

CHICKEN ON WHEELS GAZETTE

(A TRIPOLI REUNION PUBLICATION)

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Chicken on Wheels Gazette, c/o Jim Ebert, Site10 Comp30 RR1, Trenton, Nova Scotia, CANADA. B0K 1X0
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Greetings Chicken on Wheels Diners

*We are launching this new newsletter endeavor to hopefully stay in better contact with everyone in between reunions. This newsletter will be distributed by email only so please stay in touch with us. Please make sure to keep us advised of your email, mail & phone number changes via the **Contact Us** page in the Tripoli Reunion website (www.tripoliunion.com).*

Plans are to publish this newsletter 2 times a year, so your comments, ideas, announcements & contributions are welcome. Please submit these by email (eatgreek43@gmail.com), or at the postal address listed above.

About the Gazette & Logo

For now, the editorial staff for the newsletter consists of Jim Ebert (OCS 1972) & Gray Tappan (OCS 1971). Contributions, stories & photographs are always welcome, but will be subject to some editorial oversight, and depending upon the number of submissions it could take a while for inclusion in a newsletter.

Why Chicken on Wheels? For the past several years I have been reading many of your stories and remembrances of life in Tripoli & at OCS, and Chicken on Wheels has consistently been the source of many memories ... it just seems natural to name the newsletter after this restaurant icon!

The Chicken on Wheels logo has been supplied by Gray Tappan. Gray obtained the image from an OCS alumni whose name eludes us at the moment, and touched it up for our use. It is a scanned image taken from an actual Chicken on Wheels

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Greetings	1
About the Gazette & Logo	1
An Editorial on French Teachers	1
The Tripoli Reunion Committee	2
The 2011 Tripoli Reunion	2
Reunion Business Meeting	3
2011 Reunion Awards (belatedly)	3
2011 Reunion Address Books	4
The Tripoli Dictionary	4
Tripoli Tales	5
Tripoli Tales Submissions	6
In Memory Of	6
Looking For	8
Ongoing Projects	8
Cool Web Connections	8
Tripoli Reunion Website Updates	9
Lyrics to Songs from our Childhood	9
The Next Edition	9

restaurant plastic bag, dating to the 1970s, so the colors & writing are the originals ... enjoy.

An Editorial

Why aren't French Teachers from France? This question has been a burning issue in my mind since meeting Helen Bruskas at OCS in 1970/1971 (my grade 7 year). Mrs. Bruskas, my OCS age group's French Teacher, was of Greek origin. Imagine my confusion when I reached High School back in Canada **eh!**, and found that my first French Teacher was an Australian and my second French Teacher was and Egyptian (the **eh** is thrown in for effect for all those that persist in pointing out my Canadian heritage **eh**). Speaking of French, **eh** is a French Canadian colloquialism that English speaking Canadians have adopted, but I doubt that

any of my multi-national French Teachers would permit it's utilization in our Parisian style classes.

Which leads me to my final rambling point ... we do not really know our old OCS teachers that well. I for one would like to get to know them better and as such would like to hear from as many as possible, giving us more information about who they were, what prompted them to come to OCS & Tripoli, what prompted them to move on, and what they did after Tripoli & OCS. OCS students were truly blessed to have the very dedicated teachers and staff that graced the halls of OCS, and I would like to print your stories.

Perhaps Mrs. Bruskas would care to submit a reply, rebuttal or comment to the editors about the multi-national aspect to teaching French.

The Tripoli Reunion Committee

Michele Voorhees	President
Holly Voorhees-Carmical	Registrations
Jim Ebert	Communications
Carla (Greatsinger) Seipel	Houston Rep

Michele runs the show folks! She is El Presidente and her military discipline keeps us all in line. Michele is the long term committee member ensuring the continuity & consistency of the reunion from year to year. **Holly** is the focal point for registrations, is the money-girl, and is ably assisted by her adoring husband Mike in this endeavor. **Jim** is into hand shaking & babbling and therefore handles much of the email, newsletter and website communications and updating. **Carla** recently agreed to come onboard as the local Houston POC (Point of Contact), and her assistance will greatly enhance the ability of the reunion committee to organize Houston bookings and events.

Running the reunion however is just one well oiled & well working grey area, where we all jump in and

help each other where-ever or when-ever necessary. There are no real boundaries.

The 2011 Tripoli Reunion

The 2011 Tripoli Reunion (July 22-24, 2011, Houston) has passed, but what a smashing success it was! Turnout was one of the largest in recent memory and the event seemed to rejuvenate the reunion and the reunion attendees. The reunion committee is still working on final numbers (this will be posted later), however ***attendance did exceed 200*** and was greatly bolstered by the attendance of so many OCS Alumni. Kudos to Sharon Taylor Baumann (OCS 70), Gray Tappan (OCS 71), Jim Ebert (OCS 72), and a host of others for their efforts to get classmates to attend en masse. Thanks also to Ben Thurman (OCS 74) and others for creating the discussion & enthusiasm on Facebook for this year's reunion.

In March 2011 Jim Ebert began keeping a listing of those who would be attending, those probably attending & those maybe attending, and was initially emailing this out every 2 weeks to interested parties. This listing was migrated to the revamped Tripoli Reunion website in May and maintained with weekly updating to keep everyone abreast of who was coming to the reunion. This listing proved to be most helpful in marshalling attendees and it will be done for future reunions.

A revised event format for the reunion was tried at the 2011 reunion, it was well received, and it has been adopted for the next reunion in 2013. This new format provided for more organized events, activities & in-house meals. The dinner meals on both Friday & Saturday nights were very successful and allowed attendees to spend more of their time with each other, rather than searching out their own eating venues. Other events included computer slide shows with 1960s & 1970s vintage Tripoli & area photography, memorabilia displays, 1963-

1982 Ambassador display, nightly belly dancing, and after dinner dancing. Of course, the all-night pool party is still a feature as is the “lounging” in the hotel lounge, bar & meeting rooms. One could drift among the throngs and re-acquaint themselves with old but not forgotten friends.



It is worth mentioning the variety of memorabilia that was put on display:

- Satellite photo of Giorgimpopoli circa 1966
- An Oasis employee villa map circa late 1960s/early1970s
- Mr. Keith Carter’s complete set of OCS Ambassadors from 1963 to 1982.
- Tripoli Little League trophies
- OCS programs, certificates, & field day ribbons
- NJHS & Teen Club memberships
- OCS report cards with teacher auto-graphs
- A Fateh poster from 1970
- A Villa model.

All-in-all we all had a wonderful time and were encouraged by the larger turnout. We all look forward to the 2013 Tripoli Reunion.

The Reunion Business Meeting

The 2011 Tripoli Reunion business meeting was held on the reunion Saturday afternoon (July 23rd) in the memorabilia/slide show/bar location and was

attended by most of the registrants. Hi-lights of the meeting:

- Houston will remain as the host city for future reunions as this is the most practical location.
- The reunion will continue to be held every 2 years, as a main event.
- The same events & registration format will be used for the 2013 reunion.
- More help will be “volunteered” for the registration tables to give Michele & Holly a break.
- A larger font will be used for future name tags (it did not go un-noticed that even the “younger” of us were using reading glasses)!

2011 Reunion Awards

I’m Not Bitter Award ... goes to Kay (Diebel) Brock (OCS 72) for her long standing suffering (39 years) and mental anguish over not being selected Girl of the Month at OCS ... At the Saturday evening dinner/dance Kay was officially recognized as the Girl of the Month Banquet.

Most Obnoxious T-shirt Award ... goes to Kenny Davis ... I will let him explain what he had printed on his T-shirt!

Lewdest Belly Dancing Award ... goes to Jim Ebert. You are such a good sport Jim ... he is quoted as saying ... “I’ll do most anything to get more attendance at the reunion” ... not sure if your dancing will attract or drive away attendees Jim!

Perfect Attendance Award ... goes to Kenny Davis, who purports to have attended each and every reunion. Way to go Kenny!

The Family Attendance Award ... goes to ... it’s a 4 way tie between the Gray, the Roberts, the

Lawyer, and the Schoenewald families. Great family attendance folks!

Special Congratulations ... Finally, and on a more serious note, at the Saturday evening dinner & dance, we recognized the monumental efforts Mr. Tom Mohr made in documenting so much of our OCS student & faculty history in his many years as a teacher, photographer & Ambassador mentor. Once again, the students & faculty of your era at OCS thank you ever so much for all that you did to document what have become some of our most cherished memories of days gone by.

2011 Tripoli Reunion Address Books

I am still working on this folks. I don't quite have all the up-to-date information I need to publish this book into an Adobe pdf file, nor do I have the final list of who attended. Anyone that attended the 2011 reunion will eventually be sent a copy of the most current address book via email. For privacy reasons this address book will not be posted to the Tripoli Reunion website. Anyone that did not attend will be able to acquire the address book for a nominal "donation" to the Tripoli Reunion fund. The "donation" amount has yet to be set so stay tuned as a general email will be sent out when it is ready.

Goofs & errors in the address book. Periodically mistakes are made in the address book, and sometimes they are whoppers! This year we made a big mistake of adding Mr. Spiro Bruskas to the In Memory section. Thanks to Mrs. Ellie Andrews (Nowell) and verified by Mrs. Helen Bruskas, we are very happy to report that Mr. Bruskus is still very much alive. We are so sorry for this goof and apologize for any undue concern this may have caused others.

If you notice other errors please let us know. If you know the where-abouts of others, tell us!

The Tripoli Dictionary

Tripoli trots [noun]

Tripoli trots

1. Pertaining to having an incontinence of the bowels.
2. Unable to restrain natural discharges or evacuations.

Plural: It is plural by nature. I challenge anyone to make it singular as this does not occur in nature.

Usage: I've got a case of the Tripoli trots.

one humper [adjective & noun]

one humper

1. A dromedary camel.
2. A one humped camel.

Usage: I believe it was the Romans that introduced the one humper to North Africa.

klic [noun]

klic

1. A kilometer.
2. A unit of measure in the metric system.

Plural: klics

Usage: Drive 13 klics to get to the beach at kilometer 13.

Have you got an entry for the Tripoli Dictionary?
Please send it to us and we will do the rest!



Tripoli Tales

In Fear of World History.

A story submitted by Jim Ebert (someone had to get the ball rolling ... might as well be the editor).

It was the spring of 1971. I was in 8th grade at OCS, doing well, living large & enjoying life. The Teen Club dances, the Tripoli Little League games, the scuba diving in the Med, the Chicken on Wheels ice cream, and attending classes at OCS were, in retrospect, a good life. All we had to do was get 64% or better to pass, can you believe that, 64%! The kids of today would wilt under the pressure, but not us, no way, we were ... invincible! This coupled with the fact that there was a combination of not knowing any better and having no choice in the matter. Those were the days when if you failed, you were held back.

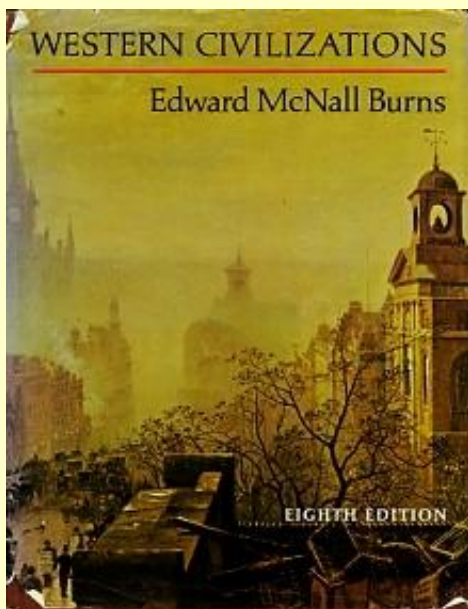
However, in the spring of 1971 a very dark, ominous, and forbidding cloud hung over the 8th grade class. This cloud manifest itself as Mr. Nowell's 9th grade World History class. Whether intentional or not, Mr. Nowell struck fear in the hearts & minds of OCS students. We were blindly led to believe that he was a tyrant & a task master, and was so much so that I gave considerable thought to how I could avoid taking his class. I had one option ... go to boarding school in Europe! Yup, this would solve it, bypass 9th grade at OCS. This seemed to be very clear thinking for an 8th grader! I lobbied my parents but to no avail. They would have none of it, as 9th grade was too young to go to Europe.

So, in the fall of 1971 I started 9th grade, and after a summer of fretting about the dreaded Mr. Nowell, there I was, about to enter his den of fear and horror. We (me and the other OCS 9th graders) were sure that we were to be used as cannon fodder for a twisted Mr. Nowell tale of the Napoleonic Wars. Anxiety, terror & apprehension reigned in my mind

so I devised a plan. I would to get there early on the first day of classes, and claim a seat at the back ... Mr. Nowell wouldn't see you at the back ... right? This plan of course failed. Mr. Nowell had his own ideas about the seating plan. Rats another brilliant plan foiled. Running his class with military efficiency (part of the fear factor), Mr. Nowell referred to you as Mr. Ebert or Miss So-And-So (never your first name). A classic intimidation tactic for sure, and it worked very well.

As the weeks progressed we forged our way through the monumental text "Burns - Western Civilizations", Mr. Nowell's World History bible. It was big, it was thick, and it was chock full of 950 pages of historical facts & dates. Facts & dates that Mr. Nowell seemed to know by heart and this added to the mystic of the man. As the months progressed I must admit that I really started to enjoy myself, as I found history interesting, and the misplaced fear for man and class began to diminish. By year end it had become my favorite class, and Mr. Nowell one of my favorite teachers. You see, when you started to view history like Mr. Nowell, it took away most of the trepidation that surrounded attending his class, as Mr. Nowell and World History were one in the same ... Kind of Zen eh!

Flash forward ahead 4 years to my first year in University and attending a World History class. Imagine my surprise & chagrin that the required reading text was none other than "Burns - Western Civilizations", which even today is one of my most used and treasured books in my personal library. Every time I take the book off the shelf (this is many, many times a year) I am reminded of Mr. Nowell, of his World History class, of my OCS friends & teachers, and of course my fool-hardy plans to avoid his class in the spring of 1971.



After 4 years of university I graduated with a BA Honours degree in Archaeology, with a Minor in History. While at university I specialized in Middle Eastern & African archaeology, history & anthropology, an interest sparked by Sabratha & Leptis Magna, and fostered by Mr. Nowell's 9th grade World History class. *Imagine that!*

Tripoli Tales Submissions

Got a Tripoli story you want to share with the rest of us? No problem, send it to us and we will do our level best to include it in the newsletter. Pictures, diagrams and scans can and will be included if submitted. All stories are also being compiled into a larger document for longer term retention, and will eventually be made available through the Tripoli Reunion website.

Just a few notes regarding story submissions:

1. We do not plan to edit your stories and would rather print them as is, of course formatted to fit the newsletter format. However we ask that it be kept civil and not too incriminating. This should leave lots of room for humorous and

embarrassing tales.

2. Try your best to keep the story under 750 words. We are not looking for novellas & sagas at the moment.
3. Send photos & scans as jpeg (jpg) files when possible. We can work with lots of other formats and will let you know if we have troubles.
4. When & where-ever possible please submit your story in a MS Word 2007 or earlier version. If you do not have MS Word, we can usually read & accept files from WordPerfect versions 6.0 and earlier as well as MS Works version 7.0 and earlier. Failing this we may have to default to stone tablet and chisel (paper & pen or typewriter). Or you can compose the whole story in an email and leave the formatting to us.

In Memory Of

The following was taken from Keith Carter's obituary.

Keith Allen Carter was born on October 8th, 1932, on a farm in Northeast Sac County to Clifford Amer Carter and Ora Whitesitt Carter. He passed away on February 6, 2011 at Trinity Regional Hospital, Ft. Dodge, Iowa at the age of 78. As a youth, he attended Douglas # 1, a one-room country school in Sac County. After graduating from 8th grade, he attended Newell High School in Newell, Iowa. While in high school he participated in band, choral activities, drama productions, was an accompanist for many groups, and was a cheerleader.

He graduated from High School as Salutatorian in 1950. Immediately after graduation he went to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he attended Gale Institute, a railroad school. He was trained to be a depot agent and telegrapher at the Institute. In March of 1951 he accepted a job with the Illinois Central Railroad, breaking into the job under the

tutelage of Skeet Rowan at the Newell Iowa depot. He served many towns in the Iowa Division as a telegrapher. His longest stints included Peosta, Iowa, Woods Tower in Dubuque, Iowa, and Scales Mound and Galena, Illinois. While in Dubuque, and working a midnight to eight A.M. shift in 1955, he enrolled in college at the University of Dubuque. While working full time and attending college full time, he majored in Social Studies and Education and minored in English. He graduated from the University of Dubuque in 1958. It was always a source of satisfaction to him that he had completely financed his higher education without help.

Keith took a job in Lake Zurich, Illinois as a 6th grade teacher. Here he spent four years and was a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Lake Zurich.

In 1962, looking for adventure and fulfilling a dream to see the world, Keith took a job in Tripoli, Libya, teaching for the Oil Company School. This was a very rewarding job. It was his privilege to teach many foreign students, as well as Americans. The country was beautiful and contained many archeological sites, which appealed to his love of history and travel. He was very active in the Union Church of Tripoli, teaching Sunday School, serving on the Church Council, playing piano for church, and accompanying the church choir. He also took part in community concerts, Broadway productions, and was an active supporter of Little League Baseball. Keith trained many official scorers for the Little League.

The United States government requested all Americans leave Libya in 1982. It was with great sorrow that he departed. The twenty years he taught in Libya were extremely rewarding and happy ones. But he considered himself lucky enough to obtain a teaching job in Saudi Arabia working for the world's largest oil company, Saudi Aramco. He was assigned to the Aramco camp of

Ras Tanura, where he spent the next 10 years teaching 6th grade until his retirement in 1992. The most interesting time in Ras Tanura was during the Gulf War. Ras Tanura was one of the main targets of Iraq and many scud missiles were launched into the area. His duties included teaching drama at the school. He was a member of the Ras Tanura Protestant Fellowship, played for church, accompanied the choir, and served on the church council. He took part in several drama productions, his favorites being Barnum, Annie, and Harvey. He also played dinner music for many banquets and functions.

After retirement in 1992, Keith moved back to Newell, Iowa. For two years he taught English as a Second Language in Storm Lake, Iowa, to Laotian and Hispanic students at North Elementary School. He also began to work on his Arab Heritage House as a museum in his own home. Finally in 1995, the museum was open to the public. The number of visitors who came to view his Middle East collection gratified him. He continued to enjoy living in Newell and was interested in school activities. He enjoyed basketball and football games, speech, drama, and musical events, at the local high school.

He continued to travel, adding to the more than 100 countries he had previously visited. He gave many talks about the Middle East in the area, and played the piano for the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church in Fonda.

Watching many of his students achieve success as adults provided Keith much satisfaction. He continued to visit and correspond with the many friends he made while overseas, which gave him great pleasure.

He is survived by his brother Marshall (Janice), 2 nieces, numerous cousins, and a very large group of friends who still love him.

Memorial contributions may be made to your choice of the Newell Public Library, the Keith Carter Scholarship Trust Fund (for students graduating from the Newell-Fonda CSD High School), or Otsego Place Assisted Living.



Looking For

There are folks looking for the following people. Has anyone spotted them and/or kept in contact with them or one of their family members? Please let us know

Rick Castleberry OCS Class of 1972 - Last spotted in Atlanta, Georgia about a decade ago.

Danny Blankenship OCS Class of 1972. son of the Baptist Church Minister.

Ginny Blankenship OCS Class of 1974, daughter of the Baptist Church Minister.

Ongoing Projects

1. As always, we are constantly trying to keep our address book and database up-to-date. Please ensure to send us an email if your contact info changes. Better yet go on to the Tripoli Reunion website and fill in the Contact Us page.
2. Jim Ebert is building a database of all students that attended OCS from 1958-1982 (The American Years) as well as all OCS staff for the same period. He is using the Ambassadors as references. So far he has completed 1963-

1967, 1969, 1971-1972 & 1975. Anyone with Ambassadors for 1968, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1976-1982 and willing to make a good scanned copy of all the relevant faculty & student pages K-G9 as well as the index are asked to contact Jim via the Tripoli Reunion email address. Jim is also looking for class lists or class photographs with annotated names for the years prior to 1963.

Cool Web Connections

Below are some of the cool website connections that others have created on the internet. One of our favorites is Memories of Tripoli by Monica Grant. The Guy & Joes receipt is priceless!

Memories of Tripoli

<http://www.tripolitania.com/memories/>

The Uaddan Hotel

<http://www.paolocason.it/Libia/Pagine/Musica.htm>

Memories of Libya 1956-1959

http://arborfield-september49ers.co.uk/libya-scenic-01.htm#_top

<http://arborfield-september49ers.co.uk/libya-scenic-02.htm>

Tripoli Nights

<http://tripolinights.blogspot.com/2006/12/chatala-ines-wonderful-video-of-memories.html>

YouTube Tripoli, Libya 1964

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gp1Hqijc6M8&feature=youtu.be>

Tripoli, Libya in the 60s The Beach

http://wn.com/Tripoli_Libya_in_the_60'_The_Beach

Enjoy Folks!

Tripoli Reunion Website Updates

The Tripoli Reunion website has been extensively renovated for your viewing pleasure. For now we have taken down the pages about registration & reunion announcements and replaced these with pages that contain (will contain) past reunion pictures, stories & details (as they become available), copies of this newsletter, a compilation document of the stories you submit, an OCS History write-up and a listing of new additions to our mailing list.

Lyrics to Songs from our Childhood

Remember how clear the lyrics were on those old transistor radios & boom boxes?

"The Ants are our friends, they're blowing in the wind ..." **Bob Dylan – Blowin in the Wind**

"Hold me closer Tony Danza" **Elton John – Tiny Dancer**

"Slow moving Walter, the fire engine guy" **Deep Purple – Smoke on the Water**

Got more? Send em in!

The Next Edition

Expect this sometime in late spring 2012.

