

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 8, No. 5

May 2008

50TH REUNION AROUND THE CORNER

Our 50th reunion is fast approaching. The dates are July 25 through 27. By now, you should have received the invitation sent out by the reunion committee. And we hope you have already responded that you will attend.

Here is the schedule of events:

Friday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m. Gather on the patio of the Meadow Court Inn and Royal Court Restaurant, co-owned by classmate **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan**, at 529 Meadow St. (Rt. 13) for conversation, nibbles, and drinks. The cost: \$6.25 per person for set-up costs and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Drinks are at one's own expense.

Saturday, July 26, at 10 a.m. Visit the Ithaca Clock Museum, owned and operated by classmate **Ralph Thorpe**, at 136 West State St.

Saturday, July 26, from 1 p.m. to ?? Picnic at the Stewart Park Large Pavilion. The event will be catered by Hope's Way. The menu: hors d'oeuvres; marinated chicken breast or veggie burger; salt potatoes; green salad; rotini and vegetable salad; grilled vegetable platter; assorted breads; fresh fruit; fudge brownies; raspberry, lemon, and pecan bars; iced tea; and lemonade. The cost: \$29 per person.

Saturday, July 26, in the evening. Free time and grade school get-togethers (more information below).

Sunday, July 27, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. (**Note that the time is different than what was given in the invitations most of you received.**) Breakfast at the Royal Court Restaurant. The menu: muffins, Danish pastries, coffee, tea, and juice. The cost: \$6.25 per person.

To pay for the indicated events, send a check to Kathryn L. Smith, 18 Railroad Ave., Spencer, NY 14883-9543, by June 1.

Additional information will be posted on the class's web site – www.ihs58.com – if and when it becomes available.

50TH REUNION OTHER THINGS TO DO

If you have time in your schedule to do things in addition to attending the reunion events, here are several ideas. Go to the Ithaca Farmers' Market on Saturday; take a Cayuga Lake boat tour (boats leave from the Farmers' Market area); hike one of the gorges (Taughannock, Enfield, Buttermilk, or Cascadilla); visit Sapsucker Woods, the home of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology; go to the Museum of the Earth or Cornell's Johnson Museum; shop or people-watch on the Ithaca Commons; or, if you want to travel a bit more, take a winery tour.

50TH REUNION WHO'S COMING?

Kathy (Gleason) Smith, who is handling the reunion finances, has provided a list of those who have paid thus far. In addition to Kathy, the other members of the reunion committee and yours truly, they are (non-classmate spouses not included):

Margot (Williams) Akers, Karen (Phillips) Arey, Pat (James) Bachelor, Cathy (Van Buren) Bomberger, Ingrid Brohm, Cal Cotner, Jack Cunkelman, Judy (Osborn) Davis, Jane (McElwee) Decker, Betsey (Moulton) Farnham, Myra Fincher, Ruth (Warren) Gerlach, Lucy (Kimble) Grinnell, Carol (Kleeman) Hayes, Heinz Hoffmann (formerly, Przyrembel), Sarah (White) Jennings,

Philip Jimrusti, Carol (Stevens) Jordan, Judy (Spacher) Kallfelz, Monique (VanLent) Kosar, Gordy Light, Kathleen (Illencsik) Lilley, Bill Mobbs, Dick Monroe, Kent Moore, Katy (Shaw) Peltz, Carol Riley) Riggs, Ron Saccucci, Sue (Ensworth) Saltus, Bob Saturn, Sandy (Deeley) Scaglione, Marty Schmidt, Dick Shulman, Patsy (Morrow) Smith Morgillo, Nettie (Chirillo) Snyder, Kay Trimberger, Sharron (Hunsinger) Vogt, Carol (Bly) Weistart, Susie (Hornbrook) Wilcox, Jack Yengo, and Maryjane (Hertel) Yengo.

How about the rest of you? (I note that those who live in the Ithaca area are underrepresented.) **If you are up in the air as to whether you will be able to attend**, please let Kathy know about your situation – you can e-mail her at the address that appears later in this issue, phone her (again, her number appears later in the issues), or write her – by June 1.

50TH REUNION

LOOKING FOR LODGING?

For those coming to the event from out of state, or even just out of town, and in need of a place to stay, there are lots of options.

One is the Meadow Court, mentioned above. As for our 45th reunion, Marilyn is offering discounts for reuning classmates. Accommodations available are standard rooms, with two double beds, and deluxe rooms, with queen beds, free high speed internet access, a small refrigerator, and a microwave, which are located in the no-smoking, no-pets building. The discounts are only available if you book by July 9th. To insure getting the discount, it would be best if you phoned the motel at 1-800-852-4014. You will need to say you are a member of the IHS class of '58.

The Ithaca area has a wide range of other options. You may want to check with the Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention and Visitors Bureau (web site – www.visitithaca.com; phone number – 607-272-1313). For B&Bs, good information sources are Bed and Breakfasts of Greater Ithaca (web site – www.bbithaca.com; phone number – 800-806-4406) and The Association of Historic Bed and Breakfast Inns of the Ithaca Area (web site – www.bbhistoric.com; phone number – 866-257-

2821). Another option, for groups of classmates who want to stay together, is renting a house or apartment. The Internet is the best tool for finding this type of information.

Finally, as I mentioned in the last issue, if you live in the Ithaca area and are interested in hosting others, please let me know, including information about the accommodations you will make available. I will make your offers known.

50TH REUNION

GRADE SCHOOL PARTIES

A Belle Sherman grade get-together at the home of **Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld** on Ithaca Road is the only such event of which I am aware. While those classmates who attended Belle Sherman are the core group, the event is open to everyone.

If you are organizing a grade school get-together, or any other similar event, please let the reunion committee (see below for the members' contact information) and me know.

50TH REUNION

JAMMING

Several classmates who continue to enjoy playing music have expressed an interest in having a jam session. If you have an interest in participating, please get in touch with **John Davis**, who has agreed to be the contact person for such an event. You can e-mail John at [johndavismuncie@aol.com](mailto: johndavismuncie@aol.com) or phone him at (765) 288-1002.

50TH REUNION

THE REUNION FUND

It is not too late to contribute to the reunion fund. The money in the fund was used to pay for the printing and mailing of invitations, and the rental fee for the Stewart Park pavilion, and helped defray the costs of the events, making the reunion more affordable for everyone but particularly for those with limited incomes. Also, thanks to the fund, those of our teachers who attend will be guests of the class.

Contributions should be sent to **Kathy (Gleason) Smith** at 18 Railroad St., Spencer, NY 14883-9543. Please make checks payable to her, not to the class.

50TH REUNION **QUESTIONS?**

If you have reunion-related questions, please contact one of the organizers, of which there are now seven – **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose**, jpetril@twcny.rr.com or 607-257-3566; **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan**, marilyn@meadowcourthaca.com or 607-272-5226; **Kathy (Gleason) Smith**, kls9@cornell.edu or 607-589-6023; **Ann (Rosa) Weitzel**, 53vette@msn.com or 585-392-6273, **Rita MacDonald**, rmacдона@twcny.rr.com or 607-257-2415; **Carolyn (Pfohl) McGory**, cjm7@cornell.edu or 607-272-1785; and **Barb (Utter) Park**, abp89@yahoo.com or 607-272-2949.

CLASS NOTES

First, several notes that should have run in the previous issue of the Tattler Two:

In December, **Sharron (Hunsinger) Vogt** and husband Bill were hosts for a lunch at their home in Hudson, FL occasioned by **Steve Schmal**'s visit to the west coast of Florida. (Steve's wife Deb was participating in a conference at Eckerd College and Steve tagged along.) The other attendees who enjoyed Sharron's and Bill's hospitality and the opportunity to get caught up with things were **Fran (Riela) Ciaschi**, **Sally (Pardoe) Hoyt** and husband Bruce, **Carol (Stevens) Jordan** and husband Roger, **Sandy (Deeley) Scaglione** and husband Tom, and **Marty Schmidt** and wife Pat. Before the Schmals' Florida stay ended, Deb was able to join Steve, Sharron, and Bill for dinner.

In February, **Chuck Hoffman** wrote from Victor, NY that he had suffered a very minor heart attack in December, but was in the midst of cardio rehab, felt great, and was doing well. His advice to us all: "Here's to life. Stay active and heart healthy. Life is too short."

Now for the new stuff:

Cal Cotner writes that he did some bodily harm to himself back in February. He and wife Sharon were meeting Sharon's younger sister and husband for dinner in downtown DC and he tripped going into the restaurant, breaking (slightly he says) his left wrist and damaging a couple of fingers on his left hand. And two days later his right knee swelled up and he couldn't walk until it was drained. But he reports he is now back to more or less normal – yours truly can confirm that, as I had lunch with Cal earlier this month – and very much looking forward to the reunion. Re: the tripping incident, Cal says it was made more memorable by having occurred the night Eliot Spitzer was having his rather expensive assignation in the Mayflower Hotel, where Sharon's sister and husband were also staying (although NOT on the 8th floor). Cal notes that Sharon had a good time harassing her sister about staying there that night.

Peg (Credle) Cunningham had a wonderful month-long trip to New Zealand and Australia in February with friends. She says the scenery was breath-taking and the experience well worth the time. One of the high points, at the end of the trip, was a visit to the Great Barrier Reef where Pat snorkeled for the first time.

From **Elinor (McLaren) Henkels**, two pieces of news. She and husband Ed are grandparents for the first time, with the birth of Teagan Eleanor Henkels. The proud parents are their oldest son Mark and wife Jessica, who live in Newfoundland, PA, in the Poconos. Mark teaches math in New York State. And the Henkels, who live during the winter months in Arizona but bought property in Savona, NY, near Bath, several years ago, have now bought land just outside of Dundee. Their plan is to sell their Arizona house, build in Dundee, but still visit Arizona. Their middle son, who lives there, is engaged, has a house but has plans to get a bigger one so, Elinor hopes, he will have room for them. And their youngest son, who takes care of their house while they are back east, is planning on having his own house, also big enough for them to visit. (Elinor adds that they have a third Arizona option. Her best friend there has an extra bedroom and says they are always welcome because she knows Ed loves to cook and she doesn't.) As for the land near Dundee, Ed has a garden area already plowed and is getting things

ready to plant. Elinor is planning a special room in the new house for quilting. Being back east will enable the Henkels to visit the Poconos frequently to do their share of grandparent spoiling and be near Elinor's sister and her family.

Some people play golf. Others watch pro golf. And there are those, like **Sally (Pardoe) Hoyt** and husband Bruce, who do both. In March the Hoyts went to the PODS Championship at Innisbrook, FL, where they saw Paul Azinger, John Daly, Jeff Maggert, Fred Couples, and Ernie Els among others. Then, in April, Sally got to enjoy the day at the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am at the TPC in Lutz, FL, near their winter home, with a friend from New York State. Now back in Newfield for the summer, Sally plans to go to the LPGA Corning Classic this month.

At the end of April, **Carol (Stevens) Jordan** reported that she and husband Roger had made it "home" (to Berkshire, NY) from Florida safe and sound. She said it was good to be in NY where things are so green and flowers very beautiful. The weather was warm during the day but that night they had frost. Quite a contrast from Florida.

After spending most of her time during the last five years in Berkeley, CA, **Kathy (Illencsik) Lilley** will be moving back into her house in Ithaca in June for an indefinite stay, as her mother, who lives in Ithaca, is not well. Kathy will be doing psychotherapy work part-time. She writes that her last month in Berkeley has been a wonderful culmination of her efforts in music and in media reform. Two weekends ago, a small group to which she belongs was the chorus in the Oakland Symphony's production of Sondheim's *The Follies*, starring Rita Moreno, and on June 3 she will be the featured singer at Anna's Jazz Island, the main club in Berkeley. On the media reform front, she is being celebrated as the driving force behind KPFA's progressive new board, one of whose members is also the new director of Pacifica Radio's National Board. (Kathy notes that the Pacifica stations, of which KPFA is the first and largest, which can reach 25% of the U.S., are the only ones with no corporate funding.) Kathy pays tribute to **Kay Trimberger** who help her get the KPFA board members recruited, publicized, and elected, a real accomplishment given that Kay was writing books at the same time.

Joyce (Ballardini) Personius, who wintered in Florida, spent a few days in March with **Nettie (Chirillo) Snyder**, who lives in Lantana. Joyce reports they had a great time together.

It's now **Dr. Marvin Shaub**. In April, Marvin received a Ph.D. in social science from Tilburg University in the Netherlands. He, wife Yoko, and daughter Nicole made two trips to Europe this spring. First thinking his dissertation defense and graduation would be on March 11, he made a lot of plans, including family travel, based on that. Then there were some scheduling problems at the University and April 21 became the date. But the Shaubs decided to go ahead with the original trip, return to America, and then go back to Europe a couple of weeks later. On their first trip, they flew the redeye to Brussels, spent a few days there, visited Tilburg (it was Marvin's first time there), and after overnighing in Bruges, flew from Brussels to Naples. Using that city as a base, the Shaubs visited Capri, Pompeii, and the Amalfi coast. From there it was on to Rome, where they had a private tour of various parts of the Vatican; Venice (their favorite place in Europe); and finally Milan, where they saw *The Last Supper* (at breakfast time) and went to the opera at La Scala. The second trip was really a business trip – the redeye to Brussels again, on to Tilburg for the graduation and a reception afterwards that the Shaubs hosted, and back to Brussels for the flight home (in time for Nicole's lacrosse game the next day).

In April, Sharron and Bill Vogt were again hosts, this time for a picnic before the snow birds in the group headed north for the summer. Attending were Fran Ciaschi, Sally and Bruce Hoyt, Carol and Roger Jordan, **Bruce Rightmyer** and wife Sandy, Sandy and Tom Scaglione, Marty and Pat Schmidt, and Saino Zazzaria (IHS class of '57) and wife Judy. Sharron reports that the weather was sunny and in the mid-80s.

IN MEMORIAM

Anarygros Nicolaos (Nick) Vlahos passed away unexpectedly on April 19 in Ithaca.

Born in Zoupena, Greece, Nick came to the U.S. when he was 12 to live with his aunt and uncle,

Eythokia and Louis Vlahos, owners of the original Busy Bee Restaurant on S. Aurora St. After HIS, Nick served in the U.S. Army, on active duty at Fort Dix for six months and then in the Reserves for 5½ years.

He married Panayota (Pota) Velenzas in Zoupena in 1967 and later that year they assumed ownership of the Busy Bee, by then located on S. Cayuga St. Together, over the next 25 years, they enjoyed serving thousands of customers, most of whom came to enjoy their famous Texas Hots. After the Busy Bee was destroyed by fire in 1992, Nick continued to work in the restaurant business until 2006, when illness forced him to retire.

Nick enjoyed life to the fullest. He was a passionate gardener who loved to talk to those who admired the vast array of flowers he planted and tended each year. For his efforts in contributing to neighborhood beautification, he was recognized with an award from the Ithaca Garden Club in 2003. Nick also loved fishing, archery, reading history, and exploring the countryside with Pota.

He was an active parishioner and past board member of St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church. He worked tirelessly for his church community, volunteering his time without question; he never said "no." As an extension of his deep faith, and to increase his vast knowledge about the Church, Nick traveled to various monasteries across the country and read countless books and articles on Byzantine history.

In addition to Pota, his beloved wife of 40 years, Nick is survived by two sons, Christos and Liberi Vlahos of Ithaca. He is also survived by a brother, George Vlahos in Greece, and by extended family and several godchildren in the U.S. and Greece.

Contributions in Nick's memory can be made to St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, 120 W. Seneca St., Ithaca, NY 14850.

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One of our teachers, **Muriel Weeks**, also passed away, on March 13, in Billings, MT. She was born in East Greenbush, NY in 1916; lived in Albany, Glens Falls, and Schroon Lake; graduated valedictorian from Schroon Lake High School in 1933 at age 16; and attended Albany State College

for Teachers, eventually majoring in science. Teaching jobs being scarce, she returned to Schroon Lake, married, and had three daughters. When the marriage ended, Muriel returned to school and obtained a master's degree in education from Albany. She began teaching at Ellenburg, NY in 1949 and then in 1953 became a biology teacher at IHS, remaining there until she retired in 1978.

While at IHS, she had the honor of being selected for a teacher education program at Nkozi Teacher Training College in Nkozi, Uganda, where she lived from 1968 thru 1970. It was the highlight of her career, fostering a love of Africa and also enabling her to visit other overseas destinations.

She is survived by two of her three daughters, Nancy Poolet and Sondra Quick; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

REMINESCENCES

Here, courtesy of **Cal Cotner**, are a few memories from in our HIS past.

A number of classmates, particularly those who were on the football team, remember the game our senior year in which a very fine running back from Elmira Free Academy (EFA), Ernie Davis, made it a rather long afternoon for the IHS defense. Ernie went on to play football at Syracuse where he set a number of records. Drafted by the Washington Redskins, but immediately traded to the Cleveland Browns, he never played a game in the NFL, because he was diagnosed with and died from leukemia. A movie has been made about Ernie. Titled The Express – he was known as "The Elmira Express" – the movie is due out in October. Visiting Elmira, Cal and wife Sharon saw the commemorative statue to Ernie, which is in front of the old EFA building, now a middle school.

Cal recalls it during the EFA game that it was announced that the Soviet Union had successfully launched Sputnik, thus beating the U.S. into space. While the Navy's Vanguard program eventually succeeded, it was the Army that launched our first successful satellite, Explorer 1, on January 31, 1958. Cal comments that little did

he know then that he would spend his professional career in satellite communication engineering.

Cal adds that a historical snippet that was on TV recently is that the last recorded announcement of an Elvis Presley concert was made over WVBR-FM in Ithaca. Elvis was to perform at the War Memorial Auditorium in Syracuse, but died before he could take the stage there.

IHSAA

The IHS Alumni Association (IHSAA for short) has been the subject of articles in the last few issues of the Tattler Two but, at the risk of too much repetition, I think it is worth mentioning again. The IHSAA was formed to promote Ithaca High among its alumni. It has a web site – <http://ihsaa.gorgeswebsites.com> – that allows people to place their contact information on it 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 site.

You can sign up to be an associate member of IHSAA and use the site for free! (Even at no cost, only four members of our class have done so.) Or you can become a voting member – it only costs \$10 a year – and/or make a tax-deductible donation to the IHSAA and help support its operations and programs.

OUR ITHACA SCHOOLS: A HISTORY

This is the third and final article in a series that, like the other two, is the result of research by **Myra Fincher**. The first article, in the October 2007 issue, presented histories of the elementary schools we attended. The second, in the March 2008 issue, dealt with other Ithaca schools members of the class attended. The subject this time is other schools in the Ithaca system built after our student days.

Boynton Middle School, at 1601 North Cayuga St. next to the new high school building, was built in 1971 and, together with DeWitt Middle School, replaced Boynton Junior High as the Ithaca School

District switched to a middle school approach. The building was designed by Egner Architectural Associates LLC headed by Anton J. Egner.

In 1966, the School District acquired the land for DeWitt Middle School at 560 Warren Rd. that W.C. Heasley had owned in earlier years. Construction was completed in 1971. Like Boynton Middle School, the building was designed by Egner Architectural Associates LLC. Major additions and changes were made in 1994 and a greenhouse was completed in the spring of 1996. The school is named for Surveyor General Simeon DeWitt, who in 1807 surveyed the small settlement at the foot of Cayuga Lake that is now Ithaca.

Construction of the Caroline Elementary School, located at 2439 Slaterville Rd., began in the fall of 1958, shortly after we graduated from IHS, and the first classes were held there in fall of 1959. An addition with six classrooms was built in 1967. The local architects were Carl Cornwell Tallman and son Robert Bradford Tallman.

The Enfield Elementary School is located at 20 Enfield Main Rd., on land the School District purchased from the Miller family. The building, designed by local architect J. Victor Bagnardi, was completed in 1959. Additions, the first designed by local architects Levatich, Miller, and Hoffman, were done in 1969 and 1990.

Northeast Elementary School, at 425 Winthrop Dr., is the largest of Ithaca's current elementary schools. The School District acquired the land for it in 1959 and construction was completed in 1964. Again, the architects were Levatich, Miller, and Hoffman.

Two other schools were built after our Ithaca school days, used for a number of years, and then closed as schools.

The School District acquired the land, at 54 Gunderman Rd., for the Danby Elementary School from Harry Hatfield in January 1958. The school, designed by local architect William Downing, was built about 1960. Although it was the hub of the community in addition to being a neighborhood school, because of a drop in the elementary school population the last classes were held there in June 1979 and the School District sold the school in 1980. Several private concerns

then occupied the building, including Gunderman Road Corporation and Walter Wiggins Divi Resorts Reservations Office who shared the space from 1986 to 1991. In 1992, the School District repurchased the building at ten times the selling price for use as office space and storage. Today the Family Reading Partnership Office, the Ithaca City School District Technology Department, the Office of Records Retention and the offices of the Early Childhood Program Offices are all located in the building that had housed the school.

The Glenwood Elementary School, located at 3226 Wilkins Rd., was also built about 1960. Designed by J. Victor Bagnardi, the building has an atrium as a special feature. The last classes were held there in June 1979. The Special Children's Center purchased the building, moving into it in 1980. On Sept. 1, 1999, the name was changed to the Franziska Racker Centers in honor of the agency's Medical Director from 1971 until her death in 1999. The Franziska Racker Centers provides services to persons with disabilities, from newborns to seniors, who live in Tompkins, Cortland, and Tioga Counties.

“THE SEARCH”: STATUS

The list of “missing” classmates remains the same – **Duane Cole, Arlene Johnson, Denise Lecoq, Remi Moore** (she was Josephine Thomas when we were in high school), **Ed Washbon**, and auxiliary classmate **Ronnie Chandler**. I am also still searching for other potential auxiliary class members, including **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** again for all the work she did in researching the history of the Ithaca schools and drafting the article that appears above; **Barb (Utter) Park** for financial support of the Tattler Two; Myra, **Ross Carlisle, Sally**

(Pardoe) Hoyt, Kathy (Illencsik) Lilley, Ron Pete, and **Bob Saturn** for informing me about class-related happenings; **Marcia (Hubbell) Knight** and Val Cole (wife of classmate **Randy Cole**) for providing mailing addresses of classmates who were temporarily “missing”; the reunion committee – **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose, Marilyn (Hull) Ryan, Kathy (Gleason) Smith, Ann (Rosa) Weitzel, Rita MacDonald, Carolyn (Pfohl) McGory**, and **Barb (Utter) Park** – for their efforts to date in planning our 50th; and all of you who have provided me with news, as well as with changes of e-mail and postal addresses, making my life easier.

ADDRESS CHANGE? LET ME KNOW!

The Tattler Two is most successful if it actually reaches you. **Please let me know if your e-mail address changes.** It seems that every time I send a newsletter out via e-mail, at least one bounces back. **And I also want to be apprised of mailing address changes**, even if you are receiving the newsletter via the Internet. We want to stay in touch with you, and some of the class-related materials, such as the reunion invitation, go out via the U.S. Postal Service.

All you need to do is send me an e-mail message, send me a postcard, or telephone me. My contact information is schmals@verizon.net; 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815; (301) 652-8620. Thanks in advance for your help.

IN CLOSING

The invitations have been sent out, the events arranged, and it will only be a matter of a couple months before our big 50th takes place.

If you are vacillating about attending, I encourage you to do so. Come and celebrate with many others of the diverse group that the IHS class of '58 is today.

As my wife Deb says, Be there or be square!

Steve