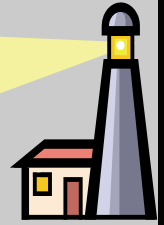


BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME NINETEEN • NUMBER ONE

Winter 2007

Another Success Story

When asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, Christine (Kutchie) Waara would respond, "an artist." But by the time she started high school at Ishpeming High School in the fall of 1979 she was on a different course, a business course. It was "more practical and would help me find a better paying job." Ironically, after a career in marketing and sales, marriage, and children, I guess you could say she grew up because she is now following her dream as an artist.

"Art has always been my favorite thing to do. As a little girl my favorite scent was an open box of crayons. I'd draw for hours at the kitchen table, make up plays and act them out with cousins, paint rocks, play the piano, write stories and loved books and music. My parents always encouraged me to be creative. It came as no surprise when I excelled in my art classes with Nheena Weyer Ittner.

Mrs. Ittner was new to the area at the time and introduced her art students to a world of art appre-

ciation. We learned how to critique each other's work, and during these sessions Mrs. Ittner would bring food we had never tasted or seen before, such as kiwi and pomegranates. She had "art shows" by displaying our artwork in the school's showcases, and she arranged, with the help of Mr. James Somers, my English teacher, to expose us to fine art in the museums of Chicago by taking us on a trip to experience a whole new culture of city life. My desire to travel and observe the wonder and beauty of the world started in high school.

I was a sponge when it came to my favorite classes—art and English. Thanks to those fine teachers, as well as my journalism teacher, Nancy DeCaire, and Steno/Business teacher, Mrs. Bolitho, I was inspired to continue a path toward my dream. It was Nancy DeCaire who took me to Ann Arbor to compete in the state finals Forensics competition. She drove me in her compact car with the radio and



Christine Waara and mother, Clara Kutchie, at Christine's summer art show.

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The Season of 1955

I had just returned from Wolverine Boys State and the town was buzzing. The new football coach, by the name of Chuck Fairbanks, had arrived from Michigan State. He moved into our neighborhood with his young, attractive wife and two small children.

In the two previous football seasons, Ishpeming had won only one football game. It was difficult to be optimistic about the chances of our team doing well, but we seniors really wanted to win some games.

At my first meeting with Coach Fairbanks, I was surprised that he already knew the names of several returning lettermen and the positions that they played. He

asked if we could get together and just discuss some of the basics of his offensive scheme. My assumption was that it was something they had been running at Michigan state. He put together what he thought would be his starting backfield and we went out to the Winter Sports Area. The quarterback was Jack Talbot, right halfback was Bob Wills, fullback was Rick Wuorenmaa, and I was the left halfback. We walked through, and eventually ran, the belly series, which would be the basis of his offense. We were pretty excited after this one practice and were anxious to start practice with the lineman to implement the scheme.

The first day of full practice we

jogged around the track at the football field, then sat down in the bleachers. The coach, in his very slow, deliberate manner of speaking said, "Gentlemen, this is the best looking football team I've ever coached." There was a lot of laughter because we knew this was the first team the recent graduate had ever coached.

We ran the belly series over, and over, and over again on the field at practices. Coach Fairbanks was asked one day by one of the many adults who watched the practices, "Coach, when are they going to start to run the hill?" Running the hill near the

Continued on page 2

The Season of 1955 (cont.)

football field had been a common aspect of conditioning by the previous coach. Fairbanks' response was, "Hell, football games aren't won on a hill. They're won on the football field."

We opened the season at home against Manistique, scoring 31 points in the first half. That was as many points as we had scored in the entire previous season! It was very obvious that the belly series was effective, because both halfbacks scored on lengthy runs.

The next day, we started seeing mysterious signs in downtown stores. The signs read, "Beat the jinx!" We soon learned it meant that Ishpeming, which had *never* beaten Iron Mountain, was going to go over there and win the following week. At the pep rally at "Old Ish" on Friday night, a confident, young Coach Fairbanks got up and addressed the large crowd, saying he didn't know what this jinx was all about, but that Ishpeming was going to Iron Mountain the following day and win the game.

The ticket booths at Iron Mountain were overwhelmed by the caravan of cars that streamed in on Saturday afternoon. Many fans didn't get into the game until half time. We did beat the jinx, beating Iron Mountain 14-6. Coach's belly series was again effective, confusing the Iron Mountain defense, that didn't know how to stop us. We were so excited after the game that we could have walked home!

Through Coach Fairbanks' repetition, we became so proficient at running his offensive scheme, that he decided that we would audible all plays in the Negaunee game. Without once going into the huddle,

we scored a 38-20 win over a good Negaunee team, which had defeated us 55-6 the year before.

The 1955 Ishpeming football team had six wins and two losses. This was the first of three successful seasons for Coach Fairbanks. In 1958 Dan Devine tapped him as an assistant coach at Arizona State, followed in three years by the University of Houston. In his first year at the University of Oklahoma, he was elevated to head coach. Fairbanks implemented the wishbone, a modification of the old belly series, producing winning seasons for Oklahoma. By the time Fairbanks reached his mid-thirties, he was named head coach of the New England Patriots.

Ishpeming was fortunate to have such a talented young man. School Superintendent, William Peterson, was a good judge of talent and character to see beyond Fairbanks' youth and inexperience. Chuck Fairbanks exuded confidence and competence in his field and had a magnetic personality.

The selection of Fairbanks also benefited his players. Due to our successful season under Coach Fairbanks, we received publicity and the attention of college recruiters. Scholarships that I know of from that team were: Bernie Bjorne (1956), and Dale Ruhomaki (1958), Michigan State; David Palomaki (1957), University of Michigan; and Bob Wills (1958), University of California, and myself at Marquette University. I believe each of us from that team would give Coach Fairbanks credit for many of our achievements in life.

-Tim Zhulkie '56

Wanted!

The I.H.S. Alumni Association needs a volunteer chairperson (or persons) to help organize and plan the 2009 All-Class Reunion. This reunion will be a celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Ishpeming High School. Some of the planning will be simplified by having plans and notes from the 2000 All-Class Reunion available. Nevertheless, it will require a lot of planning and organization. If you, or several of you working together are interested, please contact the Alumni Association. After January 1, 2007, we will be calling a meeting for all those interested. The time, date, and place will be specified in an ad in the Mining Journal. Remember—without volunteers we won't be able to have a reunion!



Readers Respond

We received a letter from Leslie Hess, the daughter of one of our oldest alumni. Her mother, Dorothy (Canfield) Waters, graduated in 1927. Dorothy's older sister, Margaret (Canfield) Dunn graduated in 1925. Margaret and her family are anticipating the celebration of her 100th birthday this coming May!

Leslie's father was also a graduate of Ishpeming, and liked to tell stories of his hometown. When he moved to Detroit, he was teased for being from the "back woods", but noted that none of the high schools had indoor swimming pools.

Joanne (Becker) Shultz was a member of the class of 1952 up until her senior year when her family moved to Iron Mountain.

She had nothing but good things to say about her hometown of Ishpeming. The teaching staff at Ishpeming was what inspired her to continue her education and become a teacher herself.

As always, keep your comments coming! We love to hear from our alumni!

Keep the cards, letters and donations coming!

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	Mary (Carlyon) Trebilcock (906) 486-4627
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
1947	Saturday, July 6, 2007	Elks Lodge		Colleen (Simons) Sundblad (906) 486-6749
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	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
1952	Monday, July 2, 2007	Jasper Ridge	6:00 p.m.	Terry Thompson (906) 486-6816
1953	Second Thursday of each month	Country Kitchen	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
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1957	Monday, July 2, 2007	Elks Lodge	6:30 p.m.	Meg (Schuetze) Collins at (906) 475-7889 or Clara (Valente) Kutchie (906) 486-8246
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	12:30 p.m.	Lynn Ketchem at (906) 486-6107
1962	Last Friday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:30 a.m.	Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845
1962	Thursday, July 5, 2007	TBA	TBA	Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845
1964	Fourth Monday of each month	Jasper Ridge Brewery	6:30 p.m.	
1987	Saturday, June 30, 2007	VFW	TBA	Melissa Corkin (906) 485-4855; Class night on Friday

Celebrate 50 Years

Mark Your Calendar! I.H.S. Open House will be held on Tuesday, July 3, 2007 9 a.m.-Noon, and 5-7 p.m.

Come celebrate 50 years of the Ishpeming Blue Notes Drum and Bugle Corps this summer. So far, the Corps has established these events:

- Nostalgia Night, July 2, 2007
- Annual "Old Ish" Concert, July 3, 2007
- Ishpeming Fourth of July Parade, July 4, 2007

For more information write to info@ishpemingbluenotes.org or contact Dean Laitinen at (906) 396-0995.



Alumnus Receives Prestigious Award

Norman Andrew, a 1954 graduate of I.H.S., was recently inducted into the Michigan Intercollegiate Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame at an awards ceremony in Grand Rapids, MI. After establishing a cross country program at I.H.S., and under his coaching and guidance, thirteen Upper Peninsula Titles were won by his boys' teams, and two by the girls' teams. Other impressive titles were won in the Great Lakes Conferences and Mid-Peninsula Conferences.

After retiring from teaching at I.H.S. in 1993, Andrew served on the School Board, and remains active in the community. Congratulations, Norm!

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.

Another Success Story (cont.)

talked the whole trip. I got a glimpse of the college town life. Another competition led me to San Antonio, TX with Mrs. Bolitho and a few other Business Office Education Club students. My teachers and coaches went above and beyond their classroom instruction to teach us about life.

My parents instilled a hard work ethic in me from an early age. They always told me I could do anything as long as I had the desire and worked hard for it. After graduation from high school in 1983, I was off to pursue a bachelor degree in Speech Communications, and a minor in drawing and art. I participated in leadership training, public relations clubs, the school newspaper, and worked part time in the graphic arts department and later at Marquette General Hospital. As I would later learn, all of those experiences combined have proved invaluable to me for giving me training in teaching art classes as well as marketing my artwork. Graduating a year early from NMU, I was eager to get started in the "real world," ready to prove that with desire and hard work I could do anything.

For the last couple years my mom, Clara (Valente) Kutchie, has sponsored an art show for me in Ishpeming at her house. It's my favorite art show of the year. I'm reminded that without family and friends I wouldn't be as happy or successful as I am at what I do. Moving, employment, marriage, motherhood—all life changing events. Yes, now I can say I'm an artist. When someone asks me how long it took me to paint something, my response is, "all my life."

Two years ago, I was invited to go to France with my art teacher, Windy Gwritzman. We had the honor of painting in Monet's garden for two weeks. In December of 2005, I participated in a marathon in Honolulu, Hawaii. With the help of my family and friends, I was able to raise over \$7,000 for the Arthritis Foundation."

Christine and her husband Pat live in Fairport, NY. They have been married for eighteen years, and they have two sons Benjamin and Nathan. You can view Christine's artwork by visiting her website at www.christinewaara.com.

-Christine (Kutchie) Waara '83

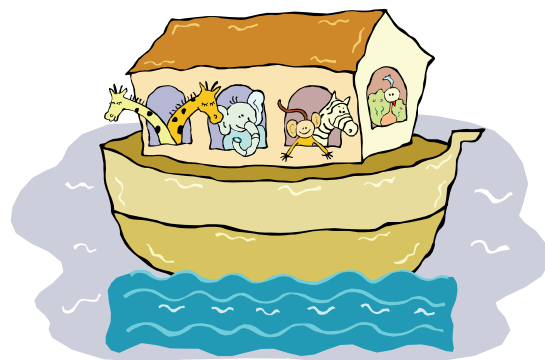
Underwriting Questions Answered

Some of our alumni were intrigued by the idea of underwriting a portion of the *Beacon Light* and thought it would be helpful if we broke down publication costs. So here you are...paper: \$450, mailing labels & tabs: \$120, toner: \$2,800 and postage: \$1,100. Please contact your Alumni Association if you have any questions or if you would like more information. We appreciate your interest.

Noah's Ark

Everything you need to know, you can learn from Noah's Ark...

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember, the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.



School Daze

Do you remember...

1. Looking for the elevator the first day of your freshman year?
2. Praying for a snowstorm on the night before your big math test?
3. Envyng the girls who were lucky enough to own an angora sweater?
4. Hoping that the “right” guy would ask you to the prom before the “wrong” guy did?
5. Pretending that you had a good time at the prom with the “wrong” guy?
6. Wishing that you didn’t have to dissect that miserable frog in biology lab right before your lunch hour?
7. Hating the early pool period because for the rest of the day you smelled like chlorine?
8. Trying to sneak notes in Mr. Renz’s class, and ending up having to read them aloud on the stage?
9. Telling your mom that you just had to go out every night to decorate the class float—two months before homecoming?
10. Having a dream that you forgot to write the theme that was due today?
11. Writing answers on your hand for the American Observer test?
12. “Setting” your locker so you could gain five more minutes for lunch?
13. Looking forward to all of the ball games whether they won or lost?
14. Hating the teachers who were too strict, and eventually realizing how much they helped you?
15. Counting the days until graduation so you could finally “get out of this place?”
16. Holding back the tears on graduation night because you finally realized that these had been the best years of your life?

-Jan (Lofaro) Boase ‘50

Thank you

The Alumni Association would like to thank those alumni that have made generous donations to be recognized on our “Tree of Life”. We still need many more donations to fill out the tree! You can send your operating or scholarship donation to the Alumni Association using the form below. The four donation levels are:

- Bronze leaf for donations of \$100 to \$249
- Silver leaf for donations of \$250 to \$499
- Gold leaf for donations of \$500 to \$1,000
- Foundation Rock for donations of over \$1,000

For more information, please contact your Alumni Association.



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

Hematites 'R' Us, the I.H.S. School Store, is now open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and during all home athletic events.

Did You Know That?

- The I.H.S. football teams have made it to the playoffs in seven of the last eight years.
- The I.H.S. choral group "Hematites in Harmony" have twelve singers that have been selected for the Regional Honors Choir.
- The new Archives Room now has over 1,100 pictures, trophies, programs, rings, clothing items, and other memorabilia on display.
- The Ishpeming Public Schools now have a Child Care/Learning Center for pre-school children.
- John "Bud" Piirto ('50) was the chaplain aboard the ship that in July of 1969 picked up the first U.S. astronauts to walk on the moon. The astronauts from Apollo 11 were Neil Armstrong, "Buzz" Aldrin, and Michael Collins.



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

- Natalie Bertucci '05
- Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
- Janet (Lofaro) Boase '50
- Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier '53
- Al Goodney '54
- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
- Kristina (Kamppinen) Paveglio '73
- Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67
- Theodore Swanson '50
- Terry Thompson '52

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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