

Name:

Joseph C. Reichenberger

Year graduated from MUHS:

1960

Primary interests in school and extracurricular activities:

Played a lot of golf; reserve on golf team; didn't play. Was on yearbook photography crew and worked in darkroom (no longer exists, but was in basement, under stairs on east side of "old bldg." Took photos of sports; printed out for athletes when we had time. The yearbook has a picture of John Park and I in the darkroom.

Current occupation (or former occupation if retired):

Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science; Loyola Marymount University

Where did you live while attending MUHS?

On 79<sup>th</sup> st; between Center St. and Burleigh

What were your impressions of the neighborhood during the time you attended MUHS? How did your classmates respond to the neighborhood? The neighborhood was ok; never felt that it was unsafe. As I recall 35<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin Ave was the bus stop I used to get to and from school. There was a Chevy dealer next to MUHS and a Ford dealer across 35<sup>th</sup> st on the south side of Wisconsin. Entertainment when new cars came out was to "check 'em out."

Many students, incl. me, used to hitchhike home by thumbing a ride on Wisconsin Ave and 35<sup>th</sup> St. When school left out, there were probably 50 students thumbing rides. I got to school and home riding the bus. (Hitchhiked when student bus pass was not valid – after 5 pm??). The Wisconsin Ave bus went up through Sherman Blvd. I took it to Center or Burleigh and transferred to go west. It went through nice neighborhoods. Went past Washington High – nice school at that time.

I see now there is Merrill Park; I think that is where Marquette U had their stadium and MUHS played their home games there.

I don't recall any of my classmates discussing the neighborhood. The area was an older urban residential area, but not "rundown."

What businesses, entertainment venues, parks, or recreational opportunities were in the neighborhood when you attended school? Were there particular "hangouts" for students near school?

Don't recall any particular hangouts. When school was out students took the bus and went home. Wells St. had a streetcar trolley that went across a viaduct to West Allis. I had friends there and would go there after school sometimes. The football stadium was in the area (see above). Football practice and track practice and PE was on the field just east of the old

building. The year I graduated or soon thereafter, they built a facility there. Most of the students didn't hang around school; they went home, unless involved in extracurricular activities. Those activities were fewer than the students now have. The athletic program has really expanded. Baseball was new when I was attending. I don't remember soccer. Not popular in those days.

Did you feel connected with the community surrounding the school? Did MUHS encourage you to be involved in any way with the community, either formally (Key Club, the Shared Life program), or informally?

Not really connected with local community. We really didn't have any of these groups/organizations that offered services to the community.

Did students have a sense of the attitudes of neighborhood residents toward the school?

I don't believe so. At that time the neighborhood was where the school was. We went there and when done with school went home. We sure didn't hang out in the neighborhood. Most of the students did not live close by. I don't know how the residents felt about the school. That was never discussed or brought up at assemblies etc.

How did MUHS's location on the west side affect your high school experience? Did it matter that you went to school at 35<sup>th</sup> and Wisconsin instead of, say, in a suburb?

I'm not sure how I selected MUHS, but probably through a number of my 8<sup>th</sup> grade classmates. Sure glad I did. At that time the location was not a factor. Maybe a 1 hr. bus ride at most incl. transfers. My other choices would have been Pius X?? in Wauwatosa, or public high.

I still maintain contact with a number of my classmates. Although I haven't been to any MUHS reunions due to the timing and travel, but I have gotten back to MU reunions. Last visited MUHS in 2014 and got a tour of the facility, including a few places like the old gym, with the tile walls showing.

My oldest son went to Loyola High here in LA. A school very much like MUHS.