

BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME TWENTY-ONE • NUMBER TWO

FALL 2009

A Special Time

Where did the time go? It has been fifty years since we last stood on the auditorium stage and sang "Hail Beacon Light." We were the class of 1959. We danced at the youth center to "Rock Around the Clock," "Peggy Sue," and "Blue Suede Shoes." Girls had to wear skirts to school and boys could not wear T-shirts or jeans. We ascended the east staircase and descended the west and never thought to question the rule. We had a choice of the Butler or the Ishpeming Theaters for dates or with the gang.

We were a "close" class. Many of us have remained friends through the years and get together all over the country at funerals, weddings, or just for fun. We met the first time as a group ten years after graduation and have met every five years since, even when we had an all school reunion the year before. The same group of local women have met monthly and planned all nine events. We "out-of-towners" truly have appreciated their efforts.

On Sunday evening, June 29, 2009, 100 plus of us gathered at the Wawonowin Golf Club for a celebration. Attendees were from all over the UP, California, Georgia, Missouri, Florida, and all over the Midwest. We looked at pictures from the past, memorialized classmates that we've lost, renewed old friendships, had a class photo taken and enjoyed a buffet dinner. "Remember when.." was heard all over the room as well as "How many grandchildren do you have?" we even had a few great-grandparents. And, yes, we sang "Hail Beacon Light."

The celebrating actually started on Saturday, the 28th, as more than forty classmates visited Scott and Martine Holman's Granite Island Lighthouse out in Lake Superior. The reunion continued into the week following with the building of a class float for the Fourth of July parade. Our senior year was the first ever high school football homecoming and our class won an award for the best float. After fifty years, our new float was even more outstanding. Kudos to all those who worked so hard to make it happen.

As I look back, I realize again how fortunate we were to live in Ishpeming. Not only did we get a good education, but we knew all of our classmates. Many of us had been together since kindergarten. We knew where each other lived, knew everyone's sisters, brothers, cousins and even their grandparents. We knew our neighbors and felt a strong bond to our neighborhood. We lived in a safe, small town and the most exciting things that happened were the arrival of Elvis Presley on the Ed Sullivan Show and the filming of "Anatomy of a Murder."

Where has the time gone? Even after fifty years, I'm as proud today of being an IHS graduate as I was in 1959, and I think I speak for my classmates as well.

-Carolyn (Nault) Cummings, Ph.D. '59

Ishpeming High School Spirit Store



The Ishpeming High School Spirit Store, "Hematites 'R Us," is now available to our alumni across the country. Operated by IHS business students under the instruction of Scott Syrjala, a number of different types Hematite apparel are available. You can now support your school wherever you go with sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, jackets, hats, mugs, decals, and much more, all in royal blue and white. They also have children's sizes with both Hematite and C.L. Phelps Middle School Panther logos. Personalized sweatshirts and other apparel are also available upon request. Please contact ei-



ther the Alumni Association Office at (906) 485-1381 or Scott Syrjala at either Ishpeming High School at (906) 485-1066 or at

ssyrjala@ishpemingschools.com.

Edwin Johnson, Class of 1941

Edwin B. Johnson (or Ned, as he is known to all his friends) was born to Edwin A. Johnson and Blanche Erickson Johnson in Ishpeming, Michigan. The youngest of four children, his siblings included one



brother, Bill, and two sisters, Jean and Marie. The family home was on High Street and is still standing and in good repair despite its age. Ned's father owned and operated the popular grocery store

called EA Johnson's, which was located on First Street in downtown Ishpeming. The store carried fresh cut meat, produce, and all the amenities a supermarket had to offer. When the store opened, the family moved to the apartment upstairs, which made it convenient for all of the children to work there growing up.

Ned graduated from Ishpeming High School in 1941. After attending NMU for one year, he transferred to MTU. While there, he was drafted and went into the Army. He then married Lois Millman. While serving his country in southern France, he was captured by the enemy and spent seven months as a prisoner of war in Germany. He was released at the end of WWII.

Returning to Michigan, he resumed his studies at Michigan Tech and graduated in 1947 as a metallurgical engineer. After receiving his degree, Ned began working for the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company. He and Lois had three children; Scott, Vicki, and Marsha. After many promotions, Ned moved his family to Cleveland, Ohio, where he eventually became president of the corporation. He returned from Cleveland in 1986, and moved his family back "home" to Ishpeming.

Ned is a kind, generous Christian who always appreciated the importance of people. When you see Ned out and about, he most likely will be chatting with friends, handing out candies (of which he always has a great supply in his pocket), or sharing a good joke. He takes great pride in his country, and especially his hometown. He enjoys taking pictures at special events, and one of his favorite subjects has been Ishpeming's own "Uncle Sam" in the annual Fourth of July parades. Afterwards, he sends copies to the people he has photographed. He also has a very long list of people to whom he sends birthday cards.

Ned is someone to be admired for all of his accomplishments. Despite being a prisoner of war, losing his beloved wife and several family members and friends, he maintains that God has given him a good life for which he is very grateful. He starts each day with a list of things that he

wants to accomplish, and with a spirit of joy that he shares with everyone he meets. His positive attitude and outlook on life make him someone to look up to and admire. I am so proud to call him my Dad...

Written with love and pride by Marsha (Johnson) Nardi...(Class of '69)

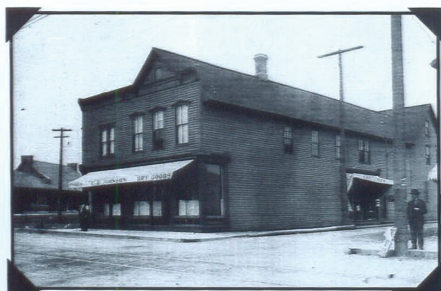
E.A. Johnson's Store

I go with my mother,
Of course, to shop for the table,
For fruit, canned vegetables, milk,
So on and so forth on her list, but I,
I am excited by the tall shelves
And aisles arranged in rows
For more adventures, to be
Lost and found again,

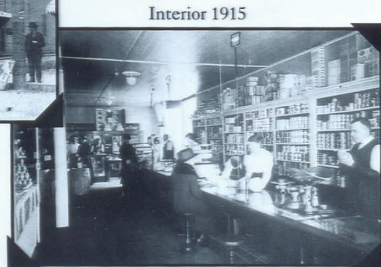
And I know
There will be a gift from Bill
Behind the butcher's case,
Perhaps the foot of a chicken,
Claws to open and to close,
Knowing well the power
Of pulled tendons,
Or the lens of a fish eye
To roll between finger
And thumb or nestle in
My waiting palm.

Perhaps a dog biscuit
Will be fetched from a bag
Rough, brown, bone-shaped
To be offered for my chomp,
Just teasing for my mother's grin,
A treat to close my fingers on.
I am glad to go along into
EA Johnson's Store.

-Nancy (Adams) Cogan '53
(born 1935 and holding)



Exterior 1904



Interior 1915

Mrs. E.A. Johnson (Christina) at end of counter; son Edwin holds jar near right in photo

(Photos courtesy of Ned Johnson)

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
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
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
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi at (906) 339-2315
1956	Third Monday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	Pat (Wirtanen) Garrett (906) 486-8380
1957	Second Wednesday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	Spouses are welcome. Clara (Valente) Kutchie (906) 486-8246
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	12:30 p.m.	Lynn Ketchem at (906) 486-6107
1959	Third Wednesday of each month	Jasper Ridge	1:00 p.m.	Sheila (Anderson) Thornton (906) 485-4470
1962	Last Friday of each month	Country Kitchen	9:30 a.m.	Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845
1964	Fourth Wednesday of each month	Jasper Ridge Brewery	11:30 a.m.	Marie (Suardini) Violetta (906) 475-4482

**Center for Cultural Interchange
Is looking for good homes to
Host an International High
School Exchange Student**

**If interested, or have questions,
Call the local representative in Ishpeming,
Raquel Musselman
204-0865
SandalsMBJ@yahoo.com**

Stepping Stone

One of the initial responses to our recently opened scholarship campaign drive came from local entrepreneur, Paul Argall. If one were to wish for a truly uplifting moment, this has to rank at or near the top. He noted: "Glad to receive your letter and information on your plan."

Paul then went on to state that, "My estate plans to include a very substantial gift --- In addition I started an annual gift program which I intend to increase each year."

What really pumped up the chest with pride were Paul's closing comments; comments that truly reflect the feelings of so many of our alumni and friends of Ishpeming High School and the Ishpeming community in general Mr. Argall states:

"I fully agree with your assessment—IHS has pumped out a ton of successful students and that alumni (many of whom have left our area) need to be tapped to return funding to IHS , which was such an important stepping stone for them. If we can make it so that every IHS graduate has their college education paid, it will also positively impact school finances and programs."

To that end, we say Amen!

-Bob Marietti ('51), Scholarship Campaign Committee Chair

Archives Room



(which was the first year of publication), an old scrapbook found in an antique shop, and a handmade blanket from Coach C.C. Watson's unheated car. Another "oldie" was a blue, one piece girl's gym suit. Now we would be happy if someone would turn in one of those 100% wool swimsuits that the girls were made to wear. So far, however, none will ad-



1936 Varsity Basketball Team

Since the Archives Room was completed in 2006, it has entertained many visitors. They have enjoyed looking at the collection of old pictures, trophies, annuals, class pins and rings, scrapbooks and clothing.

Many alumni have graciously donated items for display. Thanks to a recent article published in the Mining Journal featuring the room, there has been a great surge of interest in it, and many more donations have been received. Items have been sent in from across the UP, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Florida.

One of the most fascinating items is an old board, found inside the wall of a home, with the signatures of the 1919 football team. Other interesting items were a 1901 Hematite yearbook



Class of 1897

mit to having one. Some have told us that they burned them immediately following graduation. But we are still hoping that one will turn up soon, moth-eaten and all.

Also missing from the collection is the old statue of "The Thinker," which previously held a place of honor in the second floor hallway. It would be an excellent addition to the room.

The forty men and women who created the Archives Room would like to thank all who have toured and enjoyed the results, and especially those who have added to the nostalgia with their donated items.

When you return to your alma mater, please take the time to come and visit with us. We are sure that you will be happy you did.

-Terry Thompson '52

Bits and Pieces

Ishpeming High School was re-built in 1931 after a disastrous fire demolished the building. After 78 years the halls, rooms and grounds still looked great with two exceptions. The Pearl Street and Division Street entrances had deteriorated badly, and the concrete sidewalks and brick pillars were falling apart. Both entrances have experienced a facelift just in time for the start of this school year. Now we, the alumni, can all be very proud of old IHS, inside and out.

Cindy (Kariniemi) Mack '99 is the current Library Director of the Carnegie Public Library. She and Marilyn (Swanson) Andrew '56, a former IHS English teacher and active member of the Friends of the Library are working for improvements at the library. After serving Ishpeming for 105 years, the Carnegie Library is in need of repairs and renovation. The current fundraising campaign is called Preserving Our Past, Ensuring Our Future.

Pat Torreano, music director in Ishpeming from 1970 to 1999, wears a "new hat" these days. She serves as President of the Upper Peninsula Sled Dog Association and has done so for the past 8 years. The UPSDA is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in February with the running of the UP 200 and Midnight Run Sled Dog Races.

John Manchester, one of Ishpeming's long-term teachers

from 1965-1999, returned for a short-term teaching assignment last year in the Industrial Ed Department. Like the Energizer Bunny, he just keeps going and going.

Roland "Bud" Revello '53 was named Dickinson County Homemaker of the Year during the 99th Dickinson County Fair. Bud has been active in many community causes since his retirement as Norway High School principal. The Lions Club, Habitat for Humanity, and local track meets are several of his volunteer projects. In addition, he often provides bars, cakes and other goodies for the Senior Center dances in Norway, Niagara and Iron Mountain. His hobbies include dancing, fishing, spending time with friends, cooking, baking, canning and gardening. Bud's philosophy is to "live today like there is no tomorrow." Congratulations, Bud!!

Terry Roberts '69 currently teaches P.E. and English at the Phelps School. Terry is still a drummer for the Ishpeming Blue Notes (est. 1957). Recently, his cadence led the Corps into a concert at the auditorium for a Fire Relief Fundraiser...the Blue Notes and the Peterson Auditorium, an unbeatable combination for Ishpeming.



Readers Can (and Do) Write!

If something you read in this issue reminds you of a place, a personal story, or a favorite teacher, let us know!! We want to hear from you with ideas. Maybe Defense Stamps, kindergarten trials and tribulations, or the ladies' answers to "Shacks" are food for thought. We need your input! If you would like to contribute or become a member of the *Beacon Light* committee, please contact the Association's office.



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
(tax deductible) Please make contribution payable to the I.H.S. Alumni Association _____

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

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

The Class of 1957 celebrated their “70th” Birthday with a Pizza Party on August 29th at the Al Quaal Teal Lake Lower Lodge. In spite of the weather, we had a great time remaining indoors. Clara (Valente) Kutchie



Front Row-Robert Marcotte, Mary Ann (Corrollo) Solka, Ted Mattson, Clara (Valente) Kutchie

Second Row-Midge (Lavigne) Pavvo (Bernard Marcott hiding behind), Judith (Snow) Jarvi, Leona (Maki) Krellwitz, Helen (Koivula) Johnson, Judith (Kelly) Cliton, Brian Ogea, Norman Johnson, Donna (Pesola) Connolly

Third Row-James Meyer, Don Trudell, Tom Sharland, Keith Defront, Don Nardi, Paul Sundeen, Carl Rundman, William Locker



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

- Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier '53
- Al Goodney '54
- Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
- Sheryl (Swanson) Schrandt '67
- Terry Thompson '52
- David Christian '66
- Jan (Junak) Bertucci '76
- Thomas Lucas '68

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



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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ISHPEMING, MI 49849
 PERMIT NO. 22