

Dear Fellow M.K.'s,

H E L P!!! That's right, we need your help. Not a lot, and it won't even take very much of your "invaluable" time, but the combined efforts of everyone's little help will accomplish great things, even as a little faith will move mountains.

What's the Big Idea? How about a K.A. reunion? It's been over 10 years since we all left K.A. Don't you think it's time to get together and do it again as a full class? Some of us have been fortunate enough to have gone back for a visit, but I'm sure it just didn't feel the same just visiting, without the same old faces around. Like an outsider. Almost a stranger. At least it felt that way for me when I was back in '73. As I walked around the grounds, a lot of memories came back to me as I recalled many happy (and some not so happy) times. I could see myself and a lot of you everywhere I looked in place of the faces of the kids that were there. Would you believe I broke out laughing when I came upon the sifting sand pile? I even got down and did it again (for about 30 seconds). By the way, does anyone really know how many buildings we built with all that sand? And who spent more time than anyone else sifting sand?

So the Big Idea was sprung by two of us who most recently went back for a visit, Stephen Cox and Ruth Ockers Schwinger. We want to organize a K.A. reunion of the 9th grade K.A. classes for the years 1966 - 1969. That corresponds to the high school classes of 1969 - 1972. The reunion will actually be an 11th - 15th year occasion because of the multiple classes.

How's the Big Idea going to work? With your help! First, of course, we have to find everyone. Second, we have to contact everyone and get the word out. Third, we have to determine a time and place for it. Fourth, before and after the reunion, we should keep up with each other by means of a regular newsletter. And fifth, financial support.

We need a name for our newsletter. Unfortunately, because of past uses, two names which cannot be used are SIMKIDS and US. If you've got any ideas for a name, let us know.

The enclosed list has the latest information that we were able to get from both old and new records. But there are a lot of blanks that need to be filled in. Some of the names don't have a known address. Some of those with addresses may not be the latest and correct addresses. Some of the girls have gotten married, and we need to know their married names. Any of you who are married, we want to know the name of your spouse. We need your help to fill in these blanks, so get out your address books and fill in our blanks for us.

We have a tentative time and place for the reunion, but we want your ideas also. We are aiming for the late summer/early fall of 1980. The place - in or around Minneapolis, Minnesota. However, there are some questions that will need answers to them. One, Where would you like to have the reunion? Two, How far are you willing to travel in order to attend the reunion? Answers to these questions could change the location of the reunion.

Earlier in this decade, my brother and sister attempted to keep an SIM newsletter going in much the same way that we want to do now. It lasted about 2 years before the lack of interest caused it to fold.

In order to make this new effort work, we need funds. We will accept any contribution offered, but we feel that a minimum fee should be \$2.00 per person per year just to cover the costs of keeping the newsletter going. Obviously, the reunion itself will cost a bit more and we'll let you know when we know. Until we come up with a name for ourselves, make your check payable to me, Jack Long, and mark it "for the newsletter".

Our intentions are not to limit the newsletter to the classes mentioned. We want to include any and all SIM kids on the newsletter. We don't want to eliminate anyone, however, for the reunion only, we do feel that we must draw the limit at the classes mentioned. The only reason being the sheer number of people in those classes and the fact that this is our first attempt at organizing a reunion. In time, we do want to expand and try to get everyone together. Wouldn't it be something if everyone who ever attended K.A. (or even 75%) could get together at one time in one place.

I haven't mentioned it yet, but I would also like to include in the reunion any of the staff that were at K.A. Some of them I have addresses for, but there are a lot of others whom I can't even remember, so I hope that you can help out in that part also.

At the bottom of this letter is a simple form that we would like you to fill in and send back to us. Please take the time necessary to help us all.

So that's all, folks. It's now up to you. Ruth, Stephen and I are willing to do the work, but you have to supply that which will make it work. Write in letters, include a little or alot about what you've been up to since you left K.A., what your plans and goals in life are and anything that you might want to share with everyone else. We'll get it printed and sent out to you in another newsletter that we will try to get out in October or November.

So until them, I'm hoping to hear from you.

Jack - for Steve & Ruth & myself

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Please fill in the form and send it back to me as soon as possible. The information will be put in our next newsletter.

Your name: _____
(if female and married, include both your maiden name and married name)

Address and phone: _____

Your spouses name (if you're married): _____

Years you graduated from 9th grade & high school: _____

Suggested name(s) for the newsletter: _____

Where would you like to have the reunion? _____

How far would you travel to attend the reunion? _____

Names & addresses of other SIM kids.
Information about yourself since you left K.A.