

Our Family Newsletter

February 2005

Number 116

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Jeanne's Jottings

[Ed. note: Jeanne prepared this delightful recollection for the autumn issue of OFN, but it was postponed in order to do the memorial issue on Carla O'Neil. We are happy to feature it now.]

Remember the Snow Bowl?

Weather! Cool Saturdays! The sound of a crowd cheering a team, from Little League to college — it's all part of Football Season!

How many of the Murphy-Hursey boys are now playing on teams? How many have in the past? Ron Huston played at Bluffington College. Zack, his son, played in high school. I know there are many more. Let's hear about your experiences.

There is one football game that stands out in the memory of many *OFN* readers, possibly because so many attended OSU. That is the 1950 OSU- Michigan game, otherwise known as the "Snow Bowl." Remember? I'm speaking to my generation, but I'm sure the younger ones have heard of it!

It was November 25, 1950, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It was, as always, the biggest game of the year for both schools.

OSU graduate Marie Murphy McNeal was there! She was a sophomore at OSU that year, and she and her roommate, Sarah Kreglow, had spent Thanksgiving at Sarah's Ada home. When the snow began to fall on Saturday morning, Sarah's dad opted to give up his tickets, stay in Ada, and put the girls on a bus to Columbus.

"We arrived in Columbus," Marie reports, "and had to get from downtown out to the campus. We didn't have boots, so first we stopped and bought some." The snow, already heavy, built up and soon grew to a recorded 27

inches.

"Sarah and I wondered if there'd even be a game, and when we found out it was on, we decided, oh well, we're here, let's go."

Both coaches thought the game should be cancelled, but as Marie can attest, it wasn't.

"We could hardly see the field," Marie said. "We were all bundled up, and even took blankets from our dorm room."

Historians of the game claim there were 50,000 people there but the picture below tells another story.

Statistics? Each team punted and punted, often on third down, a record 45 times between them. I remember Dad laughing about

it when he read the sports page on Sunday. There were 0 first downs for U.M. and 3 for OSU! Still, U.M. won 9 to 3 on two blocked punts after OSU's Vic Janowicz kicked an incredible 38-yard field goal into the face of the gale. That kick was later voted one of the "Greatest Feats in American Sports" by a panel of sportswriters.

Stories of the event show the Band playing at half time, but Marie says

she doesn't recall the band show. Maybe it was invisible!

Did any of the rest of you attend this game?

John Murphy, a freshman at OSU that year, sold his ticket for \$5 and was home in Murphy Hollow for the long weekend, listening to the

See SNOW BOWL, page 4



Jeanne



A few hardy fans remain in the stadium.

Bob's Letter

1945 - My Missing Year

TWO thousand US Marine war veterans were returning home aboard of the famous USS Breckenridge that had carried thousands of troops to the war zone.

We were the lucky ones who had survived the war and were sailing home to that long awaited sweet civilian life. We idled away the long days playing poker and having bull sessions with the US Coast Guard crewmen. We were betting our worthless Chinese currency against their crisp new US dollars. The sailors were giving us the latest state-side scuttlebutt, and all the news that we had missed during our many months under the jungle canopies of the Pacific islands and then on the dusty plains of North China.

As we discussed that final year of the war, we realized that we had neither heard nor read a single news story during the entire year of 1945. The sailors related to us the details of the end of the war in Europe, and about the holocaust. They also told us about

the "Iron Curtain" and about the cold war with Russia that had replaced our "hot" one with the Axis nations.



Bob and buddy on last Chinese liberty

We were amazed when they told us rumors about the great changes coming in the post-war world. They told us that cross-country mail would be flown in rockets, great airliners would carry up to 100 passengers, great flying boats with 300 foot wing-spans would fly between continents and new glass-domed trains would travel at bullet-speed. They said the most popular car would be the surplus Army Jeep which would also serve as the farm tractor, pick-up truck and as a stationary power source, and that we would each receive one as a mustering-out bonus. They talked about porcelain enamel homes being built on factory assembly lines that we could buy with no down

payment, and of newspapers that would be printed at home from wire photo receivers. They said that all electric power would come from atomic energy and that a new chemical, "DDT," would be sprayed on the walls of our

See BOB, page 4

1945 HEADLINES FROM *THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH*

US INVADES PHILIPPINES • 1000 ALLIED BOMBERS HIT BERLIN • MARINES INVADE IWO JIMA • ONE MILLION JEWS DIE IN AUSCHWITZ GAS CHAMBERS • MANILA FALLS TO ALLIES • 5000 PRISONERS FREED IN MANILA • FDR, STALIN AND CHURCHILL MEET AT YALTA • 1200 CARRIER PLANES STRIKE TOKYO • 124,000 DIE IN TOKYO FROM INCENDIARY STRIKE • FIRST ARMORED DIVISION CROSSES RHINE AT REMAGEN • PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT DIES • PATTON LIBERATES BUCKENWOLD WHERE 60,000 PRISONERS DIE • NAZI MURDERS EXCEED 14 MILLION • US AND RUSSIAN PATROLS LINK UP AND CELEBRATE • 47 NATIONS MEET TO ORGANIZE UNITED NATIONS • GERMANY BEGINS SURRENDER TALKS • US INVADES OKINAWA • MUSSOLINI AND CABINET EXECUTED • GERMANY DIVIDED INTO 4 ZONES • OKINAWA BLOODIEST BATTLE OF THE WAR • UNITED NATIONS FORMED • B-29'S BEGIN FULL SCALE BOMBING OF JAPAN • PHILIPPINES LIBERATED • WORLD'S FIRST ATOMIC BOMB EXPLODES IN NEW MEXICO • USS INDEPENDENCE SUNK AND 1613 SAILORS DROWN • POTSDAM DECLARATION CALLS FOR JAPANESE SURRENDER • RUSSIA DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN • ATOM BOMB OBLITERATES HIROSHIMA • SECOND ATOM BOMB DROPPED ON NAGASAKI • JAPAN SURRENDERS • TRUMAN DECLARES VJ DAY • WWII DEATH TOTAL 64 MILLION • ONE MILLION JEWS ADMITTED TO PALESTINE • US OCCUPIES JAPAN • HO CHI MINH ORGANIZES NORTH VIETNAM • TOKYO ROSE ARRESTED • DEGAULLE ELECTED PREMIER OF FRANCE • NUREMBERG WAR CRIMES TRIAL BEGINS • MARSHALL IN CHINA TO HEAD OFF CIVIL WAR • GENERAL PATTON KILLED IN ACCIDENT • WORLD BANK ESTABLISHED • CIVIL WAR RESUMES IN CHINA

Blinks

Snowy recollections

IT'S a sunny winter's day in Missouri, and the house is quiet again. Mary and the girls have just left after a short visit to sell Girl Scout cookies to us and our neighbors.

Amazing how five- and seven-year-olds don't seem to be bothered by the cold. They come bursting through the front door, radiating energy, smelling as clean and fresh as the snow itself, their excited, happy voices ringing like silver bells. Then just as suddenly, they're gone and, after a suitable time, Max and Lola emerge from their hiding places, reproachfully licking a front paw in disapproval of our permitting these sudden intrusions into their otherwise serene universe.

I'm reminded of cold winter days in the early 1940's when the sledding hills would be crowded with kids. Although sleds and toboggans were not uncommon, we would use anything that could be made to slide. Card-board boxes were easiest to come by, but also most quickly worn to shreds. Pieces of plywood and scraps of sheet metal were popular when they could be found.

When we got to junior-high age, we would sneak "out of bounds" and make long expeditions into the countryside seeking downhill speed and deep drifts. We dressed warmly and didn't know we were cold till we started back. Then we discovered how far we had wandered and how easily the cold cut through our Mackinaw jackets.

When we got back to our dormitories, it was all we could do to pull our frozen mittens off, unbuckle our snow encrusted boots, and dip our hands and feet into ice cold water that scalded like it was boiling hot. But gradually, normal feeling would return, and by the next day, if it wasn't a school day, and the cold weather persevered, we would succumb again to the siren call of virgin slopes and reckless speed, and do it all over. Dick



Dick

Gerri Bell writes about ...

Hitting the jackpot

While Chris was in Montreal last month watching Katie dive, he noticed a missed call on his cell phone. He didn't recognize the number but returned the call anyway. It turns out if he hadn't called back in the next twenty minutes the prize would have gone to the next person on the list.

The call told him he had won The Pontiac Game Changing Performance contest which he had entered online on a whim. It took a couple of days and numerous phone calls to convince him that he had actually won. The grand prize was a new Pontiac G6 car, a trip for six to Florida and the Orange Bowl game, all expenses paid.

We had a great trip. Chris, Aaron, Bethany, Maggie, Jamie, Mia, Kiana and I all went. They put us in the Penthouse/Presidential Suite on the Roof of the Building where we had a view of all Miami. I stayed at the hotel with the babies while the rest of the gang went to the game.

We will be getting the car in late January.

I always have told Chris that filling out those forms are a waste of time and just cause more junk mail. Well, now he can fill out all he wants or go buy that lottery ticket. Somebody actually does win those silly contests! Gerri



Chris, Beth, Aaron, Maggie and Jamie had the run of the VIP tent at the Orange Bowl game in Miami.

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Bob, Publisher; Jim, Editor; Andrea, Business Manager; Contributors, All. Depending on the barometric pressure, the state of the Union, and the strange promptings of the spirit, but mainly on whether anyone sends us any material, *Our Family Newsletter* may be published monthly, bimonthly, annually or not at all. Send us your contributions. Please. Send address changes to Andrea.

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SNOW BOWL, from page 1

game on radio.

John hasn't missed many OSU home games: There was the Snow Bowl of course, and one other in 1954 while still in college. After college, he missed the 1958 season while he was in the service. He has missed only 3 in the next 46 years. John and Grace attend all OSU home games, flying their own airplane into Columbus, weather permitting. But I'm sure he'll never see one to equal the 1950 "Snow Bowl."

But Marie was there! Ask her if she has thawed out yet!

Jeanne

REMINDER—This year's family reunion will be August 6, 2005, on the levy at Lake Park.

BOB, from page 1

homes, inside and out, to eliminate insects. We were skeptical when they told us about the new cars that could don wings and fly, until an experimental flying automobile came flying over our ship to welcome us to San Diego. I thought, "Wow! I'm trading my jeep in on one of those!"

Two days later, I was discharged, returned to Ohio and reported to the OSU campus after a weekend reunion at the homestead. The first thing I did in Columbus was to look up all the headlines in the *Columbus Dispatch* for the year 1945. (See inset on page 2). As I read them, I realized that 1945, a year of great historic events, really was the year that I missed all the news!

As the next half a century flew by, many great new inventions vastly changed our lives. But few of those sailors' predictions about the post-war world ever came true.

Bob

OUR FAMILY CALENDAR -- We are enclosing with this OFN, the 2005 edition of our family birthday calendar. Again, as last year, it is late--but better late than never! We are also including a decendants chart of our grandparents. Please bring any additions or corrections to our reunion this August at Lake Park. Our Hursey cousins will receive their genealogy charts later, soon as I find enough birthdates. We talked about a calendar featuring 13 pages of reunion photos, but that was way beyond my means, financially. Maybe next year! For those who are interested, the actual cost of this one-photo calendar was \$3.89 each, broken down as follows: one color ink cartridge, 33.99; 50 sheets of photo paper, \$7.50; 600 copies of calendar pages, \$18.00; 50 manila envelopes, \$2.50; 50 ring binders, \$50; postage, \$64,50; for a total of \$194.95. This does not include the cost of the genealogy chart which is my gift to you. Since none of our Hursey cousins or their families were in the group photo, I substituted, on their calendars, an 8x10 photo of Shy Loader's extended family that was taken at her 60th birthday party.

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