Olney Memories # 136



November 9, 2017

Hello, and again thank each one of you who send in Memories for us all to read, enjoy, and reminisce over and who help out in any way, especially to those of you who send in the addresses of people that I have somehow lost track of. And thank you for spreading the word about Olney Memories to your friends and neighbors. Their contributions enhance the enjoyment of Memories for all of us. There are a lot of people who started out with us when OM’s first was launched that are not with us anymore, who were great contributors, and we miss them, but their thoughts and memories that they wrote to us in the OM’s will always be here for us to read in the past issues. Of course we have many, many new people who have joined us too, which is a good thing and as it should be. So each year brings changes and here we go again down “memory lane”.

Also want to wish you a very good and Happy Thanksgiving Season with your friends and family.

Ann Weesner King

[Pianoann97@aol.com](mailto:Pianoann97@aol.com)

Class of 1960

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Ann Hill

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*There was a Star gas station on the corner of Main Street and Jackson - south east. They gave Star stamps and we went on a trip to New Orleans using them.*

Ann Hill

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Pete Weber

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Hi Ann,

I have a large, old map from the 1940's which has pipelines, cemeteries and schools on it. West of Dundas the 1st school was Hazel Dell School (2 mi), then Hawthorne School (4mi) and then Brush College School (~ 5.5mi).  Hope this helps Jim Dillman.

Pete Weber ('63)

Ron Scherer

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The photo shows (seated):

Ron Scherer, author; and Paul Wirth, past president of the Richland Heritage Museum Foundation;

(standing): Don Wilson, ERHS alumnus who assisted with photo scanning and Yvonne Scherer Meckfessel, co-author.

**Before the Big Yellow Bus**

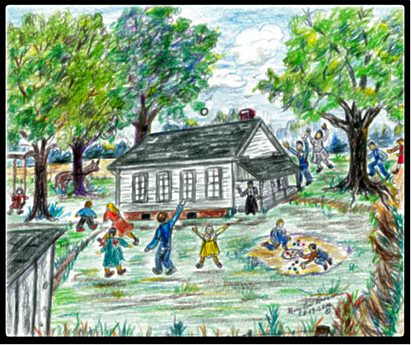
From time to time, questions arise in *Olney Memories* about the early schools of Richland County. Often, those questions can be answered by referring to a recently published book titled, *“Before the Big Yellow Bus: remembering the one-room schools of Richland County,* *Illinois.”* Unfortunately many alumni outside the area are not aware of the book’s existence.

*Before the Big Yellow Bus* is a large format book featuring the 87 one-room schools that once existed in Richland County, as well as the history of the schools in the city of Olney and the village of Noble, along with the county’s two parochial schools in Olney and Stringtown. The 300-page book, written by Richland County natives Ron Scherer and his cousin, Yvonne Scherer Meckfessel, contains 270 historic photographs and hundreds of names of area families that date back to the early 1800s.

Drawing upon multiple sources – the recollections of older area residents, stories collected from articles in issues of the Olney Daily Mail from 1929, plus museum, genealogical society and courthouse records – the book is filled with history, hardship and humor. A veritable encyclopedia on our early schools, the book was recently placed in the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield.

The book is available for purchase by sending a check for $25 (plus $4 for shipping) to Ron Scherer, 320 Bradington Drive, Columbia, IL 62236. It is also available on Amazon.

Before the Big Yellow Bus



Ron Scherer

Class of ’62 

PS. This is Ann. I just have to add a little bit to Ron’s contribution. The paragraph above that Ron wrote will enable more out-of-town alumni to know about this book (which by the way is excellent). I cherish my copy. I think most of us know and remember Mrs. Mary Lou Brown, who was a beloved art teacher of many of us back in our Jr. High days in the middle 1950’s in the Old Olney High School Building on Main Street. She drew this picture above for this book! She is such a talented person. One thing that makes this picture mean so much to me, besides being on the front of this book, is Mary Lou told me this was Liberty Lawn School and the teacher on the front porch was my mother, Venus Weesner, who taught at that school when Mary Lou attended as a little girl. ☺

Larry Judge

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Hello Ann:

 The recent post by Charles Fregeau concerning the number of gas stations in Olney during the early ’60’s led me to the Richland Co. Genealogical and Historical Society library located at O.C.C. to do some research on the matter and the following is what I found.

 After scanning all available City Directories and Phone books, the largest number of “Service Stations” (that I could find) was indeed in 1960. Twenty three locations in Olney that you could purchase gasoline. Why so many back then as opposed to the present? The answer is in the heading under which I found them listed…. **Service** Stations. No **gas** stations are listed.

 One must keep in mind that vehicles back then did not have the technology to keep them virtually maintenance free as they are today. Just as “Convenience stores” today make their money from selling junk food at huge markup prices, so did Service Stations by offering repair, maintenance and curbside service’s as there was little profit from selling gasoline for either. Another huge factor must have been the relatively horrible gasoline (and oil) consumption of vehicles from that era.

 As they appear in the 1960 City Directory;

Avenue Texaco Serv   502 Whittle

Berner A W   819 W Main

Burgener’s Conoco   415 E Main

Dean’s Std Serv   322 E Main

Drew’s Gulf Serv   300 W Main

Dycus Marathon Serv   501 E Main

East Main Shell Serv   416 E Main

Fehrenbacher Phillips 66   629 W Main

Hahn’s Pure Serv   700 E Main

Hunt’s Std Serv   728 Whittle

Jacks City Serv   805 W Main

Keen’s Pure Serv   733 W Main

Knust D-X serv   203 W Main

Lough’s Cities Serv  1101 Whittle

McWilliams Marathon Serv   748 W Main

Rich-Law Serv Co   234 W Main

STANLEY OIL CO   21 S West

Star Serv Co   1601 E Main

Jim’s Std Serv   1013 W Main

Tyner’s Texaco Serv Sta   605 E Main

Vaught Oil Co   703 W Main

Wade’s Conoco Serv  738 W Main

West Main Shell   630 W Main

 PS:

A special “shout out” for Ann Hill’s response to my post concerning my research on Elaine Shepard and Ann Kings efforts to collect and present Olney memories. We were able to establish for a fact that Ann Hill's mother Vivian Bradley was indeed a classmate and friend of Elaine’s.

Larry Judge

Class of ‘71

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PS. (This is Ann writing)………. Just wanted to say that Charles Fregeau passed away just a couple of weeks ago. He has contributed a lot of articles for our Olney Memories and he will be missed. I personally have known Charles since he was a little boy back at the Old Calvary Baptist Church on East Elm Street (formally the Old old building of Elm St. Christian, at the corner of East Elm Street and Silver). I knew his mother and dad also who were members of that church. Nice family. RIP Charles. You will be missed.

Ann Weesner King

[Pianoann97@aol.com](mailto:Pianoann97@aol.com)

I imagine many of you remember going to movies at the Elks Theatre. I think the first movie I remember seeing there was Uncle Remus.

 Old Elks Building

 Old Elks Dining Room

I imagine many of you remember dining in this Old Elks Building with your parents when you were younger …. I myself was not ever privileged to go inside when I was young.

Ann Weesner King

Class of ‘60

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Paul Noerenberg

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I grew up in Olney, Illinois during a time when everyone treated each other like Family. We went outside to play, got dirty and we didn't eat fast food. We ate sandwiches, cooked food and had homemade ice cream. We brought spinning tops and ate penny candy. We played Mother May I, 1,2,3 Red Light, football in the street, Truth or Dare, Freeze Tag, regular Tag, kick ball, baseball, rode bikes and raced against each other in the street. We cried if we couldn't go outside and play. There was no bottled water, we drank from the tap and the water hose. We watched cartoons on Saturday mornings only, we walked to the corner store and rode on our bikes for hours without a cell phone. We loved going outside. We didn't spend all day inside on video games because there were none and we would rather be outside anyway. We weren't AFRAID OF ANYTHING. If someone had a fight, that's what it was...a fist fight. Kids didn't have guns when I grew up. The street lights were your curfew. School was mandatory and we watched our mouths around our elders because we knew If we didn't we were in big trouble when we got home!!! We Are Cut From Fine Cloth!!!  
We came from a close knit community and will never forget where we came from!  
These were the good ole day. Kids today will never know how it feels to be a real kid. .. I STILL HAVE SOME OF THOSE FRIENDS RIGHT HERE ON FACEBOOK!!!Memories❤❤❤❤

Paul Noerenberg

Class of ‘67

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