

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 8, No. 3

October 2007

50TH REUNION

JUST A REMINDER

As mentioned in the last issue, you can now mark down July 25 through 27, 2008 as the dates for the class of 1958's 50th reunion. As also mentioned, while the entire reunion schedule has not yet been established, there'll be an informal get-together at the Meadow Court Motel (owned by **Marilyn** and her sister) on Friday evening, a picnic – catered, no dish to pass, this time – on Saturday, and a get-together on Sunday morning.

More information will follow in the next issue of the Tattler Two, which should come out in late January or early February, and information will also be posted on the class's web site – www.ihs58.com -- as it becomes available.

50TH REUNION

THE REUNION FUND

You may recall from previous issues of the Tattler Two that the class has a reunion fund, started with money left over from the 10th reunion that had been put in a bank account, and then forgotten about until **Nancy (Hinger) Hare** received notice of it.

The money in the fund will be used to pay for the printing and mailing of invitations, and the fee for the picnic space, as well as to defray the costs of the Friday and Saturday events, making the reunion more affordable, particularly for those with limited incomes.

Contribute should be sent to **Kathy (Gleason) Smith** at P.O. Box 85, Spencer, NY 14883. Please make checks payable to her, not to the class.

50TH REUNION

DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

If you want to assist with the reunion and/or want to make suggestions about it, please contact one of the organizers – **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose**, by e-mail at jpetril@twcny.rr.com or by phone at (607) 257-3566; **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan** at nealomarlo@aol.com or (607) 272-5226; **Kathy (Gleason) Smith** at kls9@cornell.edu or (607) 589-6023; or **Ann (Rosa) Weitzel** at 53vette@msn.com or (585) 392-6273.

CLASS NOTES

Dance studio activities still keep **Rosalie (Bower) Amoroso** very busy. She took her competition team to Knoxville, Tennessee in June for the 2007 national championship (traveling with 20 girls ages 10 through 17 from Ithaca by bus!).

News from **Cy Cantrell** and wife Lynn Marple includes mention that their 20-year-old daughter Kate spent 3½ weeks in Nigeria this summer as a volunteer in an organization that builds village health clinics and town halls. Since she stayed with Nigerian families, she learned a lot about Nigerian culture, as well as construction practices in the third world. Cities she visited included Lagos, Shegamu and Abeokuta. Kate is now in her junior year at Columbia, where she is majoring in urban studies with a focus in architecture. She hopes to go to graduate school in architecture. Cy and Lynn went on four wilderness backpacking trips this past year and, following Kate's lead – she is a backpacking trip leader for the Columbia Outdoor Orientation program for freshmen –, are training to become backpacking trip leaders for the Dallas Sierra Club. Lynn also got her certificate as a yoga instructor in May.

Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld and husband Helmut continue their lives on two continents. While in Ithaca, Carol now serves as chairperson for the East Lawn Cemetery's biennial fundraising efforts. Serving with her on the Cemetery board is **Carolyn (Pfohl) McGory** and one contributor to the funds drive was **Cal Cotner**.

Cathy (VanBuren) Bomberger and husband Peter returned to Ithaca in June for the 45th reunion of the Cornell class of '62, staying with sister **Carolyn** and her husband Don McPherson and having a great time attending reunion events. **Bill Coggshall**, Bryon McCalmon (class of '57), and Carol Sue Epstein (class of '56) were the only other IHSers Cathy saw at reunion events. Ithaca was not the only trip the Bombergers made since the last newsletter. In September, they traveled to Chicago, a short trip from Indiana, to visit their daughter and also went the Washington, DC area to help celebrate their granddaughter's second birthday. And they had a visit in August from their daughter and family who live in Louisiana.

Last month, **Anita Bonney** had lunch with **Rita MacDonald, Carolyn (VanBuren) McPherson, Susie (Hornbrook) Wilcox**, and Rita Riley Nicholas (IHS class of '62). Anita mentioned that Susie and husband Ted have sold their house in Ithaca and will become permanent Florida residents rather than snowbirds, but added that they will not have abandoned upstate New York entirely as they have reserved a condo at Greek Peak for next June and July.

Cal Cotner and wife Sharon took an Alaska cruise this summer, enjoying the glaciers, whales, and other sights. They also visited Vancouver, BC.

On August 31, **Joan (Warren) Edmondson** retired from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, where she had worked for 22 years. Her career included many activities in the field of workforce development and training. Her plans for retired life? Joan intends to take a river cruise in China next year, learn Spanish and Italian, take up piano again, get on a fitness regimen that includes strength training, and work as a volunteer work at Egleston Children's Hospital.

Ron Fitch writes that he is looking forward to attending next year's reunion. He will be among those coming furthest for the event, from the state

of Washington. Last year, Ron and wife Charlotte moved to Sammamish, east of Seattle, which he notes entails a little more driving but is well worth it as it is a more quiet setting. Ron also says they continue to exercise daily and eat right and, so far, all is well.

Peggy (FitzGerald) Greenfield writes of an end and a beginning. In late September, her mother died, at the age of 96, after two years of hospice care – Peggy and husband John were her primary caregivers – in her Norwood, Connecticut home. In October, their newest grandchild was born in Somers, Connecticut.

Dana Furman and wife Elizabeth recently returned from a cruise through the Panama Canal, from San Francisco to Ft. Lauderdale to celebrate their 46th anniversary. It was their third such trip. Dana says each one seems better, adding that maybe it is because each trip they are a little older and the time is more precious. They were able to spend some time with Elizabeth's mother who lives on Waneta Lake (located between Seneca and Keuka Lakes) during the summer, which afforded them the chance to visit with Elizabeth's sister, Sharon Wiley (IHS class of '62).

Eva (Palmer) Johnson and husband Mike are semi-retired. For the past 10 years, they have operated a business, Ocean Images, which makes underwater housings for video cameras. Now their son-in-law runs the business and they work whenever they want.

An O'Connor family reunion and a nephew's wedding brought **Mary (O'Connor) MacKenzie** to Ithaca at the end of June. While there, she had lunch with Ann Gilbert (IHS class of '57) who was attending her 50th reunion. In July, Mary became a grandmother for the third time, her son and his wife having their first child. Mary plans to return to Ithaca next May for a niece's wedding but, with so many trips east, not for our 50th reunion.

Debbie (Wells) Macomber writes that she and husband Marshall have three children – one living in Indianapolis (where Debbie and Marshall have lived for 42 years) and the others in Columbus, OH and Carmel, NY – and seven grandchildren. Marshall worked for Eli Lilly for many years but is now retired. The whole Macomber family gathers in Indianapolis each Thanksgiving and at Debbie's

and Marshall's lake home in northern Indiana each summer. Debbie and Marshall also have a condo on Sanibel Island in Florida where they go twice a year, with the children and grandchildren also visit, in shifts, over spring break. When on Sanibel, the Macomers get together with **Dan and Ann (Simpson) Moeder**, who live there year-round. About Marshall, Debbie notes that he was her freshman orientation counselor at Cornell and she is still being oriented!

In July, **Helen (Hillhouse) Madsen** and husband Ernie celebrated the birth of their first grandchild, grandson Arthur William Madsen-Biesanz, born to daughter-in-law Oakley and son Len.

Out in Garden Valley, ID, work on the new house of **Pat (Phillips) Marion** and husband Al, on the middle fork of the Payette River, was finally completed and they have moved in.

This summer **Dick Monroe** traveled to California to visit grandchildren. In San Francisco, he met an old airline buddy from Sydney, Australia who recently retired after almost 40 years with Qantas. But Dick spends most of his time running Taste the Moment Restaurant and Tea Room with his wife Toni. Located in a Redmond, Washington house built in 1907 the Monroes had remodeled, the restaurant is clearly a hit, with rave reviews appearing in several local papers.

Katy (Shaw) Peltz has moved again, but this time a lot shorter distance. Her earlier move was from Florida to Plano, Texas. This time, it was only from Plano to a very nice apartment in McKinney, Texas, which Katy says is a pretty town near a small lake.

Howard Raymond and wife Jeanette spent two months this summer traveling in the western and northwestern part of the U.S. in their travel trailer. They visited many national parks as well as several out-of-the-way places of interest, traveling through 16 states from their home in Alabama to northern Montana and back. It was a most enjoyable trip and they highly recommend this type of travel for seeing all the great places there are to see in this wonderful country in which we live.

Faith (Miller) Roelofs and husband Chuck Dann had a wonderful two-month road trip through

British Columbia, Yukon, and Alaska in June and July. In Faith's words, "We hitched up the trailer, loaded the dog and lots of food and followed our noses north, eating when hungry, stopping when tired, and always in awe of the vast country and wildlife." One goal was to fish for salmon. They caught some pinks in Valdez, then tried for reds in Soldotna, and watched others catch kings near Palmer as well as halibut in Homer. Faith says they can't wait to go back with better gear and more time. Returning to Prescott, AZ, they worked on remodeling the front of their house and catching up on gardening, and are now awaiting the birth of their first grandchild. Faith and Chuck plan to be in Ithaca for the reunion next year.

In July, **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan** got away from the motel business for a couple weeks, taking a river cruise with husband Neal. They flew to Budapest and then enjoyed the sights along the Danube, Main, and Rhein rivers, ending up in Amsterdam. Neal reports it was excellent.

Steve Schmal and wife Deb spent almost 3 weeks in Italy in September – a week in Rome; another in Umbria, where they stayed in the hill town of Todi where they rented an apartment and did day trips to Assisi, Cortona, Gubbio, and Orvieto; and 4 days with cousins of Deb who live near Naples. The weather, food, and sights were all excellent.

In September, **Joyce (Hinman) Shaffer** traveled from Arizona to the Washington, DC area to visit her daughter Dr. Sharon Locke who works for the National Science Foundation.

Kay Trimberger reports that in May and early June she traveled with several friends to Eastern Europe. On the trip, she gave talks on her book, *The New Single Woman*, which incidentally is now available in paperback, at universities in Cluj, Romania and Krakow, Poland. The book is being translated into Polish and will be published there in early 2008. More travels are in the offing for Kay. In January, she will go with a friend to New Delhi to deliver a paper at a conference and then travel for two weeks in northern India. Kay noted that she did not plan to use the book as a way to help finance travel in her retirement, but it works out nicely that way, adding that combining tourism and meeting peers abroad is rewarding. On an entirely different front, she has done remodeling

on her Berkeley home, reflecting that the process was horrible but the result is nice.

From Somondoco in Columbia, **Bill Turley** writes that the village, with 500 inhabitants, is in a very rural area. Most of the 17,000 people in the area live on isolated farms and there are only about 25 cars and trucks. (We have many more on our block, although that is not necessarily a good thing.) However, he is very connected with the rest of the world as he recently had a satellite connection installed on his farm and welcomes correspondence from classmates. His e-mail address is w_turley@yahoo.com.

Izzie (Petricola) Worthen was honored by the Women's Fund of Herkimer and Oneida Counties with its first "Women Making a Difference" luncheon for her work in making the Old Forge Library a 21st century institution, as well as her involvement in the Beta Sigma Phi sorority and her activities on behalf of the community. Attendees included **Diane Driscoll** and **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose**. Izzie reminisced that she met her husband Al when he was 17 and she was 15, a snowball fight having brought them together. "I was with a bunch of girls and he was with a bunch of boys, and we started throwing snowballs at them. They threw back and really got the better of us." Other participants in the fight – Peggy and her now husband Joe.

Izzie also reports on a trip she and Al took in October. They went to Nashville where they attended the 2007 International Bluegrass Music Association convention, meeting many old friends and doing some serious ordering for their business, Mountain Music in Old Forge, NY. (They sell bluegrass instruments and accessories as well as CDs, DVDs, and books; repair and do custom work on instruments; and offer instruction and workshops.) Then it was on to a short stay in Savannah, where they took a trolley tour, getting a feel for the historic district homes and squares, and Izzie got in some shopping. Then it was on to St. Augustine, where they took lots of walks on the beach; ate well; enjoyed a visit from Izzie's nephew, Bob Reed, who drove up from Orlando; and toured Fort Matanzas, built by the Spanish in 1742 as a defense for St. Augustine. They also went to Titusville, 100 miles to the south, to pick up banjos they had ordered in Nashville from the

shops that makes them, Gold Tone, and visit with the owners Wayne and Robyn Rogers, and have dinner with old friends Shari and Warren Buck.

John Wray is still trying to sell his store, Marsau's Auto Parts, in Sterling, Colorado. He says he can train whoever buys the store and that he has very experienced employees who want to keep working there. For information, see www.marsaus.com or www.bizbuysell.com. John adds that he just wants to get up to the mountains where he has long owned land, noting that anyone who has seen the movie "Jeremiah Johnson" will understand why.

In June, **Maryjean (Hertel) Yengo** wrote that she and **Jack** continue to enjoy their retirement. They have settled into a routine – visits to one son and his family in Wisconsin in April and October, visits to two sons and their families in North Carolina in January and November, weekend stays at their cottage on Cayuga Lake – bought by Jack's father in 1950 – during the summer, and vacations to the warmth of Fort Myers, Florida each February. Between these travels, while at home in Webster, NY, Maryjean and Jack are involved in community activities, Maryjean with historical preservation.

CORRECTIONS DEPT.

In the last issue, I reported that **Dick Lavoie** had retired at the end of May from D2Technology, a web site design, development, and implementation company in Columbus, GA. That is not the case! D2Technology is his at-home company, and its work continues. He retired from the Muscogee County School District, where he had worked for 29 years, the last 25 as energy manager.

IHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

In the last issue, I mentioned that the IHS Alumni Association (IHSAA for short) has a new web site – <http://ihsaa.gorgeswebsites.com> -- that allows people to place their contact information on the site and use what other alumni have put on the site to contact them. Also, class web sites, including ours (www.ihs58.com), are linked to the IHSAA.

You can sign up to be an associate member of IHSAA – only four members of our class have

done so – and use the site for free. Or you can become a voting member – it only costs \$10 a year – and/or make a donation to the IHSAA.

OUR ITHACA SCHOOLS: A HISTORY

This article, the first in a series, is the result of a prodigious amount of research by **Myra Fincher**, who also did the writing (subject only to a small amount of editing from me). I was interested in how some of the schools got their names, but found very little help on the Ithaca school system web site. I asked Myra to help and she graciously agreed to take on the “assignment”. She found the answers to my question, but went much, much further, gleaning all sorts of information about the school system.

The first article will talk about the histories of the elementary schools we attended. Later articles will present histories of other schools in Ithaca and the surrounding area.

Earlier issues of the Tattler Two contained articles on one-room and other small schools classmates had attended in the Ithaca area, and those had included recollections of school experiences from those who had gone to those schools. I encourage you to write me about things you remember about the schools mentioned below that you think might be of interest to others in the class.

Ithaca’s first public school, built in 1827, stood at the northwest corner of Geneva and Court Streets. In 1854, it was replaced by a building at 318 North Albany Street, at the corner of Albany and Court Streets. Central Elementary School was the city's only public elementary school until West Hill and Fall Creek opened in the 1870s. Old Central was remodeled in 1880 but burned down in April 1912 (a bad year for school fires, as the old IHS building had burned down only two months earlier). Central was not rebuilt for some years. The present building, designed by local architects Arthur Norman Gibb and Oman H. Waltz, was constructed on the same site and opened in 1923. The building is no longer a school. It currently houses the Greater Ithaca Activities Center, which serves all ages – but particularly youth and teens –

in the immediate neighborhood and the greater Ithaca area by providing meeting rooms, recreational facilities, classrooms, an After School Program and diverse programs and activities for children and adults. Central School moved next door into the former Boynton Junior High School building in 1972 and was renamed in 1992 in honor of Beverly Jane Martin, former student, teacher (for six years), and principal (for ten) at Central a year before her death at age 58.

The original West Hill Elementary School, at 111 Chestnut Street, was built in 1874 and designed by architect Alfred B. Dale. The builders were Hyatt and Oltz. The land was purchased from Josiah Bulter Williams for \$4,000. The building, which was later replaced, burned down in 1965. Land for the new West Hill Elementary School was acquired in 1944. Arthur Norman Gibb drew the first plans and Sherwood Holt and Gibb prepared revised plans, with additional rooms, in 1948 and 1949. The new building was completed in August of 1950 and served as an elementary school until the 1980s when it was closed during district reorganization. After that, the building was the home for several private schools and, since 1983, the home of the Alternative Community School. The school was renamed Lehman Alternative Community School in 2004 in honor of David Lehman, who founded it in 1974 and continued his leadership until his retirement in 2004. Today about 260 students attend it, in grades 6 through 12.

Fall Creek Elementary School, located at 202 King Street, opened in 1879. Another local architect, Alvah B. Wood, designed the original building. It underwent a series of changes until it was replaced in 1966 with the present building, designed by Peter S. Levatich and John C. Miller. It still serves as an elementary school.

East Hill Elementary School, on Stewart Avenue, was designed in 1881 by William Henry Miller as a four-room brick building. A wing was added around 1915 and in the 1950s another addition, containing a gym and offices, was built. The School District abandoned the building in 1979. In 1984, Sawtooth Builders renovated it, creating eleven one- and two-bedroom units with mezzanines. Some have fireplaces, and all retain the original wood floors, wainscoting, and as much

of the original woodwork as possible. The building is called East Hill Cooperative.

The original South Hill Elementary School, at 110 Columbia Street and called The Acropolis of South Hill, was built in 1907. Clinton Luke Vivian designed the four-room brick building and, a few years later, a two-room addition. The building served as a school until 1955, when it became the Annex and housed the central processing center for elementary school library materials. The School District later sold the building. In 1978 and 1979, Sawtooth Builders converted it into six cooperative apartments. The building is called Acropolis Cooperative. A new South Hill Elementary School was built at 520 Hudson Street in 1955 under the direction of architect Sherwood Holt, and expanded to 20 classrooms in 1991. The school's auditorium was dedicated to Cornelia Williams, a long time principal of the Columbia Street school, who retired in 1928. The building continues as a school today.

The land occupied by Cayuga Heights Elementary School at 110 East Upland Rd. was given to the Village of Cayuga Heights by Jared Newman in 1920. The original schoolhouse was erected in 1924, with a stucco exterior and high gabled roof. A new school building was constructed in 1956 but the old one continued to be used until it was demolished in 1969 to make room for additions of eleven rooms and a gym to the new building. The Village of Cayuga Heights gave up control of the school in 1956 when it became part of the Ithaca City School District. The school was closed for a some years – the building was used by the New York State Office of Mental Retardation, with developmental disabilities classes held there – but reopened as an elementary school in 1989 – further major renovations were made at that time – and it continues as an elementary school today.

Forest Home School, on Judd Falls Road, opened in 1921. It was built by William D. McElwee, grandfather of **Jane (McElwee) Decker**. It was a two-room school with two grades in each classroom and also had a gym. Consolidated with the Ithaca City Schools in 1956, it closed in 1964. The building is now the Richard M. Lewis Plantations Headquarters Building, named for the Director of the Cornell Plantations from 1966 to 1982, and contains office, meeting, and teaching

space for Cornell Plantations. The Robinson York State Herb Garden was planted on the former playground.

Belle Sherman Elementary School, at 501 Mitchell Street, was designed by Calder Thorne. It opened in the fall of 1926, on the same day as Henry St. John Elementary School. An addition was built in 1955. The school was named for Mary Isabel Sherman. Born in Galesburg, Illinois in 1852, she graduated from Lombard University in Galesburg with a B.S. degree in 1874 and came to Ithaca to continue work in the sciences with Dr. Bert G. Wilder of Cornell. In 1876, she was offered the position of teacher of sciences and history at HIS, where she taught for 32 years, retiring in 1908. She died in Ithaca in June 1930. Frank David Boynton, Superintendent of Schools, praised her as one of the best-loved teachers any school ever had. The M. Louise Wilson Annex of the school, on Cornell Street, was built in 1970 and designed by Levatich and Miller. Miss Wilson, for whom it is named, came to Ithaca in 1928 from Brockport Normal School and taught in several Ithaca schools until 1948, when she became principal of the school, a position she held until her retirement in 1970. She died at the age of 92 in 2000. In 1983 Belle Sherman merged with Henry St. John and youngsters in the southside neighborhoods were bussed to Belle Sherman. Belle Sherman continues as an elementary school today.

Henry St. John Elementary School, located at 301 South Geneva Street, was designed by Arthur Norman Gibb and, as mentioned earlier, opened in the fall of 1926 on the same day as Belle Sherman School. It was named for Henry Ansel St. John (1845-1925) for giving his life to the welfare of the public. The Ithaca Public Schools were organized in 1874 and Mr. St. John was elected to the Board of Education eight years later, serving in that capacity for thirty-one years. He was also the first Superintendent of Public Works. He saw the necessity of flood control, walling the creeks, and introducing paved roads. He was appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Ithaca on Mar. 16, 1887 with fifteen others to draw up a charter to make the village a city. He served as the third mayor of Ithaca in 1891 and 1892, the last unsalaried mayor of Ithaca. During

his tenure as mayor, he presided over the installation of the first electric fire alarm system. The school closed in June 1983 due to decreased enrollment. Under an Urban Development Action Grant, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, a local non-profit corporation, purchased the building for \$60,000 and converted it into twelve low- to moderate-income apartments and a multi-use facility.

ADDRESS CHANGE? LET ME KNOW!

The Tattler Two is most successful if it actually reaches you. **Please let me know if your e-mail and/or mailing address change.** (I want to be apprised of mailing address changes even if you're 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@verizon.net; 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; (301) 652-8620.

“THE SEARCH”: STATUS

The list of “missing” classmates remains much the same but we need to add **Ed Washbon** to the list. We recently lost touch with him. The others: **Duane Cole**, **Arlene Johnson**, **Denise Lecoq**, and auxiliary classmate **Ronnie Chandler** who was also added as we have lost touch with him.

In the last issue, I said that it had appeared that **Willie Young** was no longer “missing” but that, after an initial exchange of e-mail messages, he had not opened other messages from me and without more information from him I could not send him the newsletters or other class information. I ended by saying I had not lost hope he would respond again. And he did! So now I can report that Willie – he now goes by **Willie Johnson** – resides in Sierra Vista, Arizona, is retired, and doing well.

As for potential auxiliary class members, the list of persons for whom I am searching consists of **Albert Ellis**, **John Chacona**, **Bill Ellsworth**,

Donald Lapointe, **Jack Macbeth**, and **John Ryan**. If you have any information that might lead us to any of them, please let me know. Also, please pass on to me the names of any others who might qualify as auxiliary classmates.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank **Myra Fincher** for the prodigious amount of work she has done in researching the history of the Ithaca schools and for providing a draft that was very easy to edit, **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose** for financial support of the Tattler Two, **Ron Pete** for informing me about class-related happenings; and so many of you for the news that is so vital to making the newsletter interesting.

IN CLOSING

We had an impressive turnout at our 45th reunion, with about 125 classmates and auxiliary classmates attending, along with many spouses or significant others and a few other family members. Ten of our teachers also attended as guests of the class.

I hope that turnout at the big 50 even surpasses our 45th. As I mentioned in the last issue, one way of achieving a good turnout is by classmates talking to classmates. If you are one of those who would like to attend but will likely do so only if some of those you were close to in high school also attend, why don't you reach out to them? Find out if they are planning to attend, and, if they say they are not, encourage them to do so. If you need help in contacting a classmate, let me know and I'll provide contact info. In the newsletter issue that immediately precedes the reunion, I expect to include a list of those who have signed up to attend.

But for now, I want to wish all of you the best for the holiday season and for 2008.

Steve