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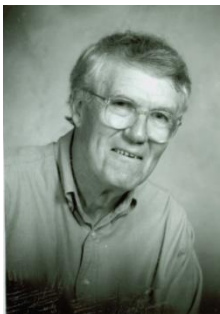
All-Class Reunion Salutes 2010 Wall of Honor Inductees; Addition of 10 Student/Alumni Brings Honorees Total to 19

On Saturday, October 2, 2010, the 2nd class of Parsons College Student/Alumni was inducted into the Wall of Honor at the Fairfield Arts & Convention Center. A luncheon followed at the FA&CC and a tour of the Carnegie Historical Museum was offered during the afternoon. All alums, former students and friends were invited. The weekend activities were highlighted by a Friday night reception at the Fairfield CC, ceremony and luncheon at the FA&CC, and an evening at the Walton Club.



ROGER BACHMAN '67... (Posthumously) - Roger wanted to be the best. And for the short 24 years of his life, he was the best - the best that he could be. Roger was born in Washington, DC and by the time he hit 9th grade and Westfield, NJ, he had already lived in Cincinnati, Columbus, Indianapolis, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New Orleans. His father was a high ranking special agent with the FBI and relocations were frequent. Needless to say, Roger was raised in a strict environment. His older sister Barbara remembers, "Roger was quiet but confident. He was so well liked and excelled at everything he did. Roger did not know a stranger, he was everybody's friend. He was good looking, meticulous, a sharp dresser, sensitive and caring." During the summers he worked at the GM plant in Linden, NJ, Roger was up at 5:30am learning about hard work. During the winters he worked with the New Jersey Road Department driving snow plows and clearing roads. Roger loved the camaraderie. But those would be the only two civilian jobs he would ever know. In the fall of 1963, Roger went off to Parsons College. He graduated in the spring of 1967. Sandwiched between, he was the best that he could be. Roger was an excellent student

and a very popular man on campus. He pledged Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity and later became president. Roger's skills and leadership blossomed at Parsons and he was elected president of the inter-fraternity council. He was loyal to his friends and he had many. Upon graduation, Roger surprised everybody, including his family, by enlisting in the U.S. Army. His father disagreed with his decision to enlist but respected that decision. Roger joined the Special Forces because he wanted to be part of the best of the best. His disenchantment with jumping out of airplanes precipitated a transfer to D Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade - Americal Division, U.S. Army where he became platoon leader. Roger shipped off to Vietnam and arrived on August 12, 1969. Three months and six days later, while leading his platoon, Roger Bachman was shot and mortally wounded near Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. He died the next day, November 19, 1969. Prior to his death, and being posthumously awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, Roger received a number of other medals including, the Bronze Star for Heroism. Roger is buried at Arlington Cemetery. Not only was he the best that he could be, he gave the most that he could to his country...his life. Childhood friend, Fred Albertson, and Parsons friends, Dan Blythe, Phil Como, Jim Johansen and Dick Mills were among the pallbearers at Roger's funeral...



DEAN GABBERT '46... Dean Gabbert was born down the road in Mt. Pleasant, IA. He grew up in New London with a lot of relocations in between. However, somewhere around 1938, while living in Fairfield and still attending high school, Dean found his employer to be - THE FAIRFIELD LEDGER. Little did he know that his initial reporting duties would flourish and grow to a life-long career of reporting, sports writing, managing and publishing that newspaper. His career at THE FAIRFIELD LEDGER would span the next 47 years. Dean graduated from Fairfield High School and immediately enrolled at Parsons College, began pursuit of a degree in English and continued working at the LEDGER. He was now a reporter, writing news and sports. However, as Dean was closing in on graduation, those intentions were interrupted by World War II and a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946. He made First Lieutenant and following his discharge from the service, finalized his BA in English from Parsons and graduated. Dean also returned to the LEDGER and became managing editor for the next 35 years. Over

the course of time, his passion for sports never wavered and he was always in the forefront when it came to writing up a Parsons College or Fairfield High sporting event. Dean reached the pinnacle of his career at the LEDGER in 1981 when he became editor and publisher of the newspaper. He retired from the LEDGER in 1985. Along the way, he never neglected the community of Fairfield. From 1956-1962, Dean served two terms as director of the Fairfield Independent School District. In 1984 the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce presented Dean with the Outstanding Citizen Community Service Award. And in 1985, he was recognized

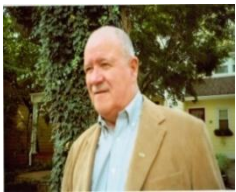
Gabbert (cont'd)

by the State Historical Society of Iowa with the Trustees Award for his writing of *The Death of an American College* (*Palimpsest* magazine, 1985). Dean has thoroughly enjoyed retirement and spent a number of those years living on his houseboat on the Mississippi River. He's based out of Nauvoo, IL and has continued to write. Dean is the author of three books, *The Log of the Jessie Bill* (1993), and *Let the Lower Lights be Burning* (2002) and a collection of river stories, *Brown-Water Boating* (2007). His assistance to the U.S. Coast Guard, drawing up maps and manuals, earned him the U.S. Coast Guard Public Service Commendation in 1993. Dean Gabbert, keeps on writing, and keeps on winning awards, and just like ole man river... he just keeps rolling along...



ROBERT GAMRATH '38-'42... Few men have put together a career like Bob Gamrath while remaining in one location. Although born in Sioux City, IA, Bob has basically been a lifelong resident of Fairfield. He graduated from Fairfield High (1937), attended the American Institute of Commerce in Davenport, IA, briefly, then enrolled at Parsons College in 1938. Bob has been a successful career businessman and a civic leader of unparalleled excellence. He is truly a pillar of the community and has been for over 50 years. In addition, he made his mark with a career as an Iowa National Guard member who rose from Private to the rank of Major General. Like so many others, his college days and plans were interrupted by World War II. Bob was drafted out of school in 1942 and served on active duty until 1946. During his active service, he successfully completed the Officer Candidate Program and became an instructor in the Cryptographic Security School in Rantoul, IL. By the time he left the service in 1946, Bob had been

promoted to captain. He returned to Fairfield but, rather than re-enroll at Parsons, he started a general insurance business. Now, 64 years later, that business - Gamrath-Doyle & Associates, Inc. - is still operating. Along the way, Bob became involved in community service. He was elected to City Council, helped implement the city's first planning and zone program, and became Director of the Chamber of Commerce. He helped secure natural gas for the city and assisted in getting funding for the Industrial Development Park. In 1969, Bob was named Fairfield's "Man of the Year." During his years, he's served on the Board of Trustees of Parsons College. He also served on a number of other boards, and participated in a host of different associations, clubs and affiliations. When Bob got involved, he got involved. He committed to his city, state and nation. In his secondary career in the military he also excelled - enlisting as a Private in 1936 and retiring as Major General in 1969. Upon leaving as the Senior Troop Commander in the guard, he was awarded the "Legion of Merit metal," the Nation's second most prestigious medal for Meritorious Service. Bob and wife Evelyn will celebrate 70 years of marriage in 2011. At last count, they had four children, 12 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren...



DR. WILLIAM "BIFF" KUMMER '68... If you knew "Biff" during the early mid-1960's he was probably serving you a beer from behind the bar at the popular T&C Tavern next to the old Leggett Hotel. If you knew him during the late 60's, you were undoubtedly addressing him as Mr. Kummer, Director of the Parsons College PE Department's Intramural program. And if, by chance, you caught up with him in the prime of his career, you would be talking to Dr. William Kummer, the University Professor, the PhD of Parks & Recreation, and member of the State of Kentucky's Parks & Recreation Hall of Fame. Like so many students of the early-mid '60's, Biff fell into that social cocoon which was so compelling and popular. The social scene that detoured the good intentions of so many Parsons

students. Fortunately, he grew up and battled his way out. Mr. Kummer was accorded the break of a lifetime following graduation when a Parsons professor, Dr. Harry Burrus, made a phone call that paved the way for him to attend the University of Utah. He pursued, not only his master's degree, but came back for a second go-around and earned a PhD in Recreation Education. After completing his studies at Utah in the spring of 1973, it appeared he was about to go full circle and return to Fairfield. Mr. Kummer was offered a faculty position at Parsons and accepted. He moved back to town, bought a house, and was ready to go to work when the calendar flipped over to June, 1973 and Parsons College closed. Left in limbo, Mr. Kummer jumped on an opportunity in Iowa City where he spent the next five years as a member of the University of Iowa's Recreational Education Department. He was lured away from Iowa and hired in the Recreation Education Department at University of Western Kentucky in the fall of 1978. Former Parsons President, Karl Kreisler was teaching at the school and was happy to have Dr. Kummer join him in Bowling Green. Working at WKU agreed with Dr. Kummer. They went together like Daniel Boone and coonskin hats. He taught at WKU for 25 years, but that's not all he did. Dr. Kummer became a member of the prestigious WKU Cherry Society of 1906 - the WKU Foundation - and the WKU Advisory Board, and he belonged to a number of other boards and organizations. His knowledge and expertise of the state parks of Kentucky earned him the 1998 "Recreator of the Year Award," presented by the Kentucky Association of Health, PE and Recreation. Dr. Kummer rose to national prominence as a teacher and scholar. He was accorded membership to the Kentucky Recreation & Parks Society's Hall of Fame in 2009. And he received the ultimate award in 2007 when the city of Bowling Green built a recreational center and attached his name to the facility - *"The Kummer/Little Recreation Center."* Dr. Kummer continues to be involved with the local Boy Scouts of America, and has traveled to Europe frequently. He retired 2002. Dr. Kummer is single and splits time between Bowling Green and a family summer home in Wisconsin...



GENERAL RICHARD L. LAWSON '51... Richard Lawson was born and raised in Fairfield, graduated from Fairfield High School, and graduated from Parsons College in Fairfield. What he accomplished after Fairfield is mind boggling – his distinguished military career, awards, decorations and post service achievements are off the charts. While at Parsons, Richard enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard as a private, and ended a military career 40 years later as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Europe Command, in Stuttgart, Germany. He retired as a four-star general of the Air Force in 1986... Richard's education laid the foundation for his climb through the military service. He graduated from pilot training in 1953 – graduated from Air Command and Staff College in 1964 – concurrently, graduated from George Washington University with a M.P.A. degree – the National War College in 1969 – and has been awarded honorary doctorates of law by Centenary College (Louisiana) and Boston University. From the 133rd Infantry Regiment, to the 133rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, and onto pilot training, his career

advanced quickly. Next he was assigned to the 69th Bombardment Squadron as a B-36 co-pilot. After a stop with the 72nd Bombardment Wing where his primary duty was chief of Operations Control Division, Richard had several other assignments before transferring to the headquarters of Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, NE. His distinguished military career included the following: over 7,000 hours flying time – 73 combat missions during Vietnam War – and 22 military awards and decorations. Highlighting those awards and decorations are: Distinguished Service Medals – Soldier's Medal – Bronze Star Medal – Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster – Air Medal with oak leaf cluster – Joint Service Commendation Medal – Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters – Army Commendation Medal – Presidential Unit Citation Emblem with oak leaf cluster – Air Force Outstanding Unit with two oak leaf clusters and Longevity Service Award Ribbons – National Defense Service Medal – Republic of Vietnam gallantry Cross and Campaign Medal. General Lawson's accomplishments did not stop there. Following retirement in 1986, he parlayed his experience and leadership to another 14-year career with the National Mining Association as president and chief executive officer. He was also president of American Coal Foundation, served on the board of the National Energy Foundation, U.S. Energy Association, and was chairman of the World Mining Congress. Lastly, General Lawson was vice chairman of the International Committee on Coal Research and of the Atlantic Council. He is currently living in Clifton, VA – he was married to Joan Graber (1949) and has four children, Leslie, Wendy, Richard and Randolph...General Richard L. Lawson's character, dedication, loyalty, service and distinguished career achievements clearly exemplify the perfect profile for membership to the Wall of Honor. We are proud to bring General Lawson back to Fairfield, back to where it all started, and to place him on the Parsons College Wall of Honor...



ROGER NIELSEN '56... Roger Nielsen was a great athlete and a leader before arriving at Parsons College. And when he arrived, he never broke stride. As a freshman, Roger excelled in football, basketball, baseball and track. In the long 98-year history of Parsons College, Roger is the only athlete to have earned FOUR sports letters his freshman year. Over his four-years at Parsons, he accumulated 13 letters, playing year around and doubling up in the spring with baseball and track. They say, "Greatness breeds greatness, and championships." Roger played football and basketball for legendary Coach O.B. Nelson. He helped the Wildcats to two Iowa Conference crowns in his 1955-56 senior year. As quarterback, he capped those stellar years on the football field by leading the 1956 gridders to an undefeated season and first Iowa Conference title in 19 years. Four of his letters were earned on the basketball court, leading the speedy, fast-breaking Wildcats to the school's second conference title of that year. In addition to sports, he was a member of the Zeta Theta Gamma fraternity (Sigma Phi Epsilon). But there was a lot more to Roger Nielsen than fraternity

life, playing four sports, and racking up letters. Roger was a leader and a teacher. After doing two years in the service, he went to work for Parsons College in the Physical Education Department. Roger is credited with starting up the men's tennis program. His multi-sport diversity and experience paved the way to becoming an effective teacher and coach. Parsons alum John Blackstock '64 recalls having Roger as his freshman PE instructor, saying, "Coach Nielsen was all business. He was a no-nonsense teacher/coach. He took his duties seriously and you could tell that whatever he participated in, he was in it to do well and to win." Roger spent six years working at Parsons before moving on. When the Roberts expansion plan accelerated in the mid-1960's, the college thought enough of Roger to dispatch him to Denison, IA to start the athletic program at the new Midwestern College. All went well for the next six years until the decline and demise of Parsons. Midwestern College also suffered and was closed in the early 1970's. But Denison, IA agreed with the Nielsen's and Roger took a position at the Denison Community Schools, initially teaching and coaching in the Middle School. He added coaching varsity sports and was responsible for starting up the women's tennis program. Like so many other teachers and coaches, Roger has impacted the lives of so many over his years at Parsons, Midwestern, and the 22 years at Denison. The Nielsen's have now returned to Iowa City, and as wife Barbara puts it, "To enjoy family life and the spirit of Hawkeye sports." Though now retired, Roger did not ride off into the sunset. He's remained very active in the Senior Olympics program throughout the Midwest. If you're thinking as a coach, forget it. No, Roger laced 'em up again, went into competition, and we understand he's won a number of Senior Olympic Medals in a variety of sports. They say, "Greatness breeds greatness, and it breeds champions, too!" Roger Nielsen is a champion...welcome to the Parsons College Wall of Honor...



WILLARD H. PEDRICK '36... (Posthumously) - Willard Pedrick left his mark in the field of legal education, and what a mark it was. Willard was born and raised in Fairfield, IA and graduated with the class of 1932. His spirit and enthusiasm led him to become a cheerleader. Willard continued cheerleading at Parsons College, expanded those vocal skills, and joined the debate team. In fact, he went on to become anchor of a powerhouse debate team. Willard's success in school, and the debating experience set the tone for what was to come. After graduating Parsons, he left both his cheerleading megaphone and Fairfield behind to pursue a law degree at Northwestern University. Willard's life and career began to soar. He served as editor-in-chief of the *Law Review* and was elected to the Order of the Coif while attending law school. In addition, he clerked for the Honorable Fred M. Vinson, who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. After earning a law degree and teaching at the Universities of Cincinnati and Texas, Willard returned to Northwestern where he would spend the next two decades. It was at his alma mater that he would build a national reputation as an accomplished teacher and scholar in the fields of torts, taxation and estate planning.

He co-authored two text books on those subjects. In 1966, Arizona State University established a law school and recruited Willard to be its founding dean. Over the next 30 years ASU would benefit from his vision, energy, loyalty, humor and optimism. Willard was a powerful leader. In a four year period, he put together an outstanding faculty, designed an innovative curriculum, oversaw the construction of the law school building, developed a law library and graduated a distinguished founding class. Under Willard's leadership, with the dedication of Armstrong Hall, law school accreditation in 1969 and its' first graduating class in 1970, ASU's law school foundation was secured. He stepped down as dean and passed the baton in 1976. But Willard never forgot who he was, and where he came from. Throughout his life he championed the causes most dear to him, specifically, minority and women's rights. He chaired several committees of the American Association of Law Schools. On the lighter side, he was known for his almost annual vocal musical presentations at those gatherings. Willard served on the board of the Navajo Legal Services Organization and the Arizona Center for Law and Public Interest. But as a legal pioneer, he continued to share his knowledge and expertise with ASU students, faculty, and a number of other law schools throughout the country and world. The word retirement was not in his vocabulary. Following his deanship, Willard's classroom teachings continued at ASU as well as, the University of Iowa, UCLA, Colorado University, Pepperdine, University of Kansas, University of Texas, University of South Hampton in England, and several Australian universities. The awards and recognition accorded Willard over the years were plentiful. Arizona State and Northwestern turned the spotlight on Willard frequently and in 1992 ASU awarded him with an honorary degree. Looking back, he was also proud to have been asked to preside over the Parsons College "Last Hurrah Reunion" celebrating its 98 years in 1973....and he was even more proud that his son, Willard III, graduated from Parsons College. Willard H. Pedrick passed away in 1996 but his legacy lives on through the voices of the thousands of students he taught...



LT. COMMANDER LARRY SPENCER '62... Larry was born in Wichita, KS, but moved to Iowa and graduated from Earlham High School in 1958. He enrolled and spent four years at Parsons College earning a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics. Larry was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and belonged to Chi Beta Phi and Phi Kappa Phi. Shortly following graduation, Larry enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He completed Officers Candidate School and was commissioned Ensign in 1963. He joined Fighter Squadron 92 (VF-92) and flew the F4B Phantom II. During the Vietnam War, Roger was deployed aboard the U.S.S. Ranger, then assigned to the U.S.S. Enterprise where he cruised the Pacific in Southeast Asia. While on an air reconnaissance escort mission over North Vietnam in 1966, his plane was shot down near Thanh Hoa, an area referred to as the "Iron Triangle." Larry ejected safely and landed on the ground but was captured by the North Vietnamese and taken to Hanoi. He spent just short of seven years (2,551 days) in captivity as an American prisoner of war in North Vietnam. While in captivity he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Larry was released on February 12, 1973 and turned over to the United States Government command during "Operation Homecoming." Two days later, he, along with the others in the

first group of 20 prisoners released, was returned to the United States. The group was flown to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego for evaluation. Despite losing nearly seven years of his life, Larry never second guessed his decision to join the U.S. Navy and said, "Joining the U.S. Navy was the smartest thing I ever did, and as time passes, despite the harrowing experience, my conviction strengthened." Larry returned to active duty and attended the nearby Naval Postgraduate School. He studied operation research before moving to Washington, DC in 1978-1985. At the Pentagon he served on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) and in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). Larry retired from the U.S. Navy in 1985 and left with a plethora of honorable military awards – two Silver Stars – Legion of Merit, with Combat V – four Bronze Stars – Defense Meritorious Service Medal – Meritorious Service Medal – Air Medal, with 6 strike/flights – two Purple Hearts – and a Prisoner of War Medal. In civilian life, he took a job with a subsidiary of UNISYS Corp, a company which provided support for the Secretary of Defense. After two years, Larry left that job and returned to Carmel, CA and worked with a property management firm. In 1995 he returned to Des Moines, IA, where he currently resides with his wife, Ann (Hobermann). In addition to the comments made at the time of his release, Larry closed that previously mentioned statement with a thank you to his mother and brother, saying, "I am quite proud of the roles played by my mother and my brother in working for the cause of all the missing and captured - it's good to be back!" We, too, are glad Larry Spencer is back and we're proud to add his name to the Parsons College Wall of Honor...



SUSAN FULTON WELTY '23... (Posthumously) - Susan was a lady who wore many hats. She was a writer, author, teacher and some say, a political activist. It's hard to fathom what Susan went through as a Parsons College co-ed in the mid-1920's. Born and raised in Fairfield, she attended Parsons, majored in biology and graduated in 1923. At the time, Parsons had a reputation of having one of the finest biology departments in the Midwest. As a writer and editor-in-chief of the college newspaper, *The Portfolio*, that experience may have laid the ground work for her switch to a writing career. At the time, Susan was equally interested in music. She is credited with writing the words to the Parsons College alma mater as we know them today to the tune of *Far Above Cayuga's Waters* at the request of Carl Guise, Dean of the College. That was perhaps her first written and published document but certainly not her last. Susan's desire to further enhance her communication skills led her to graduate school and a master's degree in speech at the University of Utah. Along the way, she met and married Joel Carl Welty and traveled to the state of Washington where she taught school for a brief time. Mr. Welty was an educator and also a humanitarian.

Following World War II, he traveled to Germany to assist the needy. Susan collected and saved his many letters and later used them to write and publish a book under his name and titled it *The Hunger Years*. During that same time span, she did her own writing and published a number of Christmas plays and poems. In 1951, Susan wrote and published a novel based on a true story from the crusades and called it, *The Knight's Ransom*. Susan was just getting started on her way to over 30 publications which included books, magazines and journals. Through her mother, she connected with the controversial Maud Ballington Booth in 1961 and wrote a biography on Ms. Booth called, *Look Up and Hope – The Life of Maud Ballington Booth*. Ms. Booth was associated with the Salvation Army and one of the founders of Volunteers for America. She was known as "The Little Mother of the Prisons. Next up was a non-fictional work about the collective banding of birds for research titled, *Birds with Bracelets*. In 1966 she went back to the Christmas theme and published a poem, *Meditations on Christmas Eve*. One of her last writings was a dedication to her home town, Fairfield, IA. Susan researched, updated and rewrote a piece written in the late 1800's about the history of Fairfield and called it *A Fair Field*. Most of her work, which she donated to the University of Iowa between the years of 1962 to 1995, is available for research and examination at the University in the Special Collections Department of their library. Susan spent the better part of her life living and writing in Beloit, WI, where her husband was a noted biology professor for many years. At Beloit College, both she and Mr. Welty have scholarships and awards given in their names annually to deserving students. The Susan Fulton Welty Award recognizes a first year student who shows exceptional academic achievement and displays the greatest commitment to environmental affairs. Susan's Beloit College profile lists her as a friend of the college's biology department and wife of Joel Carl Welty. In Fairfield, Susan Fulton Welty is now listed as a member of the Parsons College Wall of Honor...



LOUIS J. WILSON '64... (Posthumously) - "Big Lou" was the ultimate teammate and the ultimate friend. If you were an opponent, at game time you were shaking in your cleats. But if you didn't like Lou Wilson, you probably had cement in your veins. "Big Lou" was just that... BIG!! He was a standout on the undefeated Parsons football teams of the early 1960's. Lou was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings of the National Football League and spent several years in their organization. His legacy in Fairfield started when he arrived in the fall of 1960. Lou was born in Blytheville, AR, but grew up and went to school in Grand Rapids, MI. He was an excellent student and was recruited to Parsons from a hot bed of good athletes. He graduated with a bachelor's of arts degree in 1964. After playing football with Minnesota, he went on to become a teacher, counselor and coach. Six years working as a YMCA physical director in Milwaukee, WI, assisting wayward children back to the right side of the road, inspired Lou to become a counselor. In that position with the Higher Education Aids Board, he became an integral part of a program designed to find and place high school students into institutions of higher learning. It was a talent search program, but he was

doing what he loved best...helping kids get an education. Lou was grateful for his opportunities in life and this was his way of giving back. His successes directed him to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee and eventually the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Initially he was a Unit Director recruiting and training staff members. Lou learned the administrative side also, including budgeting, planning, fund raising and administering finances. Later, as a field representative at the National level based out of Chicago, he became a trouble-shooter for the Boys & Girls Clubs in Michigan and Ohio. Lou's input to the board regarding training and his insight into starting new clubs proved valuable. His efforts were rewarded with a promotion to Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Kansas City, MO. Lou worked closely with the board formulating policies and program planning. He also became involved with Government Funded Employment as assistant director of client services and worked with the Kansas City mayor's office on the Comprehensive Training and Employment Act (CETA). Lou's role was expanded and he was appointed administrator and participated in getting the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) moving forward. Most of Lou's awards, recognition and achievements of which he's most happy to have obtained were bestowed upon him in Kansas City. In 1986 he received A Man of Distinction Award – Symbols of Care Givers in 1993 – Nomination to 100 Most Influential 1989 – Nomination for KC Metropolitan Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals 2007/2008 – first black regional manager for Boys & Girls Clubs of America - and numerous letters of special recognition from the Kansas City mayor's office. One might think that a man of Lou's size, stature and success would be infallible but that was not the case. For 42 of the his 70 years, he was handcuffed by diabetes. The disease caused the amputation of his right foot and later the fifth metatarsal on the left foot. That didn't slow Lou down but being diagnosed with end stage renal failure which led to two kidney transplants took its toll.

Wilson (cont'd)

Then last year, he suffered a stroke and had bypass surgery. We understand the operation was successful but the result following a post operation infection was not good. Louis J. "Big Lou" Wilson succumbed and passed away on April 15, 2010 with wife Gerri and daughters Meredith and Veronica by his side. "Big Lou" will never fade from the memory of his many Parsons friends and teammates. Louis J. Wilson now has a home forever... at the Parsons College Alumni Hall on the Wall of Honor...

DIGGING UP THE PAST... Remembering "Parsons Bill"

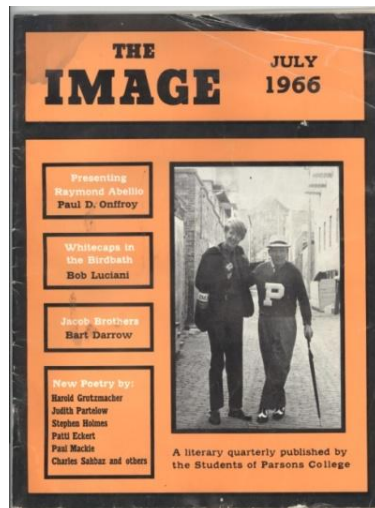
Goooooooo Parsons!!!! Goooooooo Wildcats!!!! On a Friday night or Saturday morning preceding a Parsons College football game in Fairfield, IA, those were the words of a chanting, likeable man named "Parsons Bill" as he perused the central park area of town. His real name was Bill LaRue, he was the town person, and he was a Parsons Wildcats fan all the way. Bill had a few challenges but supporting Parsons football was not one of them.

On football weekends he always wore his green sweater with a great big white "P" on the front. It stood for Parsons. He would shuffle his way around the square, pause, let out a big Goooooo Parsons, smile, and move on. Everybody liked "Parsons Bill." He was a paper boy for years and rode a well preserved Schwinn bicycle. Some say that his bike never saw a drop of rain - it was his trademark and he rode it even into his later years.

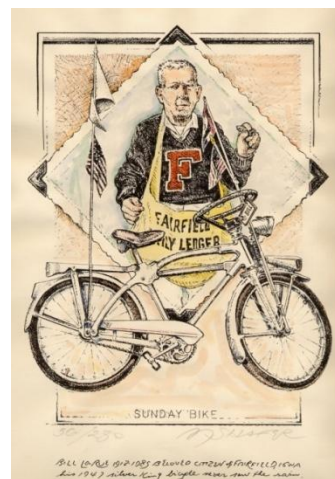
Parsons alum Biff Kummer recalls sitting with "Parsons Bill" on a couple occasions. He concluded that if you could get through to him, he could be very serious. One day they connected, and following a conversation, Kummer came away convinced that Bill knew as much or more about the history of the railroads in Iowa than anybody in the state. "He had the history down, from the steam engine to the diesel," Kummer said. "He knew the schedules and crossings of the Rock Island Line and the C, B & Q as well as he knew Parsons football.

"Another time," he continued, "I was sitting with Bill after the Hunt Hotel had burned down. While I was taking pictures of the burning, smoldering rubble, Bill virtually told me the history of the hotel. He talked about some of the great things that happened there and some of the 'dark' events that occurred, things that, by all moral standards, should not have happened. What I found so neat," Kummer added, "was that the stories dated back to the early times before Parsons experienced the Roberts era - and also that Bill had a lot more depth than he ever let on."

If "Parsons Bill" were alive today, he would be close to 100 years old. In his own unique way, Bill LaRue was a legend and a fixture in Fairfield. He always waved at everybody and occasionally puffed on a stubby little cigar while making his rounds. But you could count on one thing - if it was a Parsons football weekend, no matter where you were located in the central part of town, you would always hear a loud, distinct and resounding... Goooooooooooo Parsons!!! Goooooooo Wildcats!!!!



"Parsons Bill," looking spiffy in his Parsons sweater, talks it over with a student on game day.



Fairfield's "man about town," Bill LaRue, shows off his prize possession ... the famous Schwinn bike.

SPOTLIGHT: Where are they now??? The Monty Versteeg Story...

There's big, bigger and biggest!! There's nice, nicer and nicest!! Monty Versteeg PC'59-'61 is all of the above. Monty could scare the socks off the Wicked Witch of the West on Halloween night. He could also be as warm and fuzzy as a newborn cubbie bear. It's been reported that Monty was the largest baby born in the United States during the decade of the 1940's – he came into this good world weighing more than 14 lbs. He wasn't quite as long as a football field, but he was destined to play on one.



Monty & Alice Versteeg

Actually, as the story goes, Monty didn't want to play football, but Parsons Coach Gary Nady tracked him down working in a feed store in Des Moines, IA and brought him to Fairfield. Monty was listed in the program as a lineman at 325 lbs. He was the largest college football player in the country. And, not only was he big but he was quick. With Monty around, Coach Nady didn't have to worry about cutting players and getting down to the roster limit. When the marginal performers walked on the field and saw Monty, they usually did a 180 (degrees) and went the other direction. Monty only stayed at Parsons a few seasons, but he stayed long enough to help the Wildcats to their undefeated season in the early 1960's.

He was big and strong and he knew what he wanted to do. He wanted to work and make money. Monty loved his teammates and friends and still keeps in touch with many of them, but he didn't like school and didn't want to be in school. Despite the fact that the Chicago Bears were interested in him, he wanted out of college. Monty was offered a tryout with the Bears and didn't show up. He came from a family of modest means and he didn't have a car or a way to get to the tryout so he didn't go.

Not long after leaving Parsons, Monty hooked on with the City of Des Moines and went to work. With the city he did everything from building roads to sweeping roads. Monty Versteeg is a proud man with a strong work ethic and he devoted those God given traits to the City of Des Moines for over 30 years. People who know Monty describe his working reputation by saying, "If the city wanted somebody trained, and trained properly, they would send them out with Monty. Not only was he an excellent trainer but he had a sense of humor and was a prankster. He made the experience fun.



Monty, a former member of the undefeated Parsons Wildcats of the early '1960's, receives his personalized Parsons College T-shirt at a recent reunion in Fairfield. The T-shirt is a size 5X.

Over the years Monty's weight fluctuated considerably. He went up over 400 lbs at one point, then for a high school reunion, he was inspired to trim down and checked in at 230. That was about the time Monty nabbed his wonderful wife Alice. Currently he's at his old playing weight of 325 but he looks good. Recently, Monty, an honorary member of Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity, attended a reunion in Fairfield. He was presented a 5X Parsons College T-shirt. None of the attendees had ever seen a 5X T-shirt before.

Now retired, Monty and Alice are enjoying their retirement in Ankeny, IA. Monty Versteeg knew who he was, what he was, and what he wanted...and he got it!! He WAS on his game... and still IS on his game. Monty Versteeg is a proud man and rightfully so... Hooray, for old number 75!!!

Next E-News Deadline – December 1, 2010

The Alumni Write...

PC E-News Jogs Memories for This Alum...

Len Allocco '73 - lalallocco5@gmail.com - I enjoyed the recent issue of the Parsons College E-Newsletter. I particularly enjoyed Dean Hadley's article. It brought back many memories and facts I had forgotten. I enjoyed the article about 1969 and those reflections and observations. And I also enjoyed reading Roger Casale's article. He attended Parsons at the same time as I, so it was a glimpse of the past for me. The rest of the newsletter was great and well written. I particularly was surprised to see my name and comments in the Letters-to-the-Editor section. I read my comments and exclaimed, "I have been published!" Also saw Clyde Campbell's name when I dug into more details about the college. He and I knew each other when he pledged a fraternity, and we were close friends at Tarkio College after Parsons closed in '73. Anyway, nicely written E-Newsletter!

Looking Back at Prankster Benny Belch and Chlorene Fawcett ...



Ron Long, PC'63 writes... Another great newsletter – always looking forward to the next one. Your hard work is much appreciated. Any subscribers remember Benny Belch and his lovely secretary Chlorene Fawcett? The duo resided on campus 1961-1964. I've enclosed a few photos. Barhydt Chapel went up for sale one morning in April, 1963, and then Dr. and Secretary Fawcette's offices appeared a month later in the bottom of the Municipal swimming pool under the diving board. The next day a photo and caption appeared on the front page of the Fairfield Ledger showing the two doors and coeds, Lucky Ladde and Ann Bevis. The postcard photo shows the pool in its heyday. Keep up the great work...



Everybody remembers this beautiful Fairfield home. But, can you tell us the last Parsons faculty member to live in this house? We'll tell you in the next issue – Winter 2010.

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Greek & Social Club News...



Left to Right: Craig Jansen, Gary Brydell, Kent McGlincy, Bob Off and Lou Schwarz

Tau Kappa Epsilon... As they have done repeatedly for many, many years, a group of the brothers of Tau Kappa Epsilon and guests returned to the beautiful grounds of the Lake Panorama Golf & Club Resort in Panora, IA for five days of reminiscing, eating, drinking (but not as much as the old days) and playing golf from June 28 to July 2. Ron Lang, who is a resident of Panora, hosted the event which also included a lakeside steak barbecue, the famous Iowa breaded pork tenderloin and a cruise on his boat, "The Good Ship Lollipop!" Those attending were Craig Jansen (Colorado), Gary Brydell (Michigan), Kent McGlincy (Florida), Bob Off (California), Lou Schwarz (Maryland) and guests John Blackstock (Missouri) and Monty Versteeg (Iowa)...

Phi Sigma Epsilon... The Phi Sigs Triennial (every 3-years) Reunion returned to Fairfield, IA under the banner "Back to Fairfield, One Last Time." Nineteen of the bros, along with another 15 spouses/guests, found their way to southeastern Iowa August 19-22, 2010. A reception greeted them Friday night and in a special ceremony, the late Paul Conboy's PSE fraternity jacket was donated to the Carnegie Historical Museum – Parsons College Collection. The jacket was handed over to Parsons College Foundation President Dave Neff and CHM Director Mark Shafer. Saturday morning the Phi Sigs visited the new FA&CC and were treated to a one hour class room presentation by the popular former Parsons history professor and college dean Dr. Bob Tree. Lunch was served at the Walton Club and most of the group toured the museum during the afternoon. Saturday evening's dinner and program was held at the Fairfield Country Club. A number of special presentations were made including, the Triennial Coppola Awards. Special guests at the dinner were Dr. Tree and the ageless one, Lee Gobble. The traditional Sunday breakfast found the group bidding farewell at the local Hy-Vee restaurant. The next PSE event will be held in 2013...



Kneeling Left to Right: Rich Harvey, Mike Paul, Ernie Cusentino, Ron Staggs and Cal Chamberlain. Standing Left to Right: Jack Kibbons, Monty Versteeg, Ed Vandervelde, Jim Ostrander, Jag Pagnucco, Al Carlson, Gary Thorpe, Dick Barton, Dick Gertz, Chuck Teas, Gary Myers, Dave Dillingham, John Blackstock and Bob Normoyle.



Left to Right: Lynn Banta, Butch Downey, Dave Neff, John Bankus, Gene Calvin, Bob Habetler, Hobie Bannister, Larry Blixt, John Nair and Jim Cornick

Sigma Phi Epsilon... The 2nd Annual Sig Eps Mid-west Golf Outing was held August 9-10, 2010. It was a Monday/Tuesday gathering and on the first day the boys played the Amana Colonies golf course. They stayed at the Riverside Resort in Riverside, IA. And on day number two they played the Blue Top Ridge golf course also in Riverside. This year's group of Sig Ep brothers included, Lynn Banta, Butch Downey, Dave Neff, John Bankus, Gene Calvin, Bob Habetler, Hobie Bannister, Larry Blixt and John Nair... The Sig Eps have another reunion event just around the corner. A large number of bros and friends are expected to travel to Williamsburg, VA, October 9-12, 2010. The contacts for that event are Larry Marino (ebbtidesam@aol.com), Bob Habetler (BOWLX2@aol.com), and Doug Billings (BillsGroup@aol.com)

Parsons Forever!!

In Memoriam...

Edward Richard Dixon II, PC/TCT'68... It's been reported by Doug Pocock, PC'68, that Rich Dixon passed away August 21, 2010 in Upper Montclair, NJ. He was 64 years old. Rich transferred to Parsons in the mid-1960's from the University of Miami. He graduated from Parsons with a B.A. degree in Business Administration. He was a member of the social club Town & Country Tappers and had a multitude of friends. In his later years, Rich remained connected to his Parsons friends and was an active participant in a number of all-class reunions. Per his request, he was cremated and his ashes were placed in the family plot. The funeral was private with only family members and close friends in attendance. Rich is survived by wife, Muffy, and two children, Trip and Kim. Dear friend Doug Pocock was with Rich and his family until the very end. No further information is available at this time...



The popular "Rich" Dixon enjoys a little food and beverage on a balmy day during the summer of 2010.

Larry H. Darrow, PC/SPE'66... passed away September 10, 2010 at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York City with his family by his side. Larry was born in Plainfield, NJ and spent 36 years in Westfield, NJ. He graduated from Parsons College and was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. In business, Larry was an entrepreneur within the optical industry. Throughout his career, he was the founder and operator of numerous optical retail chains including Opti-Care and had stores in a number of New Jersey cities. Larry loved his friends and he loved children. He met with his friends frequently and spent countless hours coaching, leading Cub Scout Troop 79 and participating in Indian Guides. Larry joins his wife, Barbara, who passed away in 2005. He is survived by three children and a grand daughter. A Mass of Christian Burial was held September 13 at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church and funeral arrangements were handled by Dooley Colonial Funeral Home of Westfield, NJ...

Edward G. Vandervelde, PC/PSE'63... Ed passed away September 19, 2010 in Stillwater, MN. In the midst of a summer vacation and having just attended a fraternity reunion in Fairfield, IA, "Vandy" arrived in Minnesota not feeling well. Examinations revealed three tumors on the brain and several other issues of concern. Despite an operation and radiation treatments, Ed died several weeks later. At Parsons, he was a business major and a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity. Ed married his college sweetheart, Sue (Weatherly), a member of Alpha Gamma Delta Sorority, and they were married 47 years. At the PSE reunion, they had just been presented a Barhydt stone, commemorating their togetherness - meeting at Parsons, marriage, and marital longevity. "Vandy's diverse career included, running a rental center, owning a liquor store and stockbrokering. When he pulled stakes, left Minnesota and moved to Las Vegas (Henderson) a number of years ago, he went to work for Casino Royale as a dealer and left 11 years later as shift manager. Ed is survived by wife, Sue, and two children. A memorial service has been planned for October 23, 2010 at the Sun City Anthem at Liberty Center in Henderson, NV...



Ed and Susan (Weatherly) Vandervelde are presented a stone from the Barhydt Chapel at a recent reunion. Sadly, Ed passed away 29 days later while visiting relatives in Minnesota.

Dr. Ben Rogers: The Popular Parsons Faculty Member Passes Away at Age 92...

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Rogers died August 22, 2010. The popular former Parsons History Professor and Department Head lived in Fairfield, IA and was 92-years of age. Dr. Rogers had a robust career with many stops along the way. After graduating from St. Paul's Academy in Minnesota, Dr. Rogers attended Harvard College where he earned his degree, graduated cum laude and added his master's degree the following year. He later picked up his PhD in history at the University of Minnesota. During World War II, Dr. Rogers served as a naval aviator with the VPB-52 black cat squadron in the south pacific. His squadron was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. After the war Dr. Rogers taught at a number of colleges and universities. Although he did the University of Minnesota, Florida State and Jacksonville to name a few, teaching at Parsons and living in Fairfield appeared to be the favorite. Dr. Rogers worked closely with Dr. Bob Tree at Parsons and was head of the history department. Dr. Tree, remembering his friend Ben Rogers said, "He was not only sharp in the classroom, but he was pretty sharp on the golf course, too." Dr. Rogers had a number of written articles published and was associated with a number of clubs and organizations. He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Peggy, four children, nine grandchildren, three great grandchildren and three step children. A memorial service was held August 26 and a Episcopalian Celebration of Life followed. Funeral arrangement were handled by Raymond Funeral Home of Fairfield...

Do you know this man? Probably Not!



The mystery letterman

He was a Letterman.

He played football.

He played in the olden, golden days.

He and his team did the incredible.

The REALLY incredible!

Hint: His nickname was "Pooch."

Yes, the "P" stands for Parsons, not "Pooch."

If you know "Pooch" you're good.

And probably very old.

If not, read the 2010 Winter E-news to find out!!

Etch your family name in Parsons History!



Buy A Brick!

If you want to help support the preservation of the memory of Parsons College, buy a brick. To find out how, call or email Dave Neff today at 888.218.6020 or neffacres@lisco.com

Letters-To-Editor...

Thank you for the wonderful job you are doing keeping the Parsons story and message alive.

Dr. Richard Cohen, Barbados, West Indies, PC/Theta Chi – drcc1@hotmail.com

Again, a very nice job on the E-Newsletter!!!

Phil Como '66 – philipcomo@yahoo.com



Thank you so much for all your hard work. Beautifully done!! *Linda Koelman PCn/a* – revlin97@gmail.com

Thanks for your efforts from Germany. You guys are wonderful! *Chuck Fleischer '66* – fleischerc@yahoo.de

I cannot tell you how fun it is to read all the news and especially to be reminded of people and days gone by. Thanks for all your work. *Virginia Langner Pickerell PCn/a* – gngsrnp@charter.net

Congratulations to the Newest Members of the Wall of Honor

**** The Class of 2010! ****

Next Issue – Winter 2010

**News Deadline is
December 1, 2010**

*Photographs Wanted for
future Issues*

Please submit as a JPEG and provide information about the photo. If you need help contact Nancy Wirtanen nwirtanen@yahoo.com

Getting a new email address?

Please make sure to send your new one to Nancy at nwirtanen@yahoo.com so you don't miss an issue!

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Editor's Note: To submit Greek, social, or personal news for the E-News, please direct your request to Nancy Wirtanen PC'73 nwirtanen@yahoo.com for consideration. E-News reserves the right to edit all material and downsize where necessary due to limited space. The Parsons College Alumni E-News is not affiliated with the Parsons College Newslines or George Jordan III.