

From this Corner
“A Trophy Wife and a Geek”

Larry Baird

August saw my wife and me traveling to Lyndonville. It was a return for my fortieth high school reunion. I nearly did not go. I am not certain why, but I think “going back to high school” just seemed irrelevant to my present life, and some of my high school memories were uncomfortable. I felt awkward through most of high school and when I got out the 1967 yearbook I looked at my senior picture. In my place was a geek. So if I am honest it was an avoidance thing.

Two things changed my mind. The first was the persistent encouragement from my wife who said she wanted my classmates to see my “trophy wife.” The second was a chance meeting with one of the organizer’s aunts while on an overnight stay in Pennsylvania. Brenda and I went to afternoon tea at the inn at which we were staying, and a couple asked if they could sit with us. Soon we were talking about Lyndonville. It turns out the man was a colleague of my brother in the legal profession, and as mentioned the woman was the aunt of one of the high school reunion organizers. I decided this serendipitous event meant I was to go back to high school. Besides that I try not to be too obstinate when my wife and God agree that I should do something.

My hesitations proved to be unfounded. It was a pleasurable time and my old classmates were an interesting group having carved out for themselves respectable lives from our humble beginnings in a small upstate village. In fact many of them had made significant contributions to the greater good. One of the highlights was the presence of one of our favorite teachers. Mr. Fred Large was obviously thrilled with the accomplishments of those he had taught, and pleased to be remembered in such an appreciative way.

One thing I did notice, however, was that none of my class mates’ personalities had changed all that much. The co-organizer was just as kind and sweet as she was forty

years ago, those inclined to be on the more wild side were still so in a nearing sixty sort of a way, and the shy were still mostly so.

What surprised me most was how glad so many of my former acquaintances were to see me and their almost surprised reactions when I introduced myself. At first I thought my appearance had become more sophisticated and maybe even ruggedly handsome. Then I remembered. I was the geek with a trophy wife.

Now you may be asking, what is the point of this column? The point could be that a geek is as defined by some dictionaries is “an intellectual who is bent on a particular profession.” I was asked to say grace before the meal as most remembered I was “bent on” being a pastor.

The other more likely point however may be the truth of Proverbs 12: 4a, which says, “A good wife is the crown of her husband.” Yes, that it is for certain.