

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 6, No. 2

May 2005

NEWS FROM FINLAND

In the last newsletter I wrote that **Maj (Tomroth) Simons** had hoped to write about herself for that issue but had been unable to do so because of her father's illness, his death in October, and the selling and dividing of his estate. However, she wrote to me recently and here is what she reports.

After her year at IHS – you will recall that she was an AFS exchange student – , she took a M.A. at the University of Helsinki and worked as a journalist, producing radio programs for the Finnish Broadcasting Company, until she retired five years ago. Her specialty was adult education: language courses, literature series, etc.

She married another AFS student, Tom Simons, who is an architect and professor of landscape planning, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Maj notes that, after their third child contracted meningitis as a baby, many of her radio program series were about disabilities.

The Simons live in a flat in Helsinki and have a summer cottage nearby.

Maj says she loves beauty, wisdom, tranquility, and good company. Literature and art are her biggest interests. She attends courses and even exhibits her own works now and then.

Traveling and new experiences are very rewarding for her and she wishes she could do more in that vein. She travels mostly in Europe. She notes that she lived for a year in Switzerland and for a year in Moscow with her family in the '70's. In 1991, she returned to the States (to Cambridge, MA) with Tom and their youngest child for half a year. During that time she met **Greta (Albrecht) Waterman** (who has visited her in Finland, too) and most of **Anita Bonney's** family, and also visited Ithaca. She found Ithaca and the States had changed enormously since 1958 but her friends had not.

She concludes by saying that she thinks of her IHS year with great affection and wishes everyone a good summer.

OTHER CLASS NOTES

In October, **Cindy (Beebee) Anderson** moved across the country, from California to Ararat, a small town in southern Virginia where her daughter Krystal lives. In September, before the move, Cindy went on a church mission trip to Uganda where, among other things, she helped build a four-room school and teach the women how to use sewing and knitting machines.

Joanne (Wilkinson) Baker reports having quite a scare in November when her eldest daughter Patti was rushed to the hospital. Diagnosed with liver failure, Patti was able to get a transplant the day afterwards and is making good progress. More recently husband Art underwent knee replacement surgery and he, too, is doing well.

Anita Bonney traveled to South Carolina in March – an Elderhostel tour of Beaufort and the low islands. And she has trips planned to Wales in July and to Oregon – again an Elderhostel tour, of the mountains, high desert, and Crater Lake – in August. Anita also had her moment in the national spotlight. The “Ask Tip Sheet” question in the Newsweek issue of April 11 – “Do penguins ever freeze to death?” – was hers. Do you know the answer?

Kate, daughter of **Cy Cantrell** and wife Lynn Marple, has been admitted to Columbia U. under that school's early decision program. Cy reports that Kate's current plans are to pursue a double major in dance and a liberal arts subject. Columbia was her first choice of ten colleges visited. As for Cy and Lynn, he continues his dual role as professor of electrical engineering and physics and associate dean of the College of Engineering at the U. of Texas at Dallas, while Lynn continues to

work at Nortel Networks, having thus far escaped that company's layoffs. For fun, Cy and Lynn climbed Mt. Elbert in Colorado (elevation 14,433) last summer. For pictures, see Cy's web site – www.cdcantrell.com.

Jim Cornell and wife Adela have joined the ranks of the snowbirds. They will now be spending their winters – November until April – in the 3 Lakes R.V. Resort in Hudson, FL. In February, Jim reported that they were loving it – golfing, fishing, and walking in the sunshine. The Cornells also have a new address for the summer months, having moved from Moravia to Cortland.

Donna (Phillips) Dawes and husband Mel now live in Zephyrhills, FL (just down the street from **Linda (Womble) Conrad** and husband Les). The Dawes left Auburn, MA, where they had lived for 43 years, last fall but did not reach Florida until late February, having first spent a few weeks with Donna's brother Claude in Ithaca and then several months with her sister Eileen Coles and her husband Gary in Concord, NC. While there, they helped in the renovation of a lovely old house the Coles had bought a few years earlier.

Kate (Catherwood) Fackelman also has moved. In September, she and husband Bob drove from Maine to their new home in Del Rio, TX. Kate reports the trip, while long, showed them a real cross-section of the country. More travel is in the offing. The Fackelmans plan to be on the road about 6 months of the year.

In April, **Myra Fincher** and another resident at McGraw House in Ithaca received the 2005 Florence Hoard Landscape Beautification Award for their work not only in treasuring and maintaining the exquisite gardens of McGraw House but also in sharing their gardening passion and expertise with younger generations.

Jean Houghton continues to love retirement, noting that she especially enjoyed her first post-retirement Christmas season free from frantic retailers and the equally frantic deadline-a-minute atmosphere of her work life in the Ithaca Journal's business department. She was able to attend concerts, go to galleries and craft fairs, and see friends for dinner. In March, she spent a week in Ireland, her first trip outside the U.S. in 20 years. Together with faculty members and other guests,

she accompanied the Ithaca College Women's Chorale on its concert tour that included performances in Limerick, Cork, and Dublin.

Cy Cantrell is not the only classmate who will have a child entering college. **Jim Illes'** daughter Kristin is graduating from Pinellas Park High School and will be majoring in music at St. Petersburg College in the fall.

June (Mulcahy) Leagans still lives in Chicago but she is not spending much time there and a move may be on the horizon. She has been a traveling nurse – an agency finds her a hospital in need of nursing staff, she signs a contract (usually for 13 weeks), and the agency pays for her travel, a furnished apartment, and her work. Not a bad deal. In March, she finished a stint in Los Angeles, where she had the added bonus of spending the holidays with her youngest daughter, and fell in love with the area. She is now on assignment in New York City. After that? She will probably be in Chicago for the summer, go to Paris in October for the Pan Am convention, then hopes to get a traveling assignment in Ireland, and after that put down roots somewhere. Contact June if you want to visit Chicago this summer. She says she would love to have visitors and has plenty of room.

Yet another move, but a much shorter one. **Marion (Peyton) Longcoy** moved from Ballston Spa to Ballston Lake, where she is now in a larger apartment. She reports that her son, a missionary, ended an assignment on St. Helena Island in the south Atlantic, is now on a shorter one in South Africa, and in September will return to the states. After 3 years, Marion very much looks forward to seeing him, his wife, and their three sons.

Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino and fiancé Bill Vogt spent New Year's in New Orleans, a first for her, and had a grand time. They plan to go to the Ithaca/Syracuse area in August for her family reunion.

Mini (Heinecke) Monfredo and husband Frank have just moved from Rochester to the Erie Canal hamlet of Bushnell's Basin, about 10 miles south. (The mailing address is Pittsford.) She says they had not planned on moving – it was completely unexpected and a very sudden decision – but they simply fell in love with a site on Irondequoit Creek that runs about 20 feet behind the house with a

woods on the far side. They have a little over an acre, complete with deer, muskrats, wild turkeys, and mallard ducks – a veritable wildlife reserve. And it is a perfect spot for a writer, as the quiet is glorious. It is a big house and Mimi says their friends, who are all downsizing to condos, think the Monfredos are nuts. But they love it!

Some take it easy in retirement. **Dick Monroe** is not one of them. He and wife Toni have opened a restaurant, Taste the Moment, and a catering business in Redmond, WA, not too far from their home in Woodinville. He is the logistics guy, having arranged for licensing, phone service, utilities, and waste management services; handling payroll, working on advertising; taking care of taxes, etc. Toni focuses more on the food end, working with the chef, training staff, and developing menus. If you plan to be in the Seattle area, look up Dick, Toni, and Taste the Moment.

Nancy (Johanson) Munro lives in Kirkville, NY. For many years, she has been very active in ministries to the poor.

Bill Turley briefly writes from Columbia that the mayor of Somondoco, the town where he and wife Gloria now live, had asked the Turleys to help with the town's Christmas celebration. Bill's role: playing Papa Noel (aka Santa Claus).

Get-Togethers:

The second annual IHS class of '58 Florida mini-reunion took place on March 19, hosted by **Ingrid (Brohm)** and **Phil Jimrusti** at their home in Davie, southwest of Ft. Lauderdale and northwest of Miami. In addition to the hosts, attendees were **Fran (Riela) Ciaschi**, **Sally (Pardoe) Hoyt** and husband Bruce, **Carol (Stevens) Jordan** and husband Rog, **Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino** and fiancé Bill Vogt, **John Merrill** and wife Sandy, and **Marty Schmidt** and wife Pat. Several others who had planned to attend cancelled because of the flu. The Merrills and Schmitts arrived the day before and stayed with the Jimrustis so the three couples enjoyed a mini-mini-reunion. Ingrid reports that on the 19th they had sunny weather, plenty of food, and an overall good time.

In December, **Anita Bonney** had lunch with **Carolyn (Van Buren) McPherson** and **Sue (Hornbrook) Wilcox** before Carolyn and Sue headed to Florida for the winter.

Linda (Womble) Conrad writes that country singer Alice (Mulks) Detrick, IHS class of '57, gave her fifth annual concert at the Spanish Trails West senior park in Zephyrhills, FL. In addition to Linda (with husband Les), class of '58 attendees were **Sally (Pardoe) Hoyt** (with husband Bruce), **Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino** (with fiancé Bill Vogt), **Carol (Stevens) Jordan**, **Sandy (Deeley) Scaglione** (with husband Tom), and **Marty Schmitt** (with wife Pat). The Conrads hosted a reception following the concert.

Donna (Phillips) Dawes reports that while in Ithaca in November she and husband Mel visited **Barbara (Utter) Park** and husband Avery in the Park's beautiful new house, which Avery built, on Baker Hill Road in Freeville. Donna also notes that Barbara later underwent surgery but is now doing well.

In December, **Jean Houghton** got together with **Kathy (Illencsik) Lilley** before Kathy headed back to Berkeley, CA for the winter.

In March **Linda (Tarbell) Juric** and husband Vince were dinner hosts for **Suzi (Colbert) Gittins**, husband Tom, **Steve Schmal**, and wife Deb at their home in McLean, VA.

Carol (Riley) Riggs and husband Ralph visited **Carolyn (Van Buren) McPherson** and husband Don at the McPhersons' winter place in Key Largo, FL.

TEACHER NOTES

Last January, the basketball court at Ithaca High was named "Culligan Court" in honor of **Don Culligan**, basketball coach (and drivers ed teacher) during our IHS days. Many of Don's family, including his 5 children and 9 grandchildren, and 20 members of Don's teams from the 50's, '60's and 70's attended, including our **Tom Smith**. A plaque given to Don was placed on the gym wall.

IN MEMORIAM

Pat (House) Senseman died on March 24 after waging an 8-year battle with breast cancer. Pat lived in Richardson, TX. She is survived by husband Jim, daughter Debra Johnston, grandchildren, mother Mary House and brother Charles House.

Donations in Pat's memory can be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 5005 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, 75244; the American Cancer Society, 8900 Carpenter Freeway, Dallas, 75247; the Salvation Army, P.O. Box 2608, Dallas, 75221 or to the charity of your choice.

IN MEMORIAM

Rosemary Reynolds died on April 27 at the Cayuga Medical Center at Ithaca. For the past 25 years, Rose was employed at Cornell's Center for Technology, Enterprise and Commercialization. She was a longtime member of the Immaculate Conception Church.

A loving and devoted mother and grandmother, Rose's family was always the center of her life. She is survived by her children Janet Begent, James Reynolds, Jill Reynolds, Jacqueline Dannic, and Julie Pagliaro; sons-in-law Gordie Begent, Steve Dannic, and Matt Pagliaro; daughter-in-law Terry Reynolds; grandchildren Elizabeth, Gordie, Justina, Jessica, Kyle, Justin, Josh, Matthew, and Nicholas; brother Robert Lucidi; sister Valeria Mulvey; several nieces and nephews; and lifelong friend Peggy (Chester) Petrillose. Rose was predeceased by husband Raymond "Picky" Reynolds, Jr. and brother Louis Lucidi.

Donations in Rose's memory can be made to Catholic Charities, 324 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

One of our history teachers, **Curtis Pfaff**, died on April 3 in Hackettstown, NJ at the age of 82. Curtis retired in 1978 after 32 years as an educator for the Ithaca Public School System and also with Cornell University.

AFIHS

(Provided of Rita MacDonald)

What is AFIHS? AFIHS stands for the Alumni and Friends of Ithaca High School, a new Ithaca High School alumni association.

Who belongs to AFIHS? Everyone who has ever worked at, attended, graduated from, or had a vested interest in Ithaca High School belongs.

What is the mission of AFIHS? AFIHS is dedicated to furthering the traditions of excellence and spirit at Ithaca High School. Its motto is "Recapture the Spirit."

What does one have to do to become an official member? Nothing. However, AFIHS welcomes donations, which are tax deductible. Donation checks should be made out to the Community Foundation of Tompkins County with AFIHS on the memo line and sent to Community Foundation of Tompkins County at 309 N. Aurora Street, Ithaca, NY 14850. Mail can also be sent directly to AFIHS at the ICSD Bldg., 400 Lake Street, Ithaca, NY 14850.

What does AFIHS do? AFIHS is still a work-in-progress. Presently, it is working on establishing a complete list of class contacts and accurate class lists; correcting errors and omissions in the 1996 and 2004 Alumni Directories; and helping Reunion Classes with contacts and plans. AFIHS occasionally sponsors social gatherings for Ithaca area alumni at business establishments owned or managed by IHS alumni. One event for this summer, at The Boatyard Grill, is now in the planning stages. AFIHS has a website (www.ithacahighalumni.com) and may be reached by e-mail through the site or by direct e-mail at ihs58@yahoo.com. AFIHS hopes to be able to provide a link for updating individual class member information sometime in the near future.

"THE SEARCH": STATUS

I can again report that another person has been added to the ranks of our auxiliary classmates. This time it is **Nancy (Cooper) Conklin**. Nancy was with our class at Boynton and started with us at IHS, but she left during our freshman year. She

moved first to Rochester and then to Troy, graduating from Catholic Central. She returned to Ithaca, working at the Ithaca Hotel dining room for a year and for the telephone company. She then went to beautician school and worked in that field for 16 years but, wanting something more challenging, decided to go into nursing. After attending nursing school and training at the hospitals in the Triple Cities area, she moved to San Jose where she worked as a surgical nurse. But, she writes, she always wanted to own a boutique of some sort, so when she moved back east in 1980 she opened an antique store. She no longer runs the store but occasionally conducts estate liquidation sales. Nancy and husband Paul live in Dryden.

The list of “missing” classmates consists of **Duane Cole, Arlene Johnson, Denise Lecoq, and Willie Young**. Unfortunately, there continues to be nothing to report about any of them. Please let me know if you have any leads.

As for auxiliary class members, I have been told that **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 **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.

THE SAME CONTEST BUT WITH NEW RULES

As I noted in the last Tattler Two, some time ago I ran a contest for those on my class e-mail list and felt it was high time for another but this time for everyone. I said two prizes would be awarded – one for the first completely correct set of answers from an e-mail recipient of the newsletter and the other for the first completely correct set of answers from a Postal Service recipient.

Since no completely correct sets of answers were submitted, I conclude I set the bar too high. But I do not wish to give up on the contest so I am

trying it again, this time with the prizes to go to the e-mail and Postal Service recipients who, by July 1, have answered the most questions correctly.

The questions again –

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?

THE ANNUAL TWO AGAIN

As mentioned in the last Tattler Two, some high school classes have produced updates of their

yearbooks, often in conjunction with a reunion, and **Kay Trimberger** and **Cuyler Page** have both suggested having a book of writings by classmates about how they progressed from our high school days to where they are today.

I asked what you thought about having a book that would do either of those things, or both, and also whether anyone would be willing to assist in such a project. But I received no response other than from Kay and from **Rita MacDonald** who 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.

With the next reunion still more than 3 years away, there would be enough time to do this 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.

Again, I would like to hear what you think of the idea. If you like it, I would also like your suggestions about the contents of such a book 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 (to schmals@erols.com), postcard or letter (to 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815), or phone call (to 301-652-8620).

A REUNION ODE

I received the following from two classmates – **Bob Macauley** and **Jim McCarthy** – and thought it worth sharing (even though it is clear the poem was written about a class other than ours).

Every ten years, as summertime nears,
An announcement arrives in the mail.
A reunion is planned. It'll be really grand.
Make plans to attend without fail.

I'll never forget the first time we met,
We tried so hard to impress.
We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars,
And wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair. The whole class was there.
It was held at a fancy hotel.
We wined and we dined, and we acted refined,
And everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first
To achieve great fortune and fame.
Meanwhile their spouses described their fine
houses
And how beautiful their children became.

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean,
Now weighed in at one-ninety-six.
The jocks who were there had lost all their hair,
And the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd
Who'd guided a spacecraft to the moon.
Or poor little Jane, who'd always been plain.
She married a shipping tycoon.

The boy we'd decreed "most apt to succeed"
Was serving ten years in the pen,
While the one voted "least" now was a priest.
Just shows you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys
Who seemed to have aged the least.
Another was given to the grad who had driven
The farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture
Of beehives, crew cuts, and wide ties.
Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini.
You never saw so many thighs.

At our next get-together, no one cared whether
They impressed their classmates or not.
The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal.
By this time we'd all gone to pot.

It was held out-of-door, at the lake shore.
We ate hamburgers, coleslaw, and beans.
Then most of us laid around in the shade
In our comfortable T-shirts and jeans.

By the fortieth year, it was abundantly clear
We were definitely over the hill.
Those who weren't dead had to crawl out of bed
And be home in time for their pill.

And now I can't wait. They've set the date.
Our fiftieth is coming, I'm told.
It should be a ball. They've rented a hall
At the Shady Rest Home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid.
My pacemaker's been turned up on high.
My wheelchair is oiled, and my teeth have been
boiled,
And I've bought a new wig and glass eye.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party.
I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light.
It'll be lots of fun. But I just hope that there's one
Other person who can make it that night.

(Author anonymous)

THANK YOU . . .

. . . to all who have written me with news about themselves and their families, for without that the newsletter would be very thin indeed; to **Naomi (Johnson) Cranmer, Jean Houghton, Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino, and Peggy (Chester) Petrillose** for their contributions to defray my costs in producing the Tattler Two; to **Marion (Peyton) Longcoy** for putting me in contact with auxiliary classmate **Nancy (Cooper) Conklin**; and to **Myra Fincher, Ron Pete, and Tom Smith** for informing me about the deaths of the classmates noted earlier in this issue.

Want a Class List or E-List?

I continue to offer the class list that I have been maintaining to any classmate who wants it. If you would like a copy, please let me know. It is free if you are on the Internet, but it will 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.

IN CLOSING

By the time of the next issue, there may be a class of '58 page on the Ithaca High School alumni web site. This would enable the posting of all the past issues of the Tattler Two, as well as other things, on it.

Meanwhile, I encourage you – particularly those whose names have not appeared in the newsletter before – to send me information about yourselves and your families. Some of you may think that you have lived a very “ordinary” life and no one would be interested in reading about you. But you would be wrong about that!

If you see some names over and over, it is not that I pick favorites but rather that they write me often. I will be happy to mention you, provided you send me an e-mail, letter, or post card. You do not have to be a prose stylist. Just give me something in writing and I will take it from there.

Have a happy summer and fall.

Steve