and we need to pull together. I am also very interested in a multi-class reunion to bring together so many that had upward and downward mobility in school (had girl and boy friends in other grades). This I say after missing the last two.

Let me know how I can help. I work as a consultant, trying to have as much free time without becoming brain dead, and most of the time I can react quickly and some times I am very late with projects. I run web pages for churches (at no cost) and it takes a big chunk of time but, I have the time to give that project and this one.

*Tom Dupuy*

### Remembering Norma

Norma Fruchey, age 61, of Seattle, died October 8, 1998 after a two-year battle with ALS - Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Lou Gerhig Disease). A native of Ohio, she was born August 19, 1937 and had lived in Seattle for the past five years. She was in the top 10 in her graduating class at Portsmouth (Ohio) High School and graduated with honors from Ohio University with a teaching degree. She lived in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado and Wyoming where she pursued a varied career in bookkeeping, teaching, real estate and travel. Most recently, she was a docent (volunteer teacher) at the Woodland Park Zoo. She is missed by her family: daughter Cheryl Lou (Seattle); daughter Lynn Fruchey, DVM (Parker, Colorado); son Lyle, daughter-in-law Kimberly and grandson Zachary Hunter Fruchey (Bountiful, Utah); son-in-law Ernie Lou (Seattle); brother Samuel, and sister-in-law Nina Ray (Lucasville, Ohio); nieces Beverly Buckle (Minford, Ohio), Brenda Ray (Lucasville) and Bonnie and Tim Basham (Wheelersburg, Ohio); grandnephew Ray (Lucasville, Ohio); niece and grandnephews Brian and Brandon; niece and grandniece Brittany; niece, husband Tim and grandnephew Samuel (Wheelersburg, Ohio).

Norma enjoyed talking, meeting people, traveling, cards, games, animals, counted cross stitch, her family, her numerous granddogs and especially her new grandson Zach. She was looking forward to the birth of her second grandchild in May. She inspired us with her great optimism, courage and fearlessness. She was fiercely independent and lived on her own until four days before her death. We will all miss her more than any words can ever express. A Remembrance Celebration will be held in Seattle at the home of her daughter Cheri on Saturday, December 12, 1998. Memorial contributions may be made to the Norma Fruchey Memorial Fund, Seafirst Bank, 6601 Roosevelt Way, NE Seattle, WA 98115 or at any BankAmerica branch. Proceeds will fund scholarships for veterinary students to study at the Woodland Park Zoo. We ask you to also keep Muscular Dystrophy Association and the ALS Association in your future giving plans.



*Norma and Kathy Lee - 1997*



ROW 1, L to R: Jane Poole Rider, Gladys Frazier Hatton, Betty Fyffe Hubbard, Norma Lyon Lowe, Sandy Fitch Lemons, Billie Irvin Kirby, Ann Conner,  
 ROW 2, L to R: Shirley Perry White, Martha Fitch Cook, Sharon Queen Blayney, Connie Yuenger Keatley, Evelyn Brannan, Jane Dever Ramsey,  
 Marilyn Mucha Albrecht, Mary Gail Drake Korskmeier, Phyllis Scaff Purtee  
 ROW 3, L to R: Jim Edmiston, Don Snively, Ken Lane, Nick Huston, Jackie Buffington Carpenter, Ginny Smith Wolfe  
 ROW 4, L to R: Homer Liston, Bill Meade, Bill Miller, Fred Ramsey, Jerry Gillen, Gene Lucas

## Whitney Remembered

It was so nice to see you all at the reunion and to be able to share with you so many memories of Whitney. For the ten years I knew him I was reminded of his love for all of you. Some of the stories he told cannot be repeated but they have been verified by Mike Williams '56 and Nick Huston. Whitney loved growing up in Portsmouth and he never forgot his home town. And, you were all such a big part of that.

I truly feel like I know some of you personally. After attending the reunion in 1995 I was able to put faces with the stories and that made his life so much more alive.

So many of you helped him get through the last 16 months of his life. Many stopped by to visit when you were in Portsmouth visiting family. He loved those visits and after you left, I was treated to more stories. I am afraid that I will miss someone so I won't mention any names but you know who you are. You meant so much to him and me too, as you helped him get through some of those down days. Actually, there weren't many of those as Whit was one of the most up-beat people I knew and his smiling personality was certainly contagious.

I would like very much to stay in touch with you all and to plan to attend your next reunion. If any of you are in Portsmouth, please stop by. You are my tie to the wonderful years I spent with Whitney and he will always be with me and with you all.

*Gail Miller*

1117 Noel Drive, Portsmouth, OH 45662  
 (740) 353-3448, wdmgr@zoomnet.net.)

## Illness

*From Bob Otworth*

I finally made contact with Clayton Howerton. He has really been ill (ill is not a strong enough word for what he has been thru) While we were all having a good time at the reunion, Clayton was in The Cleveland Clinic on life support awaiting a new heart. He got one in October and is now recuperating at home. There are no signs of rejection and he is getting stronger each day. He has been ill for a very long time. He has suffered two attacks, blood clots, etc. He died twice but was revived with electric shock. For your records, his phone number is: (740) 775-5437 and his address is: 12 Page Road, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601.

His e-mail address is: howerton@bright.net

I also got the address and phone number for Ray Mitchell. 67 Page Road Chillicothe, (740) 772-5581. I plan to call him and if he has an e-mail address, I will let you all know.

*From Patti Conklin*

Gene Hollis had a 4-way bypass heart operation on October 12, 2000. He is doing well and hopes to return to work soon.

*From Virginia Combs Koppers*

Thanks for the info - enjoyed the newsletter. Just out of hospital after arterial surgery on both legs would love to go thru PHS again.

*From Tom Bond*

Hi, just mailed you my \$5.00 for the newsletter. I would have mailed it sooner but I had an unusual experience last week. I got really dizzy on Monday and started falling down and Tuesday it got worse, so we called the dr. He told me to go to the ER. After arriving there I began vomiting up blood and passed out. Turned out I had developed a bleeding ulcer. They had to give me 8 units of blood and do an emergency EGD to fix the hole in my stomach. They said it was caused by aspirin products. Other than being pretty weak I'm fine now. But it was close.



Front Row: Martha Fitch Cook, Patty Conklin Newsom, Donna McCally Boren, Marilyn Mucha Albrecht. Back Row: Bob Cook, Don Payton, Gene Lucas, John Wood



ROW 1, L to R: Ann Conner, Nancy Bower Sommers, Eva Strauss Izenson, Carol Merb Conley, Donna McCally Boren, Patty Conklin Newsom, Phyllis Knowles Foster  
 ROW 2, L to R: Phyllis Scaff Purtee, Sharon Gallagher Carpenter, Jackie James Evans, Connie Smith Enlow, Darleen Riddlebarger Hobbs, Joyce Goodman Foster, Karen Williams Fox, Anita Apel Biggs, Sharon Larter Miller  
 ROW 3, L to R: Sam Pollock, Bob Otworth, Bill Clifford, Gene Hollis, Marty Lehman, Jerry Warren, Dave Teeters  
 ROW 4, L to R: John Wood, Don Payton, Bob Cook, Lee Lansing, Allan Oxley, Frank Hunter, Bill Barnett, Terry Kouns



Joyce Goodman and Don Payton at the floodwall murals



Guess Who (hint - JLB)

At age 2 and age 62. Her favorite memories are:

- Poem:** Wordsworth's Ode: Intimations on Immortality. **Song:** The Penguins Earth Angel
- Singer/Musical Group:** The Moonglows
- Movie:** Gone With the Wind **Book:** Wuthering Heights **Hangout:** Park Shoppe
- Restaurant:** Four Keyes
- Male:** Bill Trone **Female:** Deanie Harrison
- Prom Date:** Bill Trone
- Activity:** Driving around with different groups of friends, listening to music, singing and hitting all the favorite hangouts
- I grew up to be a:** writer
- Current Interests:** Small dinner parties; chess, reading, bridge, writing, poetry and songs, music, art, decorating, cooking, tv and computer, science, philosophy, spiritual matters and most of all, family.
- Life's most important lesson:** Although financial and professional success are gratifying, the love of family and friends is priceless.



Guess Who (hint -GL)

At age 8 and age 63. His favorite memories are:

- Song:** Smoke gets in your eyes by The Platters
- Singer/music group:** Four Aces
- Movie:** From Here to Eternity
- Book:** A Tale of Two Cities
- Restaurant:** Cycle Inn
- Activity:** Reading, Riding around with friends, watching ball games
- I grew up to be a:** Claims Supervisor for the State of Ohio
- Current Interests:** Golf, Traveling, Reading, Sports, Keeping in touch with old friends.
- Life's most important lesson:** It is better to light one small candle than to curse the darkness.



John Wood, Patty Conklin Newsom and Don Payton

Facts from 55

In September, following studies by the National Geographic Society, astronomers theorize that a 200,000 square mile blue-green area of Mars may contain plant life. The announcement produces intense speculation

## History - Waiting on Those North Korean Paratroopers

It was the summer of 1950. I was twelve and a half years old that summer in Portsmouth. The Second World War had ended only slightly less than five years ago.

The big news on Monday, June 26, 1950, was that the North Koreans had invaded South Korea by sending some 60,000 troops across the 38th parallel the day before. Immediately, the United Nations asked its member countries to respond to this aggression by sending soldiers to Korea to restore the peace. President Harry S. Truman just as quickly approved U.S. air force and navy participation to turn back the Communists. And, on June 30th, he ordered U. S. ground forces in.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) using their advantage of surprise had forced the army of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) out of its capital at Seoul and was rapidly pushing South Korean and the few U. S. troops who had arrived from soft constabulary duty in Japan back to a perimeter defense line about 50 miles from Pusan, a seaport on the south-eastern coast. Things looked pretty bleak.

On the home front, it was time for me to go to Boy Scout Summer Camp. I was a member of BSA Troop 22 (Beaver Patrol) which met at the First

Nazarene Church on Third and Brown Streets. Our Scoutmaster was Mr. Vogel who lived down Charles Street about ten houses from us. He was a Portsmouth policeman and I thought the world of him. I hadn't been a scout too long, but had rapidly advanced to the exulted rank of "Second Class" scout. Most of the other members of the our troop weren't too much interested in merit badges or rank advancement. They were more interested in playing in the church's gymnasium and performing "initiations" on the new boys of the troop.

Since I was a "Scout with potential" and since I was from a single-parent family, Scoutmaster Vogel had obtained for me a partial "scholarship" for a week at Camp Oyo. I think the cost of a week at camp in those days was about \$20. Camp Oyo was located out by Lake Roosevelt on the West Side of Portsmouth along Route 52.

My first day at Camp Oyo was Monday, July 10th. After getting acclimated to the environment and learning my place in the "pecking order" (fairly low for a first-time camper) things went along pretty well. We had plenty to keep us busy: hiking, swimming, crafts, working on merit badges, campfire story-telling, working in the dining hall, etc. However, the one thing I severely missed was some news of the "outside world." Evidently, the

adults in charge of Camp Oyo felt that the scouts didn't need to be bothered about what was going on other than at camp. There were no radios (this was before TV) or newspapers available for the regular campers. I'm sure the adults and some of the senior scouts had access to news, but we peons didn't.

Needless to say, I was worried about what was happening in Korea. When I left for camp our soldiers were suffering grave defeats and I imagined that by the middle of July the North Korean Communists had probably made it to the coast of California. Each day I would scan the sky carefully. I was expecting to see silver planes over Camp Oyo with hordes of evil Communistic North Korean paratroopers descending at any moment. I worried a lot that week and had some difficulty sleeping at night, wondering how many guards there were on duty to warn us of impending North Korean tanks that might come crushing through the forest and over-running our cabin.

Luckily, I survived the Camp Oyo experience. I came home a better scout and was greatly relieved to hear the news that the United Nations' forces were holding their own against the Communists in what was to become known as "Frozen Chosen."

*Blaine Bierley*



Sharon Gallagher and Shirley Perry at the reunion, with Gene Lucas in the background

## Trivia QUIZ

1. What high school subject(s) did PHS Principal Edward H. Fournier teach before he became a principal?
2. How many members of our class maintained an average grade of "A" for four years?
3. In addition to being Dean of Boys at PHS, Mr. Ralph Elliott had what other important educational job?
4. Who was our Freshman Class President?
5. Who was head football coach for our disastrous Freshman year when the Trojans lost all ten games - in half of which we scored zero points?
6. Which member of our class was Junior 'Link Girl' in the Senior Honor Council during the 1953-1954 school year?

1. Chemistry; Physics, Mathematics; 2. nine; 3. Director of the Portsmouth Branch of Ohio University; 4. Mary Lehman; 5. Chris Sletan; 6. Virginia Smith

## Facts from 55

In October, the Tappan company introduced the Tappan Electronic Range. Using microwaves it can cook a five-pound roast in 30 minutes, broccoli in 4.5 minutes and bacon in 30 seconds. The range will sell in 1956 for \$1,200.

## Wanted - Photos & Stuff

Send photos, stories and/or "your favorites" (*Poem, Song, Singer/Musical Group, Movie, Book, Hangout, Restaurant, Prom Date, Activity, Your Subsequent Career, Current Interests, and Life's Most Important Lesson*) to Frank Hunter, 480 Bosphorus Ave., Tampa, FL 33606 and if you haven't yet done so, please send your \$5 subscription now to Gene Lucas, 1419 Second Street, West Portsmouth OH 45663.

## PHS Football 2000

The PHS football season came to a close Saturday night in the state semifinal game at Grove City when they were defeated by a very good Van Wert team by a score of 28 to 21. Although it is disappointing to lose, it was a great season. PHS ended the season with a 13 and 1 record.

Those of us who attended the Homecoming game were treated to some great football. We saw running that must have reminded some in our class of our own undefeated season of 1954. Congratulations to the team for a great showing.

## Recent Death

William H. (Bill) Schafer, a 1955 PHS classmate, age 64 on 12/04/2000 at Riverside Methodist Hospital here in Columbus. He was retired from Columbus Southern Power Company after 28 years of service and was an active member of the Worthington United Methodist Church where he was president of the Men's Fellowship.

Bill received an associate degree in business administration from Franklin University in 1980, a bachelor of arts degree from Capital University in 1987 and a master of science degree from Greenwich University in 1992.

He was a life member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and was active in the community. He was a Red Cross First Aid Instructor for more than 25 years and served with the Columbus Children's Hospital Foundation and A Special Wish Foundation.

Bill was always active in Boy Scouts of America and held many of its highest awards. He was listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World. *Nice going Bill.*

