

BEACON LIGHT

NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY ALUMNI OF ISHPEMING HIGH SCHOOL

Moving Forward, Yet Looking Back



VOLUME TWENTY-THREE • NUMBER TWO

WINTER 2011

The Yoop Loop

Insomnia is a good thing at times. It's often during the night that creative ideas pop into our heads. We recall what we were supposed to do yesterday and make a to-do list for tomorrow. It's also when I turn the television on to clear my mind of the above and hear something profound that would have otherwise gone unnoticed in the noise of the day.

"The memories we share are longer than the road that lies before us," said Steve Jobs. They are words from a Bob Dylan song. They made me think of a new circle of friends I have with one thing in common...our memories.

We have roots, as they say, and they are grown deep beneath our home of Ishpeming. Some of you know where I'm going with this cause you are in the circle. Some silent,

but IN! Some of you have chosen to laugh it off saying, "No way, Jose..." (and that's a quote) without ever checking it out. You are missing out! And some, just somehow, don't know.

Yes, it's Facebook. Just humor me here...sit back, reminisce, and finish this please... "You know you grew up in Ishpeming, Westwood, or Negaunee if..." What comes to mind? Who? Keep thinking...are you laughing yet? Smiling? Perhaps feeling a touch of melancholy? Ask friends to finish it, and add something to their memories as they add to yours. Yes, that's it! So many things come to mind that only you and yours would understand, all being from the same place...different times, same place. And it's absolutely addicting, and oh so warm and fuzzy! "It's an awful lot like porch-sitting with friends each day and just shooting the breeze, catching up, checking in," many have posted. I know you all wish you could do that right about now. Similar sites have popped up across the country, but we KNOW ours was the first. And the best! And we have Shaggy Dishno (without a w) to thank for starting it at the end of July. I wonder if he ever considered that membership would grow to 2,107? Do you think he expected it to become a part of daily life for some? Did he know there was a crowd out there with heartstrings still attached to our home, which shares God's area code of 906 and zip of 49849?

I joined in early August, and oh, what fun I've had. And OMG the stuff I've learned! So many times during the wee hours of the night I laugh till I have tears streaming down my face and my family wakes up to see what is going on. "We" have been dubbed "The Yoop Loop" by Diane

Wuorenmaa Jepson in Delaware. She hosted the first get together at the Congress while home for her dad's birthday recently. Yes, we are everywhere! In just about every state, and over a dozen countries, including, of course, Finland, where a house exchange has been suggested for time spent back home in Michigan. It's hard to tell how old, or young, everyone is. However, it doesn't really matter. We posted our graduation years for a while. We posted where we've been and where we are now. Friends started connecting the dots, and reconnecting lives. So many cousins! We laugh that everyone is related, and that, sadly at times, the relatives included the new boyfriends some brought home to meet mom and dad. Genealogy and local history buff Amy Goodman Bacon had been brilliant in answering so many questions. Before long, others sorted through pictures and now there are 217 posted for all to see. Often people who have not been back home in a long time wonder what things look like now. So Liz Doney Powelson set out with her camera to capture it all and

post... a view from the bluff? No problem... she climbed it for all of us



You know you grew up in Ishpeming, Westwood or Negaunee Michigan if....

Open Group

2,099 Members 217 Photos 6 Docs

this fall. There is now a great picture up of the Blue Note feeder corps, circa 1960's and another great photo of an Eighth Addition group resembling "The Little Rascals." It has become a collective scrapbook of our pasts, and it is clear that it takes this village to remember it all.

The Yoop Loop has spun off in so many directions and we comment on the twisting and turning of it all. Perhaps we are just a bit forgetful and don't remember what the topic is? One twist will include grandparents, the next — hunters...or bread bakers, cancer survivors, the newly retired, or just plain TIRED! We may just meet at Ford Field soon in our Royal Blue and White...as you read this, perhaps we have won. We include a huge Packer fan club, and hopeful Lion fan club, and have hosted play by play live chats during games that only some can listen to on the radio. We discuss history, geography, landmarks. We also discuss schools...Birchview, Grammar School, National Mine, North Lake, the Catholic schools, C.L. Phelps, and our beloved I.H.S. We came up with all the words to the fight song and Hail Beacon Light. Last week revived the Hallelujah Chorus. We think hard to come up with the names of some notable characters who lived in our town and try to name every business up and down Main Street through the decades. One night...we envisioned Normal Rockwell himself on a park bench by "Old Ish" overlooking the scene we all long to return to. Per-

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The Yoop Loop (Cont.)

sonally, I see “Ma” Charlotte Viant looking over his shoulder. It’s Thursday night, the snow is falling softly. Christmas music is playing outside all the busy shops, store fronts are decorated, and lights strung across the power lines and wreaths on street poles. The living Christmas tree made of Girl Scouts is assembled in the front of the Mather Inn singing “Away in a Manger” and Santa arrives on a fire truck. Church bells are running, lots and lots of church bells. As I do each year at Christmas, I will stand

outside in the snowfall, close my eyes and be there. If only in my dreams.

Truly, there is so much more to tell. There are so many names to share, so many touching, silly, romantic, and heartwarming stories...instead, I will just invite you to join us. There is lots of room for everyone in the Yoop Loop. Go ahead...I double dare you!

Gwen Brown Dickerson, ‘77

Michael Perry

My nephew, Michael Scott Perry, I.H.S. class of 2002, decided to walk in his brother’s footsteps by becoming a Marine. Michael has the most beautiful blue eyes — always faithful, always true. He decided to enlist in the Marine Corps while attending high school at I.H.S. Three weeks later upon signing into the Delayed Enlistment Program, 9-11 came upon us. Michael still insisted on becoming a Marine in spite of his family’s fears. While at boot camp, Michael celebrated his eighteenth birthday. Shortly after being deployed to Iraq, Michael returned nineteen overseas. Throughout Michael’s years as a Marine, he served three



duty, survived several IED incidents (roadside bombs), small arm fire, mortars, and his motorcycle getting hit by a suicide bomber. Michael was commended for maintaining a safe perimeter while getting the vehicle in tow. Not only did Michael witness his boot camp friend from Ishpeming severely injured, but many members of his platoon and boot camp family did not make it home. Michael received a certificate of commendation and honors medal on September 30, 2004, due to his remarkable accomplishments. On October 14, 2006, Michael was awarded another honors medal and certificate for

his heroic achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as a squad leader. “Corporal Perry’s initiative perseverance, and total dedication to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.” Michael is currently fulfilling his life as a Certified Personal Golf Coach at Golf T.E.C. in Los Angeles, California. I would like to thank Michael and the many Ishpeming High School Graduates who have fought for our country. Michael Perry, my nephew, my friend, my hero. Semper Fi.

Sue (Perry) Heilala, ‘78

Strange Observations

- In a theater with 200 seats, the tallest person in the U.P. decides to sit in front of you.
- When you stop at the store for a loaf of bread, you usually come out with a \$20.00 order.
- When the driver ahead of you does something stupid and your husband immediately says, “Now, why did SHE do that?” without even knowing the gender.
- Though you support all wildlife, you could easily blast the morning doves off the wire when they wake you up daily at 4:00 a.m.
- When you call for a computer repair, you talk to a machine for twenty minutes and then a person from Singapore, who doesn’t speak English, comes on the line to help you!
- The cost of going to the movies with our family (including popcorn and soda) is more than our first apartment rent.
- When you lose one earring, you eventually throw the other one away. Two months later, you find its match under the bureau.
- The only time your husband says, “Honey, you’re hot!” is when you have a fever.
- You go to your 50th class reunion and wonder who all the old people are who showed up.
- When it’s time to put up Christmas decorations, your husband, like Elvis, has left the building.

Strange, but true!

Jan (Lofaro) Boase, ‘50

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 Grill	9:00 a.m.	
1941	Second Tuesday of each month	Varies	12:30 p.m.	Betty Bannon (906) 486-6283
1947	First Friday of each month	Country Grill	9:30 a.m.	Barbara (Husby) Nuorala (906) 486-9283
1947	65th			Barbara (Husby) Nuorala (906) 486-9283
1948	Last Tuesday of each month	Country Grill	9:00 a.m.	Joanne (Belstrom) Gaboury (906) 485-5261
1949	Second Wednesday of each month	Country Grill	9:00 a.m.	Jean (Stone) Johns at (906) 485-4322
1950	First Thursday of each month	Country Grill	8:30 a.m.	Jan (Lofaro) Boase (906) 486-6966
1952	Third Monday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	Barbara (Graham) Johnson (906) 226-0898
1952	60th- Monday, July 2, 2012	Country Grill	6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.	Terry Thompson (906) 486-6816
1953	Second Thursday of each month	Varies	Noon	Barbara (Medlyn) Gauthier (906) 486-6281
1954	Fourth Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	Al Chapman (906) 486-9241
1954	Monday, July 2nd, 2012	Al Quaal	5-8 p.m.	Joan Goodney (906) 485-1009
1955	First Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	John Ruusi (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
1957	55th- Tuesday, July 3, 2012	Country Grill	Noon	Clara (Valente) Kutchie (906) 486-8246
1958	Third Thursday of each month	Jasper Ridge	12:30 p.m.	Lynn Ketchem (906) 486-6107
1959	Third Wednesday of each month	Jasper Ridge	1:00 p.m.	Sheila (Anderson) Thornton (906) 485-4470
1961	First Wednesday of each month	Jasper Ridge	Noon	Rita (Lafreniere) Palomaki (906) 486-4569
1962	Last Friday of each month	Country Grill	9:30 a.m.	Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845
1962	50th	To be announced		Sandra (Greenwood) Smetana (906) 485-4845
1964	Fourth Wednesday of each month	Jasper Ridge	11:30 a.m.	Marie (Suardini) Violetta (906) 475-4482
1967	45th			Sheryl Schrandt (906) 486-4118
1972	40th Saturday, June 30th, 2012	Country Pub	7:00 p.m.	Linda Bonetti (906) 228-2094

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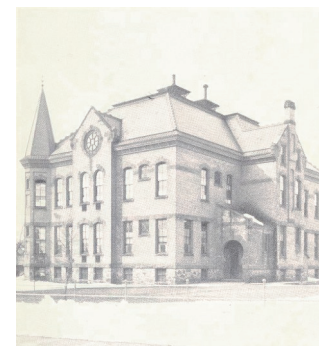
1977	35th	To be announced	Cheryl Sarvello (906) 485-4087
1982	30th	To be announced	Lori Laksonen (906) 486-4671
1987	25th	To be announced	Melissa Corcoran (906) 485-4055
1992	20th	To be announced	Lori Mahoski (906) 486-8433
1997	15th	To be announced	Aimee Massie (920) 819-9051
2002	10th	To be announced	Jamie Sarvello (906) 485-4087

C.L. Phelps School Closes

Moving to adjust budget constraints and student population requirements, the Ishpeming Board of Education voted on October 12, 2010, to close C.L. Phelps Middle School, effective January 2011. Students (grades K-4) were reassigned to the Birchview Elementary School and (grades 5-8) to the Central School. For those graduates needing a refresher on these school locations, the Birchview School is located near the Al Quaal Recreation Area and the Central School is located within the High School complex. Classes for students at the new locations began with the second half of the 2010-2011 school year.

The Phelps School, centrally located at the site of the former High Street School, was opened for classes in 1958. The High Street School had been in service to Ishpeming students since 1886 and was known for its architectural design and the huge cottonwood trees outlining the school recreation yard. Naming of the school honored C.L. Phelps, Superintendent of Ishpeming schools from 1915 to 1942. At its population peak, nearly 500 students attended classes at the facility.

Al Goodney, '54



High Street School as pictured in the 1931 yearbook.

Your Assistance is Needed!

Without your continued financial support, the future publication of this newsletter is in jeopardy. If you are interested in making a donation towards the next publication, or if you would like to sponsor the next issue, please contact the Alumni Association office.

Hematite Football 2010

You notice we're wearing the blue and the white,
Because we are faithful Hematites.

We'll go to the game and holler loud,
Because of this team, we're very proud.

And whether we win or whether we lose,
This is the team that we did choose.

And to Coach Olson and his team, we'll give a big hand,
Because he gave us a season that was simply grand.

And to the sponsors that are too many to name,
We'll sit back and thank them for the game.

And to the announcer who I don't know yet,
Another enthusiastic "Ed" you wanna bet?

Margueritte (Harvey) Thibodeau, '36

What is Facebook?

Facebook is a website that promotes social networking among friends, family, and businesses. It began in 2004, and its popularity has been spreading around the world. An email address is required to join Facebook, as you need to create a user account to access the material posted to the website.

If you are a member of Facebook, or plan to join, check out our new Ishpeming High School Alumni Association page. We plan to post information about upcoming events, inquiry for ideas and suggestions, and celebrate all that Ishpeming graduates have to be proud of.

Tricia Seelen, '96

Are you planning a class reunion in the near future? Well perhaps these few hints will make it a bit easier for you:

1. Select a committee of seven to ten diversified classmates.
2. Select a chairperson or class representative.
3. Have the committee bring your mailing list up to date.
4. Set up a class checking and savings account.
5. Consider monthly class lunches to keep everybody up to date.
6. Decide on the type of reunion you want. (i.e., sit-down dinner, camp party, etc.)
7. Call and reserve a site the year before your reunion.
8. Obtain a menu from the site.
9. Price out food and other expenses to come up with a per person price.
10. Put together your mail-out invitation complete with date, time, place, cost, tear-off return with a yes or no and number of people, and their check.
11. Ask the Alumni office for class mailing labels.
12. Mail invitations in early January so classmates can plan vacations, etc.
13. Plan a follow-up mailing two months prior to your reunion.
14. Consider a classmates questionnaire and a printed souvenir program.
15. Keep any programs brief.
16. Consider door prizes for attendees.
17. Recognize and thank the reunion committee.
18. Keep a folder for each reunion.

Happy Reunion!

Class “Rep” Breakfast Held

The Board of Trustees and your Class Representatives met recently at St. John’s K.D. Hall for an informal breakfast gathering.

This semi-annual meeting is an opportunity for the Alumni Board to receive input from alumni on a variety of items. It was attended by approximately 23, including classes from ‘47 to ‘98. We reviewed the goals of the Association and looked for ways to improve upon our main undertakings—namely the Beacon Light newsletter and annual Open House, as well as raising funds to provide scholarships for future IHS graduates.

Another goal of this meeting is to solicit the repre-

sentatives for names of individuals who may be willing to serve as a Board Member or a class representative. The latter position simply involves being a contact person if/when information is needed and attending the semi-annual gatherings.

If you live in the area and are interested in serving as an alumni in either capacity, simply contact the Alumni office. Leave your name, graduation year, and phone number, and you may be contacted by the Association. Remember, the IHSAA can only exist as long as people are willing to be involved. Have you done your part?



Remember Readers...

We need your help to ensure we have correct addresses on file. Please let us know of any address changes in your class. We appreciate your help in keeping our records up-to-date!

IHS Alumni Association Donation/Change of Address 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 _____

Have You Been Home Lately?

For those of you who have not been to Ishpeming for a while, we thought you might like to know what is new.

- Well, for starters, the old J.C. Penney building has been torn down and a nice grassy yard now adjoins the Congress. The Pamida store is now a Shopko and the C.L. Phelps school is now closed.
- The Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce is now in the old Curves building in the Jubilee parking lot. Tasson's Service Station on U.S. 41 is no more and a new bank building is going up on the site.
- The King Koin Laundromat burned down. The west wall of the Pioneer Square (the Gossard Building to all of you old geezers) is falling down onto Second Street.
- Home Health and Hospice has moved into Ishpeming and Straight Line Archery is relocated to the old bowling alley in the Miracle Center. Ashton's Restaurant, once known as Aunty's, closed it's doors.
- We invite you to come home and get caught up. Your friends and classmates are still the same and would like to see you again. Come on home!

Terry Thompson, '52



BEACON LIGHT STAFF

Al Goodney '54
Anthony Bertucci '01
Clara (Valente) Kutchie '57
Jan (Junak) Bertucci '76
Jan (Lofaro) Boase '50
Josie Mashburn '13
Robin Gronvall '57
Sue (Bussiere) Blomgren '56
Sue (Perry) Heilala '78
Terry Thompson '52
Tricia (Jackson) Seelen '96

Contact Your Alumni Association:

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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