

**MUSINGS XX  
FEBRUARY 2012**

REMEMBER WHEN PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES USED TO DO COMMERCIALS FOR GILLETTE? NOW ABOUT 90% DON'T SHAVE AND NEED HAIRCUTS. THE ONLY GROUP THAT SHAVES DAILY ARE JOCKEYS.

ALWAYS PUT YOUR BELT IN YOUR SLACKS BEFORE PUTTING THEM ON. ALSO PUT YOUR SHOES ON LAST. THERE WAS A LAD IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD WHO PUT HIS SHOES ON FIRST BECAUSE IT CREATED MORE OF A CHALLENGE.

ABOUT 50 OF US WENT TO THE ST. XAVIER – NOTRE DAME GAME IN SOUTH BEND ON A CHARTERED BUS. VERY DELIGHTFUL DAY. MOSTLY MEN. A FEW DELIGHTFUL LADIES WHO WORK AT ST. XAVIER. THE COUGARS WERE INTRODUCED AT GAME TIME. IT TOOK ABOUT 30 SECONDS. WHEN NOTRE DAME WAS INTRODUCED, IT WAS LIKE BARNUM & BAILEY HAD JUST COME TO TOWN. SPOTLIGHTS, BAND, AND A BOOMING VOICE FROM THE ANNOUNCER. IN MY OPINION AND SEVERAL PEOPLE SEATED NEAR ME, IT WAS STRICTLY BUSHLEAGUE AND NO NEED FOR IT. THAT WAS THE ONLY BLIP IN THE DAY. TO OUR SURPRISE, THE BUS DRIVER WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

A LONG TIME NEIGHBOR OF MY CHILDHOOD, JOHNNY LORENZI DIED NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, AGE 91. JOHN AND HIS FAMILY OWNED LORENZI'S LOUNGE AT 100<sup>TH</sup> & VINCENNES. THEY SPONSORED OUR SOFTBALL TEAM IN 1953 & 1954. VERY CLASSY GUY. WELL DONE JOHNNY!

JOHNNY'S FATHER, BESIDES OWNING THE TAVERN, WAS A LAMPLIGHTER IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. HE WOULD USE A SMALL LADDER AT DUSK TO LIGHT THE GAS LAMP STREET LIGHTS. AT DAWN HE WOULD TURN THEM OFF. THE BIG PROBLEM WITH THE GAS LAMPS WAS ABOUT 2 TO 3 TIMES A YEAR SOMEBODY WOULD THROW A BRICK THROUGH THEM. THEY WERE ONLY ABOUT AS HIGH AS A BASKETBALL HOOP.

"HE MADE THE NIGHT A LITTLE BRIGHTER WHEREVER HE WOULD GO, THE OLD LAMPLIGHTER FROM LONG, LONG AGO."

BUMMER OF THE MONTH! SUN-TIMES CHARGED \$1.75 FOR THE THANKSGIVING DAY NEWSPAPER. SAME AS SUNDAY. I THOUGHT THE ADS WERE PAID FOR BY THE ADVERTISERS.

BRING BACK AMY FREEZE!!

LOOK-A-LIKES:

ALEX FLANAGAN – NBC SPORTS (SUNDAY NITE FOOTBALL)  
& SARAH KUSTOK – COMCAST SPORTS

MIKE TOMLIN – PITTSBURGH STEELER COACH  
& NOAH CANNON – LEO HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL COACH

I GET A CASE OF NAUSEA WHEN I SMELL THE FUMES FROM A BUS.  
BRING BACK THE STREETCARS.

THE ENCLOSED WALLET SIZED PICTURE AT MY GRANDDAUGHTER'S WEDDING SHOWS 48 PEOPLE. 12 CHILDREN, 18 GRANDCHILDREN, 11 SPOUSES, 5 GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN AND DONNA AND ME. DONNA WAS 20 WHEN THAT PICTURE WAS TAKEN. I REALIZE THAT THERE ARE LARGER FAMILIES AROUND TOWN. WE ARE STILL HAVING MORE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN. I JUST WANTED TO SHARE THE PICTURE WITH YOU. MOST PEOPLE RECEIVING THESE LETTERS I HAVEN'T SEEN IN QUITE A WHILE.

ON DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> MY OLDEST SON JIM RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE FROM ST. XAVIER AT AGE 56. I DON'T KNOW WHO WAS HAPPIER, JIM OR ME. WE NOW HAVE 3 AND 3 MORE WORKING ON THEIR MASTER'S. WE'VE COME A LONG WAY. MY GREAT-GRANDPARENTS NEVER LEARNED TO READ OR WRITE.

MY SON DAN RECEIVED A PAIR OF GYM SHOES AS A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM HIS NIECE. GUESS WHAT. THEY WERE MADE IN THE USA. HALLELUJAH!!!

DON'T YOU SOMETIMES WONDER WHO MADE UP THE NAMES OF WIFE, HUSBAND, MOTHER, FATHER, NIECE, NEPHEW, ETC.?

THE COMMERCIALS ON THE NFL GAMES OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS WERE ABOUT AS BAD AS THEY HAVE BEEN. I SAW ABOUT 20 PEOPLE SHOT IN THE COMMERCIALS. NICE FAMILY PROGRAMMING!!!!

THE MERRY PLOUGHBOYS ARE COMING TO GAELIC PARK FEB 4<sup>TH</sup>. DON'T MISS THEM. OUR FAMILY WILL BE THERE.

WE SAW THEM LAST JUNE IN THEIR SHOW CLUB IN SUBURBAN DUBLIN. EXCELLENT SHOW. THEY HAD STEP-DANCERS THAT WERE THE BEST I'VE SEEN. THE DANCERS ARE NOT AT GAELIC PARK. IT IS STILL 4 STARS.

6 OF US IN MY FAMILY SAW THE DONNY AND MARIE OSMOND SHOW AT THE ORIENTAL THEATRE IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO. MARIE STOLE THE SHOW. I DIDN'T REALIZE SHE HAD AN OPERATIC VOICE. "CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN" WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE NIGHT FOR ME.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS GALORE ABOUT EVERYONE IN THE BACK MUST BUCKLE UP. YOU WOULD THINK THAT THAT PEOPLE IN THE FRONT SEAT ARE NOW EXEMPT.

ALSO, WHY DO WE HAVE TO BUCKLE UP SO TIGHTLY IN AUTOMOBILES WHEN 6 YEAR OLD CHILDREN ARE NOT BUCKLED UP IN SCHOOL BUSES? TELL THAT ONE TO THE INSURANCE LOBBYISTS AND THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATORS!!!

VERY JEALOUS OF MY GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN. THEY HAVE PAJAMAS WITH THE FEET ATTACHED TO THE LEG TO KEEP THEIR FEET WARM. I TRIED TO GET SOME IN XXL SIZE WITH ORANGE AND BLACK COLORS. COULDN'T FIND THEM ANYWHERE.

BIG DISAPPOINTMENT!!! 8" SNOWFALL CANCELS THE LEO ALUMNI BASKETBALL NIGHT ON JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>. ON THAT NIGHT, MY GRANDDAUGHTER TOOK 4 ½ HOURS TO GO FROM NAPERVILLE TO 78<sup>TH</sup> & KOLMAR (ABOUT 20 MILES). IT HAD TO BE A TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE. GOOD THING SHE HAD ENOUGH GAS. IT TOOK PAT HICKEY 1 HOUR AND 20 MINUTES TO GO FROM 95<sup>TH</sup> & WESTERN TO LEO HIGH SCHOOL, ABOUT 4 MILES.

ALUMNI NIGHT RESCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>. HAVE TO HANG MY ROSARY OUT THE BEDROOM WINDOW THIS TIME.

LEO HAS A 6'6" FRESHMAN COMING TO SCHOOL THIS SEPTEMBER. 365 POUNDS. REMINDS ME OF A ST. MARGARET CLASSMATE, "PEANUTS O'CONNOR."

GREAT NEWS FOR AMERICA. A COMPANY IN CANTON, MICHIGAN IS GOING TO MAKE 46" TVS. ALSO GM, FORD AND CHRYSLER ARE STARTING TO PUT THUMBS DOWN ON TOYOTA, HONDA, NISSAN, ETC.

TOM TUNNEY, THE ALDERMAN IN THE WARD WHERE WRIGLEY FIELD IS, IS ON A CRUSADE TO HAVE THE TOYOTA SIGN REMOVED FROM THE LEFT FIELD BLEACHERS. GO GET 'EM TOM.

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 25 AND 30 OF MY FAMILY WILL BE ATTENDING THE LEO HIGH ALUMNI BANQUET ON APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> AT THE LEXINGTON HOUSE. SHOULD BE A FUN NIGHT.

I THOUGHT I WOULD WRITE ONLY ONE MUSINGS LETTER. HERE WE ARE AT NUMBER XX. IT SEEMS TO BE A CONTINUATION OF JIBBER-JABBER THAT USED TO GO ON AFTER SOFTBALL GAMES AT THE LOCAL PUBS. THANK GOD FOR LOCAL PUBS. THEY WERE GREAT PLACES FOR NEIGHBORS, CLASSMATES, TEAMMATES AND FRIENDS TO GATHER. NEVER HAD TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF EITHER. EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD PUB I VISITED HAD A VERY FRIENDLY PROPRIETOR. ALL LOCAL PEOPLE.

VERY FEW PEOPLE REPLY TO MY JIBBER-JABBER. MAYBE SOME OF YOU HAVE SOME OF YOUR OWN YOU WOULD LIKE ME TO PRINT.

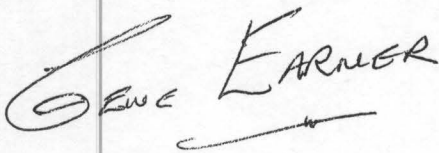
GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN #6 AND #7 ARE COMING THIS SPRING.

I HAVE A "FLOATER" IN MY RIGHT AND ONLY EYE. ANNOYING TO SAY THE LEAST. DOCTOR SAID I WILL HAVE IT FOREVER. A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WORSE OFF THAN THAT.

I HAD AN ELDERLY NEIGHBOR WHO WHEN DOING YARD WORK WOULD NEVER FINISH HIS DAY'S WORK. HE ALWAYS SAID HE WOULD LEAVE SOME FOR TOMORROW. THAT'S WHAT I WILL DO NOW. LEAVE SOME FOR #XXI.

GOD BLESS,

1-708-636-8827

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Earner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "E".

GENE EARNER

### **Some Say the Devil is Dead**

Some say the devil is dead, the devil is dead, the devil is dead.  
Some say the devil is dead, and buried in Killarney.  
More say he rose again, more say he rose again.  
More say he rose again and joined the British Army!