

SGA News

*Volume 2, Issue 2
June 2005*

Newsletter of the St. George Alumni

THE ST. GEORGE PARISH PICNIC SURVIVES DOWN POUR!

The day started beautifully with sun and mild temperatures. Pretty interesting since the local weather station predicted thunderstorms for the next 3 days. But, it rained quite a bit, Friday, the day before...certainly it wouldn't rain on the St. George parish picnic. The brass band, under cover, continue to entertain the crowd staying cool under the large tent. When the sun was out, it was quite hot. More than a few sunburns could be seen. In the distance, the 'fishing' booth was giving out toy horns to the kids. That was a real treat for the adults! Helicopter rides were again offered in the field. It seemed many were enjoying rides around the area in this unique copter. At times, the winds were brisk and probably created interesting rides for the copter volunteers.

The Alumni raffled off a cooler of liquor and snacks, and, sold smoothies and Ted Drewes frozen yogurt. The gambling booths, as always, drew good crowds.

But, low and behold, the rains came. About 4:30 they came, drenching the lots and all the picnickers until about 7 pm. But, there was a hardy crowd. The rides weren't so popular during the rain but the kids were all out dancing in the streets and playing in the puddles. Oh, what fun they were having! Then it cooled off. It became a little humid and the people came back.

Once the afternoon band had completed, a DJ spun good 'ole rock 'n roll tunes from the steps of the gym. Lots of good memories from those old tunes.

Familiar faces and renewed friendships occurred that afternoon and continued into the evening. Despite the rain, it was a good time for fellowship.

And, if you'd like one of these unique St. George ornaments – shown here to the left, contact Dennis Holland with Skyline Impressions, 314-832-9975 or email him at skylineimpressions@sbcglobal.net. These handmade ornaments are sold for \$25 each and a portion of the proceeds are contributed to the parish.



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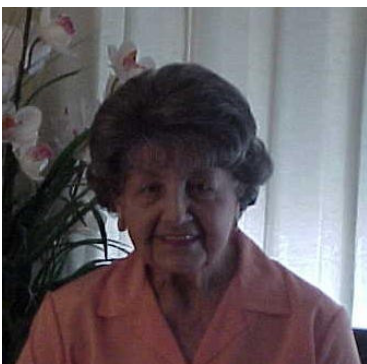
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DATES TO NOTE

September 24th – Fall Festival

To order this, read to the right.





Catherine Kovacich Musser

STUDENT PROFILE: CATHERINE KOVACICH MUSSER

Welcome to our first edition of "Student Profile". The Alumni Newsletter will highlight a past student of St. George in each issue. Our first edition highlights Catherine Kovacich Musser, of the 1926 graduating class. This article will be published in two parts; the second occurring in September.

Catherine will be 94 years young come January 20, 2006. Sitting with Catherine and interviewing her for this article was a real joy. Her laughter throughout the reminiscing of childhood memories was proof to one of her most heartfelt beliefs, that "laughter is the best medicine". Something to think about for us "youngsters".

Catherine's graduation ceremony began with a mass at the white frame church, located on the corner where the existing church now stands. Father Joseph Seibert said the mass. "He said all the masses then", Catherine told me. After mass they went to the auditorium in the basement of the two-story red brick school building that was located where the present school building now stands. Thirty-five children received their diplomas that day in June.

Catherine lived at 4833 Oldenburg Ave. and was one of the younger of 8 children. Her oldest brother Martin was there at her graduation; the one she referred to as "a father figure to her". Mom was unable to attend since she was not well, and father had passed away when she was 9.

At that time, Catherine recalled, "Precious Blood Nuns did all the teaching". Sister Mathilda was the Mother Superior of the convent and principal of the school. "She was a very kind nun, but not all of them were", Catherine said. "Some were very strict, and they all had a ruler in their hands at all times. Just to tap your knuckles if you weren't paying attention". Each nun taught all subjects for one grade. She recalled that Father Seibert was the real disciplinarian though. You didn't want to be asked to go see him. Catherine's comment on students, "some applied themselves, and others didn't".

Catherine's favorite subject was Spelling. She fondly recalled the spelling bees where she yearned to be "the last one standing", and often was. She does remember a few names of those that beat her out though. Namely Eugene Wilder, brother of Alma Wilder class of 1932, and Tom Buban.

Catherine's stories of lunch times painted the neighborhood in broader strokes. On Gravois Ave. at each corner of Seibert Ave. were a drugstore and a bakery facing each other. Children either brought lunch, went home to eat lunch, or sometimes purchased something from a neighborhood store. A

The parish website can be found at:
<http://www.catholicforum.com/churches/108stgeorge/>
Contact the editor of the newsletter at rrabbitt@swbell.net

St. George Alumni Donor Recognition

Donations are used to help us build a sense of community for those with ties to St. George through proximity, alumni status or other association.

Please see the last page for a donor form if you can support the alumni group in meeting their goals. Donors will be recognized in the quarterly newsletter as follows:

Quarterly Donation Recognition Levels:

- *Friendship* \$5 - \$24
- *Red & White* \$25 - \$49
- *Spirit* \$50 - \$74
- *Georgian* \$75 - \$99
- *Dragon Slayer* \$100 +

Thank you to the following for your donations and support of the Alumni Association:

Jerry Aubuchon – Red & White

FLOAT TRIP

The Alumni group is looking to pull together a float trip for August. Watch your email for details. If you're not on our email list, please let us know so we can keep in touch with you.

ALUMNI REUNIONS AND GET-TOGETHERS

Class reunions...tell us about your upcoming class reunions or reunions that have already happened and we'll put it in the newsletter. Please forward names and contact information to one of the board members so we can add them to our newsletter mailing."

"peanut coffee cake" for a nickel was a lunchtime favorite at the bakery. Krogers was one block north on Gravois.

From lunchtime, the stories shifted to after school snacks. The family had a cow which mom or brother pastured behind the cemetery wall of New Mt. Sinai Cemetery. Yes, the same one there today. After school were snacks of fresh milk, homemade bread, jelly, and a "weak" coffee with lots of fresh milk in it. Then it was "Hit the Books".

Being kids in a generally less affluent community than today's community is, meant "making your own fun". Catherine said her and her friends were good at it too. From sitting on the cemetery wall in summer counting cars and people in straw hats, and once in a great while seeing the Anheuser-Busch clydesdales pulling a wagon of beer out Gravois, to sledding on Hannover Hill with coal shovels in the winter, Catherine enjoyed it all. The Hannover Hills were located on land that surrounded where the Halama family lived. They were owners of a grocery and meat company right in the neighborhood, that competed with the Kroger store on Gravois. "The Halamas were very good people, and helped us out", Catherine recalls. A version of Hide and Seek, called "Laylo Sheep" was one of the neighborhood kid's favorites also.

The St. George Parish community in 1920 consisted of what was largely working class tradesmen in the masonry and bricklaying professions. Catherine's dad was a hod carrier, or laborer that mixed the mortar for the bricks and stone. There was intermingled in this largely working class residential community, farmland that covered about a fourth of the parish boundary. Catherine says, the farmers were very devout Catholics, and there were a lot of them at mass, where attendance was always good throughout the parish. Catherine's observation, was that there was a largely deeper reverence at mass then, than there is today.

To help the family out, Catherine got a work permit, and went to work at Arnoff Embroidery on Washington Ave. right out of grade school. Younger sister, Betty Neibert, who now lives on Pilot Ave., left grade school early to help mom out with the household chores. Catherine, for reasons of better pay, moved on to work at Swift Packing for \$12 a week, and later, through a job referral from a friend, became an assistant floor lady at Switzer Licorice, both located in downtown St. Louis. Hard work, helped make for a Christmas Stocking stuffed with apples, oranges, and peanut brittle.

Catherine had a brother Nick who graduated from St. George one year prior to her, in 1925. Nick went to work for the Public Transportation Service right out of grade school. He also played in a Croatian String Band on the side.

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ALUMNI REQUESTS FOR INFO –We need your stories. Please share your stories with us so we can include them in the newsletter. Contact any of the committee members:

- Terri Leistner,**
terrileistner@yahoo.com, 314-894-2661
- Laura Jones Marlo,**
stampingqueen17@aol.com
- Barb Bocklage Powell,**
powells2@msn.com, 314-544-0642
- Sue Magoc,**
Sue_Magoc@ssmhc.com, 314-544-4303
- Lisa Deiters Ely,**
lisa.ely@charter.net, 636-861-2210
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drhomberg63123@charter.net, 314-544-2479
- Tracy Jones Mazanec,**
mazanecamaz@aol.com, 314-752-7231
- Becky Rabbitt Pogorzelski,**
rabbitt@swbell.net. 636-936-1013

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Anyone wanting to volunteer to work a few hours should please call Lisa Deiters-Ely at 636-861-2210. You can deliver any items to the rectory Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Please mark donations "Lisa Ely-Fall Festival".

Along with his older brother Martin, they built their own car and drove it to Chicago one time. "What memories", Catherine exclaimed.

Catherine has always been a parishioner of St. George and even got married there in 1936. She married Luke Musser, whom she met at a relative's wedding reception the year before at St. George.

Catherine is quite an inspiring woman. I think you ought to look her up sometime. She is usually at 5 PM mass on Saturday, about half way up, on the right. "People know me by my cookies", she told me. I had potato chip cookies with powdered sugar topping that day.

FALL FESTIVAL – SEPTEMBER 24TH!

The annual Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, September 24th. Mark your calendars. We will be holding our silent auction and would greatly appreciate any donations: new items, gift certificates, baskets or cash.

If you would like to coordinate a basket donation from your class, please feel free to do so. Contact any Board member for more information.

We decided we would like to present a "Country Store" at the festival and would like to ask for your help in getting this up and running. We are looking especially for hand-made, "canned food" items (if anyone does any canning this summer, please remember to set some aside for us), candles, dollar store items, gardening supplies such as plants, seed packets or tools.

If you have any items that you think we can use, please contact Sue Magoc at 544-4303 and we will be happy to pick them up from you. We appreciate any help you can give us and we certainly hope we will see you at the Festival!

We'd like to get copies of the newsletter to alumni that do not have email access and any donations would help us share our stories. If you are interested in making a charitable tax deductible donation to the Alumni Club, please cut out this section of the newsletter and mail with your donation to:

St. George Alumni
C/o Sue Magoc
9153 Coral Drive
St. Louis, MO 63123

All donations help support the parish and Alumni activities.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ Email: _____
 City,State,Zip: _____ Class of: _____

The St. George Alumni is a local non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

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