

# TATTLER TWO

Vol. 2, No. 1

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## THANK YOU

Once again, I want to acknowledge assistance I have received in locating missing class members and in financially supporting the Tattler Two.

Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld, Linda (Womble) Conrad, Diane Driscoll, Myra Fincher, Dick Heimlich, Marsha (Hubbell) Knight, Joyce (Cornelius) Knuutila, Jeanne (Pyle) Main, Mike Malison, Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino, Hazel (Garvin) Prentice, Sue (Ensworth) Saltus, and Maryjean (Hertel) and Jack Yengo provided me with addresses I didn't have. Jean Houghton deserves acknowledgement, too, for arranging to have a notice run in the Ithaca Journal. We also owe a big thank you to George Apgar, class of '59, who has helped immeasurably in the search. Several members of other IHS classes have provided addresses, too.

Carol, Diane, Myra, and Sharron also made generous donations to defray printing and mailing costs, as did Kathy (Fallon) Cameron, Dave and Lucy (Kimple) Grinnell, Dorrice (Griffith) Hammer, James Mikell, and Shirley (Cook) Weeks.

## CLASS NOTES

Here's what class members report about their lives since high school. (**Note:** My basic rule in writing these class notes is to include only what those mentioned have told me. I've decided that, with rare exceptions, I won't put in something about X that I learned from Y.)

**Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld** is one of our class members who lives furthest from Ithaca. She's in Cottbus, Germany. After college she worked for

the State Department. After tours in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, she had one in Germany where she met her husband Helmut. Having worked together with Helmut doing translations, she's currently a Lektor, editing for the Journal of Applied Ichthyology. On the side, she's the East European coordinator for the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, having held virtually every position in the AWC of Hamburg, where she lived for many years. And she also walks, bicycles, and does yoga.

**Kathy (Fallon) Cameron** writes that she and second husband Jim are both retired, she from education administration for the NYS Education Department and he from teaching physics. During the winter they live in Venice, FL but spend their summers in New York State, at a cottage on the St. Lawrence. Kathy has two sons and four granddaughters.

**Linda (Womble) Conrad** retired after 30 years in accounting at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. She and husband Lester winter in Zephyrhills, FL but spend their summers near Marathon, NY, where family (three daughters and three grandchildren love to visit). Linda keeps busy antiques, refinishing, birding, camping, and gardening. She reported that brothers Ray and Stanley both have died, Ray from cancer in 1998 and Stanley from a heart attack in 1990.

**Peg (Credle) Cunningham**, who was in our class through 11<sup>th</sup> grade, lived in Vermont for 15 years but now resides in Erial, NJ. She works in Philadelphia as administrator of day care services for a non-profit organization working with children, youth, and families. Peg has a daughter and granddaughter in Vermont.

**Diane Driscoll** lives and works in Syracuse. She is assistant to the president of the Health Alliance of Central NY, a health care system that runs Crouse Hospital. She's "thinking about" retiring in a couple years and alternating her time between

Raleigh, NC and Syracuse, where she has a town house on a lake and golf course.

**Betsey (Moulton) Farnham** is in England for the fall semester of the school year, directing an Exeter Academy program “for kids to study lots of Shakespeare and various other things.” She notes that during the winter and spring of 1997 she was on sabbatical in England and France, culminating with a drive (accompanied by husband Hunter and daughter Lydia) from Paris to Jerusalem and back, retracing the route of the Second Crusade

**Ruth (Warren) Gerlach** received a B.A. from Oberlin College and an M.Ed. from Cornell and now . . . is a reporter for the News-Gazette in Champaign, IL where she lives with husband Henry. He’s is a professor of German at the U. of Illinois. The Gerlachs have four children and six or seven grandchildren (one was “on the way” when Ruth wrote in July).

**Dick Heimlich**, wife Sonja and family have globetrotted, living first in the Washington, DC area, then in Chicago (where some of the family still lives), and still later for four years in Singapore, before Dick retired. They now maintain two residences, one in Lahaina, HI (on the island of Maui) and another in Pinehurst, NC.

**Elinor (McLaren) Henkels** is a supervisor in the home health nursing field. She and husband Ed, who's retired, live in Mesa, AZ. The Henkels have three sons, two in the Mesa area and one in Pennsylvania. Elinor says she and Ed love Arizona but enjoy traveling and antique-hunting as well. She quilts in her spare time.

**George Knaysi** practices surgery in Richmond, VA, where he and his wife Susan live. He says he’s the old man in an 11-doctor group (but I’m sure that’s true only purely chronologically), focussing in breast surgery. He and Susan have two daughters, one in New York City and the other in the midwest. A summer place in Maine, Susan’s home state, gives the Knaysis a place to relax.

**Joyce (Cornelius) Knuutila** and husband Ron (class of ’55) now live in Toronto, OH (no, that isn’t a misprint), a move they made when he retired from U.S. Air. Previously they’d lived in Candor (when Ron was with Mohawk Airlines),

northern Kentucky, and Pittsburgh. They have 6 children, 12 grandkids, and 2 great-grand children!

**Gordon Light** is sales consultant to, and assistant business manager for, MarineMax/Harrison’s in Sacramento, CA. In the 60’s he was in the boat business (factory representative), then was a real estate broker during the 70’s and ’80s until getting back into the marine business. He’s frequently in contact with Kip Kane, who’s also in marine sales. Gordon lives nearby in Rocklin, CA. No longer married, he has two children and one grandchild.

**Jeanne (Pyle) Main** is a midwesterner. She went to college in that part of the country (U. of Wisconsin) and now lives, with husband Bill, in East Lansing, MI, where she works in marketing for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. She expects to follow Bill into retirement status in a year or so. The Mains have a son and a daughter. Jeanne reports that she and Bill play lots of bridge and golf and “travel as much as we can.”

**Marion (Payton) Longcoy** lived in Newfield after graduation, raising her two children there. After moving away for about 10 years, during which time she was in the Salvation Army ministry, she returned to the Ithaca area in 1994 and again lives in Newfield. She says she now works part time.

**Sharron (Hunsinger) Marino** lives in Seaview, just outside of Ocean City, NJ. She works as a route settlement clerk for the Coca Cola Bottling Co. in nearby Marmora, where she’s been employed for the past 22 years.

**Jimmy Mikell (aka Duke)** now calls Rochester his home. He received a B.A. from LeMoyn College and an M.S. from Syracuse. After retiring from the Syracuse Police Department in 1985, he taught 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Cleveland and Windsor, CN before retiring to Rochester.

**Miriam Grace (Heinicke) Monfredo (aka Mimi)**, who also lives in Rochester (with husband of 40 years Frank) has, for the past seven years, been writing novels. Her first six are murder mysteries set in and around Seneca Falls, linked to the beginnings of the women’s suffrage movement. Her seventh and latest, Sisters of Cain, set during the Civil War, has just been released. Check out her website –

[www.miriangracemonfredo.com](http://www.miriangracemonfredo.com). It would seem she's exacting a degree of revenge on Mr. Holgate. Mimi relates that he gave her Ds on her first two creative writing papers, saying she was either trying to be perverse (because she'd written something different from what he'd assigned) or constitutionally incapable of following directions.

**Pat (House) Senseman** and husband Jim have been married for over 40 years. She met him in the DC area, they later moved to Harrisburg, PA and then to the Dallas area. He retired from EDS in 1992. The Sensemans live in Richardson, TX during the winter – their two daughters and granddaughter also live in the Dallas area -- but spend summers in the Colorado Rockies where, Pat reports, fishing and rockhounding are great.

**Annette (Gates) Shimer** and husband Preston have lived in Pittsburgh for more than 25 years. She's co-director of ACBA Legal Placement Services and also vice president of Work Time Options, Inc. He's vice president of Zasio Enterprises, a developer of records management software. They have a son in Massachusetts. Sadly, their daughter Lillian died about two years ago of pneumococcal meningitis.

**Don Jania-Smith**, residing in El Cajon, CA, has worked in education for many years – as a teacher, corporate trainer, educational software designer, and instructional designer. He's currently working as educational consultant, evaluating public school programs in California, and for a firm that develops educational software. He says he plans to retire next year.

**Shirley (Cook) Weeks** lives in Altoona, FL, having moved to that state in 1992 after having previously lived in Rochester, Seneca Falls, and Afton, NY. She describes her career as “varied” which seems an apt description. Having worked as a secretary and as a paralegal/office manager for a law firm, and operated her own abstract and title company, she's now a customer service rep for an insurance company. On the side, she's a creative memories consultant (which involves a photo preservation scrapbooking system) and also a massage therapist! She has five children and five (or possibly now six) grandchildren.

**Harry Wheaton** and wife Margaret recently left New Jersey for Chocowinity, NC (near

Washington, NC), a move occasioned by retirement. Harry worked for 37 years for Bell Labs, then Western Electric, then AT&T, and finally Lucent Technologies. Margaret worked for the Flemington-Raritan School District. The Wheatons have a son in Ohio, a daughter in New Jersey, and two grandchildren. In retirement, they plan on sailing, golfing, and traveling.

**Short Takes:** Here's bits and pieces on other class members. **Marge (Burchard) Bennett**, who lives in Trumansburg, celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this summer. From Moravia, NY, **Jim Cornell** notes he received his pilot's license at the young age of 53. **Myra Fincher**, in Ithaca, does home care for the elderly and volunteers at the Finger Lakes Library System. In April, **Dick Monroe** flew his last flight as a pilot for United Airlines. On taxiing to the gate at Seattle-Tacoma Airport, his plane went under an archway of water from airport fire trucks and a crowd of over 300 was on hand to celebrate with him. **Jim Myers**, who wrote for USA Today, recently published a book, **Afraid of the Dark: What Whites and Blacks Need to Know About Each Other**. **Bill Rocco**, now in Dunnellon, FL, retired last year after 34 years with the Kendall Company, which manufactures and supplies disposable medical products to hospitals and other medical facilities.

## IN MEMORIUM

Since the last newsletter, word has been received of the deaths of two more members of the Class of '58 – Paul Predmore and Lynn Sherwood. We mourn their passing.

## TRIBUTE TO JULIUS

**Mimi Heinicke**, after reading in the Tattler Two that Julius Eastman was among our class members who had died, wrote the following to me, saying it was something for the next issue if I wanted to use it. I think you will agree with my decision to run it exactly as Mimi wrote it:

*I was saddened to learn in the last newsletter that Julius Eastman had died. I didn't know him well, but wonder if anyone else holds the same memory of him that I do. He was one of not very many blacks in our class, and was so quiet and slight of frame that I suspect he often went unnoticed. Until one morning in second period choral club rehearsal. Vito Mason had been scowling his way through our first efforts, those black beetlebrows of his inching down over his eyes like woolly caterpillars--particularly, as I recall, because we had a concert to give in near future. We had been working for weeks on a piece that called for a male solo, but it had not yet been assigned to anyone, or not that we were aware of, at any rate. That morning we started rehearsing this piece, and when we reached the solo section everybody's voice straggled off, as we expected Mason to stop us there as he had done in the past. But this time, he instead nodded to someone in the front row. And suddenly, seemingly out of nowhere, came this big, glorious, bass voice. We all gave a collective gasp, and shivers run down my spine even now when I remember it all these years later. It was Julius's bass, and although in all likelihood he was the physically smallest person in the room, he had indisputably the largest, most magnificent voice there--or anywhere else. I talked to him after rehearsal, telling him how stunned I had been, and I think that was the first time I had ever seen him smile. It was, typically, a shy self-effacing smile. Julius was one of the most modest, least self-aggrandizing people I have met in my lifetime, and yet he owned a voice that the gods give to very few. I learned something important from Julius that day, and trust I have remembered it: to not judge someone's worth by how softly he speaks or how tall he appears to stand. I believe he went on to study music. I hope he did. Rest in peace, Julius.*

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Perusing my mailing list, I tallied up where the 243 class members on it reside. Here are the results. The largest number – 73 – live in Ithaca or elsewhere in Tompkins County. Another 51 live in other parts of New York State.

The rest of us are scattered far and wide. Three live outside the U.S. – Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld in Germany, Cuyler Page in western Canada, and Calvin Sears in Puebla, Mexico. In the U.S., Florida (with 23), California (20), and Arizona (9) have the most Class of '58 residents. There's

something attractive about warmer climates, it would seem.

But 27 other states plus the District of Columbia are represented. There are 7 each in New Jersey and Texas; 5 in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania; 3 in Illinois, North Carolina, Vermont and Washington; 2 in Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, Virginia, and Wisconsin; and 1 in Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, D.C., Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, and. Three classmates split their time between two states -- two having homes in Florida and New York and the other in Hawaii and North Carolina.

### The Tattler Two and the Internet

There must be more of you who're on the Internet. I have mailing addresses for 243 of you but e-mail addresses for only 79. Electronic delivery is quicker and, frankly, more reliable than the Postal Service. **So please let me know your e-mail address if you have one and you haven't already given it to me.** My Internet address is [schmals@erols.com](mailto:schmals@erols.com). As I've said before, don't think you won't get the Tattler Two if you're not on the Internet. It'll go out both by e-mail and regular mail as long as I'm "publishing" it.

## 45<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

### YOUR THOUGHTS PLEASE

Although our 45<sup>th</sup> reunion won't be until 2003, it's not too early to begin to think about it.

As the planners will want you to be happy with the event, please complete the brief questionnaire, on the next page, about your preferences. Feel free to make additional comments on the back of the page.

Please send your reply to me by e-mail (at [schmals@erols.com](mailto:schmals@erols.com)) or mail it to me (at 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

## WHO'S STILL MISSING?

We've made real progress in reducing the number of "missing" class members, locating 47 since the last issue of the Tattler Two. But we still have a way to go if we're to find everyone. So again we're asking for help. **If you have any information about anyone listed below, please let me have it.** If you have full mailing addresses, that'd be great. But **bits of information -- married names, last known location, college attended, location of relatives -- could help a lot, too.**

Here's the list of the "missing":

Lynne Barnette, Gaye (MacDougal) Calkins, Judy (Wiegand) Carrier, Suzi Colbert, Duane Cole, Roberta Coleman, John Davis, Dennis Dean, Chris Garland, Ronnie Harmon, Whitey Hart, Joyce Hinman, Chuck Hoffman, Andre Joffe, Arlene Johnson, Carl King, Virginia Lane, Denise Lecoq, Betty (Allen) Little, Margaret McLachlan, Cindy Miller, Bob Nixon, Nancy Oktavec, Theresa Reeves, Carolyn Rumph, Ethel Seeber, Dave Shaw, Kathie Smith, Marlene Smith, Nancy Stump, Tootsie Thomas, Maj Tornroth, Bill Turley, Linda Waterfield, Phyl Weber, Joe White, Joanne Wilkinson, Craig Wilson, Bill Wise, Johnnie Wray, and Tank Young

### Want a Class List?

I now have a list with mailing addresses for 240 class members that I'd be happy to share with anyone who wants one. It also contains phone numbers – unfortunately I can't vouch for their accuracy in all cases – as well as e-mail addresses. If you want a copy, please let me know. If you're on the Internet, you can have it for free but if you're not I'm afraid it'll cost \$1, to cover printing and postage.

## IN CLOSING

It's nice to have lots of news to put in the newsletter. I want to thank those who gave me stuff about themselves to put in it. For those who haven't, I'd welcome your brief bios but please don't feel pressured to do so. It's perfectly OK to be a spectator and not an active participant.

Please take the time to fill out the questionnaire about the next reunion. The event will be most successful if it gives class members what they want. The only way that can happen is if class members tell us what they want.

Have a happy fall and holiday season. I'll aim to get the next Tattler Two to you in the spring.

**Steve**

Ithaca High School Class of 1958  
c/o Steve Schmal  
7317 Summit Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

**ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED**

## REUNION QUESTIONNAIRE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### *What's the likelihood that you'll attend?*

- \_\_\_ Only wild horses will keep me away
- \_\_\_ Most likely
- \_\_\_ Maybe yes, maybe no
- \_\_\_ Unlikely, but possible
- \_\_\_ No way

### *When should the reunion be held?*

- \_\_\_ May
- \_\_\_ June
- \_\_\_ July
- \_\_\_ August
- \_\_\_ September
- \_\_\_ October

### *How long should the reunion last? On which days?*

- \_\_\_ One day
  - \_\_\_ Friday
  - \_\_\_ Saturday
  - \_\_\_ Sunday
- \_\_\_ Two days
  - \_\_\_ Friday and Saturday
  - \_\_\_ Saturday and Sunday
- \_\_\_ Three days

### *What kind of event(s) would you like to have? (check as many as you want)*

- \_\_\_ Dinner
- \_\_\_ Dance
- \_\_\_ Picnic
- \_\_\_ Breakfast
- \_\_\_ IHS football game
- \_\_\_ Small parties at classmates' homes
- \_\_\_ Sightseeing (e.g., Cayuga boat trip)
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### *What things about the reunion would make you more likely to attend?*

### *What things about it would discourage you from attending?*

### *Would you be willing to help plan or help run the reunion? If so, how?*

Please send your reply to me by e-mail (at [schmals@erols.com](mailto:schmals@erols.com)) or mail it to me (at 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815)

