

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 6, No. 1

November 2004

CLASS NOTES

In contrast with past issues, Volume 6, Number 1 will start with news received from members of the class.

Margot (Williams) Akers reported in June that she and husband Chuck were no longer empty nesters. Their youngest child returned from St. Lawrence University for the summer, their middle two children decided to move home and attend the University of Buffalo for their senior year, and their oldest is pursuing a master's degree in the urban planning at the same school. She says their house is rocking.

In her words, **Rosalie (Bower) Amoroso** "decided to become a great example of a dance teacher" by tripping while getting out of her husband Carmen's car last December and breaking her leg and then, in May, tripping again and breaking her hand and two fingers. But she says she kept on teaching dance through it all!

Chet and **Carol Arthur** are back in California after a relatively brief time in the Boston area. Carol writes that they did not re-adjust well to the northeast and she did not like her new position with the Veterans Administration. So they decided it was time to retire and go back to the west. They now live in Hesperia.

Joanne (Wilkinson) Baker reports that all her children now live in the Fort Myers, FL area, enabling her and husband Art to spoil all three of their grandsons. Art is still working. Joanne, after saying she is playing the role of a lady of leisure but not sure for how long because she is not accustomed to leisure, notes she has done some work with the local institute for the blind. In a separate e-mail, Joanne said that she and Art would be visiting Ithaca in October for the wedding of a daughter of an old friend. A nice time of year to be in Ithaca and for such a happy occasion.

In July **Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld** and husband Helmut bought Carol's family home on Ithaca Road and have been very busy sorting out old stuff (or, put another way, 60 years of collectibles) and arranging for repairs. They plan to spend most of the year in Ithaca while retaining a residence in Kottbus, Germany (although they will move into a smaller apartment by February).

Don Bentz and wife Veris moved in October from Las Vegas to Rapid City, SD. If you wonder why someone would make such a move, bear in mind that many of their family members live in that part of the country and Don and Veris themselves lived in South Dakota before moving to Nevada some 18 years ago.

Auxiliary classmate **Alvin Brown** spent the summer in an unusual way – in Alaska, fighting fires from a helicopter. Alvin notes that while it was his first experience at fire fighting, he has been flying helicopters and airplanes since 1965 when he was in the Army.

Chuck Calkins passed his broker's license exam and is now working for BD&A Realty and Construction, one of the biggest construction contractors on the Outer Banks. He works in the Duck, NC office and naturally he is now Chuck from Duck. His wife Lynda, who had continued to work in Alexandria, VA after she and Chuck moved to North Carolina last year, now works as BD&A's human resources manager – a position right up her alley and with a lot shorter commute.

June (Smith) Churchill and husband Dexter, who now live in Keene, NH, were visited by their daughter Kristen and family (including their newest granddaughter) who came all the way from Idaho early this summer. The visit included gatherings of both families – the Churchills in northern Vermont and the Smiths near Portsmouth, NH.

Cal and **Sharon Cotner**, residents of Silver Spring, MD, visited the Niagara Falls area, seeing the falls

and attending performances at the Shaw festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario where they stayed.

In May, following her retirement in March from doing contract administration work for the City of San Jose, **Peggy (Reed) Elo** and husband Bob moved to a Del Webb community in Lincoln, CA, in the foothills of the Sierras. Their new home is only 1½ hours from their vacation place in Truckee (near Donner Lake of Donner Party fame). The Elos have a daughter and a son. Kirsten is a physician, recently finishing her ob-gyn residency at Harvard and starting a fellowship in infertility at Cornell Medical School. Erik works in San Francisco. Peggy says that she and Bob like to hike (and their new location certainly provides them plenty of opportunity).

Dana Furman's father died in January. Dana reports he and other members of his family attended a committal service in late June.

In early July, **Ruth (Warren) Gerlach** and husband Henry returned home, to Champaign, IL, after spending the academic year teaching English at the International Studies University in Xi'an, China.

Suzi (Colbert) Gittins and husband Tom took their whole family to Disney World, the first visit there for their 6- and 9-year old grandchildren. An avid painter, Suzi had a showing of her works in September at the art store owned by their son.

Peggy (Fitzgerald) Greenfield and husband John have been taking care of Peggy's mother, who is 93, at her mother's home in Norwood, MA. They were able to get away in June to attend graduations of a niece and a grand nephew in New Hampshire, to visit her sister and brother-in-law in Winooski, VT, and attend a granddaughter's fifth birthday party in Connecticut. Peggy also reports she had a new granddaughter, born on February 1.

Jean Houghton retired from the Ithaca Journal in April and reports that she loves her retirement. She volunteered at the Tompkins County Public Library fall book sale and plans to volunteer at Ithaca's new Museum of the Earth, which explores the geology and fossils of the Finger Lakes region.

Don Jania-Smith and wife Barbara continue to be intrepid travelers. Barbara having retired from teaching, the Jania-Smiths purchased a larger

motor home and then went on the road from mid-August until early this month. Their travels took them from their home in the San Diego area to New York (including a family reunion of Don's family at Lake George), New England (for an RV caravan to see the fall colors), and Chicago (for Barbara's 45th high school reunion).

Dick Lavoie underwent prostate surgery in May, which he reports was successful. He says he hopes male classmates are having their prostates checked on a regular basis, as early detection is the key. On an entirely different note, Dick reports that his and wife Debbie's son Greg got married, for the first time at age 38, in June in Thomaston, GA.

Randy Little wrote in June that he had recently returned from teaching the Natural Sound Recording Workshop for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for the 18th consecutive year, the last 14 in the Sierras in northern California. I should have mentioned in the last issue that Randy has published For The Birds, a 500-page illustrated account of the origin and evolution of the laboratory. For information on the book, including how to get a copy, go to Randy's web site, the URL for which is <http://rsl.home.att.net>.

Marion (Peyton) Longcoy joined the ranks of the retirees on May 1 and says she has been busier now than when she was working. She has also moved, to an apartment in Ballston Spa, NY

Helen (Hillhouse) Madsen also retired, leaving the University of Wisconsin on August 3. Between then and the end of the month, Helen, with husband Ernie, spent two weeks in Colorado where they camped, hiked, and attended the Aspen Music Festival, and Helen went to Guatemala for a week with a group from her church to, among other things, plan a January work trip there. She says one of her next tasks is to learn Spanish. In late September, the Madsens traveled to Suitland, MD for Ernie's 50th high school reunion. And in October, they traveled to the United Kingdom – where Ernie, still working at UW, presented a paper at a meeting on medical ultrasound elastography, and both went sightseeing in the Lake District and London – and Belgium, where they visited Helen's sister and family in Brussels.

Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino is engaged! Not long after moving from New Jersey to Florida, she

met Bill Vogt, retired from the New York Police Department and Immaculate Catholic Girls College in Philadelphia and, like Sharron, divorced and living in the same mobile home park. The two have been dining, dancing, and traveling, and they bought a 19' Regal boat because they both enjoy being on the water. Sharron also mentions that close friend and auxiliary classmate **Sandy (Deeley) Scaglione** and husband Tom bought Bill's mobile and will be spending winters in the park.

In June **Pat (Phillips) Marion** and husband Al traveled to Alaska to attend the wedding of their youngest child, who lives in Anchorage. Afterwards they stayed in Alaska until August to, among other things, explore the Alaskan mainland, something they had little opportunity to do when they lived in Kodiak some years ago.

From Silver Point, TN, **Christine (Garland) Montgomery** writes that life for her and husband Bill is drifting along nicely at their chosen retirement pace. For Bill, this means continuing to work. Christine says that he is now in the fourth or fifth position he has taken since "retiring" several years ago. The Montgomerys have been busy landscaping their property with the help of one of their sons. Also Christine has been going through boxes in storage for a decade or more, having fun discovering bits and pieces of their past life.

Hildy (Swanson) Morgan has been retired since 1995 when she closed her pet businesses (kennel, shop, and dog training center) but has kept very active in various dog clubs, writing for a national collie magazine, and judging collies and Shetland sheepdogs at dog shows. She writes that she and husband George, who still teaches at Colorado State U., travel a lot and are amateur bird-watchers. The Morgans have a son in San Mateo, CA, a daughter in Cody, WY, and three grandkids.

Auxiliary classmate **Chris (Mathewson) Salerno** and husband Dick hosted 54 members of his family for a reunion at their home in Newtown, CT in July and then, making it a truly wild and wonderful time, hosted four children, their spouses, and eight grandchildren for two weeks.

Gail (Woolley) Scullin wrote in June that she and husband Dennis had been to Summerville, SC

where they celebrated her son's retirement from the Navy, and that Dennis's son had remarried, adding 3 more grandchildren to their family. Gail is working part-time as the administrative assistant at her church and also in an after-school day care program. She says it is a joy to be working with children again after 20 years (having previously been a remedial reading tutor and teacher's aide).

From Helsinki, Finland, **Maj (Tomroth) Simon** reports that her father died in October. While she had hoped to be able to write about herself for this issue of the Tattler Two, she has been kept too busy dealing with his illness, death, and the selling and dividing of his estate. We will look forward to news about her in a future issue.

Kathy (Gleason) Smith is another classmate who retired and immediately unretired. She stopped working at the Spencer/Van Etten High School on June 9 and started with the Postal Service on June 12. Like many others, she reports that she loves retirement but is busier than when she worked full-time.

Bill Turley retired from his university position in Columbia to a 4-acre plot in the tiny village of Somondoco, although he, too, is working in retirement – as a volunteer with students of English at the commercial high school and the normal (i.e., teacher training) school. Noting that where he and wife Gloria now live is a safe area and only 2 or 3 hours from Bogota, Bill says he would love to have visitors interested in the country.

Finally, **Shirley (Cook) Weeks** is on the mend. She had a severe asthma attack over the 4th of July weekend, landing her in the hospital and on a ventilator for 9 days. Fortunately, she was finally released to go home over the Labor Day weekend (only to face hurricane evacuation in October).

Hurricane Happenings:

And, speaking of hurricanes, how did the many classmates who live in Florida and on the Gulf Coast fare as a result of the visits of Charley, Frances, and Ivan? I heard from **Karen (Phillips) Arey**, **Joanne (Wilkinson) Baker**, **Frank Feocco**, **Joan Foss**, **Jim Illes**, **Nettie (Chirillo) Kossmann**, **Phil** and **Ingrid (Brohm) Jimrusti**,

Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino, Pat Riley, Patsy (Morrow) Smith, Linda (Waterfield) Torres, and Shirley (Cook) Weeks. Fortunately all emerged unscathed and with their property relatively intact. Nettie and husband Joe had to evacuate due to Frances but took the opportunity to go to Virginia for a week. Phil and Ingrid were in Germany, on a 10-day Rhine cruise from Brussels to Basel, when the worst of the storms hit their area.

Get-Togethers:

Karen (Phillips) Arey traveled to Ithaca from Florida in August and during her stay had lunch with **Jean Houghton, Kathy (Illencsik) Lilley, and Carolyn (Pfohl) McGory.**

Anita Bonney continues to see many classmates. She, **Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld, Linda Kallstrom, Linda (Hunt) Larsen, Rita MacDonald, Carolyn (Pfohl) McGory, and Maryjean (Hertel) Yengo** got together – eight other invitees had schedule conflicts -- in Ithaca in August. She also had lunch with **Kathy (Fallon) Cameron** in Watertown. **Carol (Riley) Riggs** visited Ithaca in August and during that time Anita, Carol, Rita, **Susie (Hornbrook) Wilcox** and husband Ted all went boating – it would have been sailing had there been wind – on **Carolyn (Van Buren) McPherson** and husband Don's 41' yacht. And after that, the ladies (minus Susie) went to the camp where Carol's sister Rita was staying and there saw **Dave Smith** who, incidentally, is Carol's cousin.

In the last issue, I failed to include **Linda (Womble) Conrad** and husband Lester in the list of those who attended the Florida mini-reunion in March. They report they had a wonderful time.

Suzi (Colbert) Gittins and **Linda (Tarbell) Juric**, very close friends in high school but out of touch for many years, reunited in June. Amazingly, both now live in the same city – Falls Church in northern Virginia – less than 5 miles from one another.

In August, **Steve Schmal** and wife Deb spent several days with **Cuyler Page** and friend Carole Ruth with whom he shares a house in Vernon, in British Columbia's Okanogan Valley. The locale is similar to the Finger Lakes – long glacially formed lakes, hillsides planted with grapes and fruit trees. But there are mountains not far away. Steve, Deb, Cuyler, and Carole went to a musical in an outdoor theater, visited a local winery, and spent some time at O'Keefe Ranch, a historical site where Carole works summers as a historical interpreter. And Cuyler and Carole, who play in the local orchestra and in smaller ensembles, treated their guests to a private concert.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles (Chuck) McNeal died on October 30, after a lengthy illness. Chuck, who was born in Ithaca, earned a B.A. in Philosophy, Cum Laude, from SUNY Cortland. He was employed by NYSEG, later was the proprietor of Home Owners Electric, and still later worked at the Wilson Laboratory at Cornell University before retiring in 2002.

Chuck served on the Dryden Village Board of Trustees and was formerly a member of the Dryden Fire Department.

He was a wonderful husband and father who will be greatly missed by family friends and fellow tradesmen. He enjoyed fishing with his lifelong friend Bob Pierce (and IHS class of 1958 auxiliary classmate) and later took up painting in his spare time.

He is survived by Marna, his wife of 44 years; sons Brian "Casey", Shawn, and Charles; daughters-in-law Suzy, Anie, and Deborah; granddaughter Lindsey McNeal; and sisters Alameda "Midge" Cole, Laura Mainville, Helen Eaton, and Mary Holbert. A sister, Florence, predeceased him.

Those wishing to remember Chuck can make a memorial gift to Hospicare, 172 E. King Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

SMALL SCHOOLS, PART 4

The May 2003 issue of the Tattler Two contained **Peggy (FitzGerald) Greenfield's** recollections about the Hayts Corners School, a one-room school located between Ithaca and Trumansburg not far from the Odd Fellows Home. The December 2003 issue included several classmates' recollections of the East Lawn Elementary School, located on Mitchell Street Extension just before it intersects with Pine Tree Road and Judd Falls Road. And the June 2004 issue contains commentary from **Karen (Phillips) Arey** about the Willow Creek School, a one-room school on Willow Creek Road between Route 89 and Route 96, for first grade; from **Ann (Rosa) Weitzel** about the Danby School, a four-classroom school on the Danby Road; and from several classmates about the Inlet Valley School, a two-room school the intersection of Route 13 and 13A.

Now add two more small schools to the list – Forest Home School and Field School #15.

The former was a two-room schoolhouse located, not surprisingly, in Forest Home. **Maryjean (Hertel) Yengo** writes that she, along with **Randy Little** and **Bob Pendleton**, went there from 1st through 3rd grade. According to Maryjean, the building no longer exists, the site now occupied by Cornell's fabulous Robison Herb Garden.

Randy writes that Nellie Davis was the teacher for all grades. He remembers that in 3rd grade he had a pet crow that followed him to school and that Mrs. David let him open a window so the crow could come in for lunch. (Randy credits Mrs. Davis with cultivating what has become his lifetime interest in ornithology.) In a different vein, Randy also remembers that there was a wooden snow slide at the far edge of the school's playground and that he made the mistake of going down it after the snow was gone, requiring removal of quite a few splinters.

Field School #15 was a one-room school on Lake Road (Route 34) near Lansing. **Rosalie (Bower) Amoroso** went there from first grade until, halfway during third grade, the school closed. Rosalie does not remember the name of the teacher but does recall that the teacher had a dog – a boxer – that scared the heck out of her.

In other small school news, **Judy (Sine) Jager** wants to add her name to the list of those others -- **Bill Mobbs**, **Nancy (Stump) Kilpatrick**, **Gail (Woolley) Scullin**, and late auxiliary classmate **Jim Taft** – who went to Inlet Valley. Judy, who went there for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, says she experienced quite a transition going from the Trumansburg School, with 20 to 25 students per class, to Inlet Valley, with only five or six. Like Gail, Judy has fond memories of Nettie Lawrence, the Inlet Valley teacher, noting that Mrs. Lawrence let her help teach the younger children in reading, which was a favorite subject of Judy's at the time and continues to be today.

IHS BOOK REVIEW

(Contributed by Cy Cantrell)

[One Band That Took A Chance: The Ithaca High School Band from 1955 to 1967 Directed by Frank Battisti](#), by Brian H. Norcross (Meredith Music Publications, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, 1994)

“Why?” was my first question when I stumbled onto this book on Meredith Music's web site. Like a few other IHS teachers, “Mr. B” was a strongly positive influence in my life, but I hadn't expected him to show up in book form. In his foreword, Eugene Corporon says, “Clearly the phenomenon of the Ithaca High School Band as it existed under the leadership of Frank Battisti is one of the truly great achievements of instrumental music education in the twentieth century.” If that is correct, then – once again – many of us simply didn't realize how lucky we were that we were educated where we were, when we were.

Following up with a few people, including my younger daughter's band director and a neighbor who is a professional clarinetist (and a critic of the local high school band), I quickly learned that most high school bands now offer a competition-based entertainment product, not unlike football. Very few bands offer what Mr. B gave us: A rich musical environment, with opportunities for performance in small ensembles, conducting, learning music theory, and exploring the work of composers of different eras. After we graduated, Mr. B went on to bring in guest artists, commission works from well-known composers,

and encourage students to compose their own pieces.

Reading the programs that the Band played during Mr. B's tenure brings back many memories: Struggling with Mussorgsky's "Great Gate of Kiev" in the spring of sophomore year, discovering Frescobaldi's wonderful brass music and the complexities of a Bach fugue in junior year, and being challenged by Persichetti's "Divertimento for Band" in senior year.

Although the Band reached its apogee after we left IHS, as interviews with members of classes from 1963 to 1968 make clear, we had an exceptional opportunity to perform, understand and appreciate music. I'd recommend this book to anyone who has a family member in a high school band, as well as band alumni who want to find out how the Band turned out when it grew up.

IHS ALUMNI NEWS

For those of you with access to the web, you might want to check out the Ithaca High alumni web site. The URL is www.ithacahighalumni.com. The site is one of the ventures of the Alumni and Friends of Ithaca High School, the recently established organization in which auxiliary classmate (and former IHS teacher) **Rita MacDonald** has played a leading role. Designed by Joe Scaglione of the class of '81, the site is a work in progress but already has some interesting information, including a piece on the IHS mascots.

Want a Class List or E-List?

As in the past, I am offering the class list I've been maintaining to any classmates who want it. If you'd like a copy, please let me know. It's free if you're on the Internet, but it'll cost \$2, to cover printing and postage, if you want it mailed to you. I am also offering a list of classmates' e-mail addresses. You should know that I absolutely will not make these lists available to anyone other than our classmates.

"THE SEARCH": STATUS

Yet one more person has been added to the ranks of our auxiliary classmates – **Bob Macauley**. Bob, who attended Ithaca schools until his family left town during our freshman year, now lives in Carlisle, MA.

The list of "missing" classmates consists of **Duane Cole, Arlene Johnson, Denise Lecoq,** and **Willie Young**.

As for auxiliary class members, I have been told that **Jane Banks, Albert Ellis, Bill Ellsworth,** and **Jack Macbeth** are in that category but I have been unable to locate them. If you have any information that would help us get in touch with them, please pass it on to me. And, again, **if you know of others who might qualify as auxiliary classmates, please pass their names on to me,** even if you don't know where they are now. I will then apply my detective skills and see if I can locate them.

A NEW CONTEST

Some time ago, I staged a contest for those on my e-mail list. It is high time for another and this time it is for all of you, with two prizes to be awarded, one for the first completely correct set of answers from among those who receive the Tattler Two by e-mail and the other for the first completely correct set of answers from among those who get the newsletter via the Postal Service. So here goes.

1. There is one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. What is it?
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. (All other vegetables must be replanted every year.) What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. Name the only sport in which the ball is always in the possession of the team on defense, and the offensive team can score without touching it?

5. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
6. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe. The bottle hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
7. There are fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. Name at least twelve of them.
8. Where are the lakes that are referred to in the "Los Angeles Lakers"?
9. There are seven ways a baseball player can legally reach first base without getting a hit. Receiving a base on balls is one. Name the others.
10. It's the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any form other than fresh. What is it?
11. You have 10 stacks of coins. Each coin in 9 of the stacks is real but each one in the remaining stack is counterfeit. All the coins look alike but the real coins weigh 10 grams and the counterfeit ones weigh 11 grams. You have a scale but can only do one weighing. How can you determine which coins are counterfeit?

AN ANNUAL TWO?

Some high school classes have produced updates of their yearbooks, often in conjunction with a reunion. And two members of our class – first **Kay Trimberger** and more recently **Cuyler Page** – have suggested having a book of writings by classmates about how they went from what they were in our high school days to where they are today. What do you think about having a book that does either of those things, or both?

With the next reunion almost 4 years away, there would be enough time to not only to such a project but to do it well. Also, there may be ways of producing the product – probably in both print and electronic form – at a reasonable cost, always a consideration.

Rita MacDonald has said she might be willing to take the lead on the project, a role for which she is extremely well suited as she was the advisor to the Annual staff when she taught English at IHS.

However, she should not have to take on the task alone.

I would like to hear what you think of the idea, and, if you like it, what suggestions you have for the contents and whether you would be willing to help in its creation.

Address Changed? Let Me Know!

The Tattler Two is most successful if it actually reaches you. **Please let me know if your e-mail or mailing address changes.** (I would like to be apprised of mailing address changes even if you are on the Internet. We want to stay in touch with you and some of the class-related material may go out via the mails.)

All it takes is an e-mail, postcard, or phone call. My contact information is schmals@erols.com; 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; (301) 652-8620.

THANK YOU . . .

. . . to **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose** for her contribution to defray my costs in producing the Tattler Two; for all of you have e-mailed or written me with news about yourselves and your families (without which the Tattler Twos would be much shorter and much less interesting); to **Myra Fincher, Jean Houghton, Ron Pete,** and **Sandy (Deeley) Scaglione** for all informing me about Chuck McNeal's death; and to **Rita MacDonald** for the her investment of time, energy, and creativity in making an IHS alumni organization a reality.

IN CLOSING

With the turmoil of the elections behind us, I want to wish everyone for the holiday season and for a 2005 of peace and joy. Please keep the news flowing. That is what makes the Tattler Two a good read.

Steve