

## What were your favorite subjects in high school?

By Don Dailey

That was a long time ago, but I do remember that my English Literature classes were chocked full of great poems, books and stories that really piqued my interest. How great it was (still is!) to get carried away in the pages of a great story, completely oblivious to the here and now of life. I must say that these courses put me on to a great habit of reading all sorts of books throughout my lifetime, with a tendency toward history and historic novels in my last 20 years or so.

Another art form that I was first introduced to in high school was the Broadway Musical. I think I may have previously shared that in my Senior year, the school production was "Funny Girl"; I got a call one day from the school Theatre Director, Brother Gerry Dwyer, wanting to talk to me about joining the play. Of course, I though he must have heard my golden pipes of a voice one day in the hallway and was looking to cast me certainly in the male lead role. Alas, I Don Dailey remember his piercing words of rebuke when he said: "Hah - you, in a lead role...of course not we have all the fine actors we need for the play. I just need a few big meat-heads like you to serve on the stage crew to push around the big sets for this show!"

Needless to say, I was crushed but still curious enough about the show and experience to give it a shot. Turns out that the cast and crew of such a show are every bit as much a high performing team, like the many sports teams I'd played on...only better because there were girls on this team! I had a ball working on the crew and found the music, acting, dancing and singing a fabulous form of entertainment. In fact, as of this writing, and as a direct result of "Funny Girl", my wife, Mary Jo and I have attended over 130 different Broadway Musical productions in New York, London, Toronto, Chicago and Detroit - with the vast majority of shows being right here in Cleveland at the Playhouse Square theaters, the largest performing arts center in the country outside of NYC!

