

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 11, No. 2

May 2010

CLASS NOTES

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret (Mix) Betts died on July 18, 2009, at her residence in North East, Pa. She was born on March 6, 1940, in Dryden. Margaret was a loving wife and mother and a very active member of Park United Methodist Church in North East. She is survived by Daniel, her husband of 49 years; sons Michael and Dale; daughter Elaine Anderson; daughters-in-law Caroline Ford and Pat Betts; son-in-law Rich Anderson; sisters Blanche Mix and Marian Barret; grandson Nathaniel Betts and granddaughter Lauren M. Schrodt. Contributions in Margaret's memory may be made to the Park United Methodist Church; 30 N. Lake St.; North East, PA 16428

Chuck Calkins just returned from a wonderful cruise to celebrate his 70th birthday, an event wife Lynda had secretly been planning for over a year. Once Chuck and Lynda were aboard, there was a knock on their cabin door and there was Chuck's son Guy with his girlfriend, and his daughter Jodi with her husband. What a surprise! To top it all off, Guy proposed to his girlfriend. Guy is a reactor control room supervisor for the nuclear power plant in Cedar Rapids, IA and his fiancé is a professor of physics at the Coast Guard Academy.

Rod Chapman had surgery in December to repair his right shoulder rotator cuff. All went well. Noting that maybe some others in the class have also had that surgery, he comments, "As you know, it's not the most pleasurable experience!"

Please keep sending me pictures! I think they make the newsletter much more attractive. I'll include them as space permits. At the top of the next column is one I received from **Bill Cass** who is down in Texas.



In January **Bill Coggs** wrote that unlike most businesses that suffered declines during 2009, his market research company actually grew. But he added that he spent a lot of time on airplanes and, as the latest terrorist attempt triggered what he described as the predictable over-reaction by the authorities, he hopes to dramatically reduce his air travel in 2010 because it is going to be even more uncomfortable than it was in 2009.

As noted in the last Tattler Two, most of Bill's and wife Janet's personal travel in 2009 was for four weddings and a funeral, but they did take a vacation trip, in October to Croatia. Bill says that, were it not for its pluck, the city of Dubrovnik, where he and Janet spent several wonderful days, could well have become another Sarajevo. He explains that Dubrovnik, dubbed the Pearl of the Adriatic, is a classic walled city with centuries of history, but October 1, 1991 was the first time that the walls had ever been used to defend against a real attack, in this case by the Serbian army. The Serbs reckoned that residents would flee, but the people stayed. And a ragtag bunch of brave young locals climbed the hills in the dark, hunting rifles over their shoulders, to meet the enemy. After 8 months of siege, the Croatian army came from the north and drove the Serbs away. In addition to Dubrovnik, Bill and Janet also enjoyed visiting Zagreb and Split.

Cal Cotner reports daughter Courtney accepted a proposal of marriage from Lieutenant D.J. Ricketts, USN, who teaches Eastern History and Religion at the Naval Academy (or "Canoe U" as some people like Cal who wore Army green refer to it). D.J. even came by the house to ask Cal and wife Sharon Murphy if they had any objection to his popping the question to Courtney. Cal says that they were delighted as both like D.J., adding that Sharon observed that if Courtney declined Sharon would take her out to the woodshed, which Cal said would be a neat trick as they don't have one!

IN MEMORIAM

John Davis died on March 8 in Muncie, Indiana.

After graduating from IHS, John went to Corning Community College, where he received an A.A.S. in 1964, and to Ball State University, where he received a B.S. in 1968 and an M.A. in 1970. John taught elementary school at Monroe Central School Corporation for 31 years, retiring in 2000.

John was a member and past board member of Hoosier Association of Science Teachers and National Science Teachers Association. He was an honorary member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. John was also a member of America's Hometown Band and participated in Ball State University's Concert Band. He enjoyed playing tennis, and helped with local groups in tennis tournaments whenever possible.

John is survived by wife Priscilla; brother-in-law Mike Watson and his wife Teena; sisters-in-law Jean Keen, Judy McHenry, and Linda Rawlings and their husbands Randy, Gordon, and Robert; and nephews Eric Evers, Michael Watson, Gary Watson, and Luke Yadon.

Contributions in John's memory may be made to Ball State University Foundation, P.O. Box 672, Muncie, IN 47308 (Account #5711, Jazz Studies, or Account #5703, University Bands).

Back on December 19, the day of the D.C. area's first big snowstorm of the season, **Suzi (Colbert) Gittins** and husband Tom celebrated their 50th anniversary. Their children had planned a brunch

at Suzi's and Tom's favorite restaurant and invited about 50 close friends. Due to the weather, about a dozen weren't able to make it. Even though Tom's car has 4-wheel drive, he and Suzi were almost among the absentees. Suzi notes that the whole event was really touching, adding that it is wonderful to have children who obviously appreciate and love them so much.

In February, **Dorrice (Griffith) Hammer** and husband John went to Honduras to help build schools, clinics, and the like. This marks the 6th year they have done this. Dorrice notes an added benefit – a break from the Vermont cold.

Several years ago, **Elinor (McLaren) Henkels** and husband Ed bought property in Savona, NY, near Bath, so they could enjoy summers away from the Arizona heat. Now they have decided to make New York State their primary residence. Their "farm" there now has nearly 30 fruit trees on it (which made it through the winter with only slight deer damage). Ed wasn't able to do much gardening in Arizona and loves his New York garden. Another reason for coming back east is to be much closer to the Henkels' married son Mark and his family, who live in Pennsylvania.

Now they are back in Arizona, packing up and moving some of what they assembled in 20 years of collecting to the house of their other son who lives there. The rest will go to New York or to the Salvation Army. Elinor adds that they love Arizona and cannot imagine not being able to go there for the winter.

Elinor also reports they had been in Pennsylvania for the birth of their second grandchild (and first grandson). And she mentions that her sister Marge came to Arizona (with her granddaughter), Marge's first visit there. She said they spent five wonderful and very busy days, touring as much of the state as they could and talking nonstop!

Don Jania-Smith and wife Barbara were pictured in the Chicago Tribune back in December. Per the article that accompanied the picture, "It takes a lot more than being stranded 2,100 miles from home to days before Christmas to shake up Donald and Barbara Jania-Smith. Informed that freezing rain had canceled their scheduled flight from Midway Airport to Detroit on Wednesday, the southern California couple sprang into action.

They contacted their daughter and son-in-law who decided to drive to Chicago to pick them up. Then came the hard part, what to do while they waited.”



As you can see, Don read and Barbara napped, surrounded by their electric blue luggage.” Said Don, “We’re used to interruptions in our travels.”

The Jania-Smiths enjoyed a far less harrowing trip in late January and early February – a birding visit to Belize organized by the San Diego Audubon Society. Their group of twelve saw over 250 species of birds in eleven days.

IN MEMORIAM

Shirley (Underhill) Lubin died on November 23. She lived in Downey, California, where she was a teacher and principal for the Downey Unified School District. She taught at Rio San Gabriel Elementary School and was the principal at Pace, Maude Price, and Williams Elementary Schools. She was a member of the American Association of University Women and Delta Kappa Gamma. She was also in the vestry at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Downey. She is survived by son Andy; grandsons Luke and Thor; and sister Sally Myers. Contributions in Shirley's memory can be made to the American Heart Association, or to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 10354 Downey Ave., Downey, CA 90241

Earlier this month **Jim Myers** reported he has been working on a novel. He has been away from his home base of Washington, DC a bit. He wrote from Montreal and said next month he would be spending several weeks in Spain.

Chris (Mathewson) Salerno writes that she and husband Richard are still splitting their time between Sanibel, FL (where they spend 7 months

of the year) and Ludlow, VT (where they spend 5). She says it is the best of both worlds. Ludlow puts their children and grandchildren within driving distance, it is on a lake, and it is near a ski mountain (Okemo). Sanibel is rich with activities and wonderful people . . . and it is warmer than Vermont. The Salernos recently moved to a place there that is quite close to where **Dan and Ann (Simpson) Moeder** live. They have connected with the Moeders – they say Dan and Ann are constructively involved with and enriching the Sanibel community – and hope to see more of them in the fall.

From **Gail (Woolley) Scullin** in early May: “Outside the flowers taunt me. Bulbs that were planted two or three years ago are finally revealing their true colors, but not their names. I don't remember what was planted. Inside I scoot from window to window on a four-wheeled contraption called a "Roll-Around-Walker" that the doctor ordered following foot surgery two weeks ago. Another four weeks of recuperation, then I'll be able to see and smell flowers up close.”

In February **Steve Schmal** and wife Deb went to Marco Island, Florida, so that Deb could attend a symposium and receive continuing education credits. While there, they ventured to Naples one evening and had a very enjoyable dinner with Belle Sherman, Boynton and IHS classmate **Joan Foss**.

Back in January, **Kathy (Gleason) Smith** wrote from Spencer, NY that her dog grooming business had been keeping her extremely busy (not that she was complaining as she said it was something she really enjoy doing). She also mentioned that she had tried raising puppies again – her standard poodle had a litter but after six months she still had two beautiful black males left – and she concluded that she thought her dog-raising days were over and she would stick to grooming.

Kay Trimberger's brother Mickey died at his home near Charlotte, NC on January 23, Kay noting that she has the privilege of being with him and his family for the last five days of his life. Kay thought that Tattler Two readers might want to know of Mickey's death as several people in our class have siblings who were in his class (1961).

Marge (McLachlan) Trimm has good news to report. Her youngest son Mike Burgess is finally

getting married in July, for the first time at age 46. But it isn't as if he is suddenly rushing to the altar. He and his fiancé have been together for 16 years.

In January, **Sharron (Hunsinger) Vogt** provided news stretching over the past half year. During the summer, she spent a week in New Jersey visiting her daughter Michele and her family and a week in Syracuse to celebrate, with a surprise party, her daughter Rebecca's 50th birthday. Over New Year's, she and husband Bill got away and went to New Orleans (noting that they had been there 5 years ago for New Year's Eve and had the best time ever). From the looks of things, they had a good time again.



Greta (Albrecht) Waterman and husband George have been doing quite a bit of traveling, with more in the offing. In early February, they went to Florida to visit Greta's brother Jake (IHS class of 1957). And in another break from the cold weather in Maine, they went to Brazil in March. And soon they will be off for another trip to Scotland! Greta notes that they go to Ithaca very often to visit her parents, still in their home at the ages of 94 and 93. She comments that Ithaca has changed so much since they lived there in the 60's and 70's but that they love to go to the Cornell Plantations to walk their two Scottish terriers.

In March, **Margaret (Baur) Wells** wrote from New York City that she had been very busy trying to help a number of friends in the corporate interior design business who had just lost their jobs figure out how to free-lance or consult. She did mention a silver lining of sorts, noting that she had just been asked to help a Florida friend's friend with the interior design of their apartment in the city.

DEATH OF A TEACHER

After sending out the last Tattler Two, I received an e-mail from Wanda Bevan, daughter of Marjorie Penalver, reporting that her mother had passed away on August 25.

Marjorie – she was Marjorie Wilson at the time – was the first African-American teacher hired by the Ithaca School District (in 1955). Born on March 26, 1928, she was a native of Greensboro, North Carolina. She received a Bachelor's Degree in English from Bennett College for Women in 1948. Her teaching career spanned 48 years, beginning at Lincoln High School in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, and ending at The Learning Center in Encino, California, where she was a tutor, in 1996.

Her move north led her to the love of her life and husband of 50 years until his death in 2008, Theodore "Ted" Penalver. Although being married to an Air Force serviceman required the family to move frequently, Marjorie secured teaching positions everywhere their travels took them. She headed the English Department at Edison High School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania from 1963 to 1967, and taught English, speech, and journalism at Edmunds High School in Sumter, South Carolina from 1967 to 1970. The following year she taught English at Okaloosa Walton Junior College in Niceville, Florida and also English as a Second Language to foreign-born prisoners incarcerated at Eglin Air Force Base. Upon returning to Ithaca in 1973, she resumed her teaching position at IHS. She became Vice Principal in 1979.

In 1986 Marjorie was given an award by the Tompkins County Human Rights Commission for her role in implementing multi-cultural education.

The Marjorie N. Penalver Award still exists and is given to the educator who has done the most in the area of human rights by increasing awareness of diversity or issues of oppression within Tompkins County. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for over 40 years, Marjorie was a charter member and founder of the sorority's Ithaca Alumnae Chapter, which celebrated its 30th year in 2009. The Delta Sigma Theta Ithaca Alumnae Chapter Penalver Award, established in 1986 in honor of both Marjorie and Theodore Penalver, is a scholarship award presented each year to African American senior high school students who have demonstrated strong academic motivation and diligence combined with a contribution towards multi-culturalism.

PROFILES BOOK PROJECT

The number of entries for the IHS Class of '58 profiles book has increased significantly. When this issue of the Tattler Two "went to press," 80 profiles had been received, including 29 on deceased classmates prepared by family members or, in one case, a friend.

The book will contain information about such subjects as classmates' family life, work life, post-high school education, happiest lifetime moments, unusual life events, and/or favorite high school memories. It will also include graduation photos (for those whose pictures were in the 1958 Annual) as well as more contemporary photos.

The profiles book project committee is comprised of four classmates – **Cathy (Van Buren) Bomberger, Peggy (FitzGerald) Greenfield, Dorrice (Griffith) Hammer, and Gail (Woolley) Scullin.** Cathy is serving as committee chairperson, Peggy will do graphic design and scanning, Dorrice is the copy editor, and Gail is serving as messenger and jack of all trades.

And it is still not too late to provide your entry for the book. How? You can simply complete the questionnaire included at the end of the newsletter. Or, if you prefer, you can write a narrative in your own style. A note from Cathy: "If the . . . questions don't encourage you to respond please consider simply letting us know what activities have kept you busy since your high school days

and where you are living now. We'd love to hear from you." Send what you write, with a recent picture, to Cathy (see questionnaire page for instructions).

55TH REUNION

THE REUNION FUND

The reunion fund is not dead. 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. Also, thanks to the fund, those of our teachers who attended were guests of the class.

As the class has every intention of holding a 55th reunion five years hence, contributions to the fund are still very welcome. They should be sent to **Kathy (Gleason) Smith** at 18 Railroad Ave., Spencer, NY 14883-9543. Please make checks payable to her, not to the class.

CLASS PICTURE?

In a recent phone conversation, **Maryline (Ayres) Cerniglia** said she thought that when we were seniors there had been a picture taken of the entire class. While I know that such a picture was taken of the 8th grade class at Boynton Junior High – I have a copy – and think there probably were 9th, 10th, and 11th grade class pictures that appeared in the Annual, I do not recall – and certainly do not have – a 12th grade photo. Do any of you recall one? And, better still, if you recall one, do you have a copy? If so, Maryline would appreciate it. You can send it to me and I will forward it to her.

GRADE SCHOOL PICTURES AND MEMORIES

For 58 years, I have treasured a picture of the Belle Sherman 6th grade class. It's signed on the back by most of those in the class. Other members of the class also have retained their copies, and one or more copies always appear at IHS Class of '58 reunions. (More about that 6th grade class at the end of this item.)

Strangely, I had the notion that the Belle Sherman picture was the only 6th grade picture of our classmates that existed, that is, until I received an e-mail from **Bob Macauley** to which he had attached the front and back of a photo of the East Hill 6th grade class. Using the names on the back – fortunately we had good handwriting then – I forwarded the picture to those in the class who were on my e-mail list. That generated a robust round of communications as classmates took up the challenged of identifying who was who and shared memories of teachers and school activities.

I understand that there's a similar picture of the Cayuga Heights 6th grade class – I've never seen it, though – and wonder whether there might also be 6th grade pictures from Central, Fall Creek, Henry St. Johns, South Hill, and West Hill Schools (as well as one of the 8th grade class at Immaculate Conception). Please help me out. If there anyone has any of those pictures, please send them to me, electronically if possible.

I will circulate any such pictures received. And our webmaster **Harry Wheaton** will surely be willing to post the pictures, with identifications, on the class's web site – www.ihs58.com.

Earlier in this item, I said I would have more to relate about the Belle Sherman 6th grade picture. And it is this. Last year **Don Jania-Smith** sent me an e-mail, saying he had learned of the death of Douglas Bull, the teacher of the class, through the Cortland State alumni magazine. After I passed the information on to other members of the class, the Internet was full of e-mails as we shared our memories of Mr. Bull with one another. By my count, 19 classmates chimed in.

And then the story took another delightful turn. **Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld** arranged the messages to form a running commentary, editing them slightly for context, and sent the material along with the 6th grade photo and a cover letter from Germany to Anna Bull Krieger in Moravia, NY. Anna was the only of Douglas's three daughters Carol was able to trace through Google White Pages. (Carol adds that the other two daughters' addresses turned out to be wildly incorrect in the obituary.)

Just to be on the safe side, Carol also left a message on Anna's answering machine, introducing herself and inquiring if Anna was indeed one of the daughters of the Belle Sherman class's Mr. Bull. After Carol returned to the States, she contacted Anna and finally, when the weather relented in early February, invited Anna and her husband Roger for lunch. Carol reports they had a delightful day. Anna brought family photos (Mr. Bull always sporting a bow tie), including some with Belle Sherman Principal Louise Wilson, who remained a life-long friend of the Bull family.

Anna's sisters Sara and Lisa (both of whom live in Williamsburg, VA) also called for a chat to say how pleased they were to have a copy of everything, too. And of course they could see how much the class had revered their dad!

Anna reported that Douglas travelled frequently to Vienna to pursue his passion for the arts – classical music and painting in particular – and this artistic creativity continues in his daughters. Their mother, also an artist, died quite young from brain cancer and their dad never remarried - he sure did a fine job of raising his daughters on his own.

Carol closes by thanking Don for being the inspiration behind the story.

THE TATTLER AND THE LAW

Back in December of 2005, I reported that the real Tattler had made the news with a controversy over what a student newspaper may publish.

The brouhaha started when the Tattler published three controversial articles in its January 2005 issue – a report of a survey showing that students lacked confidence in new IHS principal; a story stating that he had gone into a classroom, proclaimed he was the “Food Nazi,” and told the students they would have to stop eating unless they wanted the teacher to go to the “food gas chamber”; and a restaurant review some considered racist. As a result, the school district issued guidelines – the first ever – requiring the paper's faculty advisor to “read, edit, and approve all articles prior to publication” and giving the advisor the right “to change, edit, or remove” any content that would “substantially interfere with the district's work or

impinge on the rights of other students, or is inconsistent with the legitimate pedagogical concerns of the district (for example, content that is ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, inaccurate, libelous, biased or prejudiced, unethical, vulgar or profane, or is not suitable for immature audiences) . . .”

Then a cartoon prepared for the February issue, to accompany a story on sex education, showed a health teacher pointing to stick figures in various sexual positions. The faculty advisor censored it. The Tattler editors unsuccessfully protested her decision, as well as the guidelines, to the principal under the school’s student grievance procedure.

After publishing three issues of a paper without using school funds and distributing them off school property, the editors prepared a June issue of the Tattler under a new faculty advisor.

And they did something else. After discussions about possible changes to the guidelines proved fruitless, they filed suit against the school district in U.S. District Court, claiming that Ithaca Central School District had not shown that publishing of the censored material would have disrupted school activities, that requiring submission of articles to a faculty advisor for final approval was unconstitutional prior restraint of the editors’ rights under the First Amendment, that the School District’s actions in preventing distribution of the interim independent newspaper also was unconstitutional prior restraint, and that the guidelines were also unconstitutional.

Since then, the suit has moved – slowly – through the Federal Court system. In April 2007, the School District filed for summary judgment, asking that the suit be dismissed. In March 2009 (no, that is not a misprint), the judge issued an opinion, refusing to dismiss the suit. Judge Norman Mordue said the School District had offered no evidence that the publication guidelines could withstand constitutional scrutiny. But his rulings were not entirely in the students’ favor. He dismissed three other claims.

But the case is far from over. In January, Judge Mordue issued another decision, which will permit the students to appeal the dismissed claims to the U.S. Court of Appeals. Stay tuned.

GREAT N.Y. PICTURES

Earlier this year, **Ann (Murphy) DeYoung**, **Sally (Pardoe) Hoyt**, **Joe O’Hara**, and **Sharron (Hunsinger) Vogt** – each sent me pictures of gorges and waterfalls in central and western New York (including Buttermilk and Taughannock Falls and the Treman, Cascadilla, Six-Mile Creek gorges) taken by Joe Braun. They thought the pictures were worth sharing with the rest of the class and I agree. You can access the pictures on the Internet at www.citrusmilo.com/fingerlakes/iloveny1.cfm

“THE SEARCH”: STATUS

With one exception, the search status remains unchanged. The list of “missing” classmates still consists of **Duane Cole**, **Arlene Johnson**, **Denise Lecoq**, and **Remi Moore** (she was Josephine Thomas when we were in high school). Perhaps they will always remain “missing” but I continue to hope that in time one or more may be “found”.

I would still like to get in touch with **Albert Ellis**, **Bill Ellsworth**, **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.

Address Changed? Let Me Know!

Please let me know if your e-mail address and/or postal address changes. 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.

THANK YOU

Many thank you’s are in order. Again I would like to thank **Cathy (Van Buren) Bomberger**, **Peggy (FitzGerald) Greenfield**, **Dorrice (Griffith) Hammer**, and **Gail (Woolley) Scullin** for their willingness to take on the profiles book project.

I would like to thank **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose** and **Izzie (Petricola) Worthen** for their contributions to the “Tattler Two Fund.”

In the last issue of the Tattler Two, I forgot to acknowledge one person who had provided me valuable information on the deceased classmates portion of the profiles book project – **Kathleen (Illencsik) Lilley** – so I would like to publicly thank her at this time. Since the last issue, I had received information related to the project and/or about class-related or IHS-related happenings from the following, and would like to thank them: **Rollie Boda, Larry Cooper, Joan (Warren) Edmondson, Betsey (Moulton) Farnham, Virginia Hamrick, Jim Kirby, Kathleen Lilley** again, **Randy Little, Mary (O'Connor) MacKenzie, Kent Moore, Cuyler Page, Liz (Taylor) Prettyman, Dave Shaw, Marge (McLachlan) Trimm, and Maryjean (Hertel) Yengo.**

IN CLOSING

I’ve had the pleasure of talking with many of you in the past two months, trying to encourage you to write entries for the profiles book project. A number of you responded and I hope more will in the coming months. The calls also served to bring my records more up to date.

Just a reminder about what gets in the Tattler Two. Occasionally there have been comments that the same names appear issue after issue. There may be some truth to that. I only put in notes about those classmates who provide me with material about themselves. If you never have been mentioned, I’d be delighted to change that. Just send me a draft of what you’d like me to say. I’m happy to use my editing skills but I don’t take notes during phone conversations.

Have a great summer. I’ll be back to you in the fall.

Steve

PROFILES BOOK QUESTIONNAIRE

The following questions are offered to guide you regarding the information you might present.
You can address all, some, or none of them.

What education, if any, did you have after high school)?

What did you do and/or what are you currently doing work-wise?

Are you married? Do you have children and, if so, how many? Grandchildren?

What is your favorite high school memory?

What unusual life events have you experienced?

What have your happiest lifetime moments been?

If the Profile questions don't encourage you to respond, please consider simply letting us know what activities have kept you busy since your high school days and where you are living now. We'd love to hear from you.

Please send your response to Cathy (VanBuren) Bomberger, either by e-mail to cathybomb@gmail.com or via the Postal Service to 16 Gleneagles Dr., Schererville, IN 46375. **If you use e-mail, please make the subject IHS Profiles Book.** Also, it would be very much appreciated if you would include a recent photo – digital (i.e., jpg file) or hard-copy (passport-size or larger) that we can reduce and/or crop.