

Chance reunion brings back memories

I picked up the letter that was in my box at the newspaper office, took a quick glance at the name on the upper corner of the envelope, and opened it up.

It was mentioned in the first line of the correspondence that it was being written in response to a column I had done the previous week. "Look out," I thought. "We're about to take some abuse, and it's probably deserved, as usual."

But the writer quickly went on to mention that we had gone to the same school when we were kids in Toronto. I probably wouldn't remember her, she added, almost apologetically, since she had been a grade below me.

What she didn't realize is that I've got the memory of an elephant when it comes to people I've met in my life, and I quickly put together my 25-year-old recollections of her.

The last time I had seen her, she would have been a pig tailed Grade 7 student, attired in the standard navy blue tunic that was the required dress code for the girls of the old neighbourhood school.

I couldn't resist the urge to phone her at her home in Uxbridge, even though it was long distance.

"I seem to recall you were kind of cute, in a short sort of way," I said, as we quickly established the easy rapport of two people who had grown up in the same neighbourhood.

"I think I had a secret crush on you back in Grade 4," she volunteered, laughing.

Of course, back then, it wasn't really cool to entertain notions of 'going' with someone who wasn't

in your own class. I would guess I had spoken to Enid no more than half a dozen times in the eight years we attended school together.

I've always been big on reun-

ions, so I suggested she come over for dinner that weekend. And I must admit that my curiosity really started to get the better of me as the time of her arrival came closer.

FROM WHERE I LIVE

Bruce Stapley

Not that our both being in the 'single again' category was putting any kind of pressure on the meeting. We had both established the fact in our telephone conversation that neither of us were "on the prowl."

But 25 years is a long time. Would I recognize her? She had the edge on me there because at least she had seen my mug shot in the Tribune.

Would we quickly run out of things to talk about, and end up simply going through the motions for several hours before she politely excused herself and went

home? As it turned out, my fears were totally unfounded, as we spent a delightful afternoon together, sharing stories of the old neighbourhood, filling each other in on how some of the others were doing whom we had kept contact with, and generally relating one to the other in a way we had never been able to way back when.

It's funny how a childhood commonness can establish a bond that even a quarter century of time cannot erode. Here were two individuals who had occupied the same space in the 1950s and 60s,

now back together via a chance encounter, comparing life stories, laughing and generally waxing nostalgic.

I felt at once as if I had both re-experienced a little of my childhood, while at the same time I had made a new friend. I'm sure we'll see each other again, in fact I'm looking forward to it.

And the whole experience has set me to wondering about the whereabouts of the old gang, and just what fascinating experiences have graced the lives of Willy, Jocko, Ting, Pit, Sax and the rest of the bunch.

Calendar of Events

The Tribune's Community Focus publishes a weekly Calendar of Events listing upcoming activities in the area. Individuals or groups wishing to use this free service should call 640-2100 or 649-2292 no later than the Friday preceding publication.

Thurs., June 2

A Parent-Staff Association meeting will be held Thursday, June 2 at 7:30 p.m., in the gymnasium at Summitview Primary School.

Adult Golf Instruction, sponsored by the Whitechurch-Stouffville Recreation Department, will be held Thursday, June 2 from 10 to 11 a.m., at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club, Hwy. 47, Stouffville. The fee is \$39. Registrations are being accepted at the Rec. Complex between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Fri., June 3

The Stouffville Lions Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a reunion celebration, Friday, June 3 at Spring Lakes Golf and Country Club, Ringwood.

The Goodwood Christian Women's Club will meet Friday, June 3 at 9:30 a.m., in the Goodwood Community Centre. Admission is \$3 with babysitting available. For reservations call Muriel Keeping, (640-4905), or Linda Morrison, (852-5760).

Sat., June 4

The Stouffville Pool will open for the summer season, Saturday, June 4 at 12 noon, and remain open for after-school swims during the month of June from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Registrations for swim instruction are now being accepted at the Rec. Centre.

The Class of '78 of Markham Dist. High School is holding a reunion Saturday, June 4 from 2 to 4 p.m., in Morgan Park with a dance at 7:30 p.m., in the Penalty Box Lounge of the Markham Centennial Centre, McCowan Road. Tickets are \$17 per person. For additional information call Leanne (Page) Lewis, 427-5768.

Sun., June 5

A memorial service to honor a Korean war veteran Tpr. Joseph Bell, killed in action June 6, 1953, will be held at the cenotaph in the Stouffville Cemetery; Sunday, June 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Mon., June 6

The annual Stouffville Dist. Secondary School choir concert will be held Monday, June 6 at 8 p.m., in Christ Church (Anglican), Sunset Boulevard, Stouffville.



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ONLY 29⁹⁵ Each

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