Olney Memories # 140

June 11, 2018



Hello Friends of the Olney Memories,

Hoping this finds all of you having a nice summer. This might be a nice time to drag out a lawn chair and sit under a shade tree, relax a little and enjoy reading some good ol’ memories! A BIG thank you to everyone for these contributions and all the others we always have…this is what keeps the Olney Memories going and interesting for everyone! ☺☺

Please remember to let me know of your email changes as they occur.

Happy 4th to everyone!

Ann King

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

Class of 1960

Richard R. Williams

[rrw41@earthlink.net](mailto:rrw41@earthlink.net)

**Hello, the LTA Committee of the Tiger Alumni Center (TAC) is pleased to begin our fifth, this year's 2018, Lifetime Achievement Program (to be held Saturday, September 29th at the Olney Holiday) by inviting all TAC members to share recommendation(s) of potential candidates To read all about our invitation, please go to the Tiger Action Center (which we love to call "TAC")  by clicking on the following link:**

[**http://www.erhsalumni.net/member\_survey\_form.cfm?SurveyID=31781**](http://www.erhsalumni.net/member_survey_form.cfm?SurveyID=31781)

**Happy Days!**

**Richard Ray Williams**

**Founder, TAC and TPAA**

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David Mitchell

[David@Mktg.Org](mailto:David@Mktg.Org)

I got to play in the band, once in 1959 in the band shell at the park. Not sure it was the Cummins band or not.  Had a short solo in 'Bolero', directed by Gus.  He gave me a thumbs up for it.

Your friend,  
David Mitchell

Class of ‘58

PS. David, I’m pretty sure it was the Cummins Band since it was at the Park. ☺

Ann

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Larry Judge

Ann:

 That is a **rare** picture of the tower under construction in today’s Bower Park.

 I have started a series of historical articles entitled “Echos” in the new weekly Olney Gazette newspaper.

You might consider subscribing as it is all local news and cheaper than the Daily Mail.

 I will respond to your questions about the Tower dates in a contribution to Memories later.

Keep up the good work!

Larry Judge

Class of ‘71

Dick Meadows

[meadows1934@gmail.com](mailto:meadows1934@gmail.com)

Dear Ann,

I remember another May Day ritual: some of the high school boys would start their summers going swimming at the old reservoir.

And I have good memories of the pool I think Wednesday's were free.

Thanks for your "memories" Have a great Spring,

Warm regards,

Dick Meadows

Class of ‘51

PS.

By the way I have a book about growing up in the Olney area. It is on Amazon. The title is WASHING DAY perhaps you could let your readers know.

Thanks

Dick Meadows

Class of ‘51

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Ann Hill

33anthill@gmail.com

  Hi - when Daddy was a boy they would all get into the car and go to the concert. Instead of clapping they would toot their horn. May daddy plus his brother and sister took turns doing the honking. One time it was Daddy's turn BUT he honk too soon when they weren't finished playing!!! An embarrassment to the whole family!!

Ann Hill

Earnest Marshall (Eddie)

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 These are great! When did they stop the May Day Parade?  Thought they still had them.

Earnest Marshall

Class of ‘64

PS. This is Ann, I don’t know either when they stopped the May Day Parades, maybe someone can help us both out on this??

Sharp, Carolyn (Shedelbower)

[carolyns508@yahoo.com](mailto:carolyns508@yahoo.com)

Hi Everyone,

The Center of Population was in the 50's, not sure of year. Maybe someone out there can pin it down a little bit more.

Carolyn Shedelbower Sharp

Class of ‘56

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Arrah Slichenmyer

[arrahslichenmyer@gmail.com](mailto:arrahslichenmyer@gmail.com)

  This is great, thank you!

   Why and when did the May Day Parades cease?  I remember them fondly.  I was in Claudia Morgan's 3rd grade class and our class stopped at a particular house where Mrs. Morgan instructed us to wave at an elderly lady Mrs. Morgan knew.  She and we all waved and then marched on.  I went to Central Grade School.

 Every May 1 I think of May Day Parades.  I wish the grade school kids had the opportunity to create positive memories of their parades.

Arrah Slichenmyer

Class of 1975

Margot Shumaker Steinhart

[m.steinhart@sbcglobal.net](mailto:m.steinhart@sbcglobal.net)

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Dear Ann,

Thank you for the memories, which are most appreciated.

I remember that after the May Day parades down Main Street, we ended up at the high school and had ice cream cups and Cracker Jacks.  We had some cold days for May Day parades.

I just looked up the information about Olney being the center of USA population: “The 1950 census found a spot north of *Olney* near Dundas to be the *population center* of the *United States*.”

As for Hovey’s ice cream, my dad (and I) were very fond of a concoction called “10-4.” The numbers represented the number of scoops and the toppings, as I recall. Do you remember this?

My best,

Margot

Class of ‘65

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Judy Petty Johnson

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

Hi Ann,

You described the May Day Parade really well.  We did love parading Main Street, sometimes even with May Poles and we all hung onto the paper flower strands from the class pole.  I think they had different themes each year.   I remember one year Patty Smith was the 6th grade "Cherry St. School" May Day Queen.  It was a big deal back then.

I still have some on the cartons you pictured that Mike used to fill with their ice cream.  Those were left from when my sister, Joyce, and Harold moved out of the W. Main St. building, way back then.  I have used them for freezing fruit, vegetables, and even soups. They were waxed inside, but I did use plastic bags anyway. It’s always nice to recycle.

Judy (Petty) Johnson

Class of 1958

Mike Eckel

[mikecr5@wabash.net](mailto:mikecr5@wabash.net)

I remember the little cartons of Prairie Farms Orange Drink...instead of  
their lunchtime milks.

Mike Eckel

Class of ‘72

Kathryn Haenggi Robinett

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Hi Ann,

I'm sorry that I don't know the date of the photo of the water tower, but I briefly researched Bower Park and understand it was first established as Tower Park in 1880 when the 125 ft. brick water tower was built.  It was renamed Bower Park during William Bower's  2 yr. mayorship of 1901-1903, during which time the reservoir was built at a cost of over $6,000, and $4,000 was spent on water pipes - was a progressive time for Olney, including eradication of a smallpox epidemic at public cost of over $1,500.  The water tower was demolished in 1941, and a water fountain was eventually placed there.

Learning about the water tower was my pleasure. This is only a guess, but I’m wondering if the picture could have been around the time that Tower Park was renamed Bower Park for the celebrated 2 yr. (1910-1903) mayor Wm. Bower, as the article calls it Bower Park. Maybe somebody else will know for sure.

Thanks again for all the memories you receive, compile, and send out to us! It makes a great difference in appreciating our past in Olney as well as reconnecting us now.

Kathern Haenggi Robinett

Class of ‘61

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**Roy Ed  Doolin**

Roy Ed Doolin class if 1964

I lived in Olney from 1953 to 1963, (age 7-17). One of my favorite places to go was Jones Cycle and Toy Store. I spent a lot of money there. I bought two new top of the line Schwinn Wasp bicycles. I ordered them with coaster brakes, 2 speed gears, and hand brakes for the front wheel. I put a huge paper boy basket on the front, a speedometer, and lights front and back as soon as I got it. I also bought miscellaneous toys, bike parts, bike accessories, lawn mower parts, and lots of model cars. My favorite model cars were made by AMT but I also bought Johan and Monogram model cars.

Jones was the first place I ever bought anything on credit. I was about 12 when I bought a very expensive bicycle with a down payment and monthly payments. I wore it out, mostly on my Olney Daily Mail paper route, and bought the second one when I was about 14. I liked to hang out in the repair shop and watch Red work on bikes and lawn mowers. I dreamed of owning one of those Simplex motorbikes that Jones sold.

Roy Ed Doolin

Class of 1964

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Ron Scherer

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Ann,

Previous issues of Olney Memories have included comments and questions on the May Day festivities in Olney.  Our book, “Before the Big Yellow Bus,” addresses the origin of the event.  For those who have not seen the book, I am including comments on May Day that are in it:

“One of the oldest traditions of the county – which pleased thousands of students up through much of the 20th century – originated in 1872, when a thoughtful teacher took her pupils on a picnic.  From this event bloomed the annual May Day parade for school children in Richland County.”

*The Olney Times,* in its May 18, 1881, edition, reported the following:  “On Friday afternoon last, the children of the public school had their May Day, marching in procession some 700 strong through the streets to the Driving Park grounds, where they enjoyed themselves in various ways.  The sight was a beautiful one, and elicited the admiration of all who witnessed it.”

A quote from the late Bill Combs, recalling his school days at Oak Ridge School, is also in the book: “…However, the best part of my school days was summer vacation.  The last thing we would do before vacation was march in the May Day Parade.  I can remember how hot the pavement was on my bare feet.  I also remember how good the Cracker Jack was.  I probably had a new pair of bib overalls so I’d look my best for the parade.”

Ron Scherer

Class of ‘62

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Peter Doenges

[pdoenges@xmission.com](mailto:pdoenges@xmission.com)

Hi all,

The Traveling Vietnam War Memorial Wall is visiting Minden, NV, south of us.  I'll visit in hopes of honoring old school classmates and other Richland County ERHS (East Richland High School) alumni who served and died in Vietnam.  I dug around for material on the men.  Thanks to nudges from Susie and Don.  Remembering...

Pete

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Vietnam War Casualties & Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall

Towns in Richland County, Illinois

Based on each casualty's Official Home of Record

ERHS Class designation: e.g. Class of 1965: C`65

Memorial Wall Panel / Line: e.g. 61W, 15

Amity

Berryville

Calhoun

Claremont

Dundas

Elbow

Gallagher

Noble

Olney

<Borah\_Daniel\_Vernor\_DOB\_1946.jpg>

LT DANIEL (Dan) VERNOR BORAH Jr, NAVY

 B`46, C`64, D`77 (declared), HOSTILE, DIED-CAPTURED

 On September 24, 1972, LT. DANIEL VERNOR BORAH, JR., age 31, was the pilot of a Vought Attack Aircraft Corsair II (A-7B) on a strike against North Vietnamese troops entrenched in bunkers northwest of Quang Tri, South Vietnam when his aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire.  At the time SAR efforts were terminated, Daniel V. Borah, Jr. was listed Missing in Action.  On 19 October 1972, the US government received information that confirmed Daniel Borah had, in fact, been captured and was a Prisoner of War.  His status was changed from Missing In Action to Prisoner Of War, and his family notified accordingly.  His remains were recovered on June 10, 1996 and identified on April 18, 1997.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 1W, 75

<Cravens\_Robert\_Milton\_DOB\_1947.jpg>

SP4 ROBERT (Sonny) MILTON CRAVENS Jr, ARMY

 B`47, C`65, D`68, HOSTILE, KILLED

 Specialist 4, Robert M. "Sonny" Cravens Jr., age 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cravens of Rt. 7, Olney was killed in action at 2 p.m. Friday, August 16, 1968 while on duty with the U.S. Army in Vietnam.  It is believed he was killed by hostile mortar fire while disembarking from a helicopter.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line 48W, 24

<Freeland\_Troit\_Donovan\_DOB\_1921.jpg>

LTC TROIT DONOVAN FREELAND, AIR FORCE

 B`21, D`70, NON-HOS. DIED-HEART ATTACK

 During WWII, Lt. Col. Freeland was a bomber pilot flying the B-17G (#43-37590), "Neva-The Silver Lady" among 14 others with the 358th Bombardment Squadron, 303rd Bomb Group (H), 41st Bombardment WIng, 1st Bombardment Division, 8th Air Force at Station 107, RAF Molesworth, Huntingdonshire. He flew 35 combat missions over Europe. Assigned to the 358th in June 1944 and completed his 35th mission in November 1944. Colonel Freeland died of a heart attack while serving with the 360th Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron at Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN. He had served as a coach and teacher at Olney Township High School, Illinois. He was a graduate of Eastern Illinois University of Charleston, Illinois.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 8W, 107

<Hahn\_Dennis\_Francis\_DOB\_1947.jpg>

SP4 DENNIS FRANCIS HAHN, ARMY

 B`47, C`65, D`68, HOSTILE, DIED-WOUNDS

 Specialist 4 Dennis F. Hahn, 21, son of Ephraim and Frances (Hann) Hahn of Olney Rt. 2, was killed in action in Vietnam on Saturday, Feb. 17, 1968 according to word received by his parents.  Army personnel visited the Hahn home four miles north of Claremont in the Stringtown area, to advise the parents of his death in action.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 40E, 6

<Knox\_Michael\_Joseph\_DOB\_1950.jpg>

SSG MICHAEL (Mike) JOSEPH KNOX, ARMY

 B`50, C`68, D`71, HOSTILE, KILLED

 Sgt. Mike Knox, 21, son of Dr. Lawrence Knox and Mrs. Ann Knox of Olney was reported killed in action Wednesday July 7, 1971 at 2:15 p.m. near Chu Lai, Vietnam, when he stepped on a land mine.  He was a member of Co. 2, 198th Americal Division.  He was born March 8, 1950 at the U.S. Army Base Hospital in Giessen, Germany, where his father was on active military duty.  Mike attended Olney schools and graduated from East Richland High School in 1968.  He was a North Egypt All-Conference football end and received honorable mention on the All-State football team.  He later attended Olney Central College.  In August 1970 he enlisted in the U.S. Army.  Following basic training he was sent to Vietnam where he had been stationed the past eight months.  In April of this year he was wounded in action and was awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross.  Sgt. Knox was scheduled for return to the United States next month.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 3W, 103

<Miller\_David\_Edward\_DOB\_1942.jpg>

WO DAVID (Dave) EDWARD MILLER, ARMY

 B`42, C`60, D`64, NON-HOS. DIED-OTHER

 Warrant Officer, David E. Miller,  21, son of Ray E. Miller and Louise Hielscher Miller, 712 W. Butler St., Olney passed away Saturday April 18, 1964 in a hospital in Vietnam, from injuries sustained in a helicopter crash in Vietnam on Friday April 10.  (114 AVN Co ~ Vietnam AM)  Word of his death was received by his parents Saturday.  He sustained burns over 40% of his body and face when serving as co-pilot on a UH-1B helicopter on a combat mission enroute to the landing zone, when the helicopter crashed, exploded and burned.  The telegram received by the Millers Saturday, telling of their son's death was as follows: "The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express deep regrets that your son, Warrant Officer David E. Miller, died in Vietnam on April 18, 1964 as a result of injuries previously reported to you. The Chief of Support Services, Department of the Army will communicate with you concerning return of remains.  A representative of the Commanding General of the U.S. Army will contact you personally to offer assistance. Please accept my deepest sympathy.  J.C. Lambert, Major General USA "The Adjutant General"

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 1E, 49

<Rogers\_Robert\_James\_DOB\_1949.jpg>

SP5 ROBERT (Bob) JAMES ROGERS, ARMY

 B`49, C`68, D`71, NON-HOS. DIED-OTHER

 Specialist 5 Robert J. Rogers was killed in Vietnam on Saturday February 6, 1971, according to word received by his mother, Carolyn G. Perkins of 932 E. Chestnut St., Olney.  According to the telegram received from the Adjutant General Department of the U.S. Army, Specialist Rogers was crew chief of a military aircraft on a military mission, when the aircraft crashed and burned.  The body will be returned to the United States with interment in Fairview Cemetery in Bowling Green, Ky.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 5W, 82

Parkersburg

<Seibert\_Michael\_Robert\_DOB\_1948.jpg>

SP4 MICHAEL ROBERT SEIBERT, ARMY

 B`48, C`66, D`69, HOSTILE, KILLED

 SP 4 Michael Seibert, 20 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Seibert was killed in service in the Viet Nam war on August 9, 1969, according to word received by his parents.  Michael was first reported as missing in action, his parents were notified on August 15.  According to the telegram from Army Headquarters, Michael was a passenger in a helicopter 24 miles northeast of Tayninh, South Viet Nam, when the helicopter was downed by enemy fire.  Others aboard the plane were also killed.  He was sent to Viet Nam about the first of the year.  The remains will be interred at Fort Bliss, Texas in the National Cemetery.

 Memorial Wall Panel / Line: 20W, 119

Passport

Pureton

Schnell

Seminary

Stringtown

Wakefield

Wynoose

This is Ann: A few days later Pete sent the following additional information.

 I went to the traveling Vietnam War Wall Memorial here today.  1/2 size compared to original in Washington.  Really moving.  Found the eight veteran names from Richland County.  When observing 58,000 names over the run of the war from 1959 to 1975 on this giant wall panel spanning the width of a whole memorial park here, one just can’t grasp the suffering of so many soldiers.

Peter Doenges

Class of ‘65

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 Joyce Vietz

[joycevietz@gmail.com](mailto:joycevietz@gmail.com)

What was the last nurse's graduation at the Olney Sanitarium in Olney Illinois ?

I graduated from Olney Sanitarium as a registered nurse 1949.

Joyce Vietz

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