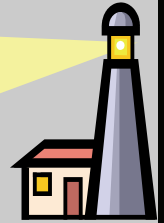


BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME EIGHTEEN • NUMBER ONE

WINTER 2006

Goodness Gracious, Sakes Alive—Can It Be? It's Fifty-Five!

Okay, so its almost 56. Years, that is. Years since our class tromped the hallowed halls of beautiful IHS, years since we had carefree fun, got into trouble (though little ones in those days), sang, played instruments, won basketball state championships, and – well, I'll go on.

We had the best class that ever graduated from Ishpeming High School. Yeh, I know, that's what they all say. But we *know*. And that's why we still get together so often to hug, laugh and reminisce at our pasty picnics, monthly breakfasts, and Christmas celebrations, all thanks to the expert arrangements of Jan and Jack Boase. Not too bad for a bunch of old fogies. And maybe some of us will remember—

The Girls Skating with Axel

Carlson We skated cross-handed and he glided us, even the stumbling ones like me, around that shimmering snow-dusted ice as though we were Sonja Henie herself. We girls could hardly wait until it was our turn, and when that soaring taste of heaven had come sadly to a close, those of us, including me, who were non-skaters went and sat on the sidelines to watch all the pros, hating their sturdy ankles that didn't drag on the ground.

Oak Street Hill Marcia Bamford played the baritone and I the trombone, she quite capably and I, well, to be kind, badly. We took weekly lessons together from our band director, Edson Stiles, who lived just at the bottom of Oak Street hill. Mr. Stiles was a nerv-

ous, fidgety person who, when talking seriously to the boys, would unbutton and button their shirts. We girls, to be safe and not being dummies, wore slipover tops.

In the winter, Marcia and I would make Flexible Flyers of our instrument cases, sit on them and slide yelping down that steep grade. Fortunately, we never got caught, because if we had, and if Mr. Stiles didn't kill us, her parents and my aunts would have.

Winning the State Class B Basketball Championship Who could forget it? For years Coach Clermont C. Watson and his teams had soared many times to the brink of this final coup, but

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“Dot”

Her slight, slender figure belied her prodigious strength and stamina. Lining us up for a posture check, (she was a stickler for good posture), or listening to our complaints about the restrictive rules of girls' basketball, she was constant in her encouragement and support. She had an abundance of common sense, and applied it. Above all, she was fair.

Our "gym" teacher, Mrs. Lindberg, was much more than a physical education instructor. One of her cheerleaders from the 50's remembers that Dorothy "Succeeded in getting her students to do what needed to be done, by her soft-spoken ways. She



Dorothy Paull Lindberg Anderson
December 29, 1916 – January 8, 2006

also had thoughtfulness and respect for "teenagers" with minds of their own, and was always there when we needed her the most." She had a kind of enthusiasm, whether in the gym or the classroom, or just out walking about town as she loved to do, that was contagious.

When Dorothy was a student at Northern, a fellow commuter tells the story of when the carpool came to pick her up in the mornings, she was usually still in her bathrobe. But once on the road, there was no stopping her. On the way home from classes one cold winter day, the commuter car broke down. Dorothy insisted that everyone get out and proceeded to lead them in doing jumping jacks on the side of the road, to keep warm. That was a typical Dorothy moment.

During her 30 years in the Ishpeming school system, she was also the swimming coach and the Latin teacher. A combination of brains and athleticism, she was just an outstanding person. Thank you, Dorothy Paull Lindberg Anderson, for your years of leadership and friendship.

-Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56

Goodness Gracious... – Continued

this year we made it the whole, challenging distance. That stellar group consisted of "Stretch" Lindberg, Clyde Dodge, Bob Sharland, "Sully" Sullivan (remember holding your breath while he dribbled around and around the other players?), "Bud" Piirto, Don Doney, Hugo Ruohomaki, Rogers Corcoran, Terry Thompson, and John Juntti.

And we had girl cheerleaders then too. Until that era, Ishpeming didn't think cheerleading was "ladylike" enough for girls, and besides -- dig those short skirts! But in 1947-48 they compromised, accepted a few female cheerleaders, and decreed that those girls would wear slacks. The ice-breakers of that year were Audrey Micklow, Arlene Kandelin, Marcia Bamford and Margaret Corcoran. Our 1950 championship year was led by Liz "Honey-Bee" Voelker, Liz Gall, Betty Antilla, and Jeanette Garceau.

Helen Bentley What a lifetime gift she bestowed on so many of us! We not only learned from her but we also learned from each other. When the freshman came in singing like little kids, they heard the experienced students sending out voices that could have graced any chorus in

the country, and soon the freshman were opening their throats and sending their own sounds to the back of the auditorium. Some became soloists, many did not, but every member of every chorus contributed toward a whole that would thrill even the most hardened of audiences.

And we certainly can't forget our accomplished accompanists, without whose dedicated devotion to their important tasks we would never have sounded so smoothly coordinated. Through our four years we had Bernice Wiggins, Peggy Irwin and Janet Lofaro, and I hope we thanked them enough.

Ben Renz's Senior English Class Among a host of many fine teachers of those years, Ben Renz was a stand-out. He quietly made us aware of good literature, writing, speaking, and turned us out at the end of the year with much more advanced skills in those fields than those we had had when we entered his classroom and were first awed by the formality of those lovely tables and the raised stage.

He laughed with the rest at our bloopers though. One I can't forget is Bruce Cain giving a report on "The Outcasts of Poker

Flat." Remember that one? In his report, Bruce, speaking of the marriage of the primary couple of the story said, ". . . and he married her and took her home to Poker Flat." Guffaws from all, including Mr. Renz. Bruce looked puzzled.

I pulled one, too, that I remember. In a report on a highly publicized air attack during World War II which was expected to result in much devastation to the people of Denmark, I built, with great drama, toward the climax. Recounting the terror of those Danish citizens, I said, with all the excitement I could muster, ". . . and they looked up, and in the sky above them they saw -- SIX MOSQUITOS!" More guffaws.

Well, maybe we weren't really the best class. They were all best. But we were our class, and thus special to all of us who were a part of it. At this late stage in our respective days, it's so nice to have each other, pretty good health, many friends—old and new, kids, grandkids, and most of all, our memories.

That is, if we can still remember what they are!

-Joan G. Hansen '50

Address Changes

Moving? Do you know of a classmate's new address? Please let us know. We want to keep our database current; however, we can only do so with your help. The addresses you provide are not only used by the association, but they are used by your classmates in planning for class gatherings.

Trivia Corner

1. Who was the Ishpeming native who is listed in the Guinness Book of Records for having the longest list of accomplishments in "Who's Who in America"?
2. What year was Suicide Hill completed and made ready for jumping?
3. In 1961, how many students were in the mixed chorus?

A. 73	B. 105
C. 142	D. 169

Answers: 1) Glen T. Seaborg, 2) 1926, 3) Letter "D"



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
1946	July 1, 2006 - 60th Reunion	Ishpeming Elks	6:00 p.m.	Ken Walimaa (906) 486-8065 (Social at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m.)
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
1950	July 6, 2006 - Pasty Luncheon	Teal Lake Lodge	Noon	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 - Celebrating their 70th birthdays	Al Quaal Lodge	5:00 p.m.	Shirley (Bye) Price (906) 475-6884
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 (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380
1956	July 2, 2006 - Annual Lunch	Country Kitchen	Noon	
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	12:30 p.m.	Robert Sihtala at (906) 486-6950
1961	July 1, 2006 - 45th Reunion	Northwoods Supper Club	TBA	Luckylindy@miuplink.net
1964	Fourth Monday of the month	Jasper Ridge Brewery	6:30 p.m.	
1966	July 5, 2006 - 40th Reunion	Venice Supper Club	7:30 p.m.	Pizza/pasta buffet - \$6 at door. Contact Mary Jo Bussone at (906) 486-9887 or Clare Champion at DaBossYa@aol.com
1976	July 1, 2006 - 30th Reunion	Pasquali's in Negau-nee	7:00 p.m.	Rosanne Turino (906) 485-6440
1981	July 2, 2006 - 25th Reunion	Wawonowin Country Club	TBA	Steve Pohlman at pohlman@chartermi.net
1986	July 1, 2006 - 20th Reunion	Ishpeming VFW	TBA	Julie (Matson) Solka at juuls2286@sbcglobal.net
1991	July 2006 - 15th Reunion	Al Quaal	TBA	Amy Manninen at amanni11@sbcglobal.net
1996	July 1, 2006 - 10th Reunion	Jasper Ridge	6:00 p.m.	\$10 at door. Jan Levy (906) 346-3605

We are so pleased when IHS Alumni respond to the *Beacon Light*, that we want to share some of them with you.

Eleanor (Hill) Koski '41, enjoyed the last issue, especially the interview with Hugo Pearson. We also heard from Per Rosvall '72 of Stockholm, Sweden! He always enjoys reading the *Beacon Light* and finding

out how his American high school is doing.

We also received a name of an additional alumnus serving in the military: Michael Kitto '89 is serving as a LTC Flight Surgeon for the F-16 107th Fighter Squadron in the Michigan Air National Guard.

Several of our Alumni sent in donations in support of the Alumni

Association and we are very grateful. We would especially like to thank the Class of 1945 for their donation. We need your donations to operate and to continue publishing this *Beacon Light*.

Keep the cards, letters and donations coming!

Archives Room Project Begins

We asked and they granted! For 100 plus years, IHS memorabilia has been accumulating in the dusty corners of the high school basement - old trophies, banners, awards, annuals, pictures, statues and other mementos of the glorious past of IHS.

In September, we asked the school superintendent, Dr. Stephen Piereson, if we could use the old band/art/computer room to clean up and display these treasures that students worked so hard to earn. He said yes!

A planning committee measured the room for shelving units and painting. Supplies were priced out and a letter was drafted to all of the Ishpeming civic organizations for donations to our \$2,600 project.

The shelving units were constructed and the

walls and floors painted by a very enthusiastic group of volunteers from around the community. The IHS



Volunteers begin to paint the walls of the Archives Room

Archive Room will be completely renovated and made ready by the end of February. Then the fun will start. Another crew of volunteers will start to sort, clean, catalog and display all of our treasures.

By the time our July Open House rolls around, any of you may ask for information on a wide variety of subjects, such as "Did my grandfather's basketball team win a district championship in 1942?" or "Was my mother's

debate squad *really* undefeatable in 1969?" We will have your answers.

When you come home, why don't you check out our brand new IHS Archive Room?

-Terry Thompson '52

What's In A Name?

When cleaning out closets and drawers, one is always looking for an excuse to take a break from this tedious chore. The pile of Hematite annuals on the top shelf was calling me! So I took them, blew off a layer of dust and started to browse. I hadn't gotten too far, when something struck me as being quite funny. If you had ever lived in "Yooperland," you were destined to be given a nickname, especially the guys. Now I'm not talking about a "Billy" or a "Jimmy" or "Tom." I'm talking about a real down-home nickname that would stay with you to your grave!

For instance, let's take the class of '47. We have "Porky," "Twinkie," "Runt," "Cod" and "Flash" to name a few. Hmm...does anyone know the origin of these names? Staying in the '40's, there was "Hyper," "Scrimmer," "Bucky," "Buna," "Gigs." and "Haircut," and who can forget "Snookie," everyone's favorite mailman?

Many of us remember the famous (or infamous) Johnson brothers, "Snort" and "Butch." Not to be outdone, the other Johnson family had "Cake" and "Pi." (If they'd had

a sister, it would have been just wrong not to call her "Cookie.") When you hear the names "Roxie," "Fudo," and "Pucko," do you start looking around for Opie, because you swear you must be in Mayberry? Of course not! You are at the bottom of Suicide Hill watching three of our primo ski jumpers flying over the trees. Bravo!

In the "Fabulous Fifties" some familiar nicknames were "Nippo," "Bomber," "Meatball," "Stretch," and "Sully." You will notice that they are all of the male gender. It just wasn't polite to call the girls anything but their given names...at least to their faces! Because they were named after their dads, there were numerous "Juniors" in all the classes. Clarence, Henry, and Carl were better known to us as Jr. Ayotte, Jr. Coron, and Jr. Lemin. There must be hundreds of others.

Did Mrs. Tonkin realize that when she gave her children their lovely baptismal names...Cecil, Kathleen, and Adrian, that they would forever be known as "Bearsy," "Peanuts," and "Bunny?" Not likely!

It was a long time before we real-

ized that when someone called our house asking for "Rudy" or "Burps" that it wasn't a wrong number. Whatever happened to those wonderful Christian names we parents so lovingly chose for our kids? In later years we received calls from "Mad Dog," "Guto," and "Weed." To this day we have never learned their real names

Even some of our teachers could not escape the monikers bestowed on them. Do "Bull," "Mindy," "Gabs," "Ma," or "Prune" ring a bell? Enough said!

Do you happen to know "Buckshot," "Spawnbag," "Yogi," or "Scal?" They are a businessman, a retired teacher, mine inspector, and a school custodian. There are hundreds of others who could be recognized, but this is not getting my closet cleaned. So it's back to the unpleasant chore at hand. But I will leave you with a few more names to ponder:

"Perky," "Tammer," "Riffa," "Flinky," "Ittabit," "Bearbug," "Umber," and "Dinky." Only in the U.P.!

Thanks for the break, fellas!

-Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50

W.C. Peterson Auditorium Receives Improvements

Wow! Not only did alumni supply the school district and the alumni association with enough funds to install a new exhaust fan system, but your generous contributions also provided funds for some other much needed improvements. The contributions of alumni allowed the auditorium to receive:

- **New Carpeting**—The old carpeting was “bunching up” in the aisles and was becoming a trip hazard. It could no longer be stretched, so new carpeting was needed.
- **Additional Stage Lighting**—In order to more properly light the stage, additional lighting was installed by an experienced lighting crew.
- **Stage Lighting Repair**—In addition to the new lights, all of the old lighting equipment was cleaned and properly repaired. This work will give us many more years of use.
- **New Electrical Receptacles for the Stage**—Prior to our electrical outlet installation, there were very few outlets available on or near the stage. This posed many problems for groups who needed additional power for performances. Instead of running extension cords throughout the school, groups may now use the many outlets on the stage.
- **Electrical Receptacle and Internet/Network Jack Installed on the House Floor**—By adding these two outlets on the house floor, presenters are now able to connect to the school network and power a projector and/or laptop without running cords down the auditorium’s aisles.
- **New Work Lighting for Stage**—We replaced some very old and unprotected lighting with enclosed, modern, fixtures.
- **Inspection of all of the Chandelier Wiring**—This was done to make sure our chandeliers were in proper (and safe) working order... and they were.
- **New Balcony Clock**—Now you can tell the correct time in the auditorium using the new battery powered clock.

What an impressive list! On behalf of the Ishpeming School District and the IHS Alumni Association, I would like to thank everyone who made these improvements possible. You make our association a great and much admired organization. Thanks again for your support.

Anthony Bertucci, '01
Alumni Association President



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, Michigan 49849

Did You Know?

- Ishpeming High School is the top rated academic high school in Marquette County as rated by the Michigan Department of Education.
- Eight IHS cross country runners have been selected as “Academic All State.”
- Seven IHS students have been selected to perform with the State High School Honors Choir.
- Four Ishpeming High School students have been selected to perform with the Upper Peninsula Honors Band.



Mark Your Calendars!

The 2006 Alumni Association sponsored Open House will be held on Monday, July 3, 2006. More details to follow.

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.

BEACON LIGHT STAFF

- Teri Lee (Thompson) Arseneau '73
- Anthony Bertucci '01
- Natalie Bertucci '05
- Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
- Janet (Lofaro) Boase '50
- Mary (Anderson) Bussone '66
- Al Goodney '54
- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
- Jenna Nault '06
- Terry Thompson '52
- Sheila (Anderson) Thornton '59

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



Ishpeming High School Alumni Association
 319 East Division Street
 Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

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