

Jim's Perspective...

Summertime is Here!

Yes, summer is in full swing! I always think back to when I was young, and how much fun I had outdoors with friends, including my girlfriend, Janie, back when we were in high school (fall of 1965 graduating in the spring of 1968). As I mentioned in the past, Janie and I went to a lot of outdoor movie theaters during the summer. We both played golf together during the summer. Sometimes she won! A very competitive young lady! We had snacks or dinner at drive-in restaurants. King's Drive-in at 40th and South Street is where we usually dined. We sat in the car, windows rolled down, AM radio playing rock & roll music, and the two of us waving and talking to friends as they drove through the drive-in. Not only did King's have great hamburgers and shakes, but it was our "social network" in the '60s and '70s when more teenagers started to get their own cars. At one time, Lincoln had a dozen locations for King's, but four locations became known for meeting kids from the four public high schools and Pius X. "Southeast" and Pius X King's was at 40th & South; "East" King's was at 66th & O streets; "Lincoln High" King's was at 19th & O and "Northeast" King's was a few blocks north of Cotner and Vine.

During the summer, Janie also spent a lot of time at Hillcrest Country Club swimming pool, or she might go with friends to a Lincoln Municipal pool. I didn't go to swimming pools very often since I couldn't swim! Instead, I went fishing or played golf.

The year 1968 was an incredible year for rock and roll music. The summer of 1968 really exploded with new, different and exciting entertainment. In July of 1968, the Beatles' psychedelic animated film "Yellow Submarine" was released in London. There were a number of unusual, fascinating, songs released in July of 1968, all of which we sang and danced to. It included:

Hello, I love you, The Doors

Jumpin' Jack Flash, The Rolling Stones

Born to Be Wild, Steppenwolf (I thought this song was about me!)

Hurdy Gurdy Man, Donovan

Think, Aretha Franklin

Piece of My Heart, Big Brother and the Holding Company

As you know, the summer of 1968 also saw significant activities related to the Vietnam War. Pediatrician and well-known anti-war activist, Dr. Benjamin Spock, was sentenced to two years in prison for conspiring to help men evade the draft.

1968 also included further expansion of women's rights including more women involved in various sporting activities. All of this included tennis star Billie Jean King winning the women's singles title at the 75th Wimbledon tennis tournament in London. It was King's third singles crown at Wimbledon, and she went on to win a record 20 total Wimbledon championships during her career. I never did play tennis. I preferred racquetball.

With our graduation from Pius X High School in the spring of 1968, everyone in our class took time to write notes to each other in our Class of 68 Yearbook titled the Thunderer. It was called Thunderer because the sports nickname for Pius X athletics was The Thunderbolts. Many of my fellow students in my senior class referred to me as "Dob", "Dobs" or "Dobie", all with a long 'o'. It came about because the beginning of my last name was Dob, or Dobler. It also came about because we all watched a TV comedy sitcom from the early 1960's called *Dobie Gillis*, and so, I became Dob, Dobs and Dobie. So this is how people referred to me in my yearbook. But doing funny things with words or "sayings" was something we all did in high school. It included things like "groovy" (really cool or straightforward and fun) or "Outa' sight!" (meaning unusual). But fun with language also included using everyday language to come up with some weird sentences such as:

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The wedding ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one fish turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

My, how time flies! Seems like only yesterday that I was going out on a date with my cheerleader/girlfriend, Janie, after playing a football game at the Pius X football stadium. Off we would go to Kings Drive-in! Just reminds me to always try to make the most of everyday! Hope all of you enjoy, and make the most, of this summer! Winter will be here before you know it!!!

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