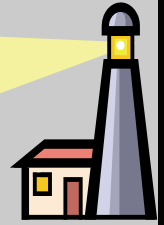


BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME SEVENTEEN • NUMBER ONE

WINTER 2005

The Snow Warriors

Under cover of darkness, in the snow and cold of the Apennine Mountains of Italy, a band of soldiers clothed from head to toe in uniforms of a camouflage of snowy white began the ascent up a sheer cliff of 1800 feet to the ridge above. The enemy, convinced that the mountain was secure and unassailable at that location, was completely taken by surprise. The Germans had thus far successfully resisted attempts by the Allies to break this mountain stronghold. But no longer. It is February 1945, World War II.

Through the courage and stealth and daring of the 10th Mountain Division, and with the support and back-up of the participating forces in this operation, control of the Riva Ridge was established. This then led to the taking of Mt. Belvedere, the key mountain in the 120 mile long "Gothic Line" across the Apennines. Mt. Della Torraccia was also cap-



Painting by Roger Junak '61

ured during these five days and nights of bitter fighting and heavy losses. Our troops then pushed Northward in the Spring Offensive to the Po Valley, and to the final battles of Lake Garda in April. The war ended in Italy on May 2, 1945, "V-E Day."

Paul Joseph "Joe" Perrault, (IHS class of '42) of Engineering Company "D" of the 126th, 10th Mountain Division



was one of those serving in the Po Valley. Joe, a lifelong Ishpeming resident, has many fascinating stories to tell about his tour of duty. He joined the Army in 1943, along with his friend, Ken Oja ('44), and Ray

Nashlund and William Palmquist. Other IHS grads who joined were James "Roxie" Lawson, ('39), John Koski, ('43), Lawrence Korpi, ('39), and E. "Pinkie" Mitchell ('38).

Joe started at Fort Sheridan and later trained for mountain and winter warfare at Camp Hale, Colorado. Company "D" was the battalion's motorized company which dealt with equipment such as bulldozers, air compressors, and heavy trucks. Joe drove a 6x6, a 2 1/2 ton truck, but once had to drive a bulldozer himself across the Po Valley, because the larger trucks were taken to transport troops! (He mentioned that, while in Italy, he had an "Upper Peninsula" sign on the front of his truck, and it was actually noticed and hailed by a fellow Yooper soldier.)

His assignment to Italy was from December 1944 to May 1945. His company took part in such operations as the clearing of mines, repairs of cratered roads and damaged bridges, building pontoon bridges to replace those destroyed

Continued on page 5

I.H.S. Alumni Association Scholarship Fund Update

In the last issue of the *Beacon Light*, it was announced that the Alumni Association's Board of Trustees had approved a scholarship fund. Now, a fund has actually been created. In addition to the initial donations, we have received gifts for the fund from E.P. Hughes in memory of Robert Hughes, Thomas Fleck in memory of his wife, Merle C. (Johnson) Fleck, and from the Class of 1952.

The purpose, or mission, of this scholarship fund is to grant

all IHS graduates the ability to apply for financial assistance while pursuing continued education. The Association hopes to grant at least one \$500 scholarship per year.

Based on the historic generosity of the Ishpeming High School alumni, it is anticipated that the scholarship fund will constantly grow through donations. Each year the Alumni Association's Board of Trustees will be advised of the scholarship fund balance to

date. Based on that information, the number of scholarships to be awarded for the upcoming year shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

Forms to apply for the new Alumni Association scholarship, and, others available to IHS graduates, are available at the High School April 1 and must be turned in by May 1. Awards are announced at the annual Honors Convocation.

-Anthony Bertucci '01

What ever became of ...?

The assignment that I was given in writing this article was to rouse a memory of a favorite teacher or member of the support staff and to answer the question, "What ever became of ...?" What an ominous task. How could I, in just two weeks, narrow the field down to just one person? Instinct led me to remember my years at IHS and to think of those who influenced me the most during that time. Names such as Mr. Andrew, Mr. Carlson, Miss Ecklund, Mr. Manchester, Mr. Penrose, Mr. Thomas, and Mrs. Viant immediately came to mind. Do I know their given names? Yes. But thirty-plus years later, they continue to hold my respect.

Do you remember them as I do? Norman Andrew, American History; Bruce Carlson, Algebra; Ebba Ecklund, Stenography; John Manchester, Physical Science; Jim Thomas, Geometry; and Charlotte Viant, English. How easy it is to think of each of them as he or she stood in front of us each Monday through Friday from September until June of any given school year. Who, then, was Mr. Penrose? He did not stand before us in class but rather worked behind the scenes. To you, he was a custodian. To me, he was Dad. Clarence Penrose was a custodian at IHS from 1956 until his retirement in 1979.

One of Clarence's duties was to keep the pool on track. Yes, I

did cringe each time a classmate complained that the pool was cold, knowing that my father was responsible. I think that most kids believed the pool just took care of itself. I remember days that Dad would come home complaining of a "knot" in his head because he had gotten a whiff of the chlorine used for the pool. That knot would stay with him for days. Even today his grandchildren laughs as he remembers Clarence's stories about changing the bulbs in the lights above the pool. A task that required two men, a row boat, and a ladder, and the best part was that neither of them could swim!

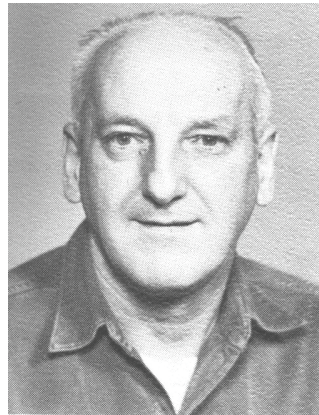
Clarence was the one who remained long after the dance or basketball game to make sure the gym was put back into shape. Once in a while, if I was lucky, I was able to sit with my mother on a Friday night at the bottom of the staircase leading to the girls' restroom as she watched over the girls' purses. I enjoyed the constant flow of people and would sometimes sneak upstairs to catch a glimpse of the "big kids" dancing. When the dance was over, I would watch

Dad maneuver two dust mops, one in each hand, around the gym until he was sure that the floor met spec.

Most of all, I remember how much he enjoyed the kids. Those who took the time to notice him came to know his sense of humor. For example, were you one of the many teased into taking a drink from a fountain that had no water? He loved to tease the kids but was also ready to correct their behavior when necessary, acts that earned the respect of those who knew him.

So... What ever became of Clarence Penrose? During the five years of his retirement, Clarence didn't wander far from the area. He

and his wife did do some traveling to visit family, but most of his time was spent pursuing his hobbies: woodworking and music. To his family, he became known as Bumpa the Toymaker. His grandchildren (there are 17) reaped the benefit of his pastime with child-sized garages, dressers, hutches, and cribs. His grandson eventually set a 50 yard freestyle record at the Ishpeming pool; the same pool that Clarence maintained. He never got to see it, but we know how proud he would have been.



Clarence Penrose
1969

-Ellen (Penrose) Roberts '71

Alumni Association By-Laws Revised

Trustees of the Alumni Association completed their review and updating of Association By-Laws during fall meetings. The revisions, a goal of Association President Anthony Bertucci to bring the By-Laws into compliance with current operating realities, were thoroughly discussed at regular board meetings. Your Alumni office has prepared a By-Laws & Policies booklet that is available in limited quantities by contacting the office by phone, fax, e-mail, or personal visit. Approval of the new By-Laws came at the October 16, 2004 Alumni Board meeting which followed the Fall Class Representative breakfast.

-Al Goodney '54

Letter from Abroad

Louise Mariegaard came from Denmark and spent a year in Ishpeming for the 1995-96 school year living with Richard, Carol and Jennifer Ross. Below are excerpts from a letter she recently sent me.

Dear Teri:

It's good to hear from you. I hope you and your family are doing great. I have just finished a Masters Degree from the London School of Economics (UK) in European Politics and Governance and have returned to Copenhagen. Currently I am working on my thesis for my Danish Masters degree in political science from the University of Copenhagen. Hopefully, I will get most of it done before starting as a civil servant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

As for my year spent at IHS, there are many fun, interesting, and strange memories - not the least due to the many really warm and interesting people I got to know during my stay. I remember that I thought I was going crazy in the first few days after arriving in

Ishpeming when I noticed that the earth was shaking every weekday around noon or so! What was wrong with me? Well, after a week or so I found out it was because of the mining (blasting). That was not something that I had thought of at all!

Another thing I found curious, but very cool, was the local community's intense support for the high school sports teams. That a lot of people would drive hours and hours to see the boys' basketball team in the state semi-finals (or was it quarter-finals) was very impressive to me. Events such as homecoming were very new to me, but fun!

Similarly, I was amazed to find that winter could last so long in Ishpeming. I guess the year I was in Ishpeming (95-96) certainly was among the coldest (at one point around -50 degrees Celsius according to my diary). As far as I remember, the first snow fell on Homecoming and I have pictures of ice on Lake Superior in the middle of May (and surprisingly I

guess I must have convinced a classmate to stick her feet into the ice cold water)!

Prom was another highlight. All the fuss about getting dressed up, finding a date, etc., was very fun but also a lot of work! There were certain traditions such as the flower corsage and finding the right dress that had to be attended to. The latter took hours of shopping but I found one I was very happy about. The prom itself was great with lots of dancing and chatting. After I returned home to Denmark, a friend remarked "you look like someone that has just gotten married". And, if I am not mistaken, my prom night ended on your living room floor with friends and tons of itching from pins and spray in my hair!

These are just a few of my memories from Ishpeming. Best wishes to you and everyone in Ishpeming!

-Teri Lee (Thompson) Arseneau '73

More Alumni Authors

We are pleased to add to our list of published authors who are graduates of IHS: Kathleen ("Peanuts" Tonkin) Cooley, '47, and Daniel Oja, '74. Kathleen's book, *White Deer Lake, Life at the McCormick Camp*, is an account of her years living with her parents and two brothers on the tract of wilderness commonly know as The McCormick Tract, in western Marquette County. Her father, Ted Tonkin, was a superintendent of the area called White Deer Lake

Camp for many years. The land was originally purchased by Cyrus McCormick II, son of the inventor of the wheat reaper, as a private resort. It was later willed to the U.S. Forest Service by his son, Gordon, "with the stipulation that it be a memorial to his father and be called the Cyrus McCormick Experimental Forest," thus giving public access (though limited) "so that everyone could enjoy the beauty of the area." Kathleen writes with humor and in detail of

her unique experience.

Dan Oja and his wife, June Parsons, have written many textbooks on computer technology, and one of the most popular, titled *New Perspectives on Computer Concepts*, is now in its eighth edition. Over the years he has also taught Tae Kwon Do, owned a computer retail store, and written a large number of computer programs.

-Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56

Trivia



Q. Which I.H.S. graduating class had the least graduates? Which one had the most graduates?

A. 1884 had 8 graduates and 1972 had 248.

Q. What famous Hollywood comic duo came to Ishpeming for a War Bond Drive in 1942?

A. Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

Thank You!

On behalf of the Ishpeming High School Alumni Association, I would like to thank those of you who have made recent donations to the Association. I am impressed with the generous support our great alumni have shown, not only to the association's operating fund, but also to the W.C. Peterson Auditorium Improvement Fund and to our newly created scholarship fund. We truly have had a successful year. Thanks again for making our Alumni Association a great, and much admired organization. Have a great 2005!

Anthony Bertucci, Association President

Your Beacon Light

We want you to enjoy your Beacon Light. It is your opportunity to keep abreast of what is happening to old friends, classmates, alumni, and your school.

Any comments and sugges-

tions are welcome. We especially want to encourage you to send us suggestions for future articles. If you would like to write an interesting story for a future edition, all the better.

Mail all your thoughts to the Ishpeming High School Alumni Association, 319 East Division Street, Ishpeming, Michigan 49849 or e-mail them to alumni@ishpemingschools.com

Class Get-Togethers and Reunions Look How Active I.H.S. Graduates Are!

Class	Date	Location	Time	Contact 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.	
1945	July-60th Reunion	TBA	TBA	Ann Marie (Nelson) Hammar at (906) 486-6479
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
1950	Friday, July 1, 2005 (55th Reunion)	Wawonowin Country Club	Noon	Jan (Lofaro) Boase at (906) 486-6966
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
1954	Fourth Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	Al Chapman at (906) 486-9241
1955	Sunday, July 3, 2005 (50th Reunion)	Ishpeming Elks Club	3-8:00 p.m.	Hors d'oeuvres will be available; cost is \$25 each. The class will also construct a float for the parade.
1955	Second Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1956	Saturday, July 2, 2005	Country Kitchen	Noon	Pat Garrett at (906) 486-8380
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	Robert Sihtala at (906) 486-6950
1965	July 2005 (40th Reunion)	TBA	TBA	Carol (Lindberg) Palomaki at (906) 486-9701
1970	July 2005 (35th Reunion)	TBA	TBA	Julie (Rundman) Stream (906) 486-9677
1980	July 2005 (25th Reunion)	TBA	TBA	Jennifer (Ruusi) Niemala (906) 486-4866
1985	Saturday, July 2, 2005. They will also be having monthly meetings.	Ishpeming Elks Club	7:00 p.m.	Lynn (Anderson) French at (906) 486-4526 or e-mail at LYNN85@charter.net . Check yooperalumni.com for updates.

Snow Warriors (Cont'd)

by the Germans, clearing blocked tunnels blown up by the enemy, and a most amazing undertaking: the building of an *aerial tramway* from the valley floor up the side of the Riva Ridge “as far as it could go.” It was built during *one* night to give support for the troops on the Ridge. Ten hours later it was being used to bring casualties down from the mountain and to send ammo and supplies back up. It was a most successful and much-praised operation, the first to be built by the Army in that war.

After the war ended, Joe stayed in Italy awhile to help rebuild and repair bombed bridges and roads. On the long boat ride back home to the States, he did some carving and etching with a small knife and an awl on his canteen and mess-kit to pass the time: The Leaning Tower of Pisa, an outline of the Apennines, the towns of Trieste, Florence, Rome, Naples, Riva, and San Benedetto, among others. They are now a part of the unique exhibit of the 10th Mountain Division at the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum in Ishpeming, which includes a display of equipment used in their wartime endeavors, the uniform of the “soldiers on skies” of the 10th with its disguise for “concealment of maneuvers in snowy terrain.” The

skis, and even their rifles, were painted white! A stunning panorama of a 10th Mountain team making a climb is shown in a mural created by Roger Junak ('61).

The anniversary of the fall of Riva Ridge, called “Belvedere Day,” is observed each year on February 19 to “pay homage to fallen comrades” of the 10th Mountain Division. The veterans of the 10th, their descendants and families in the area gather for a meal and meeting on that day, cherishing their special bond and legacy.

Paul J. Perrault was awarded the Silver Star: “on the first day of the final offensive in Italy, PFC Perrault, a truck driver, volunteered to accompany a reconnaissance group which was sent forward to locate mine fields. When his platoon, working ahead of attacking infantrymen, was cut off from friendly troops, the enemy launched a fierce mortar and artillery barrage, and a sergeant in charge of his platoon was wounded. Without

thought for his safety, PFC Perrault made his way through the height of the fire to rescue the wounded man and carry him to safety. When contact with friendly units was restored, he again risked his life to bring a jeep forward through several minefields in order to carry his sergeant back to an aid station.”

Joe has fond memories of the IHS Mixed Chorus (he sang tenor) under the direction of Miss Bentley, and he still plays his trumpet today. He was married in 1949. He made his “Big Jump” at the Pine Mountain Ski Tournament that same year. He skied with the Ishpeming Ski Club, and was a member of the U.S. Olympic teams in 1948 and 1952. He was inducted into the National Ski Hall of Fame in 1971.



Paul “Joe” Perrault ‘42
2005

Note: The 10th Mountain (Light Infantry) was reactivated in 1986 and has served in Desert Storm, Somalia, Bosnia, and Afghanistan, and in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

-Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
With thanks to Joe and the staff of the National Ski Hall of Fame

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

Did You Know?

- The IHS class song *Hail Beacon Light* was written in 1898 by student Ella Inez McInnis. It won a prize from the school Superintendent for the best words for the high school song.
- The first meeting to organize the Ishpeming School District was called in 1879 by Julius Ropes for whom the Ropes Gold Mine was named.
- In 1896 the average class size of Ishpeming High School was 56 students.
- IHS lost 34 of its graduates during WWII, one in Korea, and three in Vietnam.
- When Ishpeming won the football State Championship in 1975 they defeated Hudson who had the longest winning streak in the nation at the time.
- On July 7, 1984, 1,750 IHS alumni attended a banquet to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the high school.
- Ishpeming High School is one of only 49 high schools in the State of Michigan to receive an “A” grade by the Michigan Department of Education.
- In 1952, 60% of the graduating class was in the mixed chorus.



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

Teri Lee (Thompson) Arseneau '73
 Anthony Bertucci '01
 Natalie Bertucci '05
 Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
 Al Goodney '54
 Ellen (Penrose) Roberts '71
 Terry Thompson '52

2005 Alumni Open House

Mark your calendars! This year the annual Alumni Association sponsored Open House will be held on Saturday, July 2, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For a complete list of class gatherings please see the inside of this issue.

Web site: www.ishpemingschools.com/alumni
 E-mail: alumni@ishpemingschools.com
 Phone(906) 485-1381
 Fax: (906) 485-1422



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