



Taft Alumni Newsletter

Vol. XI No. 3

July 1992

WELCOME CLASS OF 1992

Congratulations to the graduating class of 1992. You are now part of a special group of people known as the Alumni of Taft High School.

The purpose of the Taft Alumni Association is to provide a means for Taft Alumni to continue or renew friendships begun at Taft, provide service to the school and most important to preserve its history. We publish the newsletter 4 times a year, to let you know what other alumnus are doing and invite you to special events at Taft.

As you continue your education, work a full time job or get married, remember us. Drop a line to let us know your new name or address and what you've been doing since graduation. This information will be very helpful for your first class reunion 5 or 10 years from now.

An application form to join the Association is in this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10 for 2 years.

Best of luck to you. Be proud to say you came from Taft High School.

WHY PAY ALUMNI DUES?

Q. Its true that we are all Taft Alumni members, so why pay dues?

A. There is no requirement for you to spend 1 cent to be a member. You automatically acquired that status when you graduated from Taft. But, to provide you with information on various activities, goals, highlights, etc., about our purpose of sponsoring a meaningful alumni association, a scheduled newsletter provides all the details. Yes, it costs a considerable monetary cost to publish and mail this periodical 4 times a year.

A goal to furnish scholarship awards to a deserving senior, is an optional program. Financing is through special donations than the dues structure, as does sponsoring "Grease" 1990, "Mame" 1991, "Play On" and "Bye-Bye Birdie" 1992, buying hats and overlays for the Taft Marching Band and a laser printer for the Journalism Department. These funds came from fund raisers and donations.

Its an advantage to have your name listed in our alumni file, as it will be available for a class reunion notice when one of your class members (or even you) decide to probe such a possibility. With

Alumni guidelines and assistance, this venture is much easier to arrange.

As a "Sponsoring Alumni" you can help make this association the largest, most responsive group of high schools in the area. It shows that Taft graduates are dedicated to the school's principles and carry forth a tradition which no other high school can compare. We "got" our roots at Taft and they are strong and enduring. I urge the 8,000 non-paying Taftities to get on the "band wagon" and join the 3500 supporting Eagles. We're going forward with Pride and Determination, and your added financial aid will strengthen our treasury and give added confidence to our Alumni volunteers.

The past 4 years the Association has been working closely with the PTA and Local School Council helping where needed. As mentioned earlier we supplied the band with new hats and overlays, the Journalism Department with a needed laser printer, tried our best to have musicals and plays in Spring and cleaning and repairing in the building. With everyone's cooperation, we'll sing "GO TAFT GO" with more enthusiasm and vigor. LETS HEAR FROM YOU.



DRAMA WORKSHOP

Wheels are in motion to sponsor a mentor program using the time and talents of a Taft Alumni to keep the spark alive with Taft students interested in theatre. The Taft Alumni Association has stepped in with both feet the past few years both physically and financially to give students the opportunity to learn and apply talents in this endeavor. Currently the school budget does not include funding for drama classes or productions.

Anne Lunde has volunteered to pursue in obtaining classroom materials, proper school permissions and work out scheduling to enable the Drama Department to continue beyond 1992. Her endeavor is to start up in the Spring, 1993 season and possibly work into production of "Godspell". We will keep you informed of her efforts.

TAFT'S THIRD ANNUAL ALUMNI PICNIC

AUGUST 8, 1992

10 AM - 4 PM

NORWOOD PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NOBEL/SEYMOUR/CRIPPEN HOUSE
5624 N. NEWARK AVENUE
CHICAGO, IL 60631

All Taft alumni and family welcome
Bring a favorite dish for yourself with
a little extra to share. Grills to be provided.
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GAMES / FOOD / MEMORIES / FUN



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Class of 1972

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TAF



TALK

No. 22

Newsletter of the Taft Family Association

May 1992

From time to time you have printed some of the history of President William Howard Taft and so I am enclosing the latest edition of our family (Taft) newsletter which may be of some use to you for your future editions. On the other hand it may not be of any interest or use to you at all and if it is not please feel free to discard it all. The Taft family settled in the small rural town of Mendon, Massachusetts (about 35 miles southwest of Boston) in 1679. Their history prior to that time is uncertain, except that their name may have previously been Taff.

Mendon is celebrating its 325th anniversary this year having been established in 1667 and the Taft family continues to have their annual reunions there each year. I have always had a personal interest in this town because some of my immediate family has remained in Mendon and I currently have two aunts and three first cousins residing there. My first cousin, David Lowell, resides at the original homesite, and the Taft marker is situated on that site. The first Tafts were Robert and Sarah, which coincidentally were the names of the late senator from Ohio and his wife.

The Ohio Tafts who include President William Howard, and Senator Robert are the most noteworthy members of the family and are descended from Alphonso Taft. The enclosed family newsletter features Alphonso's history on its first page.

There is an old Taft family cemetery situated next to the Chestnut Hill Meeting House in this town. It is purported that the village smithy next to the meeting house was where Longfellow wrote "The Village Blacksmith". Later Henry Ford moved that smithy to Greenfield Village.

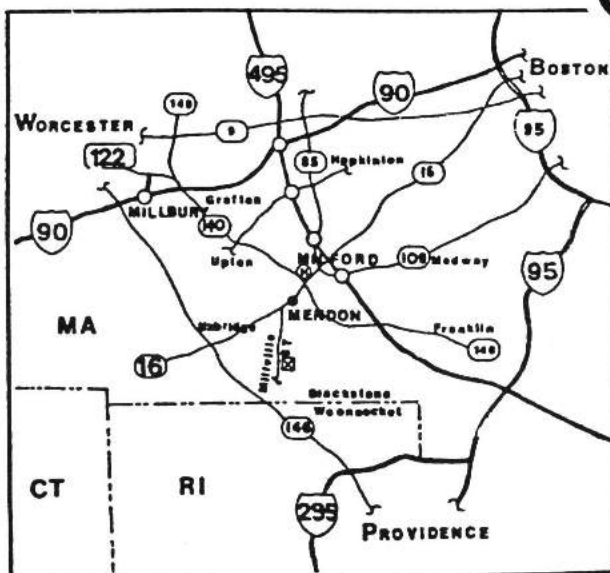
There are still people with the Taft name in this town although our family name is now Lowell, which came about when my grandmother, Grace Taft married my grandfather who was Freeman Lowell. I, and my brother Rodney (June 1947), ended up at Taft Highschool because our father, Forrest T. Lowell, left the family farm in Mendon in 1919 after a stint in the Marines in World War I. After seeing some of the world with the Marines the farm life of Mendon no longer interested him and he headed for the big city of Chicago to start a new life.

I have the unique distinction of having both family names for my name. If you can use any of this information for the Taft Alumni Newsletter, please feel free to do so, and if you want the continuing history of William Howard Taft which should be in our new family newsletter let me know and I will forward it on to you when it is sent to me in about six months.

Cordially,

Taft Lowell

Taft Lowell (Jan. 45)
1419 N. Chestnut Street
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-4636
(708) 253-8448



Letter



HAYMAKING

(Two couples making hay while the sun shines.)

17TH CENTURY CARTOON

A SWEET CENTURY

Reborn Schimpff's Confectionery marks 100 years as a Jeffersonville landmark

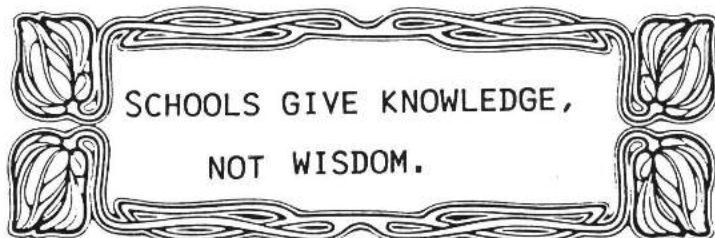
Dear Kay,

...I have enclosed some articles about us in relation to what we have been doing the last 2 years in regards to the 100 year old Schimpff family business, in Jeffersonville, Indiana, that we bought and have been restoring and running from California. We hope that in about a year and a half we will be able to retire from California and return to the midwest - Indiana - and run the business ourselves in "retirement"!!! We thought that maybe you would like to know what two old Tafties were up to and you might like to include something in the newsletter.

...We would be interested in seeing a Taft Alum Business Directory, so that Tafties could support Tafties. A call for responses could be put out in the newsletter and people could pay a flat fee to be listed. As an example, when we were in Chicago for the Taft 50th party, we were pleased to find out about the Taftie who had donated all the pastries and had a dessert catering business. We would also be interested in reading in the newsletter stories about Tafties that have interesting businesses. Other stories about former Tafties are also interesting to read, such as the wonderful story about Larry Marsh.

Jill and Warren Schimpff
1105 Baughman Drive
Claremont, CA 91711
714/624-1522 Home

[Editor's note: We like some of these ideas but need to know if enough interest is "out there" to warrant the effort to compile. Let us know your thoughts on these. Send to Jerry Bloom, 5508 N. Parkside/Chicago, IL 60630.]





One Hundred Years Ago Today, On April 11, 1891,

Gustav Schimpff Sr. and his son, Gustav Jr., opened the doors to G.A. Schimpff's Manufacturing Confectionery at 347 Spring Street in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

The Evening News marked the occasion by saying simply, "Gus Schimpff of Louisville this morning opened his new candy factory."

Gus Sr. & Catherine, Gus Jr. & Louisa, Wig & Vivian, Catherine & Sonny would be proud!





For a sweet century Schimpff's has had the distinct pleasure of providing a tradition of quality to local candy lovers, and, as Jeff folk have moved around, to their far-flung kith and kin as well. With your help, we have survived wars, floods, depressions, and recessions, and the red hots that Gus originally sold have become a household word for many.

To family members, customers, employees, and wholesalers, both present and past, we offer our heartfelt appreciation for helping to make this milestone possible. We especially want to thank local customers for their recent support of our successful reopening. In particular, manager, Bell Lett, and contractor, Keith Stayton, have worked above and beyond the call of duty.

On Saturday, May 25th we plan to celebrate our centennial with day-long festivities. We hope you will save the date, and join us in the merry making! We would like to hear from local centenarians who might help us blow out the candles on our birthday cake! Stay tuned for more information on the party!



Warren and Jill Schimpff

The advertisement placed in the Evening News on April 11, 1991—Schimpff's actual 100th anniversary day.

HOLIDAY MIXED CHORUS

Warm up your vocal chords, because the kick-off meeting for the Taft Alumni Mixed Chorus will assemble at the Taft Drama Studio on August 15th from 9:00 AM - Noon. Initially, we plan to have two shows between Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, with one at Taft and the other possibly at the Norwood Park Historical Society "Nobel/Seymour/Crippen" House. This August meeting will be mainly a sign-up and brainstorming session with actual rehearsals starting in late September. Cost: \$5-10 per person for music rental.

We're excited about getting this off the ground. The response on our "feeler" invitation last year was very encouraging and we look forward to an enthusiastic group to re-create some of the carols and holiday music we all remember. All singers from Mixed, Girl's or Men's Chorus alum are welcome. The more the merrier! Remember, word of mouth is the best publicity we could have. It's an event that will be fun for all!

Drop me a postcard and let me know your voice range or just show up on August 15th.

Mike Guercio, Special Events Coordinator
6212 N. Ozanham
Chicago, IL 60631
(312)775-4356



"It has been said that society
can be lost by enough good
people doing nothing."

— B. Suzi Ruhl, Legal Environmental
Assistance Foundation



**"A WELL ADJUSTED
PERSON IS ONE WHO
MAKES THE SAME
MISTAKE TWICE WITHOUT
GETTING NERVOUS."**

ANONYMOUS

BYE BYE BIRDIE Thank You

Dear Alumni & Friends,

It has been my privilege to be involved in three plays sponsored by the Alumni Association. During last year's production of "Mame", I learned a great deal as Production Assistant. It was an honor and pleasure to serve as director for both of this year's plays - "Play On" and the Spring musical "Bye Bye Birdie".

For those of you who have never worked with teenagers before, I can only tell you it is an experience NOT to be missed! It was a joy to see the dedication towards excellence that each of the actors, actresses and crew pursued. I only wish all of you had the opportunity to see them in action.

The backbone of the production, however, was provided by a number of Alumni who deserve to be recognized for giving so much to help make the plays successful. My sincerest thanks to five dedicated people for providing time and talent to the Taft drama program: Alumni President - Kay Kuciak, Choreographer - Kim Blackstone, Lighting Director - Perry Georgopolus, Set Designer - Sarah Welk and Casting/Continuity's - Anne Lunde. We are truly blessed to have all of you in the organization.

This basis gives much to draw from for future projects and we're confident that with continued help from the Alumni Association, the transition back to an in-school Drama program will be accomplished.

Once again, my thanks,
Judi Lenihan



An impressive 20-page Graduation edition of the new "TAFT TODAY" was issued recently. I got my hands on a copy and eagerly read it from end to end. Many personal interviews, photographs, creative articles and numerous advertisers complied a very interesting and entertaining issue.

Acknowledgement was given to Taft Alumni Association for our donations and support. In turn, we would like to extend our congratulations to the newsletter staff and to Mrs. Carol Fink, their faculty sponsor. Keep up the great work!

Although I have had no formal training in journalism, I thoroughly enjoy working on your alumni newsletter. From the many comments and compliments received, I think you enjoy it, too. For the sake of progress, I constantly seek to improve. Perhaps I can learn more from these enthusiastic youngsters.

Jerry Bloom, Editor
Taft Alumni Association

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**TO THE MEMORIES
OF THE**

GREAT

CLASS OF JANUARY, 1942



*From One
Who Remembers —*

Taft Alumni Association



DEAR TAFT ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

THIS YEAR WE ARE EXPANDING OUR NEWSLETTER TO INCLUDE ADVERTISING FROM ALUMNI AND INTERESTED FRIENDS TO REACH THE TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP. THIS INCLUDES THE FOUR REGULAR ISSUES PUBLISHED EACH YEAR AS WELL AS SOME SPECIAL MAILINGS AS EVENTS WARRANT. CURRENT CIRCULATION IS APPROXIMATELY 2000 PIECES WITH ALMOST 80% IN AND AROUND THE CHICAGO AREA. SPECIAL MAILINGS GO UP TO 8000 PIECES.

ATTACHED IS THE SPREAD SHEET WITH SIZE OPTIONS AND CURRENT RATES. IF INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE, FILL OUT THIS FORM WITH INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW. THE TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REFUSE ANY SUBMITTALS BASED ON SPACE AVAILABILITY AND SUBJECT MATTER. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO JERRY BLOOM WITH YOUR ARTWORK AND CHECK. A CONFIRMATION WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU WITH THE DATE THE AD WILL START.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND SUPPORT.

JERRY BLOOM
TOM KUCIAK
ADVERTISING COORDINATORS

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ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER "AD" SPACE

RATES

1 ISSUE 2 ISSUES 3 ISSUES 1 YEAR
(4 ISSUES MIN.)

	FULL PAGE = 8" X 10"	\$100	\$175	\$250	\$300
	1/2 PAGE = 4" X 10" OR 5" X 8"	\$50	\$87.50	\$125	\$150
	1/4 PAGE = 4" X 5" OR 5" X 4"	\$25	\$43.50	\$62.50	\$75
	1/8 PAGE = 2-1/2" X 4" OR 4" X 2-1/2"	\$12.50	\$22	\$30.50	\$37.50

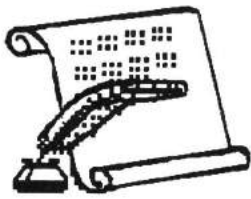
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CHICAGO, IL 60630

OR

TOM KUCIAK (708)824-4747
47 LANCASTER LANE
DES PLAINES, IL 60018

MAKE CHECK OUT TO: TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



CLASS NOTES

1940s

ADAM KLAFTA (JUNE 1941) not only did we mess up Adam's bio once but we did it twice, lets hope #3 is correct. He lives in San Diego, CA, has 4 sons and retired from Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

WILLIAM FUNK (JUNE 1942) graduated from Northwestern BS Commerce 1947, has 6 children, lives in Roswell, GA and is retired.

BARBARA (WHITTIER) HANSON (JUNE 1945) has 4 children and 9 grandchildren, lives in Northbrook, IL and is a retired educator who recently received the Northwestern Alumni Service Award University College.

1950s

JO ANNE (RIZEK) KOCHER (JUNE 1953) in early 1992 soon after her husband died Jo Anne

became disabled. She is now house bound and would like to hear from fellow classmates at 412 S. Kennicott, Arlington Hts, IL 60005.

1960s

JOYCE (JOHANNSSEN) LEHMAN

STACKHOUSE (JUNE 1960) was widowed in 1985 and just got married again in 1991 and is living in Woodstock, IL.

CHERRILYN (BULAND) MALIK (JANUARY 1966) has 2 children, lives in Palatine, IL and is a receptionist.

KEN KULOVITZ (JANUARY 1967) graduated from Admunsen-Mayfair College AA 1970, has 2 children, is an Accountant for U of CA, Irvine and lives in Santa Ana, CA.

KAREN (KAFFEL) PUTHOFF (1969) is a sales manager for Marshall Fields, has 2 children and lives in Lincolnshire, IL.

1970s

RICHARD WINGE (1970) graduated from Western IL BB 1974, U of WI, MS 1976, lives in New York, NY and is the national sales manager for Seligman Financial Service.

SANDRA (FERGUS) TARPEY (1979) graduated from De Paul BA Industrial Psychology 1983, lives in Park Ridge, IL., has 2 children and is a housewife for now.

received the Josephine Kurek Scholarships from the Norwood Park Chamber of Commerce. **CHRISTOPHER OEHLER** received the first scholarship given by the Gladstone Chamber of Commerce. **YVETTE GONZALEZ** received the Columbia Bank scholarship. **CHRISTOPHER OEHLER AND CLAUDETTE KWASIGROCH** received the Kiwanis Encourage Excellence Awards.

1990s

JENNIFER WELK (1990) is attending Northeastern and just appeared in "You Can't Take It With You" in the role of Essie. (1992) the following new Alum's received scholarships, **JACKIE MEYER AND KRYSTYNA KWAK**

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR NAME LISTED IN CLASS NOTES, JOIN THE ASSOCIATION BY FILLING OUT THE APPLICATION FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

BOB GOLDBERG, Asst Principal is retired and loves it, he is tutoring in adult literacy at Oakton College, on staff at Northwestern, supervising teaching interns in Science and Math and other good "stuff".

This newsletter is printed by **Copyco** owned by **Bob Soske**, class of 1956 and folded and labeled by **Randolph Data Service** owned by **Doug Burkland**, class of 1969. THANK YOU

TO THE CLASS OF 47

We can't attend this year's 45th reunion. Jim is at Cub scout Camp with our grandson, Marge is busy with the B&B. Hope to see you at the 50th, Jim "47" Marge "49"

FLASHBACKS

REMEMBERING YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DAYS

TAFT HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FILMS (1947-1987) ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON VIDEO CASSETTE

Remember your high school football games? Back then, each one was filmed to help the players improve their game.

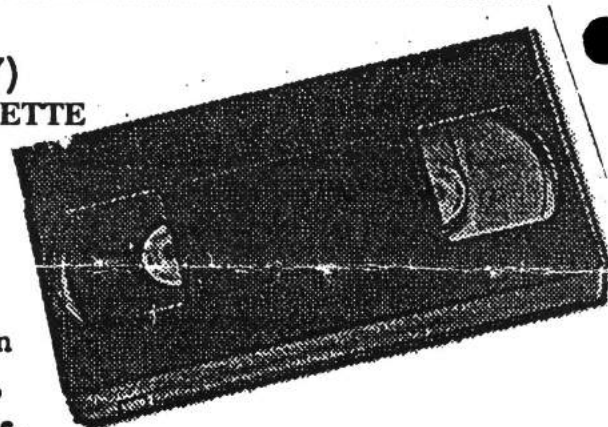
Today, though, years after their educational value has ended, those same films serve an even greater purpose - they are the best and most accurate source of high school football memories you can find. Because unlike yearbooks, newspaper clippings, or photos, your high school's game films tell the whole story of each game.

Start to finish. Allowing you to relive those days better than anything you currently own.

And now Flashbacks, Inc., a video company specializing in transferring high school sports films, is making it possible for you to own your junior and senior year football films on videotape. All you need is a TV and VCR. Your memories are stored on the tape.

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Using the finest equipment in direct conversion technology, Flashbacks has completely transferred all of your available football game films to high-quality VHS tapes. These are authentic copies of the exact films each player watched back when he was playing. The only improvements we made were to edit out "black spots" and improve the overall balance of light in the picture.



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JEANETTE FOX was a Biology teacher at Taft for 38 years before retiring in 1979. She was a graduate of the University of Chicago and received her master's from the University of Wyoming. She was a member of the Audubon Society, Illinois Club and the Happy Hookers Fishing Club and a past president of Two Sisters Club. She was also a past president of the Women's Club at Five Towns, WY where she was named Woman of the Year. She was 84.

BETTY (CRAFT) HAYES (class of 1942) died of complications from a heart condition in November, 1991.





RETIREMENT

We have three Taft gentlemen teachers who retired this past June. They are Tom Tomasic (History), Harold Roberts (Mathematics) and Heinz Timm (English). Mr. Roberts served on the original Local School Council (he had pioneer blood). Mr. Timm sponsored the yearbook committee for many years. Best wishes to them for many happy and healthy retirement years. They will be missed!

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NOW WE'RE COOKIN'

Thanks to all of you who sent us recipes for our Premier edition of the Taft Alumni Cookbook. As of this writing, the committee is assembling all submittals and checking for accuracy. They will go to the printer within a few weeks and will be ready for ordering in the fall. Watch for detailed information in your next newsletter. Just in time for holiday baking or for that special gift to an alumni friend.

CLASS REUNIONS

1940-1946

Reunion: O'Hare Sheridan Inn Aug. 28-30, '92
Contact: Clay Mott (708)824-4227

1947

Reunion: Hotel Sofitel July 25, 1992
Contact: Don & Carol Andrews (708)304-1391

1972

Reunion: O'Hare Holiday Inn Oct. 10, 1992
Contact: Alumni Systems (IL) 1-800-924-6643
or (815)977-0858

1982

Reunion: O'Hare Marriott Nov. 28, 1992
Contact: Class Reunions (708)677-4949

DRAMA

SCHOLARSHIP



The annual Taft Alumni Association Drama Scholarship was presented May 16th, following the final performance of this Spring's high school presentation of "Bye Bye Birdie". Sincere congratulations go to James Mitchell, who starred in this year's show.

James has demonstrated a dedication to drama, exemplified by four years in various Drama Department productions, both back stage and up front. His repertoire at Taft includes "West Side Story", "Grease", "Mame", "Play On" and finally, "Bye Bye Birdie".

James recently graduated from Taft and plans to attend Northern Illinois University. He wishes to continue the theatrical pursuit because he believes "that plays are not only an important source of entertainment, but a learning experience as well." James wishes to express his talents through acting and this scholarship will help him do just that.



Lady Eagles take City



City champs and on to state

Taft Girls' Varsity Softball players celebrated their victory over Bogan High School June 4 in the Chicago Public League championships with a shower of grape juice and an enthusiastic photo. Shown (from left to right) are: kneeling, Kim Meyer, Lisa Alwin, Aimee Spreitzer, Dakota Duce, Jacki Meyer, Kelly Gillum,

Stacey Morro and Connie Leander; (second row) Jennifer Merriam, Monica Stoltz in front of assistant coach Mike Alderson, Ellen Avery, Shari Henney, Jessica Lindahl, Principal Dr. William Watts, Jill Meyer, Caryn Selck, Tanya Lasaro, Jessica Bowers, Coach Frank Hood, and Elizabeth Correa.

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1992

Chicago Suburban Times Newspapers



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YEARBOOKS

IN OUR MEMORIES

Did the great flood of '87 wipe you out? Did the dog chew up your favorite things? Or misplaced a couple boxes in your last move? Did the heat of the attic turn things into dried up, brittle pieces? Maybe we can help. If you need a replacement for your lost or destroyed yearbook, we still have three left:

Classes of 1964, 1982 and 1986

If interested, Contact Kay Kuciak at (708)824-4747 or write her at 47 Lancaster Lane, Des Plaines, IL 60018. Cost is \$20 plus \$5 for shipping and handling.

1990-92 ALUMNI OFFICERS

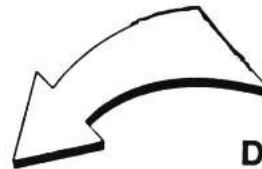


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1963 10/92
KAY (CARLSON) KUCIAK
47 LANCASTER LANE
DES PLAINES, IL 60068

TAFT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM

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Occupation:				Other Interests:			
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<input type="checkbox"/> I am enclosing \$_____ to defray newsletter costs.							
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