



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

What is the seating capacity of the Tech High Auditorium? The answer is 1,190 seats.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

John Benson "Jackie" Burns, T-35, scored the first touchdown – ever scored in Crump Stadium? The game was Tech v.s., Greenfield TN and Tech won 43-0.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

James Mack "J.M." VanEaton, T-56, was the "house drummer" during the golden days of Sun Records. He's the drummer of the recordings of all the major Sun artists, including Jerry Lee Lewis' "Whole Lot of Shaking Going On".



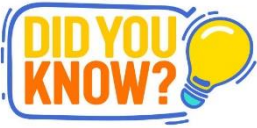
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

That after retiring as Principal of Tech in 1975, William Algie Bourne ran for the City School Board. He lost!!



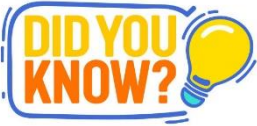
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Roy Junius Hearn, T-30, founded the Memphis School of Preaching in 1966. As of 2020, the school was still in existence.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Tech closed its doors in 1987, after 59 years at the last location. A senior class of only 60 students walked across the stage after planting a new Maple tree among all the older trees that other classes had planted throughout the years.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Charlie Glynn Miller, T-60, a well-known Memphis artist, painted the murals on the walls of Leonard's on Fox Plaza Drive.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

A Tech team won Quiz'em on the Air in 1954 beating the team from Southside. The Techites on the team were Tommy Crosby Seaman, T-54, Barbara Clifton, T-55, Robert Ashton, T-55, and Charles B. Hargrove, T-54



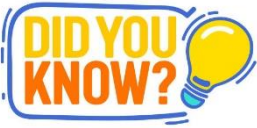
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

When additions were added to the original Tech building. 1. An addition was built in 1951 with 9 classrooms at a cost of \$253,961. 2. A second gymnasium and several other rooms were added in 1962 at a cost of \$272,812. 3. A Vocational Tech building was added in 1976 at a cost of \$758,553.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Wayne Russell, Tech's "Most Talented" in 1967 is a Memphis artist who's also an accomplished professional musician. Wayne formed a local band in the 70's with his brother Michael, T-69, and his wife Rebecca "Reba" Russell. The group is now known as the "Reba Russell Band" and they've played locally and internationally.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Joseph Wheaton Ennis, T-38, sang and played banjo with a Memphis group called "The Steamboat Strummers."



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Don Nix, T- , record producer and songwriter. Don was instrumental in the creation of the "Memphis Sound" and Stax Records.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Jan Craig, T-53, and Thomas Edwin Neeley, T-52, both became teachers and returned to Tech to teach and to coach.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Roy Clifford Nixon, Jr., T-52, served Shelby County as Sheriff from 1971-1975. On 1 January 1976, he became the First Mayor of Shelby County.



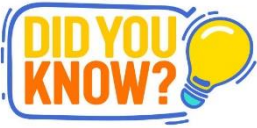
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Robert A. "Bob" Lewis, T-50, is the former director of Programming at Memphis WHBQ.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Aubrey Lee Epps, Jr., T-33, became a major league baseball player.



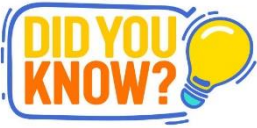
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

William B. Walton, T-37, the co-founder of Holiday Inns, helped organize and run the corporation. He later wrote "Innkeeper" with Nel Lorentzen.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Donald Ivo "Don" Newman, T-37, was an important Memphis Photographer. Don photographed every Memphis Landmark through the 40's and 50's. In many cases his photographs are the only evidence that the landmark ever existed.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Ann Polk, T-73, was crowned Miss Black Memphis in 1975.



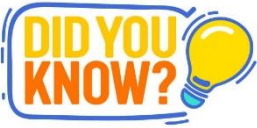
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Norman Clyde Brewer, T-52, Veteran News Anchor and news director for WMC Channel 5.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

William Algie Bourne, the second principal of Tech, held a Masters Degree from the University of Tennessee and a BS degree from Union University. He had been a Mathematics teacher and principal at the Tech High Evening School before accepting the reigns from Professor Highsaw.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

From the 1974 Faculty Handbook for Tech High: "The following deductions shall be made from teachers' salaries for absence. For Personal illness - \$6.00 per day. For illness in the immediate family - \$8.00 per day. For a death in the immediate family - \$6.00 per day."



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

University of Tennessee "borrowed" Principal Highsaw in 1918 to coach its Debate Team. A contest between Tennessee, South Carolina, and Florida was held that same year and Tennessee won first place in all debates.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

The first Maid of Cotton was Alice Louise Hall, T-39. The Maid of Cotton competition was conducted in every "cotton growing" state and the Maid had a prominent part during Cotton Carnival season in Memphis. The rest of the year she traveled all over the world and promoted cotton.



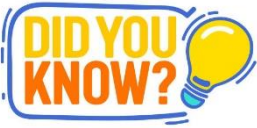
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Robert Randall "Bobby" Bragan, T-36, was a former short stop, catcher, manager, and coach in Major League baseball.



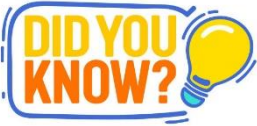
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Bob Cheevers, T-61, is a Grammy winning songwriter from Memphis.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Raymond Lockman "Ray" Godman, T-49, was a very successful stock car driver in the 50's. He participated in the first NHRA Nationals and has three National Titles. Ray was inducted into the International Drag Racing Hall of Fame in 1984.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Clifford Hoyte Poland, Jr., T-34, was the underwater photographer responsible for the "Flipper" movie/TV series.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Harry Burton Callicott, T-27, painted the murals at the Pink Palace. He became a well known and highly respected painter and teacher, who chose to remain in Memphis.



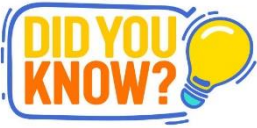
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Curtis S. Person, T-31, has won more than 75 senior golf championships.



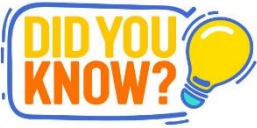
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Dorris Estelle Bowdon, T-33, starred in the 1940 movie The Grapes of Wrath. In Hollywood, she starred in four movies and then married the famous producer/screenwriter Nunnally Johnson and retired to raise a family.



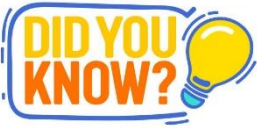
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Travis Lavoid Wammack, T-64, is known as the "fastest guitar player in the South" and plays the guitar at close to the speed of light. Travis is considered one the greatest guitarists of rock and roll and made his first recording at the age of eleven.



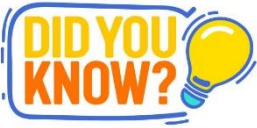
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Henry Eugene "Gene" Bearden, T-39, left-handed major league pitcher pitched the winning World Series game for the Cleveland Indians in 1948.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

On the top margin of every Yellowjacket newspaper appeared Tech' motto – "Ad Astra Per Aspera" the translation from the Latin is "To the stars with trial and error, or with difficulty"



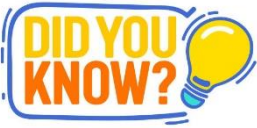
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

A Yellowjacket survey taken six months after graduation, found that all of 1967 graduates: 38 were in college, 29 were married, 16 were in the armed service, 3 were in nursing, 39 were working, 9 were in further training to work, 1 was in art school, and 3 were unemployed-looking for work.



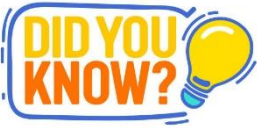
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Beth Miller, T-48, starred in the Solid Gold Cadillac on Broadway in the 50's. Beth sang and danced and was in many Broadway shows as well as on tour in the 50's and 60's.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Thorton Utz, T-33, was chosen to paint the portraits of Roselyn and Amy Carter when they lived in the White House. He also painted 50 covers for the Saturday Evening Post.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Ace Cannon, T-52, the "Godfather of Sax", started his career in Memphis, originally recording for Sun Records.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Principal Highsaw had only one year of college before going to Pecan Gap TX to teach in a one-room schoolhouse. He later returned to college and earned three degrees, from University of Oklahoma, from University of Wisconsin, and from Memphis University of Law.



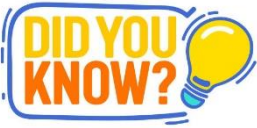
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

James A. Autry, T-51, was Editor of Better Homes and Gardens and since 1983 had ten books published – two of which are poetry. He has also been elected to the University of Mississippi Hall of Fame.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Kay Starr, T-40, major recording star from the 50's, her name at Tech was Kathryn Starks and she was already doing tours with major bands while still in high school.



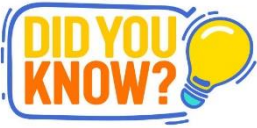
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

James August "Jimmy" Crawford, T-46, was the first Tech graduate to become an All-American football player.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Franklin Pearce "Pete" Dugan, T-37, was personally responsible for getting the Veterans Plaza built in Overton Park. The memorial was the culmination of Pete's 55-year personal crusade to honor soldiers from Shelby County who lost their lives in America's wars.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

In 1955, Tech had two "Ham" stations. W4EPQ. There were two transmitters – one 650 watts and the other one kilowatt. The school had five licensed operators.



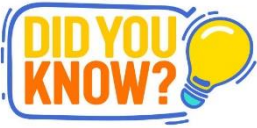
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Principal Highsaw organized the Tech High ROTC in 1918 just before the close of WWI. The ROTC unit had 88 boys and the uniforms were made by the boys themselves because of shortages due to the war. They wore white trousers, blue coats, brass buttons, blue caps and their wooden rifles were made in the Tech shops.



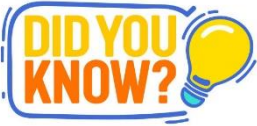
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Tech High ROTC unit provided the firing squad and bugler for military funerals in Memphis. In the latter part of 1935, and early part of 1936, it had the honor of participating in the funeral services for two of the last remaining Confederate Army veterans.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

In 1923 the Memphis Board of Education requested a bond issued of one million dollars to build the new Tech High School. They had outgrown the old building with an attendance of 1,300-day students and 350-night students.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Haywood Robert Smith, T-48, flew Air Force One for President Lyndon Johnson.



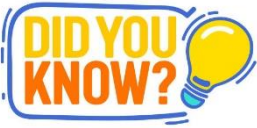
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Hamp Albert Morrison, T-36, at the conclusion of the war, he flew the famed Memphis Belle back to its namesake city. He was in the Army/Air Force during WWII and was a navigator/co-pilot of the famous historical plane. On July 17, 1946, he flew the plane into Memphis to land at its final destination. His Tech annual page says that he loves dancing, sleeping, baseball, and running track. Dr. Morrison was born in 1918 and passed on in 2010. As a tech graduate, he went on to become a very famous eye doctor. We salute our graduate of distinction.



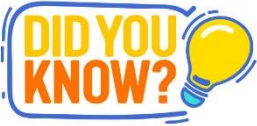
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Tech was the first school in Memphis to have an ROTC unit and the first school to teach Chinese as a language. These two events occurred almost 50 years apart.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

From 1975 – 1978 Tech had its own \$750,000.00 television station – WQOX-TV. Programming was from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 pm. with students handling all the programs and behind the scenes.



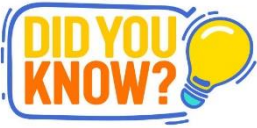
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

In 1918 Tech had it's first football team. Gilbert Schloss, the coach of the Memphis University School, also coached the Tech team. It was one of the only times that the same man coached both teams on the field.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Tech and Central are the same age and both schools began in September of 1911. The school building at 317 Poplar was called the "Castle", and it was built in 1898. It was named the Old Memphis High School and later became Crockett Technical High School. When the new Tech opened, the "castle" became the Board of Education, until it was demolished in 1965. During the demolition a copper box cornerstone was found. The following items were in the cornerstone box: (1) A small bottle of whiskey that had its cork eaten away. Everything in the box had a nice whiskey aroma to it. (2) Faculty Mementos. (3) Board of Education Mementos. (4) Signatures of all pupils in the school in 1898. Note: They actually found one of the students, well over 90, and gave her the paper with her signature back. (5) Samples of student school work. (6) Old Newspapers. (7) A Confederate flag. (8) A U.S. flag, and (9) Confederate money.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Miss Effie Wright, longtime Assistant Principal of Tech, was awarded membership on the All-Memphis Football Team in March of 1936. She didn't miss a Tech football game for 17 years and only then because of a serious auto accident. Miss Wright was also given a commission as honorary Colonel in the ROTC. And this was long before the "women's liberation movement."



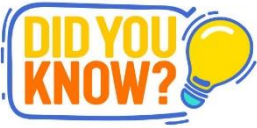
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

From the Tech Daily News Paper, 23 April 1928: The space in the rear of the shop building is reserved space for members of the faculty. In the future students must not park their cars in it. Cars parked there, other than cars belonging to members of the faculty will be pushed into the street. By order of J. L. Highsaw, Principal.



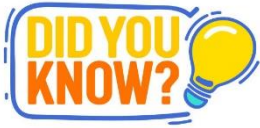
Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

From the Tech Daily News Paper, 11 October 1928: Miss Effie Wright selects the design of the Class Rings and Pins for the Senior Class each year. Rings are \$7 and Pins are \$5.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

From a 1923 Crockett Technical newspaper: A new Chemistry lab was added this year at a cost of \$10,000.00. It will hold 128 students and is the most up-to-date lab in Dixie.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

The Tech High building has had several different names since Tech Closed: Comprehensive Pupil Services Educational Center, Pyramid Academy, and in 2009 a new name – Northwest Preparatory Academy, which will be a school for overage high school students.

In the history of the building there have been very few principals: James Leonard Highsaw, William Algie Bourne, William Kobeck, Herbert Robinson (one year only), and Ira Eugene Spillers. Spillers was replaced by Mr. White, and now, Mike Smith.



Rob Jolly's Trivia Tuesday

Thomas Edmond "Ed" Craig, T-50, Veteran News Anchor for Channel 13 Eyewitness News.

