

CHS - Bio



1955

**Will Clark - Sculptor
Ft. Wayne, IN**

Current



Below is an email sent to **Chris Seger** from **Will Clark** concerning fund raising for the reunion. Then Will responded to my email for more info as shown on the second page. As you can see, Will is a very talented sculptor!

Chris . . .

It was really nice reading your letter of last month, and remembering so many things that were part of that happy childhood. I have spent almost no time in Tulsa since graduating from CHS, maybe a total of 60 days, but no more. And I am not going to be getting back to the reunion though it looks like it is shaping up to be a hoot. I have enjoyed getting all the gossip and information from Fred Benford, who clearly is enjoying passing all of that on. My wife, Ginny, and I are going to be biking around in Southern France just before the reunion, and we have some other commitments surrounding the reunion weekend so we will not make it. But please say hello to anyone who might remember me.

I have not sent anything to **Fred Benford**, but since I am in the mood for writing about those times maybe I should just copy him in on this email. You know, when you start thinking about those times your mind just keeps dredging up more and more memories. I remember the day that you and I were down at the creek, trying to get across the ice, and you made it, but, being a bit heavier than you, I went right through. Your mom was good enough to help me get cleaned up before I had to go home and face my mom. And then there was the time my mom said specifically not to play around the new housing construction in the field across Utica, which I did, and promptly ripped a gash in my right thigh, for which I still have the scar. The **Kirkpatrick's** had that scrappy little dog named Sport that I always got along with, but who left a permanent scar on **Walter Berry's** arm. One of things that I remember about Eliot was the question as to whether **Betsy Cullen** could beat up **Bill Berry**. And since both of them were really good athletes, and strong, and fast, there seemed to be an interest as to who might prevail. But since both of them were also really nice people who would not want to contribute to any images of being just tough, the match never came off. Well, on and on.

Currently I am retired but busy with a long list of projects that range from tutoring a young man who cannot read to chairing the Urban League Board. I have been doing some sculpting for the past six or seven years and have gotten some commissions, and it looks like I will have my own showing at Manchester College in the spring. I play tennis, golf, garden, read and play the violin, and I tell people, my life is far better than I deserve.

And Fred, as far as who my first kiss was with, that is a very difficult question. Life back then was so quick, and there were so many girls . . . Who knows ??

This is Will's second email in response to my request for more information:

Fred . . .

I graduated from Cornell University with a BChe in 1961, and received an MBA in 1968 from St. Louis University. I was married to my wife **Ginny** immediately after graduation from Cornell, but we waited about three weeks before starting our family. We now have four children, all happily married, and 5+ grandkids and two step grandkids. I spent two years in the US Navy after Cornell and then worked for Monsanto for 15 years before moving to Fort Wayne in 1978 to work for an agribusiness company named Central Soya. That was a great job, President of the Food Group and Executive VP of the corporation, until the company was taken over by Roy Disney (Walt's brother) and his fellow raiders. At that point I was given the opportunity to depart along with every other person who reported to the CEO. And I managed a few local businesses after that. I have been an activist in the community supporting causes in the arts, education and housing. I received a Sagamore of the Wabash award from the Governor of Indiana, and, more importantly, was made an Honorary African American by the Director of the Fort Wayne African/African American Museum. I have served as Chair of several state and local boards. I believe that the most interesting conversation of my life occurred last month with my old college roommate, Sam Bodman, who is now the Secretary of Energy in the Bush Administration. In about a one hour chat we talked about all sorts of things, but his answer to the question "How is it working for George W.?" is what made the conversation so memorable. Sam said that President Bush is the best manager that he has ever worked for, and the reason that he is so good is that he is so bright and so well read. And the conversation surrounding that statement took about 30 minutes, way too long for this little piece, but all of this has made even my staunchest Democratic friends feel better about Mr. Bush.

There. I bet all that won't fit on one page.



Ginny Clark, Will Clark and Don Milsten taken June 2005