

TATTLER TWO

Vol. 8, No. 4

March 2008

50TH REUNION **GETTING CLOSER**

Our 50th reunion is now only a few months away. The dates are July 25 through 27. The schedule of events will be similar to that of our 45th – an informal get-together at the Meadow Court Motel, owned by **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan** and her sister) on Friday evening, a picnic – catered by Hope's Way Café & Catering (no dish to pass this time) – at Stewart Park on Saturday afternoon, and brunch at the Royal Court, the restaurant at the Meadow Court, on Sunday.

More information, including the price, will follow in invitations to be sent out in April and in the next issue of the Tattler Two that should come out in May. Information will also be posted on the class's web site – www.ihs58.com -- as it becomes available.

50TH REUNION **WHERE TO STAY**

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. The Meadow Court has a web site – www.meadowcourttithaca.com -- and you can make reservations through the site. However, to insure getting a discount, it would be best if you phoned the motel at 607-273-3885 and said you were a member of the IHS class of '58.

The Ithaca area has a wide range of other options, including motels and B&Bs. Another option, for groups of classmates who want to stay together, is renting a house or apartment. The Internet is a good tool for finding information on all of these.

Finally, there may be classmates in the Ithaca area who would be interested in hosting others. Please let me know if you want to be a host, including information about the accommodations you will make available, and I will make your offers known.

50TH REUNION **THE REUNION FUND**

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

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

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

50TH REUNION **DO YOU WANT TO HELP?**

If you want to assist with the reunion and/or want to make suggestions about it, please contact one of the organizers – **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose**, by e-mail at jpetril@twcny.rr.com or by phone at (607) 257-3566; **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan** at marilyn@meadowcourttithaca.com or (607) 272-5226; **Kathy (Gleason) Smith** at kls9@cornell.edu or (607) 589-6023; **Ann (Rosa) Weitzel** at 53vette@msn.com or (585) 392-6273, or **Rita MacDonald** at rmacdona@twcny.rr.com or (607) 257-2415.

Some of you have already offered suggestions. If you sent them to me, I passed them to the reunion organizers. However, if you want to discuss them further, provide more details, or particularly if you are willing to help with them, I suggest that you follow up directly with them.

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.

CLASS NOTES

Several unhappy notes to begin.

First, on January 9, fire destroyed the Ithaca Academy of Dance, the dance studio operated by **Rosalie (Bower) Amoroso** and earlier by her parents. At the time of the fire, Rosalie was enjoying a short vacation in Florida. The studio occupied the third at 102 W. State Street, its location for 73 years. Damage on the lower floors of the building was mostly caused by smoke and water, but the third-floor damage was much more extensive. But, in show business tradition -- remember that Rosalie danced for several years with the Rockettes at Radio City -- the show must go on. When she went to Florida, Rosalie had planned to start dance studio activities again on January 14, and that is what she did, at temporary quarters in the Eagles Club. Eventually the studio will be located on Cecil A. Malone Drive (formerly West Clinton Street) in a one-story building -- no stairs to climb -- with plenty of parking.

Second, condolences go to **Craig Beach**. His wife Roberta -- Birdie to those close to her -- died on January 22 of cancer at the Beaches' home in Danby. She and Craig had been married for 45 years. Roberta was also the sister of classmate **Rollie Boda**.

In other class news, **Carolyn (Penta) Coolidge** reports from Durham, NC that she is in a very happy second marriage, to Tim Riggs whom she first met at Swarthmore. He is the curator at the U. of North Carolina art museum. After working as a nurse practitioner for many years, Carolyn now volunteers at a free clinic and also for an organization that teaches seniors about medications and helps with medical costs. Music has long been a big part of her life. She sings choral music and plays the viola da gamba. She says she and Tim live in a diverse, exciting community -- she encourages classmates passing through the area to contact her -- and they have an extended family in their downtown church. Carolyn has three children from her first marriage, and three grandchildren. All are in California where she lived for 30 years. In May, Carolyn was diagnosed as having cardiomyopathy but says she tries to be as active as possible.

Sarah (Briggs) deRis is still working, part-time, in the cataloging department of the library at Wheaton College in Massachusetts. She says she has no plans to retire. Sarah also notes that she has two children and three beautiful grandchildren.

Ann (Murphy) DeYoung's big adventure in 2007 was "The Great Australian Train Trek," 28 days, beginning October 6. From Burlington, she and husband Ron flew via New York and Los Angeles to Sydney where their amazing Elderhostel program began. In Sydney they took a harbor cruise, learned about the opal industry and trains in Australia, attended an opera at the world famous Sydney Opera House, and went to Taronga Zoo. Then it was on to Adelaide where they heard a former prime minister speak about the Australian constitution, toured an art gallery, two wineries, the National Railway Museum of South Australia, and a botanical garden. The DeYongs then boarded the Indian Pacific train for a two-night journey west to Perth, stopping along the way at Cook, an all-but-deserted rail town, and Kalgoorlie, a gold mining town. In Perth they visited the Perth Mint and Northam Immigrants' Museum, rode a ferry, toured the Maritime Museum and a former prison in Free Mantle, and saw an Aboriginal Cultural Center presentation. A

plane ride took them to Darwin, jump-off point for Kakadu National Park, an incredible area, co-managed by Aboriginals, with rock wall paintings, wildlife, and trails. Another night on the Gahn train took them to Alice Springs, where Ann got to hold a baby kangaroo at a rescue center. The day after a dinner at a cattle station in the Outback, they went on to Uluru (Ayers Rock), an inspiring rock formation that rises about 800 feet above the desert floor. Their final stop was in northeastern Australia. After flying to Cairns, they went to a tropical rainforest via a narrow gauge railway, visited the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park and rode back over the canopy on a skyrail, took a catamaran to the Great Barrier Reef for a day, and had breakfast with the birds and toured a Rainforest Habitat Center. While this only begins to touch on their experiences, it was truly a fantastic journey - a trip of a lifetime.

In addition to researching the history of Ithaca schools and preparing a write-up for the Tattler Two, **Myra Fincher** has been taking oral histories of older residents of Ithaca. Among those she interviewed last year was Olive Pass, who is the mother of classmate **Marshall Downing**.

June (Mulcahy) Gruner and husband Klaus are vacationing in the Canary Islands, specifically Tenerife, for five weeks. She says the islands, off the coast of Spain and Africa, are amazingly beautiful and interesting, truly a paradise. After they return to Chicago, they will soon leave again, this time for the Holy Land for 10 days on a pilgrimage with 40 other people and a priest. June, noting that this trip should also be wonderful, comments that life is full and good for them.

You can now watch **Jean Houghton** on a DVD, as her instructor at LifeLong, Jean, and two other students go through strength training exercises. Go to www.StayStrongLiftforLife.com (be sure to use the capital letters) if you want to preview the exercise program, and then purchase it if you like what you see. Jean says the video is a very good, very simply way to do strength training exercises – they are designed for people 65 and older – at home, using no equipment other than hand weights. Jean works part-time at LifeLong,

Ithaca's senior center, and is also on the board of the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra.

Not everyone who moves to Florida stays there. **Bob MacDougall** and wife Sheila left the sunny but, in their view, overcrowded Sunshine State for the mountains of Tennessee. They live in Bulls Gap, which Bob places as about half an hour from Pigeon Forge and Sevierville.

Jack Poole reports from Old Town, FL that he is doing well. Weather permitting, he rides his Harley almost every day.

In early February, **Chris (Mathewson) Salerno** and husband Dick departed cold Newtown, CT to spend three months on Sanibel Island in Florida. The Salernos do not dislike everything that winter brings in the north – Chris says skiing in Vermont was lovely – but they relish not having to deal for a while with things like icy driveways.

Dennis Wagar still works as a ground school instructor, on Boeing 777 aircraft, for American Airlines. He comments that, after 24 years, it is remains the best instructor job in the world. Earlier, he was in the Air Force for 20 years, as a B-52 electronics warfare officer, before retiring with the rank of major in 1980. Dennis and second wife Catherine live in Fort Worth. His family, including from Catherine's first marriage, totals six children and 10 grandchildren. Among Dennis's interests: golfing, traveling, and cooking.

Congratulations to **Anne (Rosa) Weitzel** on her receiving the Goler Award, presented annually by the Genesee Region Public Health Association. Ann has been a member of the GRPHA and Genesee Valley Nurses Association for many years. She worked as a nurse educator in the nursing program at SUNY Brockport and, although now retired, continues to be very active in the public health sector. The mission of the GRPHA is to advocate for health in communities. The association also provides leadership on behalf of public health professionals and the general public in the development of public health policy and practice. An affiliate of the New York State Public Health Association, the GRPHA serves Allegany, Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and

Yates counties. Ann is the first educator to get the award, named for George Goler, Rochester's first Health Officer, who made many significant contributions to the health of the community including school health and vaccination programs. The award was presented to Ann in November.

Sue (Hornbrook) Wilcox and husband Ted have joined the many other classmates – see the article below – who call Florida their home. They left Ithaca and now reside in a golf/country club community in North Fort Myers. Sue says they are thrilled to be there.

CORRECTIONS DEPT.

In the last issue, I mentioned Taste the Moment Restaurant and Tea Room that **Dick Monroe** and wife Toni own and operate in Redmond, Washington. However, I neglected to include their web site. It is www.tastethemoment.com. Look it up! And visit the restaurant if you are in the Seattle area.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

In an early issue of the Tattler Two, I reported on the geographic dispersion of the class. At the time, the 243 class members on my mailing list resided in 31 of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and three foreign countries (Canada, Mexico, and Germany).

Here is an update. I now have addresses for 299 classmates and auxiliary classmates. As in the earlier report, the largest number – 83 – live in Ithaca or elsewhere in Tompkins County. That is less than before, as retirement has resulted in a southward shift. (At least ten live there only part of the year.) Another 54 live in other parts of New York State (five of them for part of the year).

We now have six foreign countries represented: Canada (Andre Joffe and Cuyler Page), Mexico (Calvin Sears), Columbia (Bill Turley), Finland (Maj (Tornroth) Simon), the Philippines (Carl King), and Germany (Carol (Robinson) Battenfeld for part of the year).

In the U.S., apart from New York, Florida is the state where the largest number of classmates reside. No surprise there. But far more live there now than earlier (42 compared with 23). The only other states that 10 or more classmates claim as their residence are California (with 25), and Texas and Arizona (with 10 each). In all, 34 states and the District of Columbia are represented. To my knowledge, there are no classmates in West Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio (a bit of a surprise), Michigan (ditto), Iowa, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Utah, Alaska, and Hawaii.

IHSAA

In the last issue, I mentioned that the IHS Alumni Association (IHSAA for short) has a new web site – <http://ihsaa.gorgeswebsites.com> -- that allows people to place their contact information on the site and use what other alumni have put on the site to contact them. Also, class web sites, including ours (www.ihs58.com), are linked to the IHSAA 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 second article in a series is, like the first, the result of a prodigious amount of research by **Myra Fincher**, who also did the writing (subject only to a small amount of editing from me). The first article, in the October 2007 issue, presented histories of the elementary schools we attended. This article deals with other Ithaca schools members of the class attended. The subject of the final article will be other schools in the Ithaca system.

As with the last article, I encourage you to write me about things you remember about the schools mentioned below that you think might be of interest to others in the class.

Frank David Boynton Junior High School, at 302 West Buffalo Street was designed by Arthur N. Gibb in 1931. Named for Mr. Boynton, who was principal of Ithaca High School from 1893 to 1900 and the third Superintendent of Schools from 1900 to 1930, the school's first students were admitted in September 1932. The Board of Education was able to pay for the building in full on the day it was first occupied. The cost? \$525,000. Mr. Boynton was a strong advocate for junior high school education in years prior to 1930, when plan were made for the new school. The high school building, completed in 1914, was until 1932 the location of both the junior and senior highs. Mr. Boynton was born in Potsdam, NY April 29, 1863, and died June 17, 1930, following an automobile accident on Long Island. His death followed by only one week that of Miss Belle Sherman of whom he had spoken highly at her funeral service. September 2007 marked the 75th anniversary of the opening of Boynton Junior High School. It has been a well-maintained building all these years and continues today as the Beverly J. Martin Elementary School.

Immaculate Conception School, located at 320 West Buffalo Street, was founded in 1884 by the Diocese of Rochester, Sisters of St. Joseph. A fire destroyed the original school building in April 1946 but in October 1949 the Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church dedicated a new parochial school. It remains in use today and, as in our school days, is attended by children in grades 1 through 8.

Health School was located on the roof of the Ithaca High School (now DeWitt) Building. In the fall of 1917, an open-air class was started on the top of the then very new high school building for anemic and sickly children of Ithaca. In 1935, the first sight-saving class was started at Belle Sherman School and in the fall of 1936 new rooms for it, financed by the Works Project Administration, were built on the roof of the high school. The five penthouse classrooms included a library-dining room where a hot meal was served at noon, a

sleeping area, a recreation room, and two classrooms for grades 1 to 6. There was also a play area. Children enrolled were in need of rest and whose physical condition demanded an environment in which the usual school tempo was decidedly decreased. Health School closed in the 1950s and students were mainstreamed into neighborhood schools. The space is now divided between the office of William Downing Associates, Architects, and Mr. Downing's home in the DeWitt Apartments.

Reconstruction Home School, located at 318 South Albany Street was part of the Reconstruction Home, established in 1920 and for the next thirty years provided aftercare and rehabilitation of children with polio. The school closed in the 1950s. The Reconstruction Home itself evolved into a skilled nursing facility with a new building built in 1986. The name was changed to Beechtree Care Center in 2006.

Cascadilla School, located at 116 Summit Avenue, was founded by Professor Lucien A. Wait, who owned the lot at the corner of Oak and Summit Avenues. An independent, co-educational, not-for-profit high school for grades 9-12, it was originally a preparatory school for Cornell. The brick classroom building built in 1890 and called Wait Hall was designed by William Henry Miller. It continues as a private school today.

ADDRESS CHANGE? LET ME KNOW!

The Tattler Two is most successful if it actually reaches you. But every time I send one out, at least one that I e-mailed bounces back. **Please let me know if your e-mail address changes.** (And even if you are receiving the newsletter via the Internet, I also want to be apprised of mailing address changes. We want to stay in touch with you, and some of the class-related material may 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.

“THE SEARCH”: STATUS

The list of “missing” classmates remains much the same but we need to add **Remi Moore** (she was Josephine Thomas when we were in high school) and **Ed Washbon** to the list. We lost touch Remi several years ago and Ed more recently. The others: **Duane Cole**, **Arlene Johnson**, **Denise Lecoq**, and auxiliary classmate **Ronnie Chandler** who was also added as we have lost touch with him.

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

Recently we added **Bruce Rightmyer** to the ranks of our auxiliary classmates. Bruce graduated from IHS in 1959, as did a number of others who were in our class in earlier years. Bruce is the brother-in-law of **Carol (Stevens) Jordan**, as he is married to Carol’s sister, Sandy. The Rightmyers are snowbirds, living in Ithaca during the warmer months and in Florida – in Hudson, near to the Jordans – in winter.

I am 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; **Carol (Kleeman) Hayes** for financial support of the Tattler Two; Myra and **Ron Pete** for informing me about class-related happenings; the reunion committee – **Peggy (Chester) Petrillose**, **Marilyn (Hull) Ryan**, **Kathy (Gleason) Smith**, **Ann (Rosa) Weitzel**, and **Rita MacDonald** – for their efforts to date in planning our 50th; and all of you have provided me with news, as well as with changes of e-mail and postal addresses that makes my life easier.

IN CLOSING

As I said in ending the last issue of the Tattler Two, I hope the turnout at our big 50th even surpasses that at our 45th.

Some think that reunions are only for re-living high school years. And then why go there were many things about those years you did not want to revisit. Others think that reunions break down into the same cliques as back in high school. From my experience . . . admittedly only based on two reunions, our 40th and 45th . . . reunions are more what YOU make them to be. If you want to revisit the past, you can do so, but it is often more interesting to hear what others have done since 1958. And, while you can hang out with the same people as in high school days, you can meet others you hardly knew back then.

I encourage you to attend and celebrate with many others of the diverse group that the IHS class of ’58 is today.

Steve