

**Taft, California
Greetings from Pete Gianopulos, Class of 1942
The Taft Newsletter**

NOTE: The Eddie Coffee series will continue at a later date.)

**More communication from Lynda (Miller '61) Hunt
from Kennewick, Washington about Mrs. Mabel Bailey**

Hello Pete G,

Thanks you so much for your 3-week search for the valuable information on Mrs. Jack Bailey. It sounds like your hobby is not only rewording to you but also to scores of others, including me.

In answer to your question I did graduate from Taft High in 1964. My husband of 43 years graduated in 1961, Tommy Hunt. We have been in the Ministry of Christ for 40 years. Maybe one day we will make it to one of our reunions.

Also a thank you to Bob and Aileen Fiscus of Maricopa and Don and Nancy Arnot of Bakersfield for their valuable information.

I guess I waited too long to say "thank you" to dear Mable. . . . Maybe I could say to Jack Bailey, Jr. (wherever he is) "you have great mom." "Love and cherish her memory and someday we'll meet in Heaven." God bless her memory. My father Fred Miller, Sr. who had the Fred' Auto Body and Paint Shop at 6th and Main Street, is buried in Bakersfield, and I worked at Genelo's Beauty Shop on 6th Street. Fred Miller, Jr. retired to Arizona last year with his wife, Marcia.

Thank you again and congratulations on a job well done.

Most sincerely,

Linda Miller Hunt

(NOTE: If you have an e-mail address, please send it to me.-- Pete)

From Mrs. Charlotte Bailey from Morro Bay

Dear Mr. Gianopulos,

If you need more information about Mabel and Jack I could probably help. Mabel died 8/12 2002 and Jack died 3/30/1994. As you probably are aware by now, their son George Roger Bailey died 9/26/2004. I have pictures I can send if you wish. If Ms. Kennewick would like to correspond with me, please pass my email along to her. (430 Estero Ave., Morro Bay, CA 93442)

Charlotte Bailey -- Daughter in law of Jack and Mabel Bailey.

West Kern Oil Museum Annual Dinner

The West Kern Oil Museum Annual Dinner will be held on February 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Banquet Room at the West Side and Recreation and Park District on Cascade Street in Taft. The price of the dinner for this well-attended event is \$20.00. No tickets will be sold at the door. For further information call the museum at 661-765-6444.

The Taft High Hall of Fame induction dinner

For those who may be interested, the date of the public dinner has been changed from what was mentioned in a previous e-mail. It has been changed to Saturday, April 12th, and the dinner will be held at the O.T. Cook House at 6:00 pm. Taft High will make a public announcement about three weeks in advance about the price for the dinner and how tickets may be obtained. The first event will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the main hall of the Administration Building at the entrance to Taft High of 7th Street.

For further information call Sherrie Gregory, the secretary of the Taft High superintendent, at 661-763-2300.

Readers Responses

From Betty (Hast) Simon, Class of 1943, of Santa Rosa, California

Dear Pete, I am wholly grateful for your weekly Newsletters and the interesting stories it contains. I have

an answer for Judy Meeks Kelley as to the name of the Home Ec teacher, providing it was in grammar

school. Her name was Emma Lasley, and we girls also had to tow the line with her in 1943. Also, does

anyone have information about the 60th reunion for class of 1948? Betty Simon, Santa Rosa, CA.

Karen (Orloff) Gutnam, Class of 1958, of Morristown, New Jersey

Hi Pete,

In response to Judy Meeks question. I believe her name was Emma Lasley at Roosevelt. I'll never forget her because she called my mother to say "Mrs. Orloff your daughter is failing sewing" Never picked up another needle!! My mother (Joy Orloff) was a Taft college student along with my father (Maurice).

I so enjoy your letters and hearing about all "the Taft Gang"

Thanks,

Karin Orloff Gutman (Class of 58)

Morristown, New Jersey

Gary Alexander, Class of 1966, of Gainsville, Texas

Pete, Noticed Judy Meeks' comment. This is the e-mail for Coy Pierce, a nephew... I don't know if he lives in B-town or not.

coy@modulardesigns.com

Regards, GA (Gary Alexander)

Rosalie (Snyder) Pritchett class of 1958

In answering the questions asked on this recent newsletter about the reunion date for the class of 1958, Susan (Kessler) Brown told me that it is going to be on Oct. 11, 2008 at the OT's Cookhouse.

I am sure there are others that read this newsletter of yours and will also answer this reunion in question.

Lynne (Kalenborn) Schmitt, Class of 1958, of the Bay Area

You'll probably hear from several people. Janice (Smith) just sent out an all points email telling us

to put Oct. 11, 2008 on our calendar for the 1958 reunion. How can we be that OLD!

Lynne Schmitt

From Randy Miller, Class of 1963, Taft, California

Pete,

The note from Eddie Brannon regarding the Viet Nam website www.thewall-usa.com. also doesn't

list Larrie Jack Gotcher class of 1963 as being from Taft. His hometown is listed as Citrus Heights, CA.

Larry came to Taft as a freshman at TUHS and played outstanding football through two years at Taft

College. He was a Taft guy. He left a trail of broken female hearts in his wake while he was with us. His

name is proudly displayed on the Wall at the Taft Veterans Park.

Randy Miller, Class of 1963

From Richard Marshall, Class of 1959, from, Sacramento, California

Hello Pete: Recently Steve Barber mentioned his Soap Box Derby memories, and especially

his helping
me with balancing the wheels on my racer and the test runs down E. Lucard and San Emidio
Streets.
Mine was one great green machine and won a trophy, but eventually lost out to better "child built"
models.
It was Pioneer Chevrolet who sponsored us, and I remember going down to the races in Los
Angeles in
a brand new 1953 Buick with something new--an automatic transmission called "Dyna Flow."
What
ages me even more is that I used to baby sit Steve and his brother Drew. Also, your articles
often
mention distinguished soldiers from Taft, most notably my classmate and Medal of Honor
recipient Larry
Pierce. Taft did produce several other heroes like Charlie Hudson who was the most decorated
B-17
Navigator in the European theater, Gordon Graham was a decorated P-51 fighter pilot who
became a
general, and Churchill Campbell, who was the officer on the deck of the U.S.S. Parche when they
fought
one of the greatest surface battles in submarine history in WWII, resulting in his commander, Red
Ramage,
receiving the Medal of Honor, and Churchill received the first of his two Silver Stars. It seems
that Taft is
not only a great place in which to grow up, but there is a special Taft "grit" that is instilled in many.
Thank
you again Pete for the memories and for your heroic service during WWII in one of the hostile
environments
on planet earth.

Richard Marshall, Sacramento, CA, Class of 1959.

From Larry Peahl, Class of 1953, of Bakersfield

Hi Pete,

The Class of 1953 will have its reunion on October 25 at OT's. Anyone can contact me at
lpeahl@bak.rr.com
Larry

From John Wilt, Class of 1955, of Rancho Cardova, California

Pete, Congratulations on your upcoming membership into the TUHS Hall of Fame ... which I
really believe is the
TAFT HALL OF FAME. Your genuine desire to share Taft's history through your newsletter is
greatly appreciated
and admired. Although I don't visit Taft often in person I greatly enjoy visiting it by internet
through your thoughtful
and detailed newsletters. It's fun to see "old" friends names and comments ... to reminisce through
their stories ... to
relive Taft history.
Our "little" town has produced many fine folks contributing in many important fields ... medicine
... education ...
military ... business ... science ... politics ... sports. My own class of 1955 has many of those
quality folks enriching
all those fields including Pete Magee. Thanks to quality educators like yourself my own life and

accomplishments allowed me to work along side German and American scientists as we developed rocket propulsion systems for space travel and weapons. TUHS's science and math education classes were the building blocks of a 44 year career with the DOD and NASA.

My sister's (whom you knew) Ann Wilt Preston and Laura Wilt Malcom would also be delighted to congratulate you if they could. Unfortunately they can't.

Warmest regards, John Wilt