

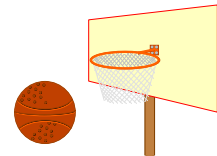
Irvington Varsity "I" Club Newsletter

Vito Miele
 P. O. Box 184
 Lavallette, NJ 08735
 (732) 793-6689
 E-mail: VarsityI@aol.com
 Web site: <http://www.varsityi.com>



NEWSLETTER # 69

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Hi Folks:

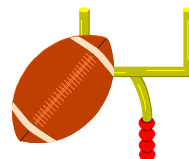
April is here and do you remember the anticipation we had, while walking to school, as to what pranks we were going to play on certain friends, students etc the anticipation was so great that when we got to school, we would forget the intricacies of the pranks and were unable to carry them out, because circumstances did change. The best prank I can recall was when Teacher Gracie Brecht, would hide in the book closet, jump out and yell April fool when every one was seated.

Speaking of teachers. I recently got a letter from Linda Lee (great niece) of Jinks Lorine Hyer How many of you students had Jinks Hyer as a teacher?

2/15/2002 On Friday, her birthday, she celebrated 100 years on this earth, she had many visitors, In Jinks words , and she had "a wonderful day!" Springmeade planned fried chicken, wine, and the requested chocolate cake for lunch. For dinner she asked for a thin crust pizza (an Ohio thing) with everything including anchovies (an east coast thing) the local paper was delivered to her with her picture. She was pleased and surprised.



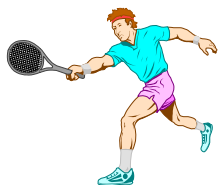
On 3/9/2002 I went to see if I had any Email and there was one letter that was distressing to me, it was e-mail from her niece. Saying, I am sorry to have bad news. Jinks died tonight at 5:30 pm She was surrounded by love and died peacefully.



Vito: I venture to say, from my experience in writing this Newsletter Jinks Hyer lived a very good life and enjoyed it. She was voted the most popular teacher by you folks and when I wrote her about it, she was very happy and as she said, " I never knew I was so popular." I believe she had one milestone she wanted to beat in life and that was to reach her pinnacle, 100 year mark, she did and after that their was no place to go. The Lord has taken her, -/

I wish to dedicate a poem written by Harold F. Mohn entitled
Our Dearest Friend

Life oft' times seems so empty
 When we know great despair,
 And we forget our dearest Friend
 Is just as close as prayer.
 There's always a silver lining
 Behind our clouds so gray,
 With faith in God our cares and fears
 Will quickly fade away.
 As daylight always follows night
 And sunshine follows rain,
 The faith that we possess and own
 Will happiness regain.



Less we forget, we have another member of our group who will be celebrating his 100 years on this earth on June 12 of this year VIC OECHLER will be 100 yrs old. Vic is usually at our Reunion however since we are not having a reunion this year I spoke to Vic via telephone and he is doing well. He can't wait until the weather clears so he can do some fishing. God Bless you Vic.

I got a letter from an old classmate Les Weis, and Les writes , I lost all of my Irvington mementoes when I moved to Tennessee back in 1954 I have been away for about 45 years and recently moved to Pa. to be with my daughter. My sister Dot Gernert sent me a copy of your Newsletter, they are informative and interesting, and you sounded good over the phone when I call you. I spent 25 years in Tenn. Retired in 1978, moved to Wilmington ,N.C. and spent the next 20 years playing Golf, fishing and just being a Beach Bum . Enjoyed every minute of it.

My daughter retired from the Navy after 20 years and took a job with Merck. She told my wife and I we were getting too old to be Beach Bums and we should come live with her, so here we are in Pa.

Before I moved away from Irvington I used to hang out with Fred Jacobas, Frank Rogers, Ralph Roskelly, Larney Barker and that crew. (I also belong to the Irvington Senators , The Town used to open the gyms on week ends with a teacher as supervisor. These activities keep us out of trouble.

I do remember a lot of people from my days at Irvington High, teachers included. Johnny Druze, his younger brother Leon, Clary Graef, Wilbur Zuest, Ted Mury, Lefty Marion, Bud Boughrum, and many others. We had many good teachers although maybe at the time we didn't think that way. Ed Haertter, Principal, Chamberlain, vice Principal, Pussy Foot White the chemistry teacher, Harry Wassier the History Teacher and track Coach. Not to forget Bill Matthews and Doc Gantz the Football and Baseball Coaches.

Irvington was a nice place to grow up. It is sad to see how it is today.

Your classmate Les Weis

Here is a letter from Saul Schwartz
Dear Vito:

I grew up with Jerry Lewis, we graduated Union Ave School in June 1940. The Barber you referred to in your last Newsletter, was Al "the Barber" DiStefano and the shop was call the Rex Barber Shop.

He was the principal person responsible for the parade early in 1953 that started in front of his shop and went up Union Ave and ended up at the Ivanhoe Building on Springfield Ave. We had about 150 people attending the dinner that evening which honored Jerry, his wife and Mother and Father.

In the 8th grade Jerry had hopes of being another Gene Krupa, he had a set of drums and took lessons. We both went to the Paramount theatre in Newark when Gene Krupa's band was appearing and after the last show we went backstage and got his autograph .

I am sorry I am computer illiterate because I could give you enough material to write a book.

Saul Schwartz

We wish to welcome Bill Koenig '50 to our group. Bill is now living Spring Hill, Fl. Bill married his classmate Renee Graubard 50 years ago is still working as an Office Mgr in a Financial Office. Bill and Renee have four children , six Grandchildren and one Great Grand Child.

What have you done for your State , Town or Country, well we have someone from Irvington who has done a great deal. I recently got a letter from Dotty (Bechtoldt) Vieser, wife of Ellis Vieser '41 a member of our group, I remember Ellis in the year 1940, as an assistant Coach, Ellis was a linesman on the 1940 football team at Irvington High. Maybe you remember her Father, Charlie who was Manager of the Sanford Theatre. Ellis after many years of hard work finally passed away in 2001. I wish to give you excerpts from this letter, written by his Son, Randy.

For those of you who have not heard, our Dad's friends and co-workers at the Alliance for Action and at the State Government took it upon themselves to spend the time and energy to pass legislation to the name the new Route 9 South bridge over the Raritan River after our Dad. On behalf of our father, our mother, Dorothy, and all our family we want to express our deepest thanks for these efforts. On Saturday, Dec. 30, 2001, the day after Governor DeFrancesco signed the bill naming the new Bridge, we had the rare coincidence to be in a car with most of our family in it, going to a youth basketball game in South Amboy from Metuchen. This required us to drive over the ELLIS S. VIESER MEMORIAL BRIDGE. We had never driven together over the Raritan Bridge as a family before, and maybe we will never do it as an extended family again. Fate works in funny ways sometimes and it was one of those times you never forget.

Having a bridge named after you is a great honor and it is something we will always be appreciative of a great man who worked hard to make New Jersey a better place to live. VITO: REMEMBER FOLKS HIS BACKGROUND AND SCHOOLING WAS IRVINGTON. Thank you Dotty, and Randy, you, your family and all of us who knew Ellis are very proud of him.

A warm welcome to Inge (Pensler) Ginter widow of Herbert Ginter'47 Herb passed away a few years ago because he could not stop smoking, lung cancer. Inge keeps going with her two children and four grandchildren. They keep her busy.

Got a note from DORIS E. OLSEN '43 just a short resume of my life from my High School Days Never Graduated from College although I took many courses. Main career was in finance and banking until 1955 when I started working in the Insurance business in Bartley, N. J. a village closed to where I live in Flanders another small village in northern N. J. In 1960 I bought a business and continued to operate it until 1976 when I sold it and moved to Florida with my Husband who was retired. I opened up insurance agency in Fl. And owned and operated it until 1998 when I retired after 43 years in business.

Since I retired I am enjoying fishing, active in church affairs, learning to play the organ as a hobby. I look forward to reunions and seeing old friends.

Doris Garrison Olson

Got this email from Barry Sirota. Keep sending out the Newsletter even the bad news still brings back the days of my youth. I'm practicing law for forty years now – had some years of bad health, but it seems to be beyond me now – this past August I met a woman I thought only existed in my fantasies. --- She too is an attorney--- She limits her practice to family law—We met on a domestic violence case—no one won. It took three days of intensive negotiations, but reconciliation began and in time they returned to Texas.

I married that lady in Aug. I have been divorced for 23 years and never imagine that I would find such a person. Life is good again, I even enjoy my work I send her all the family Law cases. I do some trail work for her but we maintain separate offices. We managed to take a week off for a honeymoon in St. John (us virgin islands) what a great week that was.

I lived at 311 Park Pl in Irvington – near the hospital and Chancellor ave School. The hill behind the hospital was good for sledding I could see the fire works at Olympic Park and walk to the Feast at Harper Ave. I remember pheasants in the

meadows when Tuscan Dairy had cows. And getting a broken nose at the end of the Asbury Park football game. –we beat them that year and a riot broke out ---it knocked them out of contention for the State Championship. My mother is 97 years old and she asks how Mickey Weiner is. My brother Al also living in Boynton Beach send his regards to Tony D”Urso .

Barry ends by saying Keep the Newsletters coming we need them. VITO. As an aside to Barry perhaps you will be interested to know that Asbury Park is in the same turmoil as Irvington. It is not the vacation spot that it once was.

I got a little note from my friend Myrtle Hodapp who sends me usually information about our Town of Irvington . This I missed, and I want to thank you very, very much for sending it, because I feel it is important to the people of Irvington and all the former Irvington ions because I believe she got the Town in the mess it is in. IRVINGTON’S MAYOR WON’T RUN AGAIN. Sara Bost, who became the township’s first African American council woman in 1986, is mum on her reasons.

Bost did not give any reasons for her decision. She did not address the federal grand jury allegations of political corruption, bribery, and mail fraud that have overshadowed Irvington and her administration0.

Things are quite in Irvington right now because there is an election coming up and of course we will have a new Mayor and I hope things can improve and I hope the Town can go back to what we thought was a wonderful Town .

On March 14, 2002 Bud Gallagher a member of the 1930 class will be 90 years old. Bud had a fall and broke his Femur on his left leg .One week later, his wife of 53 years Kathleen, had a stroke, In order to get some care Bud is now residing at the New Jersey Firemen’s Home in Boonton, N. J.

All you folks that send me email, thank you and keep sending it, naturally I cannot print it all but I do use bits and pieces of it and the parts I do not use I do read and enjoy. KEEP SENDING THEM.

As we get older and we all are. I, as publisher of this Newsletter for the last 12 years it is getting harder and harder. Personally I am up to it, my mind is as sharp as it will ever be, physically is where I have my problems. On July 4th 2002 I will be 86 yrs old. Living alone I have plenty of time to do the work entailed. I relish the work, it takes my mind off my physically pains As you may know, that is why we are not having a Reunion this year, I told you that I could not do it any longer, because of my physical problems.

At this mailing I am sending out 332 letters to Irvington ions some have supported us financially and some have not. Stamps envelopes, and printing cost money and I would appreciate a donation for gathering and mailing this information to you. To those who have supported this Newsletter in the past I wish you to continue and to those who wish to help the cause please join us.

Thank you for your support:

VITO