August, 2005 Volume 5 - Issue 11

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)

Our Email Address is: editors@hixnews.com

WELCOME TO HIXNEWS.COM

We've decided to accept donations for the support of HixNews.Com. We reached this decision based upon the overwhelming positive response from our readers asking to help. It's estimated that our yearly expenses are in the neighborhood of $1000, so if everyone sent in $2.00, that would ensure that the editors wouldn't have to pay for the Website this year out of our own pockets as we're doing now. *We'd especially like to thank Chet Nichols for the very generous donation he has offered. It will go a long way in helping us out.*

So, if you'd care to help us with the operating cost of HixNews, please send your check or money order payable to Robert Casale. His address is:

Bob Casale
195 Lauman Lane
Hicksville, NY 11801-6522

We have another great newsletter this month thanks to all the readers that sent in all sorts if interesting stuff. In fact, we already have a few articles for next months issue that we couldn't squeeze in this month. A special apology goes out to Carolyn Bartlett '76. She wrote a terrific article about the old Farmer's Market on Broadway, and you can look forward to reading all about it next month.

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 problems trying to resolve who is sending us correspondence without this information

Thanks for your help.
Send stuff to:
editors@hixnews.com

Once again we'd like to remind you that without stuff from you, we'd be hard pressed to fill the pages of HixNews. We welcome anything you'd care to submit regardless of the topic (well, within reason - hahahahaha). Chances are we'll use it somewhere in the newsletter, and your fellow alumni will certainly appreciate your efforts.

Help Keep HixNews Alive!

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Glad to see Hicksville Alumni online! I'm still pluggin' along in Acting here in NYC. I had the fun of seeing Hicksville grads Cathy Tranchina and Caroline Wood. I was in Sacramento last summer doing THE FANTASTICKS at Sacramento Music Circus and they made the trip to see me. They looked great and we had a great visit and many laughs. I have no idea what's happening in the Theatre Arts dept at HHS and would love to hear if anyone knows what's happening. I've launched a Website and I'd love to hear from my old friends and schoolmates. You can see it at: http://www.salmistretta.com, and from there you can e-mail me. Be sure to put something about HHS in the subject line so I'll know it's from you folks.

Haven't done much lately except audition. I finished doing Elmer Rice's COUNSELOR AT LAW Off Broadway in March. Working with John Rubinstein was such a pleasure and artistically fulfilling. I shot a THIRD WATCH and am about to do a reading of a new play which is featuring Tovah Feldshuh. There's a lot on the back burner that I wish would finally boil over.

I'm still trying to fit in coaching for students who are interested in acting/singing, and haven't done my Master Class/Lecture series in a while but I'm anxious to get that up again

I finished an Independent film called BUILDING GIRL, and that's being prepared for the Toronto Film Festival. As I have a prominent Supporting part I am, of course, anxious for that to succeed. Have a GREAT summer. - Sal Mistretta '62

My family was born and raised in Hicksville. My Grandfather owned the barber shop next to the old movie house. My uncle was the first to open his own real estate office in Hicksville, and his name was Charles Montana, Sr. My husband and I have moved to Florida and live at The Villages - a 55+ community, but I still love where I was born, 'Good Old Hicksville'!' - Patricia (Montalbano) Frattini

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This is going to be a great 4th of July weekend for our family. Howard III is returning from his 2nd tour in Iraq. He is a Navy medic stationed with the 2nd Marine Recon from Camp Lejune, NC. He was involved in the retaking of Fallujah this past November. Just two weeks after his departure his 1st son was born healthy after a very difficult pregnancy for his wife, Jennifer. Howard tried his best to get an extension until the baby was born but had no luck.

A month his son was born, Howard was involved in the attack of Fallujah, and it was several weeks before Jennifer was able to contact him. But, he returned home safe and sound and was finally able to see his son for the 1st time. Aiden Gene Bell was born on Sept. 27th in good health, and was given a clean bill of health at his 6-month checkup.

This weekend Howard and his family will be up here in Riverhead with us. We're having a party to celebrate Aiden's Baptism *and* Howard's safe return. The Town Supervisor, Phil Cardinale, will be presenting Howard with a 'Certificate of Merit' for his service to our country. We're so grateful for all the prayers and concerns that were given to Howard, Jennifer and Aiden.

As a father, I still think it would have been easier for me to go over there instead of staying home worrying, and I'm certain most parents would agree. We also send out a thanks for ALL the Veterans, their families, and for those that are currently serving no matter where they may be. - Howard Bell '68

I just want to tell you how much I enjoy reading HixNews each month. You're doing a great job! Does anyone out there know where I can get a copy of the 1957 yearbook? I lost mine a few years back and would love to have another copy. Any help would be greatly appreciated. - Bette (Goldman) Turer '57

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The Newsletter

Hi All - I thoroughly enjoy reading HixNews, and especially enjoy reading about my classmates. I was a true music nerd at HHS, and when I wasn't in the music wing taking classes (mostly Chorale and Madrigals), I was cutting classes and hanging around making a nuisance of myself with Mr. Arnold (Uncle Chuckie), Mr. Alt, Mr. Buttice and Mr. Grippo. I helped grade papers, make copies or doing anything I could to absorb the whole atmosphere. I truly loved those days and being with those people. We were a real music family. I remember for one of our Madrigal performances away from HHS, Mr. Arnold had the female members bring lunch and serve to the male Madrigals. He'd never get away with that today! Wonderful, wonderful memories! I'd love to hear from any of my fellow music nerds, and you can e-mail me at mumale@aol.com. Keep up the great work with HixNews. - Tina (Gardner) Kwiatkowski '69

Talking about 'Oldies', I am one - I've been a very active participant in the work force until 1995 in various large and small electronic companies in the Palo Alto, Mt. View, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino areas of CA. Although I was a technical and professional recruiter for computer-related companies, I did not master the beast until 1982 when my second husband, Harrison S. Horn, worked on the original MacIntosh. My two best friends from HHS are Arline Thorman, '43, and Lucille Keller Kochersberger are still alive and kickin' but are not online. I'd love to hear from some other 'Oldies' who are still hangin' in there. Guys and Gals, where are you? My e-mail address is hap cele horn@hotmail.com - Cecelia (Schwarz) Horn '44

p.s. I believe that the Greek family mentioned in the July issue of HixNews was something like Econopolus. I remember one of them (exceptionally tall) was Nick.

I am a proud and grateful member of the class of '55, and looking forward to our 50th reunion this October. Think of it!! Fifty years!! Of course our recollections of one another are as young people, so some of us are in for a shock (or will probably cause shock to others.) Our distinction as the class of '55 is that we were the last class to graduate from what is now the Middle School. My, but we loved that old place, it was small and friendly. Our principal was Mabel Farley, who at the time was the first and only Principal HHS ever had. If you were to cast a movie about a country high school, you would ask "Miss" Farley to play herself. She seemed to be everywhere, lived a block from the school near the library and was devoted to us and our education.

Of course 50 years have brought changes. Miss Farley read to us from the Bible during assembly, which of course is banned now. Funny, those readings never harmed any of us kids. We may not have loved our teachers (especially the ones who taught the tough courses,) but we respected them totally. It was practically unthinkable to talk back to a teacher in those days.

I'll sum up by saying the following - we were all very fortunate to have been teenagers in the United States, in Hicksville NY in the '50's. We were allowed to be kids in what was a simpler and more innocent world. We had the Sweet Shop in town where we went after basketball games, and a movie on Marie Street. Lots of us rode to school on bikes.

For those who may be reading this and are still in school, please consider the following. In 1955 we had never heard the following words or phrases . . . . Velcro, Astronaut, Teflon, animal rights, community college, artificial heart, organ transplant, laser, cholesterol, protest groups or activists, terrorists, cocaine, satellites or the Internet.

Our world was not perfect in 1955. We knew little about the lives of minorities or the handicapped, but we felt safe and happy. We had roles to play as young students and we played them. So when we meet in October there will be many smiles and recollections of a wonderful era. I wish the same for all future and recent grads of Hicksville High. - Frank Scarangella '55

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You couldn't have picked a better group for the Hall of Fame than Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge. My wife and I have known them for years and are big fans. Johnny has one of the best voices in all of music. He's actually better now than when he was a kid. He brings down the house at every show.

John belongs in the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. His original group, The Crests was the first integrated group in the 50's. He then went it alone for a while until the formation of the Brooklyn Bridge. The story goes that this group was so big (11 members) that the promoters thought it would be easier to sell the Brooklyn Bridge - hence the name.

We followed Johnny and the groups appearances over the years at small clubs all over NY, and then they started to hit it big once again. We attended their appearance at Radio City Music Hall almost 20 years ago. They've appeared in many 'Oldies' shows all over the tri-state area and at the casinos in Atlantic City and Connecticut. They've done cruises in recent years and just yesterday made their regular appearance at the annual 'Festival Italiano' in Westport, CT. Their Website is http://j-maestro-bklyn-bridge.com/.

As to the Hicksville connection, Les Cauchi, one of the back-up singers also works as a talent agent and has his office on N. Broadway in Hicksville. Both Les and Fred Ferrara are original 'Bridge' members and at one time sang back-up for Dion after he broke with the Belmonts. At that time they called themselves the 'Del Satins'. Thanks again for selecting Johnny and the 'Bridge' for our Hall of Fame. - Phil Fulco '57

I know why The Brooklyn Bridge are being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Two of the founding members of the group are HHS graduates!

Artie Katanzarita '67, and Shelly Davis '67 were both in the original group. Shelly, I think, was in the horn section although she also played keyboards. Artie was the drummer. As the group was starting out, they were joined by Johnny Maestro and the Del Satins and released a single entitled "The Worst That Could Happen.".

It was my pleasure to be in a basement band with Shelly in the summer of '67. Other members included Chris Mc Entee, Patti Lance, Dennis Browning (all from '67), with Doug Browning and Gary Krino (both from '69. It was a fun summer with rehearsals in Dennis' basement, and post rehearsals at the Carvel on Newbridge Rd. or Jerusalem Ave. talking about our plans and dreams. - David Teitel '68

Hi - just a quick note to let my Hix friends know that I won 5 Gold Medals in the Tennessee Senior Games. Levittown Swimming Assoc. helped out years ago at the West Green pool. Almost needed CPR when it was over though - hahahahahahaha. Hope to see y'all at the reunion in September. - Sue (Voelbel)

After reading Buffalo Bob's article on the airplane that crashed, I just had to write something about it. Sometime in the late 50's or early 60's I'm standing in my driveway. We lived near Old Country Road and the Levittown Parkway at the Western part of town. I saw this huge cloud of smoke in the sky and also spot a parachute heading down just like in the movies. I remember it as vividly as if it only happened yesterday. I never knew that it was a jet headed towards Grumman or Republic - I just thought it was a fighter jet headed somewhere. Thanks to Bob Casale and HixNews, I now know what it was. Thanks for bringing back a great memory. - Bruce Goldmacher '67

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Birthdays In August

1 - Susan Voelbel Dalton, 1965 (TN)
2 - Bob Ward, 1966 (FL)
3 - Jim Cutropia, 1963 (NM)
4 - Margaret Wangenheim-Manjarrez. 1964 (IN)
4 - Bob Steedman, 1958 (AZ)
5 - Lorraine Miltonberg Dalaimo, 1960
7 - Bonnie Brigandi, 1974 (FL)
8 - David Gaudio, 1977
8 - Pat Koziuk Driscoll, 1956 (FL)
11 - Tom Haller 1956 (FL)
11 - John Sherin, 1956 (HX)
12 - Phil Anselmo, 1958 (MD)
12 - Mark Leon, 1965 (CA)
15 - Patti Hickey Rees, 1975 (Australia)
15 - Laura White (CA)
18 - Torrilee Christianson Hill, 1978
19 - Jeff Feierstein, 1969 (L.I.)
21 - Barbara Barnett Edwards, 1964 W.T.Clark HS
24 - Dorothy Kunz Drago, 1950
25 - Rochell Heyman Baron, 1961
25 - Frank Smith, 1961 (NY)
25 - Veronica (Gilson) Birk, 1961
30 - Carolyn Bartlett Richman, 1976 (FL)

Anniversaries In August

8/?/1988 - Rob and Nancy McCotter, (HX)
8/3/1969 - Les and Karen (Malter) Coles, (FL)
8/12/1967 - Steve and Diane (Boseling) Baum (PA)

Send Your Birthdays & Anniversaries to: editors@hixnews.com
And don't forget to include your maiden name, year of graduation and the state you live in. - THANKS

Some Comments Made in the Year 1957

"The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, bit I seriously doubt they'll ever catch on."

"Did you hear that the post office is thinking about charging a dime just to mail a letter?"

"If they raise the minimum wage to $1, nobody will be able to hire outside help at the store."

"When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29¢ a gallon?"

"It's too bad things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to go to work."

"I guess taking a vacation is out of the question nowadays. It costs nearly $15 a night to stay at a hotel."

"No one can afford to be sick anymore - $35 a day in the hospital is too rich for my blood."

"If cigarettes keep going up in price, I'm gonna quit! A quarter a pack is ridiculous."

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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.

Robert Rinaldi '57 - Las Vegas, NV
Richard (Dick) Henningsen '60 - Naples, NY
Chris (Oberlies) Henningsen '60 - Naples, NY
Bruce Goldmacher '67 - Coral Springs, FL
Patricia (Pezzotti) Vantine '68

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.

Alice Sitler Huffstutler '57
Barbara Harlin Madden '65
Margaret Bower Leiser '62
Lawrence Poller '65
Elizabeth Benante '64

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 e-mail with the correct information to: editors@hixnews.com

chowfriend@msn.com - Simmons, Susan Coppola '69
AGJA@webtv.net - Tessitore, Agnes Arthofer '57
moselyax@msn.com - Bob Leo '65
dbenn@bright.net - Bennett, Dale & Linda F. '65
tbellacera@sanjuan.edu - Tony Bellacera '66
heckathorne@prodigy.com - Diane Baum Heckathorn
james-brennan@lycos.com - James Brennan '62
manjarrer@bellsouth.net - Margaret Manjarrez '64
julainemac@juno.com - Julaine McInnis '73
gyetter@worldnet.att.net - Gene yetter '59
treehouse1@attbi.com - Karen Drake McGee '77
dick.muller@fsbti.com - Dick Muller '56
hsmpr@talkamerica.com - Harriet Molese '56
karl@coralsprings.org - Karl Milenkovic '80
ckengel@mindspring.com - Claudia Handwerk Engel '83
Larry.Senn@dressbarn.com
Susan.Ackerman@CNA.com

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
David Berger '65 is looking for Susan Sitzer '65
Ann (Krex) Friedman '65 is looking for Laura Krakoff '65 and Lynne Cohen '65
Betty (Gardner) Brunnel '72 is looking for Bob Lowig '71 & Janet Lowig '72

If anyone knows these folks, send us an email at: editors@hixnews.com

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A Story of the Congo - Part II

by Buffalo Bob Casale

He let the door close and headed for the ladder that would take him to the next level up but still one more level below the main deck. As his foot hit the second step of the ladder, a third and decisive pain persuaded him that perhaps Bonsignore was right. It could be his appendix, so a trip to Sick Bay was in order.

Ringe's trip to Sick Bay took a long time. He made stops along the way clutching his side as pain after pain wracked his body. He made it up the ladder to just outside the door leading to Sick Bay. As he opened the door, the excruciating pain made him so ill, he barfed up some greenish fluid. The corpsman standing inside the door took notice because most of the greenish fluid landed on his shoes. He grabbed Ringe as he started to fall to the deck and placed his on a patient table on his back. He yelled to the doctor who was in the next room redressing a wound that one of the deck personnel had gotten a few days earlier.

"Doc," he said. "Ringe has bad pains in his right side and he just threw up some green stuff." The doctor did some preliminary shit and determined that is was, more than likely, an appendix problem. The doctor decided that Ringe needed surgery, ASAP! He and the corpsman both knew that there wasn't enough general anesthesia to complete the operation. They had used most of what they had the previous week and wouldn't get more until they pulled into their next port for liberty. He did have sufficient ether to perform what is called an "open drop", but he had never done that before and was afraid to risk it on Ringe. There wasn't much time left, and Ringe's life

The commanding officer, Commander Daniel Wieland, had been notified of what was happening. He raced to Sick Bay and the doctor and the CO out their heads together. Ringe needed surgery, so he had to be transported someplace where the surgery could be performed.

The Skipper and the doc went to the ship's general service radio shack on the main deck. An urgent radio message was sent to the Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) for an appropriate answer. CINCLANTFLT contacted the American Embassy in Brazzaville and arrangements were being made to transport Ringe from LIBERTY to the Naval Hospital in Tripoli. There was a slight logistics problem that had to be resolved. How do you get a man from a ship at the mouth of the Congo River to Tripoli for surgery to perhaps save his life???

To be concluded in next months issue of HixNews

A Plea from the Editors

We'd once again like to ask you folks to submit articles that we can publish about the Veterans in your lives. We all know someone that served for our country, and here's your chance to honor them.

We'd love to do a special Honorary Page each month devoted to your entry with whatever you'd like our readers to know about that very special Veteran.

We could even have a permanent Memorial Page on HixNews that would list all our loved ones that have given their lives for our country.

E-mail your articles to editors@hixnews.com

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Please Share Your Comments And Submit Your Own Article . . . . .
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Upcoming Reunions

The Class of 1955 is holding it's 50th reunion this year on October 15th.
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 - **sashay47@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 us 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.

The reunion will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Heitz Place in Hicksville, Saturday, August 20th, 2005. A hot buffet will be served, followed by coffee and cake. Entertainment provided. A Sunday Brunch is planned for 11:00 at WICKERS, 206 Old Country Road in Hicksville. Please let us know if you'll be there in advance. If you have a question, please e-mail Grace Way.

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

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New This Month **1956 Hicksville High School 50th Class Reunion** **New This Month**

The Class of 1956 will be holding their 50th Class Reunion on June 24th, 2006. It will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 45 Heitz Place, Hicksville, NY 11801. The price is $60.00/pp, and a cash bar will be available.

After the Saturday night festivities, there will be a Sunday Brunch at Shish Kabob in Plainview, NY. A $10.00/pp deposit is required if you'd like to join us.

To read what's on the menu for Saturday night, and to also print out your reservation form
JUST CLICK HERE

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Send your comments to: editors@hixnews.com

The Brooklyn Bridge

(As told to Buffalo Bob Casale by Carolyn Wood and Tommy Sullivan)

Tommy Sullivan, a graduate of 1963, was in band, theater productions and had his own rock group. His first band was called the Imperials, along with Bob Simpson & Pete Popken on guitars (both '63) and Kenny Pohl ('65?) on drums. Later on, when he and friend Bill Jordan ('63), whose group was the Bill Jordan Trio, joined forces, they formed the Night Riders band. This happened during Tom's senior year at HHS and their start in music found them playing at numerous school functions, church dances and in local taverns. The Night Riders consisted of Tommy Sullivan on sax & guitar, John York Foley ('65) on guitar, Bill Jordan on bass, and Jimmy Walker ('66) on drums. They all sang.

Carolyn Wood, also graduate of 1963, began dating Tom. Carolyn enjoyed the music and followed the group when they performed on the island. Our exposure in Vietnam increased during the middle sixties and after Tom dropped out of college, he enlisted in the army. "We wrote to each other on a regular basis while he was in boot camp and with each letter, there was a definite upswing in our relationship," she confided.

His musical background qualified him for special duty so, after boot camp, Tommy was assigned to the military band on post at West Point. Suddenly, the relationship with Tommy became serious Tommy's position as musician at West special details that had music associated with the event. The band played for parades, reveille, taps and at funerals when burial in the cemetery at West Point was requested.

"Tom was enjoying himself," Carolyn said, "while creating a scheme in his mind." Both Bill Jordan and Jimmy Walker had been drafted into the army. Tom, always the salesman, spoke with the commanding officer about creating a "rock band" to play at the service club, the officer's club and at cadet hops. There were dance bands on post that were just that... dance bands. Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman swing great music...but not the kind that kids in this new era really danced to. Tommy argued vehemently about the Night Riders, his band, and the success they had playing clubs on Long Island. He explained, too, that with two of his former band members drafted they could create an instant rock band for the Cadets. To make a long story short, Tommy Sullivan is credited with establishing the first "rock band" in the history of West Point and for changing the lives of two friends, Bill and Jimmy, who joined him as new residents at the point. But with the absence of John York Foley (who would become an important member of the Supergroup the Byrds), there was a missing ingredient… Carolyn.

"Toward the middle of 1966, my involvement with Tommy personally and his rock band became more intense," Carolyn, remembers. "Tommy wanted to be with me, so he asked me to join the group! I remember rehearsing and performing with them … I have vivid memories of driving to West Point on Wednesdays to perform at the service club on post. I was usually late for work Thursday morning, "Carolyn says with a smile. This was a time when girl groups were getting some serious recognition."

Big songs at the time were "Dancing in the Streets, Walk on By", and, of course, "These Boots are made for walkin'"! "The boys wanted to perform some of these sounds so convinced me to don a mini skirt and put on white boots and they even gave me a tambourine." Carolyn said. "I was now background for Tom's lead songs and a lead singer for the girl songs," Carolyn chuckles when she remembers the outfit she wore. "You wanna see a picture?"

It gets better," she recalls. "They had no keyboard or piano in the group and decided this would be a good thing." "Why don't you play the keyboard?" the boys suggested. She was the only one not playing an instrument (I guess Tambourine is not an instrument). "After I stopped laughing, I noticed they weren't," Carolyn said. "Hey, you guys are serious," she concluded.

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The Brooklyn Bridge Con't

The consensus of opinion was that Carolyn was good at so many things, and she had the capacity to learn quickly, why not learn the keyboard. "Guess what," Carolyn asks? "With Tommy showing me the ropes, I memorized all the chords for all their current songs and continued that trend for all subsequent songs and that was that! I couldn't read music then and cannot, to this day." Tommy remembers "After a few gigs I realized that it was crazy to see Carolyn only for gigs & rehearsals… after all, we were in love, so I proposed and she accepted…"

Carolyn and Tommy were married on August 13, 1966, Old Country Manor, Hicksville, the wedding.....The mellow sounds coming from somewhere else was wild, a young couple thought. The sound of great music excited their senses and they simply had to see who was responsible for creating such a pleasurable sound. They exited the room where a family get together was boring them to tears. The sound they followed grew louder as they made their way down the hallway. Inside the room next door, a bridal party was rocking the walls in a fashion not unfamiliar to a party. But strange was the fact that the kickin' rock group included both the bride and the groom… Carolyn & Tommy did indeed do a memorable set at their own wedding with the new (and improved)Night Riders! The two standing outside the entrance to this banquet room were joined shortly by groups of people crowding the hallway, eager to listen to the not so typical wedding music.

As Tommy and Carolyn settled into married life, the re-born Night Riders rock band was a huge hit at the Point. But the the days passed quickly, and the time that Carolyn and Tommy would be "in the service" began to dwindle. They had very serious intentions of continuing their music when the military was behind them. There were several ongoing discussions amongst band members from their high school days regarding focus and what their long-term goals were. Carolyn and Tommy knew theirs was precise, just the same as it had been for quite some time and they needed reinforcement from their friends, a sign that they were not alone.

"That came shortly when a series of visitors began an invasion of our living quarters on base," Carolyn remarked. "The visitors were band members we knew well and who were equally targeted at a future in music. Two of those friends were Richie Macioce and Jimmy Rosica. We rehearsed whenever we had time and it was convenient for all or any of those involved', Carolyn said. "Here we were, seven people, preparing to embark on a road to success, and our combined goal was the fulfillment of that vision." "I really believe that the people who influenced us most were those cadets at the point" she added. "Their enthusiasm for us only amplified that deep feeling of commitment. We started something small but wanted more. I honestly think, too, that they were sad to see us leave." In January of 1968, Tom and Carolyn departed West Point, bought a house in Selden and officially began civilian life. It was a pleasant memory, the army, the Point...but their mind set was establishing a musical career. Not an easy task, but certainly worthy of their efforts. "We rehearsed continuously," Carolyn remembers. "We were in a hurry to get back into the public eye, a trend that started in high school days but was on vacation for several years."

The majority of sessions were at the homes of new members. The band consisted of Tommy and Carolyn, Jimmy Rosica, Shelly Davis, Joe Ruvio, Artie Cantanzarita, all from Hicksville High, and Richie Macioce from Valley Stream. Their concentration was on songs that were easily recognizable, that impacted music and that most people enjoyed. Several of those songs were, When Something Is Wrong With My Baby (Sam and Dave), Keep An Eye On Summer (Beach Boys), Cold Sweat (James Brown), A Girl Like You (The Rascals) and Day Tripper (The Beatles). There were other songs in their library, but this set they felt would most benefit their presentation.

Early, 1968
Betty Sperber, a successful manager of musical prospects, with several well known groups as part of her entourage of talent, had an idea. The highly competitive market was rolling now and rock was at a new peak.

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The highly competitive market was rolling now and rock was at a new peak. The trend was changing with a tendency toward a musical group consisting of instrumentation and voice in a package. Betty and other interested parties, decided to stage a contest, a "Battle of the Bands" it would be called, to get a look at talent in the metropolitan New York area that could influence the rising trend toward larger groups. They contracted to use the Cloud Nine on Route 110 in Farmingdale as the site for the proposed battle. They established a tentative date in early March and set the ball rolling. Advertisement on radio and in local newspapers highlighted the upcoming event. Featured performers that night were Johnny Maestro and the Del Satins.

"We found out, through the grapevine, about the "contest," Carolyn remembers. "We, the band, felt confidant that our repertoire of music was worthwhile and that the presentation was excellent. We were eager to get involved and contacted the appropriate parties and guaranteed a spot for us in the "Battle of the Bands!" They waited with nervous impatience for the night to arrive. If you've ever participated in any type contest, you can appreciate the feelings they all were experiencing. Finally, on March 14, 1968, the night they anticipated arrived. Little did they know that the performance they were about to give would have a most serious impact on all their lives, and their future. "The Battle of the Bands competition had a special significance," Carolyn remembers. "We were fresh out of the military. Visions of becoming something other than "just another band" invaded our senses." The attending audience was just a normal crowd in an ordinary bar,
nothing special. The folks were there to do the usual.drink and look for dates. The only

The set by the Rhythm Method was good but not extraordinary. Richie Macioce suggests they didn't really win the battle that night. When they finished the final song and exited the stage, there were a lot of people offering congratulations. Several of the congratulators were members of other bands that were competing that night. More important was the reaction from the featured performers, Johnny Maestro and the Del Satins. Carolyn remembers, they seemed genuinely impressed and suggested that with the proper management, perhaps there was a future for us. Carolyn says, "we left knowing full well that we had done a good job with the mind set that perhaps we could become more than a weekend band."

The next day Carolyn says, "Jimmy Rosica received a phone call from someone with a mysterious voice" Betty Sperber, the person who helped set up the "Battle of the Bands" competition and who was also, the manager for Johnny Maestro and the Del Satins sounded excited on the other end. She asked if the Rhythm Method was interested in meeting with her in New York City to discuss their future. Not trying to sound too anxious, Jimmy said, "any time, any place would be fine."

Tommy Sullivan and Jimmy Rosica represented the group and made the trek into New York City the next day. They met with Betty Sperber, Johnny Maestro and the Del Satins. The rest is history. Everyone shook hands and the new 11 member singing group, The Brooklyn Bridge, was born. The original members were Johnny Maestro from the Crests, Fred Ferraro, Les Cauchi and Mike Gregorio from the Del Satins, and Tom Sullivan, Carolyn Wood, Jim Rosica, Shelly Davis, Joe Ruvio, Artie Cantanzarita and Richie Macioce from the Rhythm Method. Oh, by the way, the name Brooklyn Bridge came from their manager, Betty Sperber. She suggested, referring to the size of the group, "This is going to be harder to sell than the Brooklyn Bridge."

The next several months found the Bridge honing their skills. No doubt, the serious blending of exceptional talent was accomplished. The original concept of creating a larger group was now a done deal. Carolyn remarked, "the original intention was to have Johnny and the Del Satins as front men with us as the musicians."

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That was the venue they attacked heartily. Rehearsals were vigorous. Slowly, they built a repertoire of songs that displayed the talents of everyone. The majority of musical arrangements for the group were customized by Tom Sullivan. They were rehearsing in basements and recreation rooms of band members but realized they needed a place to finalize their act, to establish a personality that separated them from other groups. Their effort established a sound that was unique centered around the riveting voice of Johnny Maestro.

The Cheetah Club at 8th Avenue and 52nd Street in Manhattan wanted to introduce the Brooklyn Bridge to the world. The group was hired for an eight week stint during the summer of 1968. Everything was falling into place for the group. Their manager was setting up a tour that would put the "act" on the road. The only thing lacking was a record the caliber of "Sixteen Candles" that catapulted Maestro and the Crests into the limelight.

The summer unfolded and fall was approaching while they waited desperately for that to happen. "We did some gigs as an opening act for established performers," Carolyn relates. "This was a continuation of the "getting it all together" period for our new band." And then, "The Worst That Could Happen." "No, not a calamity, Carolyn says with emphasis. the record. .THE RECORD." For those of you not familiar with Jimmy Webb, he is a prolific song writer with scores of lyrics he's written played every day, somewhere in the world ("By the time I get to Phoenix", Up, up & away", "MacArthur's Park", to name only a few…) Jimmy wrote a song that was previously recorded by the Fifth Dimension on their "Magic Garden" album called "THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN". The Bridge acquired the necessary permission to record this song. It was

An appearance on the Ed Sullivan show on December 13, 1968 was what shot the record to number one on the charts and eventually sales were in excess of a million copies. Carolyn recalls what a thrill the Ed Sullivan show and resulting success was for the Bridge, but especially for her.

There is a lot more in the history of the group. Jimmy is still a member… Tommy occasionally writes and produces for the Bridge, and is currently breaking in a solo act on Long Island, at the Shady Lady nightclub in Greenport, and would love to see old classmates out there.

Suffice it to say that we are proud of their accomplishment and that is why we have inducted this group, and the former Hicksville Highs School Students into the Hicksville High School Newsletter Hall of Fame. I have a copy of their performance on the Ed Sullivan Show. I will try to see if I can make a little movie that we can put into our archives.

As Told To Bob Casale by Carolyn Wood and Tommy Sullivan

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I've been doing research on Walt Whitman for an art and poetry installation. As some of you may know, Walt lived in Brooklyn for quite some time, and he wrote some epic poetry about NY City, most famously the section of "Leaves of Grass" entitled "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry," which I highly recommend.

I've come across some interesting accounts Whitman wrote about Elias Hicks, including various references to Hicksville and other towns on Long Island. Old Elias had quite a presence, according to WW. (By the way, if you read between the lines, it seems Nassau County didn't exist as a geographical destination back when Whitman was writing.

To view my accounts that I've written, click on either the MS Word version, or the MacIntosh version.

I was growing up when the Walt Whitman Shopping Center was being built - talk about an ironic choice of mane (this would be second in cheek only to a ThoreauDisney)! I do fondly remember our Lee Avenue class trip (5th grade???) to WW's home. Who

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Editor Bob Casale's ongoing story "A Story of the Congo" brought back memories of an expression that was coined during that period, one that was used at the US Dept. of Commerce much later to signify bad luck. As the successor to the old Belgian Congo was being torn apart by Brazzaville and Leopoldville factions, some Belgian workers (including Nuns) were killed by the Leopoldville-side tribesman in a small hamlet after Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba was assassinated. When asked by a reporter that was travelling with Pres. Joseph Cassvubu's entourage, why the Belgians were shot, one of the tribesman replied, in passable English, that the Old Masters were "bad Dawi," which loosely translates to bad omen, bad spirit, or bad luck. So, if a computer came up with some kind of "glitch", it was said to have '*bad Dawi'*. - Victor Sahadachny '57

Does anyone out there remember the good times we had at Matty's Pizza Parlor in New Cassel after the Friday night basketball games?????? - Bob Birk '52

Do you guys really wanna make some $$$$$$???? Get your hands on the recipe for the custard at the old Gertz Department Store. I bet it would sell for $5.00 a pop!! - Helen (Mangialomini) Gleixner Coulmas '60

It's been a very rainy week here in Jacksonville, FL, so the July issue of HixNews with all of the wonderful archives could not have arrived at a better time. I have spent hours reading about the alumni and faculty as well as reliving fond memories of growing up in Hicksville.

I am Stephanie (Rozos) Masters '65 and along with my two brothers, Michael '68 and John '71 grew up on Linden Blvd. We attended Lee Ave Elementary School before continuing on to Jr. High on Jerusalem Ave, and ultimately to HHS on Division Ave.

Mike has moved frequently during his career with the US Justice Dept., and now resides in Coral Springs, FL. John has been with the US Treasury Dept for almost 30 years and he resides in Poland Springs, ME., and YES - that's where the bottled water comes from. I left Hicksville in 1969 moving to the Ft. Lauderdale area where I lived until 1985 before relocating to Jacksonville.

This past October I was in Greenville, SC and had a memorable reunion with our former neighbors from Linden Blvd., the Rogers family who have all settled and raised their families in the area. Billy graduated in 1965 also. We're hoping to meet again this coming October and possibly reconnect with several of the other "kids" we grew up with from the old neighborhood.

We thank you so much for all the efforts you have put forth in putting HixNews together, and we all look forward to the next issues. - Stephanie (Rozos) Masters '65

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Down Memory Lane

by Vicky (Penner) Whitaker '58

Let's start out with a little background . . . . I got a note from Steve Dunefsky '58 of West Palm Beach, FL several months ago through Classmates.Com. He happened to see my name and we were able to swap e-mail addresses and started corresponding on a regular basis. I learned from him that he is in contact with his old school pal, Henry Goodman, who also lives in Florida. Henry is Sr. VP of Herbert J. Sims & Co. in Boca Raton.

Steve owns a large coffee manufacturing and distribution firm in NY., so he flies up there quite frequently. We all got together for a beautiful dinner recently at his lovely home. His wife is charming as are the children and grandchildren that we were fortunate to meet.

Ann (Panich) Picus and I had been in contact for many years, but lost touch about twelve years ago. Ann and her husband Paul lived in Dix Hills, as I did at the time. We lost contact after I divorced and remarried and moved to Stony Brook. She was (and continues to be) a successful C.I.D. interior designer with clients in New York and Florida. She and Paul moved to Tamarac about ten years ago, just about the time I was widowed. When I moved to Springfield, IL and remarried, I found her name on Reunion.com. My husband Roger and I went out to dinner with Paul and Ann one evening when we were down there, and we also met her lovely daughter.

At Steve's a few days later, we had a great time seeing everyone and swapping stories about growing up in Hicksville. We all had stories to tell, and it was a wonderful way to pass an afternoon talking about the old times.

If anyone plans to to visit Springfield, IL to see the new Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, please e-mail me at vwitaker@gmail.com. The Museum complex is really unique - some of you may have seen the NY Times Page One article when it opened last month. President Bush did the opening honors. It's being heralded as a museum unlike any other in the United States and includes an anamatronic Lincoln and other displays designed by the same people that created most of the displays in Disneyworld/Disneyland. We have friends coming here next week from New York, so I will get a chance to see it for myself. We're about five minutes from downtown, so for us it's a quick trip.

We did visit Rita (Mallett) Papizian at her new home in CT. Rita, who also writes for a living, and I have stayed in touch all these years and still speak to each other by phone and correspond by e-mail.

Photo's of the folks in this article can be seen on the next page.

Hi All - I graduated from Hicksville Jr. High, and then my family moved to NJ. I would have been in the 1960 Senior class. I remember many young classmates from that time and would love to know where they are now. I lived in a new split-level development across from the potato fields which were across from Gertz. At that time, Robert Hall clothes was doing a great business - remember them?

A group of girls were in the development next to mine. Their first names were Jean, Joan, and Jane. They all went to school with me, and they even visited me in NJ for a weekend the summer I left. Also Maria Heileg who went on to Pratt. One of my fondest memories was during the summer months walking to the library next to the Jr. High, loading up on books, and then walking back home. As I remember it, it was quite a hike!

I'm thankful now that I logged on to Classmates.com as a friend of Hicksville High in the hopes of finding my old friends, and especially the girls I mentioned above. If anyone can help me out, please e-mail me at FLgringos@aol.com. - Carol (Mac Arthur) Egan

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Left to Right: Henry Goodman, Steve Dunefsky, Vicky (Penner) Whitaker and Ann (Panich) Picus

Joan Masterson

Marcia Rubinstein and Vicky Whiaker '58

Roger and Vicky Whitaker

Rita (Mallett) Papazian and Vicky Whitaker

Jack Freeman

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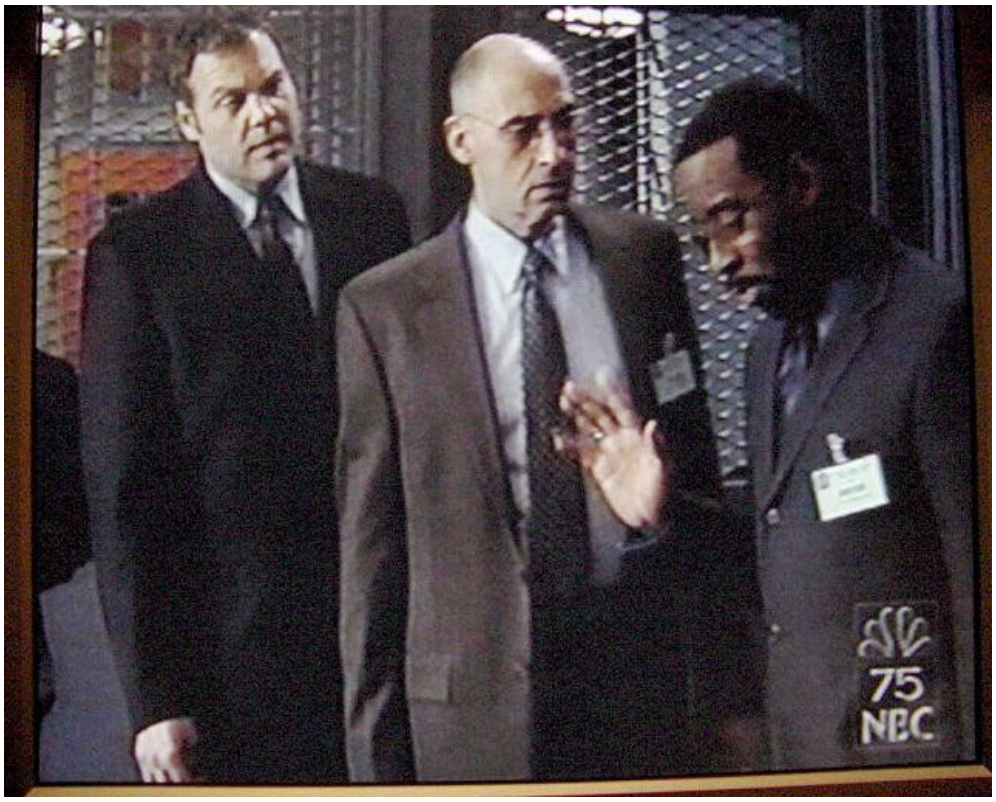
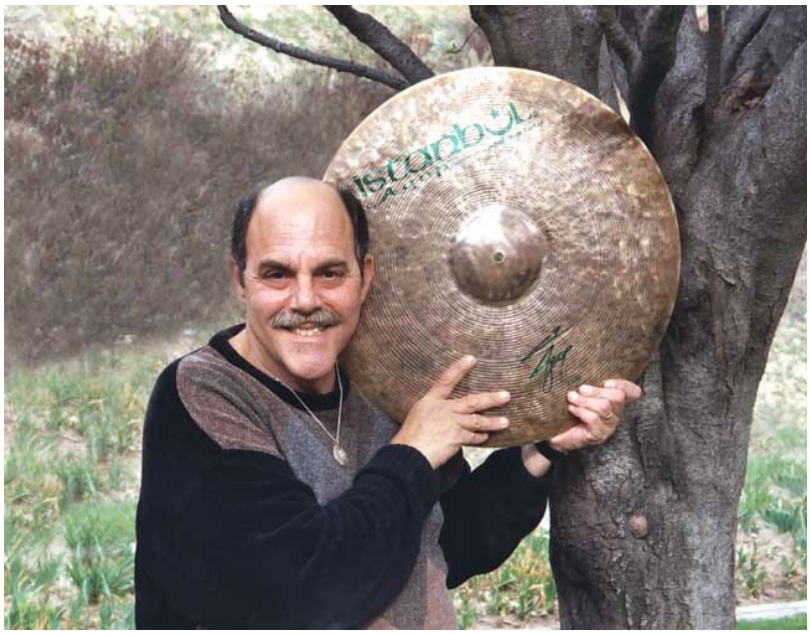


These two photos show alumni Sal Mistretta appearing on Law & Order



This photo shows Mark Leon
(Mark was known as Mark Leibowitz in school)
He's been a drummer since age 5 and is still quite active in California

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Joseph J. Riscica, Jr. died suddenly on July 11th, 2005 in his 46th year. He was an avid fisherman and a lifelong resident of Hicksville. He leaves his beloved life companion Kimberly A. Richie, Sharkie and Scooter.

Loving son of Elizabeth and the late Joseph J. Devoted brother of Karen Relyea, Stephen (Terri), Eileen Hart (Richard), Lawrence (Tammy), Suzanne Stippell (the late Allen), Mariel Vaughn (Don), Lisa Cristando (Gerard) and Pamela Ciampi (Vincent). Dear Godfather of Joseph, Samantha, Zachary and Lyla. Fond uncle of 26. Joe will also be missed by many of his fishing buddies and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Ignatius RC Church, and his interment is at St. Charles Cemetary, Farmingdale. Donations may be made to Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, 585 Stewart Ave., Suite 414, Garden City, NY 11530, and Take A Kid Fishing (TAKF.ORG). - Published in Newsday on 7/13/2005

We've just received notice that several years after **Henry Rosello** retired from NBC, he passed away. He left his wife, but no children.

If anyone has an obituary about Henry, kindly pass it along and we'll enter it in the September issue of HixNews. Please send it to: editors@hixnews.com.

My best friend Bob Rosenfeld passed away November 4th of last year from Pancreatitus and other complications.

Bob was the first person I met upon moving to Arbor lane in the summer of 1961, just prior to both of us starting the 9th grade at the Junior High. (Great pix of it.)

Bob and I remained best friends from 1961 until his untimely passing. Bob was married and lived in Levittown after relocating back to Long Island in 1985 from Los Angeles where I reside. He was the Best Man at my wedding in '85 just before moving back to the Island.

I know there are many people who would be sad, yet touched to know about Bob Rosenfeld. He was a marvelous bass player, a super academic student, and a friend to one and all. - Mark (Leibowitz) Leon '64