

A Hometown Firstlings Civics Lesson

By Ed Christopher

Being born in or around 1953 puts you in or close to the Class of '67. When you consider Hometown was incorporated June 6, 1953, you'll understand why we are Firstlings. As Hometown Firstlings we grew up with and share all of Hometown's history.

One particularly interesting time for us began in September of 1964 as we were entering sixth grade. We were probably ten or eleven years old and based on a few distant memories, it was a fun time. Hometown was at the highest point of its growth and a major election was brewing. An election that saw five of our parents vying for City governance positions--all at the same time. If you lived in Hometown around election time, April 1965, it was hard not to know or have heard of at least one of the candidates: Frank Hynes, Jack Quealy, Dot Peddycord, Phil Brankin or Toby Anderson.

For our last reunion we were going to write an article about the candidates and the election as sort of a history piece. Unfortunately, all we ended up with were the following notes which we think will tell a story once they are deciphered. Can you help us and work through the clues and unlock each person's story? If our notes are right for each official you will learn a fun fact about them, how many years they served Hometown in an elected position, what their real job was, and, the order in which all the candidates moved into Hometown. Are you up to the challenge?

City Officials	
Toby Anderson Frank Hynes	Dot Peddycord Philip Brankin
	Jack Quealy
Which Official... ...Was the Hi-Lites gossip writer? ...Campaigned on a stop light pledge? ...Lost Hometown election in 5-way race? ...Had to resign for moving into a duplex? ...Lived in same house but different Wards?	Running Hometown was a part-time job and all the officials had to have "real" daytime jobs. We have the list of occupations (accountant, finance manager, lineman, office manager, bookkeeper) but they need to be matched to who did them.
Can you list how many years each official served in an elected position? Here's a hint. One served three and a half years, two served twelve, one nine and one twenty years.	Looking back in time from 1965, who moved into Hometown first? What was the order? Was it Quealy, Peddycord, Hynes, Brankin and then Anderson?

		Candidates					Job				Years					Moved In					
		Toby Anderson	Dot Pettycord	Jack Quealy	Frank Hynes	Phil Brankin	Accountant	Finance Manager	Lineman	Office Manager	Bookkeeper	3+	12-A	20	12-B	9	Fourth	First	Third	Fifth	Second
Fun Fact	Hi-Lites gossip writer																				
	Wants traffic signal																				
	Lost election																				
	Had to resign																				
	Never moved																				
Moved in	Fourth																				
	First																				
	Third																				
	Fifth																				
	Second																				
Years	3+																				
	12-A																				
	20																				
	12-B																				
	9																				
Job	Accountant																				
	Finance Manager																				
	Lineman																				
	Office Manager																				
	Bookkeeper																				

- 1 The bookkeeper moved into Hometown first.
- 2 The second person to move in did not gossip in the Hi-Lites.
- 3 The accountant served an odd number of years.
- 4 The last one to move in could not possibly have served 20 years.
- 5 Alphabetically last, this person moved in next to last.
- 6 Moving from one ward to another ward was the reason to resign.
- 7 Serving a dozen years could make you a bookkeeper.
- 8 Office managers apparently do not last long but Finance managers do.
- 9 If you are not the bookkeeper or accountant, you moved in second.
- 10 But, if you served 12 years, you could have moved in first or fourth.
- 11 If the bookkeeper is known, the lineman served "a" dozen years.
- 12 Short-termers tend to resign when they move.
- 13 The second person to town did not serve nine years nor did the person who came last.
- 14 It is no surprise that the office or finance managers never moved.
- 15 Everyone supported the traffic signal but the lineman wanted to make it happen.
- 16 The best way to rumormonger is to be the first to the party.
- 17 The accountant was better known for being frank.
- 18 Believe it or not, women gossip more than men, but in a neutral way.
- 19 The finance manager should get a red ribbon or silver medal for moving in second.
- 20 At this point you should be able to accurately guess who served the most and who served the least amount of time, and then complete each person's story.