



GHS

Reading Writing

Reminiscing

From the Editors Desk

25 January 2004

Do You Remember



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I think we ought to run with the "do you remember" thing that Nancy Schmidt Lambert brought up. I believe that it would NEVER end as people add their own bits and pieces.

The first one about the girls uniforms made me think: do you remember when, in girls basketball, you could only take two steps and then you had to pass?

Smokin' in the Boys Room.

Cigarettes were 19 cents a pack.

Gas was between 22 and 25 cents a gallon, unless there was a "gas war" and it went down to 19 cents.

Chinese Fire Drills (somehow Asian American Fire Drills just doesn't have the same ring).

Driving up and down Greenwich Avenue after Graduation and doing Chinese Fire Drills.

Jogging (before it became stylish) around the third floor of GHS after school.

Speaking of soap giveaways, how 'bout opening a bank account and getting a toaster.

Or going to a gas station and getting a glass. (I got the nicest set of heavy-base highball glasses that way)

Listening to AM radio from NYC for all the "hits"

Can anyone name the three big stations that played rock 'n' Roll and the big-name DJs.

For extra credit name the frequencies? ** Answers at end of Newsletter **

When you programmed a car radio, you manually turned a dial to get a station, then you pulled out a button and pushed it back in, and the station was set.

When an extra speaker on the back window shelf of your car, with a fader, was really cool.

And you put that rear shelf speaker in yourself, and it crackled because you didn't quite do it correctly, but you didn't care because it was really cool.

When you had a 17" TV and it was HUGE !

Or when color programming came in but not all shows were in color

Going down Putts Hill and looking to your left and there was this HUGE empty land mass

When you got your first set of whitewall tires



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I enjoyed today's update and am glad to hear that the Sr. Chorus project looks like it is coming to fruition.

Regarding the picture of the old GHS. I have a bit of an advantage, because my mother and her eight siblings all went there. I remember her telling us she went to high school behind the Town Hall (the one that we remember). I believe the building is a block or so behind the old Town Hall (which may be the building to the left in picture) and was used for a fire house or something similar during our time in Greenwich.



My Greenwich, An Illustrated History book says "the town's first public high school opened on Havemeyer Place between Mason Street and Milbank Avenue in 1906". I think that would jive with both the picture and my memory.

I am attaching the following very cool, old picture of Binney Park. It's a postcard I found on eBay, but did not win. I dropped out when the bidding got above \$50.





Robert **KENNEDY** . Lyon . France
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It's the Old Town Hall Annex Building between Mason and Milbank. Info Thanks to a book I have Before and After 1776...Had the same picture..

(Editor: You have been beaten to the punch by Jane Benjamin Sheen... from the Virgin Islands.... You guys in the "distant places" are much more "UP" on Greenwich History than some of us "Locals"... Thanks for the answer:... Do you have an answer for Gene Davino

regarding POETS on the button from Gulliver's? Jim Nowland wants to run the "Do you Remember" as a regular column in the new sletter and get everyone to submit a piece... Do you have any to submit?)

I've heard that Greenwich has been cold and getting a lot of snow this year !

This picture is of the period from Dec. 26 1947 to Jan. 21 1948 when Greenwich received 53 inches of snow during Six Snow Storms.



(Editor: Thanks, the photo is great. I can't imagine what 53" would look like. Most of us were 3 to 4 years old then and I doubt any of us were taller than 39 to 42 inches... even me!!!)

Just a little history, I was living on Lewis Street at that time and wanted to go out and play in the snow . My mother took my shoes away from me ! So I still went out in my new slippers I got for Christmas and ran down the street. My mother finally caught me on Mason Street. Boy did I get my ass whacked !!!!!!!

(Editor: If we "remember when" back to that time... a lot of us got a "asses" whacked on a daily basis... It was normal for my father to arrive home in his pickup truck and grab the first item nearest the tailgate and whack us with it.)



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Borrowing from the "cues" given by Jim and Bob above and reinforced by Sharon's "How Did We Ever Survive..", I will add my two cents to "Do You Wremember".

Growing up in a house with "multiple" siblings and only one bathroom. Telephones with numbers like "Byram River" 6.XXXX or "Townsend" 9. There were no "Hallways" in your house.

You walked through every room in the house as you went up the stairs to bed at night. The only single entry room was the bathroom.

Parents slept in individual beds, as did Lucy and Desi or Rob and Laura.

In my case, Parents slept in separate rooms.

Father was the wage earner and he had an office in the house.

He did "business" stuff at night, then went to work the next day.

The telephone was for "Business" only... No one was allowed to use it for "fun".
 Sylvania Televisions had "halo-light" fluorescent surrounds to make them appear bigger.
 Your father was responsible for turning on and tuning the TV.
 Everybody was bigger and older than you were, or at least it seemed that way.
 Some of your friends were the kids of your "father's" business competition.
 We had a dog, that wasn't "bought", he just "appeared" one day and never came into the house.
 Everything was written in pencil.
 Pens were meant for business and were reserved for signing important documents.
 We used Slide Rules, in fact there was a Slide Rule Club.
 I had a rotating slide rule. I doubt if I could operate one again, if I had to.
 We all had to take Shop or Home Economics... and the Shop Teacher was missing fingers.
 We took showers in a "gang" shower, after every Gym Class. (The place stunk to high heaven)
 We had lockers for our Gym clothes, and separate Lockers for our Books.
 The Gym clothes would go home at the end of the year... for their first cleaning... or "tossing".
 The books stayed in the Lockers for the whole year as well.
 Sometimes you would take them home when you had an assignment.
 There were no "Backpacks" from "Trendy" stores. A book bag was a rarity.
 Girls carried their books cradled in their arms.
 Guys threw them in the car, never to be seen again... till the next time they were needed.
 Fire Drills required everyone leaving the building, to stand in the yard below ????????
 Girls wore "skirts or dresses". As did all women, regardless of age.
 A substitute teacher frowned upon "patent leather" shoes on girls, as they reflected the underwear.
 Exams were always "essay" type, and the subject would be written on the "chalkboard".
 Math tests were written on the chalkboard, in advance of the class, and covered with the pull-down map.
 Multiple copies were made on the Mimeograph Machine, usually rife with Spelling errors.
 Every other guy in your class, laid claim to having scored with the opposite sex.
 Make-out spots and Park roadways had strings of vehicles all with "steamy" windows... even in summer.
 You were convinced that you were the sole remaining virgin in the entire "school".
 Girls got "hickies" and wore scarves... so if a girl wore a scarf... she was hiding a hickies.
 Sex was performed in the "missionary" position... except by the missionaries.
 You had to work and you started before the age of 14... Caddies at Tamarack CC were still in their cribs.
 Everyone went to Vahsen's... except on the nights that you went there.
 Vahsen's wasn't large enough to fit all the people who claimed to go there.
 Everyone can relate a story of "child abuse" and we all turned out "okay"... yeah right!!

(Editor: And to end my segment... I raise the question to Jim... What's a Chinese Fire Drill?)

How Did We Ever Survive Our Childhood



Sharon **JOHNSTON** Kalinski . Richmond .VA
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Here are some interesting thoughts on our generation that I'm sure we can all relate to. Thought you might enjoy them.

People over 35 should be "Dead"

Here's why :

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats, those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, 60's, or even maybe the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived.

Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets.
When we rode our bikes, we had no helmets.
Not to mention the risks we took hitchhiking.
As children, we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or air bags.
Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.
We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.
Horrors! We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank soda pop with sugar in it.
We were never overweight because we were always outside playing.
We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle, and no one actually died.
We would spend hours building go-carts out of scraps and then coast down a hill, without brakes.
After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the problem.
We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street lights came on.
No one was able to reach us all day. NO CELL PHONES!!!! Unthinkable!
We did not have Playstations, Nintendo 64, X-Boxes, or video games at all.
There was no cable television with 99+ channels, video tape recorders, and surround sound.
Telephones were big and black, but they were not personal cell phones or land lines.
No personal computers or Internet chat rooms.
We had friends! We went outside and found them.
We played dodge ball, and sometimes, the ball would really hurt.
We fell out of trees, got cut and broke bones and teeth, and there were no law suits from these accidents.
They were accidents. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?
We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.
We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms, and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.
We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell or just walked in and talked to them.
Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team.
Those who didn't had to learn to deal with disappointment.
Some students weren't as smart as others, so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade. Horrors! Tests were not adjusted for any reason.
Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected.
The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of.
They actually sided with the law. Imagine that!
This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever.
The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovation and new ideas.
We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.
And you're one of them!
Congratulations!
People under 35 are WIMPS.

On the Subject of Poets

Jim Nowland:

I have no idea what the Gulliver's or what Poets meant... I ran a search on the web... looked up Greenwich history... nothing. SOMEWHERE, in the dark depths of my mind, it sounds familiar, but I cannot, for the life of me, bring it up.

Bob McMillan:

The Same goes for Me, Jim... so I am sending this on to Gene Davino and pleading with him to release the answer... at least to you and me... and then I will publish the answer next week...



Eugene **DAVINO** . Greenwich . CT
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Just in case you don't remember, Gulliver's was a large bar/dance place on Putnam Ave on the New York Border. They couldn't card you at the front door since that was CT but at the next door in, you were in New York!! Anyway it burned down, many killed. My question though was about the pin which had the word Poets on it. It stood for "Piss on everyone, tomorrow's Saturday."

(Editor: If I can remember the place in the Pre-Gulliver's Days... It was a Bowling Alley)

The place was on the left side of the bowling alley. It "sort of" surrounded it in the back. Someone robbed the bowling alley, then set it on fire to cover the robbery. That's what started the big fire.

Senior Chorus Project



Gary **DERBENWICK** . Colorado Springs . CO
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I have all the stuff together in an envelope to mail to you. I just checked previous e-mail and you already gave me your address. I'm in California until Tuesday a week from today, but I brought the stuff with me. I think everything came out okay and will mail them as soon as I get to the post office. The posters were reduced to 8-1/2 by 11 (in color). Kinko's just completed them in the nick of time before I had to leave for California (you might know, their large color scanner had broken down). Some of the flaws from the originals show, but they are quite acceptable.

Actually they are amazingly good considering I had brought them home stuffed and crushed in my suitcase and the paper is so old. I don't know if anyone else removed the posters from the kiosks (of course, I waited until after the concerts). These could be unique items of ancient history. There are also other materials unrelated to Senior Chorus that I thought you might be interested in (curriculum list for Class of 62, National Honor Society Stuff). There are a few good pictures from the Greenwich Time of Gerry Mack with the Senior Chorus members as well, and a number of articles from the newspaper. It's amazing how this stuff has rested in a box for so long, and now there is a use for it.

(Editor: An Update on the events surrounding the reproduction of the Three Recordings into Music CD Format is carried over from Last Week's Editorial. The process is well underway with participants from several states, working together as you will note in the eMail received from Gary above. In addition to the graphics being prepared by Penny Haymes Cox with the assistance of Gary, Diane Adams French and Nancy Schmidt Lambert; the recordings will be cut to CD's with the help of Tom Pryor and Nancy Rosan Roblin in Maryland again with the assistance of Diane Adams French. In the meantime, I have been in touch with Dr. Gerry Mack... his return eMail is below)



Dr. Gerald **MACK** . Nantucket . MA
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I would be happy to write notes for the CD but I need some guidance on what is on the CD and what slant you would like me to take. Certainly it would not be focused on the music. I could tell about the chorus, our appearance at MENC convention in Atlantic City, our tour to Europe etc. or should we go another direction? Maybe Vince has some ideas. Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks Gerry Mack

Webbster n Button



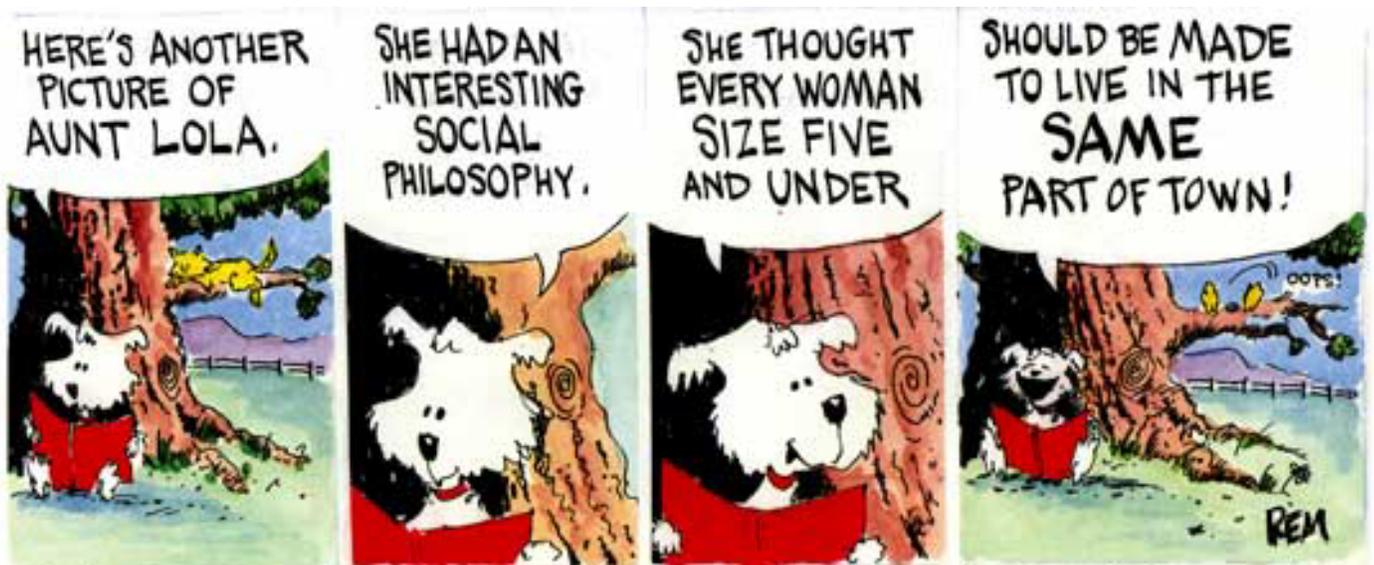
Kent **REMINGTON** . Micanopy . FL
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What it doesn't say in my Bio (About REM) on the Humane Society's website <http://www.AlachuaHumane.org> is that I've written NINE Children's stories about Webbster & Button:

WEBBSTER & BUTTON GO TO THE CIRCUS
W&B AND THE MAGIC LANTERN
W&B MEET SANTA
W&B AND THE BLACK CASTLE
W&B RIDE TO THE RESCUE
W&B AND THE FLYING SAUCER
W&B FIND A HOME
W&B AND THE ICE PALACE
W&B AND THE CROWS

And that there'll be a new cartoon at the site every week for the next 60 weeks.

And that I NEED AN AGENT!



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Answers to Jim Nowland's Radio Quiz

** (the answer is WABC, 770am; WINS, 1010am; and WMCA, 550am, with Cousin Brucie, Murray the K [aka Murray Kauffman] and BMR [aka B. Mitchell Reid], respectively)

The Davino Collection



Eugene **DAVINO** . Greenwich . CT
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Gene has again gone to his Attic and the Collection grows with each New sletter or Editorial as it's published. The last building to be identified in the

collection of historic post cards, was the original Greenwich High School, (see [Jane Benjamin Sheen](#) and [Bob Kennedy](#) above) . The next school will not be that easy. The three postcards below are all of the same building. On one of the images, the name of



the "School" was cropped from the border, and the other two were titled the same... Public School, Greenwich, Conn. I would imagine that a few of you will remember this building... So let's see if we can get an answer, without having to go to all the way to France or the Caribbean.

Jane and Bob can answer the "puzzle", but they have an added requirement... What is the "actual color" of the building... pink, green or is it only shades of "gray"?

