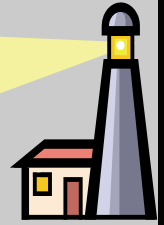


BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME SEVENTEEN • NUMBER THREE

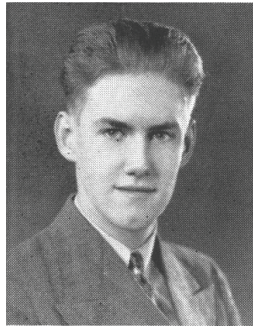
FALL 2005

Interview with a Grad

I was a student at Ishpeming High School between 1936 and 1939 of the last century. The day began with everyone scurrying to get to class on time, because tardiness was a "no-no". Classes were broken up with gym, school band or orchestra, choral groups, pep rallies, and assemblies.

I think the excellence of the school system in my day was a tribute to the skills and discipline of one man: Clarence Phelps, who brought Harvard to Ishpeming. He had a plan for each class

and teacher, and when he walked into class (most often without notice!), he would sit at the teacher's desk, and open the teaching schedule to see that the class was being conducted according to the plan for that day. Occasionally he would bring test pa-



Hugo Pearson - 1939

pers to the class, hand out the tests, and pick up the results himself. There were moments of terror when the papers were handed out, but he meant business and he expected everyone, particularly students, to excel. He had an aura of sternness and dignity. He actually had a very warm personality as I learned many years later when I conferred with him on a community project.

The high school principal was Ogden Johnson, a graduate of my college alma mater, who followed the same no-nonsense administration policies as Superintendent Phelps. I think it was a privilege to have been in high school during those ad-

ministrations. There was no dress code, except that the girls couldn't dress provocatively. The boys were conventional in their dress for the times. Here in Santa Maria, California, only gang colors or caps are forbidden, and the

contemporary dress for boys are shirts and trousers which are 4 sizes too big.

I have no notion as to whether we were knowledgeable about world government. We were not "exposed" to the newscasts of national and international TV as "kids" are today. But it still does not seem to create interest in government locally or internationally. I meet many young people who have no knowledge or understanding of the U.S. involvement in WWII and who our allies and enemies were at the time. My only recollection of war events was a radio broadcast I heard at Bible Camp at Crystal Falls that a U-boat had sunk an English passenger vessel without warning. The fact that it was a dark and stormy night outside made the implications foreboding, but not as chilling as Pearl Harbor about 27 months later. At IHS, to my knowledge, there were no student anti-war groups. So interest

Continued on page 3

Another Successful Open House

This year's open house was a one-day event held on Saturday, July 2. Once again, the turnout was excellent. The class of 1985 hosted this year's event. They did a great job and deserve our thanks.

Those familiar with the changes last year were ready to sign their names on the decade posters hung on the wall. The objective is to offer an opportunity for alumni to let others know that they were in town. The 40s and 50s had the largest representation again this year.

The slide show of pictures scanned in from various annuals was even longer this year. Many took the time to sit or stand and watch the presentation. The pictures offered alumni a great opportunity to catch a brief glimpse of the past and reminisce about former classmates and school functions.



It is heartwarming to watch the gym come alive each July. Graduates of the Ishpeming High School can boast about having one of the best Alumni Associations around. Others look to us as an example when the time comes to organize an association of their own. The board would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued support. Without it, the Association, the open house, and the *Beacon Light* would no longer be possible.

Next year's open house will be held on Monday, July 3, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!

-Ellen (Penrose) Roberts '71

Class Get-Togethers and Reunions

Please contact the Alumni Association Office if your class has a gathering that is not listed,

Class	Date	Location	Time	Contact & Other Information
1936	Second Tuesday of each month	Country Kitchen	Noon	Lowell Holmgren at (906) 486-8265
1939	Second Tuesday of each month	Country Kitchen	11:00 a.m.	Doreen (Amell) Brown at (906) 486-9473
1940	Second Thursday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:00 a.m.	
1941	Second Tuesday of each month	Varies	12:30 p.m.	Betty Bannon at (906) 486-6283
1947	First Friday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:30 a.m.	Barbara (Husby) Nuorala at (906) 486-9283
1948	Last Tuesday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:00 a.m.	Joanne (Belstrom) Gaboury at (906) 485-5261
1949	Second Wednesday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:00 a.m.	Jean (Stone) Johns at (906) 485-4322
1949	July 3, 2006 - Celebrating their 75th birthdays	Venice Supper Club	12:30 p.m.	Jean (Stone) Johns at (906) 485-4322 or Chuck Cornish at (906) 486-9378
1950	First Thursday of each month	Country Kitchen	8:30 a.m.	Jan (Lofaro) Boase at (906) 486-6966
1952	Third Monday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	Barbara (Graham) Johnson at (906) 226-0898
1953	Second Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier at (906) 486-6281
1954	Fourth Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	Al Chapman at (906) 486-9241
1954	July 6, 2006	Al Quaal Lodge	5:00 p.m.	
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1956	July 1, 2006 - 50th Reunion	Wawonowin Country Club	6:00 p.m.	Pat Garrett (906) 486-8380
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	12:30 p.m.	Robert Sihtala at (906) 486-6950
1961	July 1, 2006 - 45th Reunion	Venice Supper Club	TBA	Luckylyndy@milink.net
1966	July 5, 2006 - 40th Reunion	Venice Supper Club	6:00 p.m.	Cash bar and pizza buffet - \$5 at door. Clare Champion at (906) 485-5966 or DaBossYa@aol.com.

Sports Trivia: Unbeaten and Unscored Upon!

Football season 1936. Hematite gridders under coach C.C. Watson compiled an enviable record. After a long, hot summer getting physically prepared, the football team held *all* opponents without a score, amassing seventy points themselves. Beginning the season with a scoreless tie against Negaunee, the following games brought victories over Calumet, Sault Ste. Marie, Marquette (twice), Negaunee and Gladstone. The team picture, featured in the display case at the entry to the New Gym, identifies the twenty five players and coaches for this remarkable squad.

Recently interviewed for this trivia segment, George Olds, a team member, remembers the practice sessions at the "hospital" field on Division Street with the team being taken on a local bus to the home games at Legion Field, located between Ishpeming and Negaunee.

There is a mystery associated with the record of this team's accomplishments. The team picture clearly shows the total Ishpeming points as 72, while all other records show the total as 70. Any ideas?

-Al Goodney '54

Readers Respond

In our last issue of the *Beacon Light* we asked readers to submit names of alumni serving our country in the armed forces if we did not include them in our article. We got a great response.

In addition to the names mentioned, we have the following alumni serving our country: John Hagemeister '88 and Haakon Hagemeister '95 in the National Guard serving in the same unit - deployed to Iraq; Chris Erkkila '91 serving in the Army; Carmella Denofre '96

serving in the Army in Iraq; Joseph Denofre '99 serving in the Army in Korea; John Cass '86 correction: Marine Corps, not Army; Michael Denofre '93 serving in the Army National Guard; Denise Cass '98 serving in the Air Force; Danny Johnson '90 serving in the Navy stationed in the State of Washington; Ryan Pelkola '97 Air Force Captain, F15C pilot currently stationed at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska and Heidi Pelkola

'99 serving in the Army National Guard. Thanks again to all of our service men and women.

Several of our Alumni sent in donations in support of the alumni Association and we are very grateful. We need your donations to operate and to continue publishing this *Beacon Light*.

Keep the cards, letters and donations coming!

Interview with a Grad – Continued

was minimal. I suppose we all hoped that the reality of war was so distant that we didn't have to be concerned.

The only "teenage hangouts" I remember were the Chocolate Shop on Main Street, the Carnegie Library, and Schollander's news stand and candy shop across the street from Miners' First National Bank.

I was not very big in sports. The only time I tried out for football I went home with two sprained wrists and charley horses in both legs, and the knowledge that I had best look elsewhere. I was a cheerleader for a few years with Buzz Johnson and Bud Gill. We balanced Buzz on our knees and he would jump off at the end of the "yell". Very primitive stuff in the light of the pyramidal efforts of a hundred pretty cheerleaders raising one about three rows high and doing Radio City kicks in short dresses. We didn't know any better and thought we were "cool".

My favorite teacher, among many, was Ben Renz, who required us to learn phrases from literature he posted on the walls, such as: "We are so constructed that we hate what we do not understand." It has just occurred to me that I hated algebra, because I didn't understand it. I loved Geometry, however, because of its logic, and the clarity with which my other favorite teacher, Waino Ikola, taught. His two sons are pediatric medical doctors here in Santa Maria, CA. Small world after all.

My main diversions were Speech and Music. I was fortunate to win the U.P. championship in "Declarations" in my sophomore year, and for Oratory in my senior year. I also loved debate, and IHS teams traveled all over the U.P. with much success. While touring, we got to have dinners in real hotels, with blue plate specials, costing sixty-five cents!

I loved singing in the men's and mixed choruses. Miss Bentley was an outstanding choral director, and so was George Pixley in the instrumental field. I played trumpet in the HS band and orchestra, and was a student director on occasion.

Gill on trombone, Grenfell on piano, Johnson--drums, Talso--alto sax, Amel and Nelson tenor saxes, and me on trumpet, had a band called "The Genial Gentlemen of Rhythm." We rented the Vasa Lodge hall for our dances, and also the Golf Club, and the hall above the Chocolate Shop for a New Year's dance. No booking agents ever came to Ishpeming, so we were never discovered.

The other musical outlet was the Industrial Association Band. We received 50 cents for each practice in the HS band room, and \$1 for each concert. We'd march from the high school to the Mather Inn and were set up in the elevated rock garden on the corner. We also marched in many firemen's tournaments and for the annual St. Rocco's day festival, and for three long days of the Centennial cele-

bration in the town square with "Old Ish."

My most embarrassing moment was when I was to play a cornet solo from the stage during my class graduation. I got up in front of the auditorium, every seat filled, and my mouth filled with cotton, or so it seemed. The people listened without booing, and actually clapped when I left the stage. Probably saying to themselves, "Thank God that's over." So that ended my high school years in "Ishmich".

I was off to college in September, and from there to military and flight school, earning my wings as a B-24 bomber pilot and aircrew commander, then went on to law school.

I have attended all the class reunions until 1999, when the loss of my wife and many physical problems prevented me from coming. I maintain e-mail contacts with several members of the class of '39. But anyone who wants to share memories about 'the old days' is very welcome to write me. I have many stories to tell. Hail Beacon Light.

Note: This interview was conducted in an e-mail exchange between Sue Blomgren and Hugo Pearson, and given here in essay form as the interviewee wrote it, with some editing.

Thanks to Hugo Pearson, '39
Submitted by
Susan (Bussiere) Blomgren, '56



Ishpeming High School Alumni Association Donation Form

Date _____

Name (please include maiden name if applicable) _____ Class of _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Alumni Association donation for operating expenses —suggested annual donation in the amount of \$25 or more (non-tax deductible) *Please make contribution payable to the I.H.S. Alumni Association* _____

Alumni Association donation for scholarship fund (non-tax deductible) *Please make contribution payable to the I.H.S. Alumni Association* _____

Greater Ishpeming Area Community Fund – Ishpeming Alumni Fund (tax deductible endowment fund) *Please make contribution payable to GIACF – Ishpeming Alumni Fund* _____

Mail To: Ishpeming High School Alumni Association, 319 East Division Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849

Alumni Association Names Scholarship Recipients

On June 2, 2005, the Ishpeming High School Alumni Association presented two \$500 association scholarships to two high school seniors at the annual Seniors Honors Convocation. This year's recipients were chosen through a blind-selection process in which the names of the students were not known to the scholarship committee. Applicants were evaluated on character, service and academic achievement. The association is proud to announce that Natalie Bertucci and Kyle Waananen are its scholarship recipients for the 2004-2005 academic year. Both Natalie and Kyle plan to attend Northern Michigan University this fall where they will study business and criminal justice, respectively. Congratulations to Natalie and Kyle and their families!

On another note...we thought you would like to know about a scholarship recently setup for students of IHS. An anonymous donor has created a scholarship fund in the name of Helen A. Bentley, a longtime music teacher of Ishpeming High School. This fund will provide a \$750 scholarship to a graduating senior. Candidates will be judged on musical background and interests, academic standing, and citizenship. Candidates must be pursuing any of the four following areas: voice training/development, choral music, piano accompanist, or music directorship.



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

- Teri Lee (Thompson) Arseneau '73
- Anthony Bertucci '01
- Jenna Nault '06
- Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
- Al Goodney '54
- Ellen (Penrose) Roberts '71

Your Assistance is Appreciated!

Without your continued financial support, the future publication of this newsletter is in jeopardy. In order to maintain the quality format and information we have been able to provide you, we rely heavily on your donations.

Web site: www.ishpemingschools.com/alumni
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