

# Hellooooo Brookfield !!!!!

By Bill Thudium

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Summer is sure upon Brookfield now in a big way following a cool, rainy spring. The heat index has gone up considerably but sadly the rains continue as well. We were the gracious recipients of plenty of the badly needed moisture that has filled our lakes and ponds and has our area gardens growing like crazy but it just can't seem to quit "at too much"! My garden is really doing well but the weeds are nearly as tall as the tomatoes right now!! Just been too wet to get in there with a hoe! Many of our farmers have dealt with washouts of their planted fields and others have had to postpone planting because they haven't been able to get their equipment into the wet fields. Hopefully we have a good break from rain soon so they can get their fields planted. Late for corn but a bean crop may still be possible. Interestingly as well – I drove out by the City Lake this week and just a couple of days ago the water was just lapping over the spillway. It has been a very long time since our City Lake ran over the spillway – I am thinking it may go back to the terrible flooding of the '93. Just a couple of years ago there was real concern on having to ration water because our water sources were getting so low. With the new direct pipeline from the City lake to the water plant in place water will now be able to flow directly rather than being pumped into the holding reservoirs first. Those old holding "ponds" have silted in badly over the years and need to be systematically drained and dredged out. It has been a long time but I do remember the southeast "pond" being drained. They found some big fish in the bottom of that one, or at least they looked awfully big to a little kid!

***Brookfield Summer Festival & Concert*** – Despite weather issues Brookfield Summer Fest and the downtown concert went off like clockwork. The crowd in the Twin Parks was not huge but a decent turnout considering the threatening weather and a new fledgling effort to reinvent the Festival following a two year hiatus. Our Church, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, held a fundraiser to help raise money for new

sidewalks along the west side of the Church and it was a tremendous success! We couldn't keep up with the crowd wanting our deep fried tenderloins and steak fries! The car show worked out really well since the streets had been closed for the day from the north end of the Twin Parks Oval to Boston Street. They set the cars up in the street along both sides of the Oval. Most of the vendors set up in the street along E. John Street. The committee brought in a bunch of fun things for the kids to play on and those were set up all over the East Twin Park. By 2:30 the car show trophies had been awarded, the Twin Parks had cleared and volunteers were busily working to set up for the Concert. This event was held on north Main Street. The stage was set up in the middle of the 200 block facing north and picnic tables were brought in from all over town. These tables had been pre-sold to various concert sponsors. The tables were the only seating provided and everyone else was encouraged to bring their lawn chairs. We were blessed with some good fortune and the weather held off for the most part throughout the day and evening. There were a few light showers during the concert but not enough to discourage a very enthusiastic crowd – only lost a very few! On Friday night a “Brew Review” was held on Main Street with numerous places set up downtown serving various craft beers. The classic cars paraded thru town and parked for folks to check out them out. All in all it was a successful weekend for nearly everyone involved and provided for some significantly higher expectations for next year.

***BHS Alumni Association*** – Alumni Weekend will be upon us before we know it. This year the big event will be held the weekend of July 11<sup>th</sup>. I have attached the brochure and encourage you to check out all of the planned events and make your own plans to come and enjoy what has become a weekend to remember in your old home town! It is very important for Alumni Weekend attendees to support the Alumni Association by buying tickets and attending the BHS Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday night. Tickets purchased for this event are the primary funding source for the Association, expenses which seem to go up each year while Banquet attendance seen some decline. The Banquet is a good time and it is well worth your time to attend, to witness the Hall of Fame inductions and hear from the inductees. I am so much honored to be a recipient this year and I know you won't want to miss what I have to say!!! ☺ Doris (Banning, Ross) Dodd and O.H.

Williams are the other two inductees, both very deserving inductees - I am humbled to be included alongside Mrs. Dodd and Mr. Williams.

The Banquet Committee will also honor BHS graduation classes in 10 year increments (2015, 2005, etc..) – members will be recognized together with their classmates and of course the Class that has the most people in attendance will get a special award!! Each class is afforded an opportunity to sit together so those having class reunions can piggy back on BHS Hall of Fame banquet along with enjoying a good meal, excellent program and the opportunity to fraternize with friends thru the years.

*Linn County Leader/Daily News Bulletin* – Recently the local newspaper moved out of their building in the 100 block of North Main up to a much smaller but better sized building in the 300 block where the old I.O.O.F building was located. The new location of the building is just a few doors north of where the Daily News-Bulletin was located for many years. I was never a delivery boy but I knew a lot of kids who were and often ended up in the alley with them as they gathered with their pile of papers to roll and bag for evening delivery all over town. There was plenty of stuff learned in that alley behind the paper – some good and some not so good I guess. Many learned about smoking cigarettes and cursing was the norm in that alley! The good stuff was the comradery they shared, and of course for most a first time job experience they would never forget! Golly, thinking back on those days, there were quite a few kids employed as paperboys. Would love to hear some stories from some of you out there who's first real employment was as a paperboy for the Daily New-Bulletin.

*From Carolyn (Cochran, BHS '59) Best* – I just received this from Carolyn and enjoyed it so much I thought everyone would appreciate reading it as well. Many of you will remember this family. Dick '56 was an Olympic Bronze medal winner and 2013 BHS Hall of Fame inductee. His sisters, Carolyn and Kathleen, were twins and '59 BHS grads.

Our Mother, Eleanor Nancy Williams Cochran was born in Chicago, Ill in 1915 later moving to Monett, MO to grow into the happy, fun loving girl who went to summer dances, movies (her Father owned the local theater) and swimming.

She was born before the great depression and the dust bowl days and recounted many stories about those times. The great depression would deeply affect Eleanor and her family; her Father's business would fail. She would tell stories of young men coming to the back door of her family home looking for work of any kind for a meal.

The "Dust Bowl days" enveloped Eleanor as it had most people, with a fine layer of dirt blown from the west. Her earliest job was working for a local newspaper. When she walked to the various businesses to sell ads, her scarf would be pulled tight around her hair to block the ever present dust blowing through the town. Because of the uncertain times her employer had difficulty paying her wages.

She was one of four children, the oldest child, a boy, would die shortly after birth. Mother was the oldest then came Sam, four years her junior, and Mary Margaret, eight years younger. We believe her earliest responsibilities consisted of helping care for her younger siblings.

After marrying my father, Harold L Cochran, in Fort Smith Arkansas on an oppressively hot day in 1935, the two set off on life's journey. In 1938 the first child was born. His name was Dick, a nine pound, curly headed bundle of movement followed by the unexpected birth of twin girls, Carolyn and Kathleen, born in 1941 twenty days after Pearl Harbor. Our Father would be drafted leaving my Mother to raise the three with help from grandparents.

The years following World War II would find her helping to box up used house hold goods and clothing to be sent to the devastated families living in Europe. She would involve herself in our school activities. She would lobby for the inclusion of lunch rooms for the schools in Brookfield, Mo, in order to provide for children who had no food. She would find herself serving as president of the Parent Teachers Association for a time. She loved teaching Sunday school, helping with the boy scouts, and the Masonic order of Rainbow Girls. Can't forget those picnics she packed for the trek to Simpson Park in Chillicothe where she and Dad would teach us to swim.

The summer of 1952 would prove to be Mother's toughest year she would learn to deal with the after effects of Polio when one of us contracted the disease. We believe it was a small miracle that only one of us would succumb to that disease. As is her way, Mother would meet the challenge head on and become fully involved with the March of Dimes helping to guide and support Carolyn through the therapy years, finding the right bracing and crutches all in an effort to make sure her daughter would be independent. We would all learn from the Polio Years. From those trying times would come two of Mother's most memorable sayings: "Where there's a will there's a way" and the all-time favorite: "you do what you have to do".

My Mother's kitchen table was usually occupied by family and one or two of our friends who just happened to be present at meal time. She encouraged my brother's activities in sports and our love of music. We "blossomed" from our Mother's patient guidance; she was ever present!

Mother and Dad will see us through our high school years and aim us toward college. Mother would have the greatest effect on the three of us because our Father's job would keep him traveling on the road most of the time. She will encourage Dick to master the discus and keep his grades up all of which will gain him a full athletic scholarship to Mizzou. She will guide her daughters toward their choices of colleges when the time came.

How ironic that Mother and Dad, after supporting two of us through the University of Missouri, Columbia, would eventually move there for Dad's new job. This will be a turning point for Mother. She will enroll in classes and with her newly gained knowledge will begin working in various fields. She thrived in the atmosphere of the town and the university.

Their widening group of friends in Columbia would prove to make lasting bonds to this very day. Mother and Dad will spend the rest of their working years and retirement in Columbia enjoying friends, playing cards, traveling and making time for their grandchildren and Great Grandchildren who by this time, are conveniently spread across the United States.

After our Father passes in 1993, Mother will eventually move into a retirement home joining her friends, playing bridge, going on outings and making new friends. My Mother seemed happy at her retirement home until her need for extra help would require aides to assist her in her daily life. But when she required more assistance, we helped her make the move to long term care.

Was there one thing our Mother could not accomplish in her life? We believe she was unable to get up on water skis.....but Dad and a friend fashioned a surf board to be pulled behind the speed boat....that remedied the problem not just for her but her good friend, Lucille. It was perfect! We can say: "Mother could do almost anything she put her mind toward!"

With her passing, we reflect on her capacity to listen and offer advice, her willingness to help and not judge. She gave her all to her children and loved them for who they were.

" She was our mentor, our compass.....our sounding board. She was an ever present Mother, a Grandmother and Great Grandmother; an Aunt and Great Aunt and a friend to many. She will be missed but never forgotten."

“Your children are not your children.  
They are the sons and daughters of  
Life’s longing for itself. They came  
Through you but not from you and  
Though they are with you yet they  
Belong not to you.”

Khalil Gibran

***Catch it When You Are In Town*** - The Tillman House museum will be having their **ANNUAL BAKE SALE** 9:00 – 3:00 at the museum Saturday, July 11. Since this will take place the same weekend as the Alumni Reunion, out of town visitors might want to come by, tour the museum and, if staying with friends or relatives, purchase treats, snacks or gifts for their host/hostess.

Tillman House is joining Brookfield in celebrating “**Howard Rusk Day**” the same day. Everyone is invited to visit the museum to see the items on display; some of which are on loan compliments of Rusk Rehabilitation Center in Columbia, Missouri.

***Birthdays*** – July 1<sup>st</sup>, Blake DeVoy, Roman DeVoy, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Kyan Sutch, July 5<sup>th</sup>, Pat Clawson, Ruby Hedrick, Mary Lee Moore, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Hannah Thudium, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Rob King, July 8<sup>th</sup>, Butch Dyer, Tiffany Dyer, Marshallynn Smith Shah, Mallory Gonzalez, Morgan McCormick, Bonnie Seaboldt, July 9<sup>th</sup>, Kathy Libby, July 10<sup>th</sup>, Karen Evans, Steve Lambert, Jordan (Hulett) Lichtenberg, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Garry Logan, Sharron (Hahn ’59) McCollum, July 12<sup>th</sup>, Chris Maher, Michael Robinson, July 15<sup>th</sup>, Nathan Roberts, Donna Vickery, Helen Fay, July 16<sup>th</sup>, David Hedrick, Sarah Hedrick, Charlie Reid, Ted Thudium, July 18<sup>th</sup>, Mike Lindsay, Loren Holloway,

Dane Renshaw, Cole Renshaw, Linda Falconer, Sean Hedrick, July 19<sup>th</sup>, Linda Bloss, July 20<sup>th</sup>, Abby Barra, Mike Quigley, July 21<sup>st</sup>, Kim (Jenkins) Park, Raylee King, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Emily Beach, Bob Clawson, Matthew Smith, Davon Lark, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, Teresa Wine, Glenn Huffmon, Jena Long, Dylan Brundage, July 24<sup>th</sup>, Rachel Zumbrunnen, July 25<sup>th</sup>, Monica Baker, Cecilia Spath, July 27<sup>th</sup>, Kelly Watson, July 28<sup>th</sup>, Liz Wilt, Sue Head, Jerry O'Dell, Danielle Broom, July 29<sup>th</sup>, Alex Clawson, Susan Henry, July 30<sup>th</sup>, Andy Saccaro, Chris Cash, Briana Schneiderheinze, Tressia Snyder, July 31<sup>st</sup>, Isaac Allen, Vivian Graff, Debbie Shouse, Glenn Wombwell, August 1<sup>st</sup>, Bill Mobley, Sharon Flynn, Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Cheryl Calhoun, Lisa Hedrick, Shane Cavanah, Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Dale Beach, Deanna Grant, Jessica Greenway, Chris King, Chaz Walgren, Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, Whitley Almond, Laurie Gannon, Josh Maxwell, Cassie McKenzie, Larry Witte, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, Cheri York, Frank Gannon, Josh Hannick, Mark Wilkerson, Samantha Young, Bryce Shoemaker, Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>, Sharon McIntyre, D'Etta Scott, Dan Smart, Buck Farrenkopf, Gavin Head, Edward Little, Sammie Gordon, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, Mark Cleveland, Paige Drescher, Ryan Goodson, Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>, Sharron Connor, Tasha Rogers, Bill Hofstetter, Beverly Elson, Laura Almond, Kelsey Kennedy, Bob Wessing, Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>, Mike Lowther, Mary Patton, Keeden Schnetzler, Terry Brosmer, Brandy Sensenich, Allison Wild, Bruce Williams, Jean Eggerman, Charlene Roe, Bernita St Clair, Skyler Billingsly, Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, Leon McIntyre, Don Brumbaugh, Jayden Emory Britton, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, Kristi Malloy, Stacie Brown, Rebecca Haley, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, Mickey Beach, Brandon Sensenich, Melinda Wilbeck, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, David Hardy, Robbi Thompson, Mary Middleton, Mitchell Ayers, Carol Petree, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>, Heather York, Russ Knowles, Teresa Duncan, Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>, Brynleigh Cordray, Lynn Hahn, Jill Luckert, Coleton Futhey.

*Anniversaries* – July 1<sup>st</sup>, Charles & Beverly Bowe, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Josh & Tasha Rodriguez, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chuck & Jackie Tomlinson, Ed & Debbie Smith, July 5<sup>th</sup>, Rusty & Savannah Phillips, July 6<sup>th</sup>, Gene & Wanda Buckallev, Larry & Sharron (Hahn '59) McCollum, July 7<sup>th</sup>, Tim & Melissa Sportsman, July 11<sup>th</sup>, Chris & Jennifer Waugh, July 12<sup>th</sup>, Richard & Jo Ellen Boley, Dameon & Melissa Knowles, July 15<sup>th</sup>, Jon & Melinda Renshaw.

Thanks as always for reading **Helloooo Brookfield !!!!!** Please remember to shop Linn County first and don't forget to let me know when you have **Good News** or **Interesting Stories!**