

Class of 1962

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Gentlemen of 62:

Greetings this Holiday Season. I hope each of you enjoy health and happiness at this time and throughout next year.

WABASH VS. DEPAUW. Once again, the Monon Bell paid a brief visit to Greencastle, only to return to its rightful loft on the Wabash Campus. As I watched the game, there were certainly moments of concern, especially early in the first half. However, sudden strikes near the end of the second quarter put the Little Giants on the familiar path of victory. The final score of 37-20 was somewhat misleading as Wabash dominated the second half play.

Obviously the team play and final result of the game was most important, but of greater than normal interest were certain individual performances. Defenseman Blair Hammer was seeking to break the Wabash all time career sack record. However, in spite of giving it every effort, he only managed to tie it. There was not a great deal of disappointment though in the Hammer family or the Wabash Community. The old record, now tied, was held by Blair's older brother B. J. Hammer.

Senior running back, Chris Morris, going into the season, was a lock to break the all time rushing record held by Daryl Johnson. But things changed with the arrival of the freshman class. Young speedster Aaron Lafitte showed outstanding ability and could not be denied playing time. So comes the final game. Morris needed just shy of 100 yards to break the record. But Lafitte needed 93 yards to become the first freshman running back ever to break the 1000 yard mark.

With all concerned agreeing the win and the bell were more important than individual records, nevertheless the outcome was rather remarkable. Morris rushed for two touchdowns and scored one more on a pass reception. He gained 102 yards rushing and captured the record. Meanwhile Lafitte saw the game coming to a close while still needing 6 yards to reach the 1000 mark. On the very last play of the game, Aaron broke for 14 yards and 1008 for the year.

Having seen him play three times this year, I think we can rightfully expect a great deal more from Lafitte over the next three years. Meanwhile the Junior class can look forward to a four year sweep of the Dannies.

RICHARD HUMMEL. I received an exceedingly nice letter from my friend and pledge brother Dick Hummel. Those of you who knew Dick will recall him as a generous and kind individual who valued education, friendships, and faith highly. In making one of life's choices, Dick abandoned Wabash for the love of a lady. He left Wabash during the second semester of our Junior year to enroll at Kalamazoo College where the object of his affection was a student. He and Kathy were married the following summer. Forty-two years later Dick does not have any regrets about his choice of mates. I did not receive any input from Kathy on that subject.

Richard went on to graduate from Kalamazoo, switching his major to Sociology from Philosophy which he had pursued at Wabash. He then successfully completed his education with a Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Apparently having grown tired of change, Dick accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University in 1969 and remained there for the next 32 ½ years. He retired December 31, 2001, one day after his 61st birthday. Kathy also retired after 35 years as an elementary school teacher.

The Hummel's have a daughter, LeaAnn Nasser who lives with her husband and two daughters in Miami, Florida. The Nassers run a wholesale/retail jewelry store, specializing in Italian 18k gold items. The eldest granddaughter will be entering college this fall. Richard call's grandchildren a wondrous gift of nature which he wishes all could experience.

Since retirement, Dick has been engaged in a unique activity helping conduct the functions of an organization called the German Gun Collectors' Association. (website: www.germanguns.com) It serves collectors of German sporting firearms, many of which returned with G.I. s of the "Greatest Generation" after WWII. Dick says little is known about most of these sporting artifacts. The organization does research which is shared with readers of a journal which it puts out.

Richard tells me that even though his degree came from Kalamazoo, his heart remains with Wabash. I presume he means that portion of his heart not devoted to Kathy. Though Dick has retired, he still maintains his office at his University. He may be reached as follows: Richard Hummel, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology, Eastern Illinois University, 600 Lincoln Avenue, Charleston, Illinois 61920 Phone. 217 581-6213.

Richard also keeps in touch with **Jon Stamp**, his old high school buddy and another pledge brother. Jon transferred to Western Michigan University during our Sophomore year if I remember correctly. Dick tells me Jon received a degree in Art Education and had a distinguished career as an art teacher in a wide range of media in a high school north of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Jon and his wife have two children, and, Dick thinks, two or three grandchildren. Both are now enjoying a very fulfilling retirement.

HISTORY. During a recent trip to Crawfordsville I went into a downtown antique shop. I found several old Wabash yearbooks there and I purchased one from 1922. It was a most interesting selection. About the same size as ours, I was struck more by its similarities than its differences. For example, there was of course the usual line up of faculty and student pictures, but in addition there was a photo of the Clock, and another of the Senior Bench. Photos of the buildings included Yandes, Center and South Halls.

The text was generally derisive of DePauw. Nothing much different about any of that. On the other hand, there were fewer pictures of campus life in general, but much more text about life, activities, and sports. Interestingly, the Scarlet Inn was already a center of activity, although obviously then located in a different building. The full texts of "Old Wabash" and "The Alma Mater" appear in the book. Of interest, and news to me and I bet to you too, is that Wabash has a War Song. The "Wabash War Song" words and music by Carroll Ragan 1901 was obviously inspired by the First World War. It contains two long verses and a Chorus. The Chorus is as follows:

On the fields of France—from battered Flanders down to gray Verdun
The Sons of Wabash gave their youth and happy strength, to blot out the hated Hun.
We revere their names—we mourn the brave ones sleeping over there,
Dear Alma Mater, watch and guard them through the years,
May their memory be ever fair.

On a much lighter note, a great deal of the book was devoted to jokes and cartoons. Many of the jokes were quite corny by contemporary standards, but one cartoon was especially funny, and somewhat timeless. Over the caption “Four Kappa Sigs spend spring vacation in Crawfordsville in order to knock out some term papers” was a picture of four students gathered at a card table playing poker.

The year 1922 was rather spectacular in the sports department. Robert J. Vaughn, Athletic Director, presided over one of the most successful years in Wabash sports history. The year was one in which there was an “...assumption by Wabash of a position of undisputed leadership in major sports among secondary schools of the Middle West.”

The writer goes on to say, “During the past year in chronological order, we see first a baseball team that few schools in the state could equal...another successful track season overshadowed by a clean-cut victory over DePauw in the outdoor meet at Crawfordsville. Then comes a football team standing head and shoulders above the other performers during the year, followed closely by a basketball team that went out and gathered into the Scarlet fold a **National Championship** to nestle alongside a hard-won state title.”

In baseball, Wabash went 14 and 4, splitting two games each with Purdue, Indiana and Rose Polly, going 3-1 against DePauw and winning all the rest against a variety of in state opponents including four wins over Butler.

The schedule in football was something to behold. The season was highlighted by a win over Purdue capped by a four down goal line stand at the two yard line. The scores:

Wabash 7	Augustana	0	Wabash 14	Millikin	3
Wabash 9	Purdue	0	Wabash 39	Rose Polly	0
Wabash 41	Georgetown	0	Marquette 7	Wabash	0
Army 31	Wabash	0	Wabash 22	DePauw	0
Wabash 14	Butler	0			

In basketball, the Little Giants won 22 games while losing only 3. During the year Wabash split a pair with Purdue, Notre Dame and Butler, winning all the rest including two over DePauw. The National Championship tournament included a seemingly unlikely bunch with Wabash winning its three games. Those were 39-16 over Illinois Wesleyan, 62-25 over Mercer and 43-23 in the Championship contest over Kalamazoo.

FOOTBALL SENIORS. The back page of the December 11, 2003 “Bachelor” has a nice little summary which I think is worth bringing to your attention. Together with the pictures of the senior team members and their stories on inside pages is this: “Senior Little Giant Football players will graduate with 22 conference wins and a 15 game home winning streak. Beat Wittenberg three consecutive times. Completed a perfect season. Won an NCAC Championship. Advanced to the National Quarterfinals. Oh, and they **went 3-1 against DePauw.**” (emphasis supplied). Some Little Giants!!!!

POWELL RETIRES. Professor Vic Powell has retired. Professor Powell, a giant among many giants and Little Giants has announced his retirement. What that means for someone as skilled, knowledgeable and involved as Professor Powell remains to be seen.

Speaking at the last Student Senate Chapel of the Semester, Powell talked of his more than 50 years in the Wabash Community. His departure will be a loss to the College, but even more so to the students yet to come who will not have the privilege of knowing and learning from this great man.

THANKS ARE IN ORDER. Giving for this fiscal year is off to a great start. Thus far, we are running slightly ahead of our contemporaneous classes, but the year is still young.

For those of you who are usually year end contributors, another envelope is enclosed just in case you may have mislaid the earlier ones. Special thanks to those listed below who have already remembered Wabash with their gifts as of November 30.

David Brink, Thomas Emmick, Terry Fewell, Dan Harwood, Tom Houk, R. Dale Lentz, Jay Littell, Jim Ludwig, Tom Mahoney, Lee McNeely, Marvin Meyer, Bill Nigh, John Nutting, John Robey, Tom Sinex, Brent Sutton and Tom Whowell.

BRIEF SURVEY. Tom Runge, in visiting and talking with various alumni groups, has posed a question. Tom says many alum have expressed a preference to receive their class agent letters by E-mail rather than hard copy. I suspect that comes from the majority of younger guys, but I would like to have your input as well. Somehow, I feel like that detracts from the personal nature of the communication, but I am certainly willing to go that route if such is your preference as well. Please let me know how you feel about the subject.

Again, best wishes to all for the Holiday Season. Please call or write to me any time. I really want to hear from you all and share your stories with our class. Also we still need E-mail addresses from many of you.

Until next time,

Good Luck and Good Living.

Terry