

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 7, No. 2

June 2006

WWW.IHS58.COM

Thanks to Harry Wheaton, the IHS Class of '58 now has a web site! Please give it a look. You can find it at <http://www.ihs58.com>.

As with most web sites, it is a work in progress so your suggestions are most welcome. Make them directly to Harry, whom you can e-mail at hlwheaton@cox.net.

The site will contain contact information -- e-mail addresses, postal addresses, phone numbers -- **but only to the extent that you agree to have them listed there**. Therefore, please let me (not Harry) know what, if any, of the information mentioned above you are willing to have included. In making your decision, you may want to consider that phone numbers and postal addresses are already be available on the Internet unless you have an unlisted phone number. Do not be surprised if you get a personal e-mail or phone call from me about this.

We welcome contributions so that Harry will only have to maintain the site, not have the financial responsibility for it. To that end, you can make contributions -- please send them to me at 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 -- and I will reimburse Harry for his out-of-pocket expenses. Any remaining money will go into the reunion fund.

50TH REUNION

SLOWLY APPROACHING

It is hard to believe but our 50th reunion is approaching. The summer of 2008 is not that far away.

One piece of very good news is that we already have reunion coordinators. Four classmates -- **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose, Marilyn (Hull) Ryan, Kathy (Gleason) Smith, and Ann (Rosa) Weitzel** -- have agreed to take on the challenge.

Please feel free to contact them if you want to help or if you have suggestions to make. Peggy can be reached by e-mail at jpetril@twcny.rr.com or by phone at (607) 257-3566, Marilyn at nealomarlo@aol.com or (607) 272-5226, Kathy at kls9@cornell.edu or (607) 589-6023, and Ann at 53vette@msn.com or (585) 392-6273.

Kathy (Illencsik) Lilley, who played a major role in setting up the 40th and 45th reunions, wants to share one thought with all of you regarding the 50th. She writes: "At our 40th, there were many comments about the wonderful egalitarian feeling that there was at that reunion. I'd like us to try to re-capture that spirit. The separation into grade school events didn't happen until Saturday evening So, for the sake of the cohesiveness of our class as a whole, I would suggest that we follow this model and structure the grade school events after, not before, we have had a chance to bond as a class at the main event."

IHS BAND REUNION

ALMOST UPON US

At **Bob Saturn's** suggestion this is a reminder to those of you who were in the IHS marching and/or concert band that there will be a reunion of all band members during the **Frank Battisti** era (1954 through 1967). The reunion will take place on the evening of Friday, June 23 and on Saturday, June 24.

The reunion is an opportunity to spend time with Mr. & Mrs. B, re-connect with each other, and celebrate the extraordinary IHS Little Red Band experience.

Ithaca College has generously offered the Hockett Recital Hall and reception space for a special alumni recital on Friday evening, hosted by Leone Buyse and Gregory Mosher. Band Camp is reserved for a Saturday barbecue (Cornell Special Recipe). And there will be a Saturday night dinner and celebration.

Also as part of the celebration, the reunion committee has commissioned Dana Wilson, Professor of Composition at Ithaca College, to compose a work for high school band. The piece will be a gift from the 1954 - 67 IHS bands to present-day high school students and their directors.

For more information, see the band reunion web site – www.ihsbandreunion.com.

Although the deadline for registration has passed, if you were a band member and are interested in attending but have not registered to do so, although the you can contact Carol Driscoll (class of '64) for information. Carol can be reached by e-mail at carolhdriscoll@hotmail.com or by phone at (607) 257-6561.

CLASS NOTES

Cathy (Van Buren) Bomberger and husband Peter have another granddaughter. In the last newsletter I noted Ella Mary was born in September to son Craig and daughter-in-law Melissa, who live in Arlington, VA. Daughter Kristen Boston and her husband, in Covington, LA, followed suit in December, when Claire was born. Cathy, who continues to be very active in the We the People Program, and Peter hope to have both families visit them at their home in the Indiana Dunes this summer.

In February, **Bill Cass** wrote that he had recently been discharged from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta where he had been treated for “some bug that I picked up in Iran or Iraq.” Bill said his weight had been down to 100 pounds but it was back to 150 and he was disease-free. Bill and wife Sarah are enjoying life in Texas. Bass fishing and roaming around, observing wildlife take top billing.

Back in the Ithaca area for the summer are **Linda (Womble) Conrad** and husband Lester. Linda is delighted to see her children and grandchildren on a daily basis. The little ones come to her house on the school bus each day and she enjoys hearing about their day at school. On a different front, her hobby – photography – has merged with her love of birds and wildlife. She has very much enjoyed

working on it in her retirement and has some very good photos to brag about.

Bonnie (Lewis) Conway retired in mid-April from the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute where she had worked from more than 20 years. She and husband Mike plan to remain in Utica but will travel more often to North Carolina to spend time with their grandchildren, play a lot of golf, and, for Bonnie, catch up on reading.

From Exeter, NH, **Betsey (Moulton) Farnham** reports that she and husband Hunter are enjoying the absolute delight of being grandparents. The only downside is that Ashlyn, now 16 months old, and parents Tom and Tiffany Farnham live in Denver. Betsey says she thinks she should start contemplating retirement but adds that it will not happen before the end of 2007. Meanwhile, she and Hunter are looking forward to going to England in the fall with students in Exeter's off-campus program, something they did – and very much enjoyed – in 2000.

Dana Furman writes that he will not be attending the band reunion because, among other things, he and wife Elizabeth are going to Alaska, their second trip there.

In January, **Suzi (Colbert) Gittins** wrote that, having survived the chaos of the holiday season, she and husband Tom were soon to head off for a week in the Dominican Republic, where they had spent time when Tom had a management position in the Peace Corps.

Sharron (Hunsinger) Voyt and husband Bill moved in May but did not travel far. They went from one park to another. While both have a pool, spa, clubhouse, and many activities, they rented the land in the old one but own it where they are now.

On February 25, March 11, and March 18, the Ithaca Journal ran a three-part series on the mark **Huldah (Gibbs) Jones's** parents, James Lowell Gibbs and Hortense Dabney Gibbs, made on the Ithaca community. The series describes the role her parents, particularly her father, played in helping the Black community in Ithaca improve themselves economically as well as aspire to professional careers through community pride, education and employment. Huldah's father,

known as Jimmy, was the executive director of the Southside Community Center for many years. He became a liaison with businesses throughout the community, counseled job seekers at the Center, and established an on-the-job training program for high school students. Huldah's mother, knowing that literacy was a fundamental skill for self-confidence and pride, spent hours reading with the children in the Center's library in addition to helping with the women's and girl's programs. One article contains the following quote from Huldah: "Dad was named the unofficial Mayor of Ithaca by the Human Relations Council [A]nyone seeing him immediately bombarded him with whatever was on his or her agenda. Large group or small, he could 'work a room' in no time. My Dad had a love of people and Ithaca gave him the opportunity to pour that out."

Kathy (Illencsik) Lilley has established a rhythm of living 10 months of the year in California where, among other things, she is involved in media reform work and jazz singing, and 2 months in the summer in Ithaca. While in Ithaca, she catches up with friends, sees some old psychotherapy clients, and visits with her mother who, at nearly 90, is per Kathy "remarkably sharp and a lot of fun."

Ornithology continues to be a very big part of **Randy Little's** non-work life. In April, he spent time at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology archiving recordings he had made in March in the White River National Wildlife Refuge and the Dagmar Wildlife Management Area in Arkansas as part of the hunt for evidence that the ivory-billed woodpecker, thought to be extinct, still exists. Does it? Randy believes so and that sooner or later an active roost hole will be discovered, a shed feather will be collected, and DNA analysis will confirm that the ivory-billed woodpecker indeed lives. In June he will head for Yuba Pass in the Sierras to teach, for the 20th year, the Laboratory's natural sound recording workshop.

Helen (Hillhouse) Madsen, retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison legal office for a year now, says she is greatly enjoying all the benefits of retirement. One will be a 15-day camping safari she and husband Ernie will be taking in Namibia (the country on west coast of

Africa just north of South Africa) with two of their nephews this summer. Helen reports that she is quite busy with mission and other work for the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison. The Church helped start an elementary school for 100 children in a village in Guatemala in January and has a five-year commitment to continue the help and do other projects with the Guatemalan Presbytery. Helen goes to Guatemala once a year on these projects. She also serves on the board of directors of one of the Madison neighborhood centers that provides many services to families in a low-income neighborhood. Ernie retired officially several years ago from the University but then went back to do research there. He probably will phase that out in a year or so. The Madsens' older son (who is a PhD physical chemist) and his wife (a PhD. next month from UNC in public health) both have faculty jobs at Virginia Tech. Their youngest son is an elementary school music teacher with the St. Paul, MN public schools and his wife is a biologist with the Maplewood (one of St. Paul's many suburbs) City Parks. No grandchildren yet, but the Madsens have a kitten (9 months old) named Bogart, for Humphrey, because he is all black and white.

Big news for **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose** and husband Joe is that their son (and youngest child) was married in Italy last September. Peggy says they will celebrate with their extended family at their lake house this summer.

With my wife Deb, her sister, and a mutual friend, I spent Christmas on St. John, our original plan of spending it on Isla Mujeres (near Cancun) having been altered by hurricane Wilma. And Deb and I spent a week in May in San Diego. The rest of the time, I have been working, albeit part-time, rewriting employee relations policy at GAO, the federal agency from which I retired.

Auxiliary classmate **Marvin Shaub**, in Princeton, NJ, has gone back to school. When he turned 65 and "retired" – he still does some client work – he decided to get a Ph.D., something he had wanted to do for some time. So he is now a doctoral candidate in the Taos/Tilburg program, a social science program jointly sponsored by the Taos Institute in New Mexico and Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

In December **Anita Bonney** wrote that **Maj (Tornroth) Simons** was to have the first private exhibition of her paintings from January 8 through 20 at the Galleri Arbis in Helsinki. A few weeks ago, Maj reported the exhibition was successful. She was pleased – she thinks visitors were, too – and she sold several of her works. Maj is also a grandmother again, now with a granddaughter to go with her five grandsons. She says she is of course madly in love with them all.

We have bad news from **Bev (Bower) Tuckerman**. She wrote in April that her husband is very ill. Bev would doubtless appreciate hearing from you. She can be e-mailed at bjtuckerbee@yahoo.com, written to at 2712 Cottage Rd., Alpine, NY 14805-9714, or called at (607) 594-2232.

IN MEMORIAM

Nancie (Cooper) Conklin, died on January 30, 2006 at her home in Dryden. Nancie was a loving wife and mother whose laugh brought joy to everyone who came in contact with her. She enjoyed life and family and especially her grandchildren. A Licensed Practical Nurse and a beautician for many years in New York and California, Nancie's true love was antiques. She was well known for having the "Pink House" in Dryden where, with her husband, Paul, she had an antique shop and a bed and breakfast for many years. She also ran many estate sales throughout the area. Although she was a devout Catholic, she attended the Salvation Army services for many years where she made a whole new group of friends.

She is survived by her husband Paul; sons Christopher Bohrer and Jonathan Conklin; daughters Kimberly Dando and Angela Towner; daughter-in-law Karen Conklin; a of CA; sister JoAnn Carpenter; dear friend Mabel Jennings; grandchildren Nickolas, Fabian, Alicia Summer, Cody, Brody, Katie, Collin, and Noah; and several nieces and nephews.

Those who wish to remember Nancie are asked to consider a memorial in her name to Hospicare, 172 E. King Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Also our condolences go to **Donna (Phillips) Dawes** on the death of her father, **Lucy (Kimple) Grinnell** and **Dave** on the death of Lucy's father, and to **Betty (Allen) Little** on the death of her mother.

Also, sadly I must also report that two of our former teachers have died.

Eva Firra died on July 5, 2005 at the Lakeside Nursing Home in Ithaca at the age of 86. A graduate of Herkimer High School, the State University of New York at Albany, and Indiana University holding degrees in business education and business administration, she taught business courses for many years at IHS before retiring in 1982.

In retirement she taught at TST BOCES. Active in the community, she had been president of the Ithaca Teachers' Association, secretary of the Ellis Hollow Community Center Board of Directors, president of the Tompkins-Tioga Deanery Diocesan Council of Catholic Women; served on the Mayor's ad hoc Flood Relief Committee, and was also active in Catholic Daughters of America, Ithaca Court.

Former English teacher **Robert Holgate** died on January 28, 2006. Bob, who was 86 at the time of his death, had lived in Alpine, NY. Bob earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees at Cornell, his studies there interrupted by World War II during which he flew on 30 missions over Germany. After the war and completion of his education, he taught literature at Cornell and Syracuse University before joining the IHS faculty in 1955. With the exception of one year, 1960-61, when he taught and was Chairman of the English Department at Wantagh High School on Long Island, he remained at IHS until his retirement in 1979.

FROM THE OP ED PAGE . . .

. . . of the San Francisco Chronicle of April 23 comes the following, written by **Kay Trimmerger**, currently a visiting scholar at the Institute for the Study of Social Change at the University of California at Berkeley, and author of *The New Single Woman*, to be issued in paperback in September.

As the oldest Baby Boomers reach 60, a lot of media attention has focused on the joys of middle-age sex. Women are assured that we can (and should) remain as sexually active as we were in our youth. If we are married, we can spice up our sex lives. If we are single -- as over 30 percent of females between 45 and 59 are -- we can now initiate sexual adventures and seek new romantic partners. This is an important correction to the stereotypes the once prevailed. Women were not expected to enjoy sex, and any female with a strong libido -- especially a "middle-age" woman -- was regarded as suspect or even deviant. But now the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. All women are expected to retain a strong sex drive well into middle age. For female Boomers who want to remain sexually active, it's great to have this new cultural validation. But women with less sexual desire or opportunity may feel inadequate and inferior.

Gail Sheehy's recent book, "Sex and the Seasoned Woman," announces a "new universe of lusty, liberated" middle-age women. Interviewing 400 women over age 45, Sheehy categorizes 40 percent of them as "passionates" -- women who "enjoy a lot of sexual activity and are most likely to be involved with someone romantically." Newspapers, magazines and talk shows have followed up with story after story of middle-age women blossoming both sexually and romantically. But the truth is that many older women (including many of Sheehy's subjects) are leading happy -- and yes, passionate -- lives without undergoing a sexual renaissance. A survey of single Boomers conducted by the American Association of Retired People found that 70 percent of single Boomers between 40 and 59 said they do date regularly. However, only 14 percent of single women over 40 were dating to find someone to live with or to marry. Most were just looking for fun and companionship. Of those regular daters, 38 percent of the women and 48 percent of the men had intercourse at least once a week. But this means that even among this group, 62 percent of the women and 52 percent of the men were not having sex regularly. For those without a steady partner, only 4 percent of women and 12 percent of men had weekly sexual intercourse.

These findings point to the need for a more-nuanced analysis of middle-age sexuality. The emerging scientific consensus is that human sexual response depends on a complex interaction of both biology and culture, leading to a lot of variation among individuals, cultural groups and societies. Scientific evidence also suggests that on the whole, women's sexual interests might not just be different from, but also

*less than men's. A 2001 survey of many different studies, published in *Personality and Social Psychological Review*, reported that men on average experience more frequent and more intense sexual desires than women. The authors conclude: "We did not find a single study, on any of nearly a dozen different measures, that found women had a stronger sex drive than men. We think that the combined quantity, quality, diversity and convergence of the evidence render the conclusion indisputable." "Indisputable" is too strong a word. Cultural pressures may push men to exaggerate their sexual desires and activities and women to understate theirs. But we ought to seriously consider the question of gender differences in sexual desire -- something feminists are often reluctant to do. And we should certainly find ways to include celibacy and non-sexual sensuality in the sexual spectrum without being seen by Sheehy and others as anti-sex, or reviving stereotypes about "withered old maids." We can begin by redefining romance. Romance involves a passionate connection outside ourselves, but it does not have to focus narrowly on another individual. We can passionately embrace many activities that give us pleasure and a sense of wonder. During my research for "The New Single Woman," one ever-single woman in her late 40s told me of her love of flamenco dancing, which she finds intensely passionate and sensual. A married colleague in her 50s described to me the joy she got from gardening: "I love the touch, the fragrance and the delicacy of flowers; they are definitely charged with passion and sensuality for me." Other women luxuriate in the aromatic, tactile and sensory stimulation they get while cooking. For women who love sex, or who long for sex within an affectionate partnership, the sensual pleasures of dancing, gardening or cooking will not be enough. But for others it is not only enough, but preferable. We need to view sex as one, but only one, of the elements that enhance our lives. Let's recognize that there are many forms of sensuality, and acknowledge the complexity and variety of passion.*

IHS: A BRIEF HISTORY

(Provided by Rita MacDonald)

Ithaca High School first opened as a public school in 1875 in a building that had housed the Ithaca Academy. The Ithaca Academy had been a private preparatory school established on the 200 block of North Cayuga Street during the early 1800's. It had enjoyed great success as a private academy and by the 1850's was one of the largest in New York

State. In 1875, the Academy Board of Trustees gave a conditional lease for the building to the newly created Ithaca Board of Education for a period of five years after which, contingent on the success of this educational experiment, transfer of the property would become permanent.

IHS's first graduating class as a public school in 1876 consisted of six students. In 1884, however, the old academy building was torn down and replaced by a larger building on the same site, designed to house a growing number of students. By the mid-1890's, two annexes had been added, one on Buffalo Street, which was larger than the original 1884 building, and one on Seneca Street. The curriculum included instruction in arithmetic, grammar, geography, a two-year English course, as well as a scientific course and a classical course, each consisting of three years. At least two very familiar names in Ithaca derive from the IHS of this period: Belle Sherman, who was elected a faculty member in 1877, and Frank David Boynton, who was chosen as principal in 1893.

By 1907, the school had a student body of 661 and a faculty of 23 and enjoyed "the distinction of being one of the largest and best preparatory schools in the country [drawing] students from nearly every political division of the United States and from many foreign countries." By the early 1900's, four-year courses in mathematics, classics, modern foreign languages, science, history, and English, as well as electives in stenography, typewriting, business, pedagogy, physical culture and public speaking were available to students. Students also had access 7 acres of playing fields where they could play baseball, football, basketball, tennis, etc. (IHS had one of the first women's school basketball teams in the country.) Other activities included orchestra, glee club, Congress (debate club), and several fraternities.

One freezing February morning in 1912, arriving students and people on their way to work were horrified to see the high school in flames. A crowd gathered as firemen desperately fought to save the building. Unable to bring the flames under control, they were able only to watch as it burned to the ground. But a "new" IHS was built on the site, opening in 1914. That building still stands as the DeWitt Building. It housed Ithaca's high school students until 1960 and, for a number

of years afterwards, many of Ithaca's junior high students.

The high school moved to its current building, architecturally innovative and then state-of-the-art, on the 1400 block of North Cayuga Street, former site of the school's playing fields. Since 1960, IHS has continued to grow, expand, and attempt to keep up with the rapid technological advancements of the last half of the 20th century and early years of the new millennium.

Since its inception in 1875, IHS has been distinguished for its academic excellence among American high schools. For most of those years, it has also been known for the fierce and loyal spirit of its student body. (Just mention "the skunk" to the graduates of the 1960's and 70's.) Over the years its graduates and music, publications, debate and drama students have won numerous awards. Too many to count have gone on to successful careers in the professions, government, business and the arts.

THE TATTLER: A BRIEF HISTORY

In the last issue, I reported on a controversy in 2005 over what the real Tattler, IHS's student newspaper was allowed to publish, resulting in a lawsuit that has not yet been resolved.

In this issue, I thought it might be useful to include a brief history of the real Tattler. The following information comes from Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia.

The first issue of the Tattler was published on December 1, 1892. Since then, the Tattler has not published entirely continuously, and has changed its format and frequency often.

For its first decade it was heavy on news, but from about 1910 to 1930 it was more like an annual or yearbook. During World War Two, it was published weekly as a broadsheet, and subscribed to the wire services.

There appears to have been a gap during the 1950s (although not during our years) but returned in the early sixties as a magazine-sized publication. It reported on the continuous upheavals in the

administration (garnering administration hostility) until the early 1980s, switching to its current tabloid size during the early 70s.

From 1984 to 1992, it was renamed the IHS Press but the name was changed back to the Tattler in 1992 and has been in almost continuous publication since then, except for the several month hiatus reported in the last issue of the Tattler Two. Now published six to ten times a year, the Tattler has a circulation of about 3,000, with distribution in both the school and in the community. It has expanded considerably in the past ten years, increasing its number of pages, introducing distribution outside of the high school, and developing an online presence.

The Tattler has traditionally been almost entirely student-run, with a student editorial board and student writers working with the assistance of a faculty advisor (usually a teacher in the IHS English department).

The Tattler's slogan, a pun on the New York Times' slogan, is "All the news that's fit to tattle."

Want a Class List or E-List?

If you want a copy the class list that I maintain, please let me know. It is free if you are on the Internet, but it will cost \$2, to cover printing and postage, if you want it mailed. Also available is a list of classmates' e-mail addresses. You should know that I absolutely will not make these lists available to anyone other than our classmates.

“THE SEARCH”: STATUS

Three more auxiliary classmates have been found. **Norm Dauphinee**, who was a member of our class at IHS during our freshman and sophomore years before moving to California, now lives in the Richmond, VA area. **Jack Poole**, another classmate who had attended Inlet Valley School and who was at IHS into our junior year, lives in Old Town, FL. And **Eva (Holub) Rapone**, whose family moved to Syracuse after our sophomore year, and husband Jaccamo now call Brooksville, FL home.

The list of “missing” classmates remains much the same. **Duane Cole**, **Arlene Johnson**, **Denise Lecoq**, and **Willie Young** are still on it, but auxiliary classmate **Ronnie Chandler** needs to be added as we have lost touch with him. He previously lived in Macedon, NY.

As for auxiliary class members, I am still searching for **Shirley Eaton**, **Albert Ellis**, **John Chacona**, **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!

The Tattler Two is most successful if it actually reaches you. **Please let me know if your e-mail or mailing address changes.** (I would like to know of mailing address changes even if you are on the web as some class-related material may go out via the mails.)

All it takes is an e-mail (to schmals@erols.com), postcard or letter (to 7317 Summit Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815), or phone call (to 301-652-8620).

THANK YOU . . .

. . . to **Anita Bonney**, **Judy (Osborn) Davis**, **Myra Fincher**, **Dana Furman**, **Eva (Holub) Rapone**, **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose**, and **Izzie (Petricola) Worthen** for their contributions to defray my costs in producing the Tattler Two; and to **Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld** for informing me about IHS-related happenings.

IN CLOSING

I am thrilled the class of '58 now has a web site. The site and the Tattler Two both serve to keep members of the class in touch with one another and up to date on events that affect us. They should be wonderful complements to each other, particularly as we approach the next reunion. Have a wonderful summer and fall.

Steve