

1961



Cedar Cliff H. S.

February/March

February, A Short Month With A Lot Going On

February is the month of Valentine's Day and in present times, Presidents' Day, one of our famous Monday holidays. In the years of the early 1950s, we only celebrated two presidents- George Washington, the father of our country and Abraham Lincoln, its savior. (I'm not sure that we have improved upon the meaning of the day by including all our presidents, as some have not been very "presidential".) Along with Valentine's Day, our two presidential birthdays, gave us a lot of inspiration for art projects. Using an old shoe box, we carefully crafted a Valentine's box for garnering all of the Valentines we hoped to receive on February 14. Of course, there was a party and celebration and hopefully a lot of Valentines received.

For our two presidents, silhouettes were very popular, using a side view, sometimes in black (very traditional for first or second grade), sometimes in full color, framed in red, white and blue, Pictures of George Washington chopping down a cherry tree, or Abraham Lincoln splitting rails were also popular subjects. Maybe you still have some of that rudimentary artwork from those simpler times. I know that I don't, but somehow, Donald Graybill's stepmother (I'm giving her credit) saved some of his best work. If you have any and would like to share, please send. We'd all like to see it. Just send pictures of examples to us at brinschmahl@verizon.net, and we'll take care of the rest.

Abraham Lincoln by Donald Graybill, ca. 1952





George Washington by Donald Graybill, ca. 1950

Punxsutawney Phil and An Early Spring

As many of you will remember here in Central Pennsylvania, where Punxsutawney Phil is king in early spring prognostication, the little rodent called for six more weeks of winter. After one very cold day later, the temperatures rose above 50 and stayed there for a week., debunking Phil's prognostication with the declaration that Phil had missed the mark yet again. (He is correct only 39% of the time, after all.)

The New Cumberland Public Library

As part of our 61st Reunion History Project "*Our Amazing Journey*" we sent a copy to the New Cumberland Library, which is part of the Cumberland County Library System. We received a very nice letter of gratitude from which I share:

"This contribution will be a welcome addition to New Cumberland Library's Local History Collection & Community Archives. The Local History Collection at the New Cumberland Library collects, organizes, preserves and provides access to a non-circulating collection of primary and secondary resources that document the history and development of New Cumberland, its inhabitants, government, environment, businesses, institutions and organizations. The Library has recently received a grant that will allow us to renovate space for a new storage facility and research room for this collection to make it more accessible to the community.

Your thoughtfulness in donating a copy to the New Cumberland Public Library and the community is very much appreciated."

The Class of 1961 turns 80 **SAVE THE DATE!**

Last month we mentioned that we ought to recognize our 80th milestone birthday in some way. Giving it a little more thought, we have decided to declare **June 17, 2023** as the official unofficial 80th birthday of the class of 1961. For those who can make it or would like to, we will have a gathering at a local restaurant which can accommodate us. This will be an "order from the menu" event. Each class member and guest can therefore order whatever he / she wants, and you would be responsible for your meal. We have several venues in mind and will let everyone know when we confirm. This type of event was suggested by many class members, who feel we should gather more

frequently and keep it informal. Our Birthday Party will not be not a Reunion per se, but simply a chance to gather. Our next Reunion is tentatively planned for 2024.

Spring has Sprung!

As I write this, the last few hours of winter 2023 are slipping away. There is something that I do every spring on the equinox, and that is to balance a raw egg on its fatter end. I'm not a magician, but I always seemed to impress my children and later my grandchildren with this feat. I could give Mr. Bougher, our former, esteemed physics teacher credit for first demonstrating this to me, but it was a long time ago and I frankly can't remember. It still works, as I did so this morning, and it will also work on the vernal equinox in September. **Spoiler Alert!** Unfortunately, in the past few years I learned that this is a myth. According to scientists, although the amount of daylight is the same on the two equinoxes, there is no special pressure on the earth that is equal. Therefore, you should be able to balance an egg on its end any day of the year with a steady hand and some patience. But I'll leave it up to you. Try it today and then sometime when you think about it again. (Our six-year-old twins still think it's cool.)

What I'm really looking forward to, however, is the re-awakening of nature, which to me is awe-inspiring. Spring is my favorite season, maybe because I know that summer comes next.

We hope you're enjoying wonderful spring weather and are doing well.

Two reminders from this newsletter:

1. Save the date of June 17, 2023, for our 80th birthday celebration!
2. If you have any vintage artwork from your good 'ol school days and would like to share, please send them to me, at brinschmahl@verizon.net.

Best wishes!

Brian