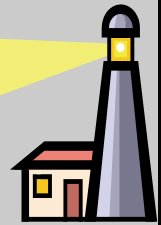


BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME FIFTEEN • NUMBER ONE

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Yooperalumni.com – Reconnecting with Classmates

One need only attend an open house at the Ishpeming High School gym, spend a night at the Congress, or relax at Al Quaal with a cudighi from Ralph's Deli in early July to realize that Ishpeming-area alumni want to stay in touch with each other.

In late September 2002, we thought it might be fun to create a Web site that simply listed the names and e-mail addresses of Ishpeming and Westwood graduates so alumni could stay in touch over the Internet. Creating this site is one way that we can show our appreciation for Ishpeming High School and a small way to give back to the community in which we were raised.

Our Family

We've had several questions from members about the weather in Ishpeming this winter. We'd love to be able to answer them, but it would be tough since we currently live in Issaquah, Washington, about 15 miles east of Seattle and have been here for the past four years. (We've been accused of choosing Issaquah because it sounds much like Ishpeming and the local high school is IHS.) After graduation from IHS, we both went on to college – Rolfe graduated from the University of Michigan in 1978 and Cathy graduated from Northern Michigan University in 1984.

The two of us met in 1986 in Sunnyvale, California (after being introduced to each other by two other IHS graduates!) and were married in Ishpeming in 1989. The wedding was on Thursday during the July 4th week since we figured our friends would then have no excuse to miss it. It's hard to believe we grew up one mile apart, yet met 2,500 miles away.

After 14 years in sunny California, we moved to the Seattle area. Rolfe currently works in the finance department of Amazon.com, a leading Internet retailer. Cathy currently is a stay-home mom (who doesn't get to stay home much) raising our three active children: Nicolette, eight; Bianca, six; and Lucas, four.

The Web site

Since neither of us knew anything about creating and

maintaining a Web site, we spent a month learning how to build a site. A former work colleague recommended that we launch something quickly just to see if there was interest. So, we built a very basic site and launched yooperalumni.com on October 24, 2002. We sent e-mails to about 25 family members and friends to see if there was interest. The answer came quickly. By the end of the first day, 23 people had joined, many of whom were not on our original e-mail list. By the end of the first week, we had 102 members. The site is now just six months old and membership is around 1,000 including members from China, New Zealand, Sweden, Chile, Canada, and most of the states in the United States.

As time went on, we noticed that many of the e-mails contained encouraging messages which we really appreciate. We've also received several great ideas for the site – one member suggested we add city and state of residence, several have sent links to Web sites of local interest, and others have submitted pictures from the past (one was taken around 1900). Additionally, members began to send us the details for upcoming class reunions and other local events – we encourage members to use the site.

As we mentioned, the goal of the site is to provide a means for Ishpeming and Westwood alumni to keep in touch with each other. We think that as membership grows the majority of communication for reunion events will be possible using the site. The site could also keep reunion pictures, softball results, and July 4th pictures.

Thanks!

Many thanks to those responsible for publishing the Beacon Light. We have enjoyed reading it over the years and it is truly an honor to be included in this month's edition. Also, thank you to all the yooperalumni.com members for your support! We enjoy maintaining the site and hope it helps you stay in touch with other alumni.

See you in July,
Cathy (IHS 1980) and Rolfe (IHS 1974) Lindberg



The Lindberg Family

Lois Tucker

One of the most daunting experiences of my life was having to attend eighth grade at C.L. Phelps school. Through no choice of mine, I had to leave the security of all that was familiar. Gone was the security of one teacher, one classroom, one group of students for the term. I was an extremely shy child and didn't handle change well at all.

The first day of school that fall found me a trembling, quivering mass of insecurities. My heart was pounding so fast that I was sure everyone within a hundred feet could hear it. Whenever I even attempted to speak, my mouth was so dry my tongue stuck to my palate.

I just knew that I would either shatter into a million pieces, or have a massive coronary before

the day ended. How was I ever going to survive the next nine months?

Enter, Miss Tucker. From the first moment I made eye contact with Miss Tucker, I felt every tense muscle in my stressed out body relax. She did for me what no other teacher ever had done before. She made me feel unique, even special.

Miss Tucker was a mentor years before mentoring was popular, even encouraged. Under her tutelage, I felt like a worthwhile person, someone whose very existence mattered. I was sure from her actions that I had to be one of her all time favorite students, and that thought not only warmed me, it gave me strength and courage.

In 1996, I had the opportunity to visit with Miss Tucker in her home. I had written her a few months earlier telling her how much she had positively affected my life. She once more

made me feel special as she told me how much my letter had meant to her.

That afternoon, I was able to witness her interaction with another former student

who was doing some work for her. I realized then that she had an innate ability to make all of her students feel special. It was this quality that made Lois Tucker a unique and outstanding teacher.



Lois Tucker

Florence Bennett (IHS 1966)

July 4th Events



The theme this year is **Our Children, Our Future.**

The Grand Marshalls

of the parade are going to be Dr. Lehman and Dr. Rao.

The Annual Alumni Softball Tournament will run from July 2-4.

July 4

The 4th Annual Firecracker 5K Walk/Run starts at 8:45 A.M. Registration is from 7:15-8:30 A.M. at Al Quaal.

10 A.M. – 3rd Annual Kid's parade. Line up at Mather Inn parking lot and go down Main Street. All kids get a prize at the end.

10:30 A.M. – Parade

Immediately after parade is the Community Picnic at Al Quaal with food, entertainment, softball finals, and fun.

The Yoopers will be performing right after the parade and then the Slamtones.

The Blue Notes will have a concert at dusk with fireworks following.

New Life Members

We welcome our latest life members and thank them for their contribution to the Alumni Endowment Fund. Total life memberships at this writing stand at 983. The principle of the endowment will remain in the fund, with only the earnings from the fund available for operating and educational purposes.

Hugo Luostari (<i>In Memory</i>)	1929	Susan (LaCombe) Parker	1969
Jean (Olds) Mumaw (<i>In Memory</i>)	1934	Kristina (Kamppinen) Paveglio	1973
Ann (Peterson) Pellinen (<i>In Memory</i>)	1934	Brian Jacobson	1974
Donald Larson	1941	Michael Koski	1979
Judith (Snow) Jarvi	1957	Ellen (Kamppinen) Heath	1981
Marcia (Peterson) Schiltz	1960	Jennifer (Cox) Dumphy	1991
Mike Aho	1969		

Ebba Eklund

She wasn't very formidable to look at – short gray curls, glasses, conservative dresses – mostly with white collars. In the classroom, however, Miss Eklund was all business.

Students often complained to each other about how strict Miss Eklund was, but from my perspective at least, I learned.

Personally, I offered quite a challenge in the world of shorthand. The slant of a shorthand character often gave it its meaning. I wrote with a black-hand slant, so you can see how that would create havoc in Miss Eklund's class. She was re-

markably patient with me, and I managed to do a decent job of stenography.

There is a story about a prisoner who was being executed and it was the eleventh hour. The governor sent a wire which should have read: kill him not, save him. The message received was this: kill him not save him. Due to an omitted comma, the prisoner was executed. Had one of Miss Eklund's students transcribed the message, it would have been done properly, and an innocent man would have lived.

I realize this is an extreme example, but it serves to make the point

that Miss Eklund's high standards facilitated good performance.

In a mediocre world, Miss Eklund did not allow mediocre students. She wanted her students to be prepared for their future jobs, and she did not want them to fail because she had set the bar too low. Miss Eklund did her job well, sometimes in spite of her students' resistance, but always because she cared.



Ebba Eklund

Martha Bennett (IHS 1961)

Class Get-togethers and Reunions

- Class of 1943** The Class of 1943 will hold their 60th class reunion on Thursday, July 3rd. Please meet at the Venice Supper Club at noon.
- Class of 1948** The Class of 1948 will meet at 12:00 noon, on Thursday, July 3, at the Country Kitchen. Order off the menu. Contact Henrietta Nardi at (906) 486-7174.
- Class of 1950** Meets for breakfast at the Country Kitchen on the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 A.M.
- Class of 1953** The Class of 1953 will be celebrating their 50th class reunion on July 3, 2003, at the Wawonowin Golf Club. From 5:15-6:15 P.M., cocktails will be served. A picture will be taken at 6:15 P.M. Dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Gauthier at (906) 486-6281.
- Class of 1954** The Class of 1954 meets the fourth Thursday of every month at 11:30 A.M. at Jasper Ridge.
- Class of 1956** The Class of 1956 will meet for lunch on Thursday, July 3, at noon at Jasper Ridge Brewery. Spouses and friends are welcome. Order from the menu.
- Class of 1958** The Class of 1958 will be celebrating their 45th class reunion on June 28, 2003, at the Ishpeming Elks Lodge beginning at 6:00 P.M. For further information, contact Lynn (Williams) Ketchem. Phone: (906) 486-6107. E-mail: ketcheml@chartermi.net
- Class of 1963** The Class of 1963 will gather on July 1, 2003, for their 40th class reunion at the Ishpeming Elks Lodge. Greet and chat with classmates at 5:30 P.M. A class photo will be taken at 6:30 P.M. Dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Marge (Gleason) Hendra at (906) 485-4855.
- Class of 1968** The Class of 1968 is having an informal gathering of classmates and guests at the Venice Supper Club, 113 N. Second St., Ishpeming, MI, on July 3, 2003, from 7:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Pizza & hors d'oeuvres will be served. There will be a cash bar. The cost is \$5.00 per person payable at the door. No other notices will be sent. If you have any questions, contact Mary Jo (Nault) Mikkola at (906) 475-7362 or **E-mail** Mjmikksl@aol.com
- Class of 1973** The Class of 1973 will hold its 30th reunion on Saturday, July 5, 2003, at the Jasper Ridge Brewery in the Country Village in Ishpeming from 6:00-9:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres will be served – \$10.00 per person/\$15.00 per couple. Contact either Teri (Thompson) Arseneau at (906) 485-1146 or Cheryl (Junak) Christian at (906) 485-1532 for more information.
- Class of 1978** The Class of 1978 will be gathering on Wednesday, July 2, 2003, for their 25th class reunion at the Ishpeming Elks Lodge. Hors d'oeuvres will be served all night with entertainment by The Rockin' Ray Band. The cost is \$20 per person, and there will be a cash bar. Class pictures will be taken at 8 o'clock. If you have any questions please contact Sue Heilala at (906) 485-5979 or **E-mail at** SHeilalaIHS1978@aol.com
- Class of 1983** The Class of 1983's 20th reunion will include the following events: July 3 – class night, time and location to be announced, host IHS open house; July 4 – 4th of July parade; July 5 – golf outing at Wawonowin in the A.M., host IHS open house, and reunion at the Teal Lake Lodge (pig roast). Contact Carl Underwood at cpunder@chartermi.net for details, questions, or comments.



Please Help Us Locate Missing Alumni

Please help us locate our missing alumni. The list is posted on the Ishpeming High School Web site at the following address:

www.ishpemingschools.org/alumni

Also, please keep us informed if you have a new address.

Beacon Light Articles

*The **Beacon Light** staff invites you to submit ideas for future articles. Please send your ideas to the alumni office.*

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