

NEWSLETTER # 76

APRIL 2003

Hi folks:

I hope I got everything ready for #76 at least I got the letterhead. Now all I need is the News to go with April Fools Day. Barbara and Bev. Our Twins, would inter change classes on this particular day and the teachers would never realize it, (maybe they did, but did not say anything}. Most teachers are smart.

I intended to get this newsletter to you by April's Fools day and perhaps revitalize what jokes or April Fools pranks your grandchildren have played on you this holiday. Please let me know of some of the special pranks these youngsters have played on us old fogies. Most of them you have seen or heard of in you many years on this earth.

Got a note from Mrs. Fred Arnold'36 telling me of Fred's illness Fred'36 was a member of the Irvington Varsity club now living in Boone N. C. Fred had a heart attack and is recuperating in the Glenbridge Health and Rehab. In N.C. Fred enjoys reading about Irvington and his classmates and so does

His wife of the same class, Francis Houssling '36 Arnold . Francis has a P.S. on her note saying that in April they will be blessed with their 9th grandchild. Hears hoping you enjoy our Newsletters and it reminds you of your youthful days in Irvington. Get well Fred.

Here is another instance of an Irvington High School graduate marrying a high school classmate. How many of you have done likewise.

We received this letter from Harriett Weber of Tucson Arizona.

Dear Vito. I just came across your letter dated July 11, 2002 and I received so much mail I don't know if I answered it.

First of all, I wasn't one of 16 children that were my grandparents, Nicholas Weber and wife. That was their home on Stuyvesant Ave and sold it to the Terrills. I lived with my parents on the corner of Lyons Ave and Nesbit Tar. (Across from the Church on Lyons Ave) When I got married I lived in the Apartment on Stuyvesant Ave, (818 Stuyvesant Ave) one block before Chancellor Ave. We had a daughter Barbara who lived with us there, it was the last time I took her to Olympic Park and we were in the Parade then. I hope you understand it now.

I graduated from Irvington High School in June 1933 Have many pictures of you in some of the graduation books but what year did you graduate. If you graduated with me, where are you in our graduation pictures?

Now I want to tell you where I am staying now. First of all, I fell and broke my hip and was in the hospital several days. I was put in a recovery home and now I am in this recovery home with several other folks that are still recovering. Originally, I was at 3115 N. Fairview Ave in Tucson. My daughter has taken care of all my bills. I hope you can read this letter, my writing is so bad. Would love to hear from you. I'm 88 years old- how old are you?

Sincerely Harriet Kessler was Harriet Weber in School.

To answer some of the questions of Harriet. Vito > No I did not graduate with you in 1933, I was the President of the 1935 class. We graduated in 1935 in Feb. or thereabouts, if you recall we had split sessions at that time. The school was not big enough to hold all the students and therefore we had split sessions. All four years of my schooling I went to school from 8 am to 12 30 pm. It was perfect for me, because I could be on the football field and baseball field from 2 o'clock on.

P.S. No I do not know Norman A. Hill, a good friend of yours, who lived in Lavallette.

Got this little note from DOROTHY WEIS GERNERT.

Hi Vito:

I wonder how many of the Irvington High people remember the musicals that Marlin Brinser put on. I was in the class of '35 (yes, with Lillian) and I remember taking part in two productions – one was “ Good News” and the other “ Way out West “ a professional choreographer was brought in to teach us the dance numbers.

In “ Way out West “ there was an Indian Dance and my dear friend, Elizabeth O' Reilly, was chosen for that group. They wore Indian costumes, of course, their faces wore dark make- up and they danced in bare feet. At the dress rehearsal it was almost impossible to tell one dancer from another, however, Liz was determined that her family was going to know which dancer she was, so on the night of the performance, when the Indian dancers came on stage, the audience saw many pairs of dancing bare feet and one pair wearing brightly striped ankle socks! The O'Reilly was thrilled and Liz was a star!

We had many laughs about that over the years.

Thanks for the Newsletter, Vito

WE WISH TO THANK DOROTHY FOR THIS LITTLE TIB BIT.

I KNOW you women have many more stories of your Irvington High school days which you are willing to share with us. Send them in, we all enjoy them.

Do you remember Marlin Brinser favorite song in the Assembly. I think it was “On the Road To Mandaley” What do you think? perhaps that is the only song we as a group could sing in unison. We don't know. What was your favorite song?

How many of you folk were in the Band? We personally never saw the band in action. I know that under Marlin Brinser it was one of the best in the State, and I know they were one of the best performers at the New York Giants half time shows. You band players must have some stories of your experiences, send them in all the athletes who have not seen this wonderful band would enjoy them.

HOW ABOUT SHARING YOUR MEMORIES WITH YOUR NEWSLETTER.

Got this note from STAN WNEK '38

Bernice and I recently welcomed our first great grandchild named ASHER. He was born in San Diego, Ca. in January.

Our visit to Florida in November was a great one! My son, Jimmy, was promoted by Anheuser Busch to Senior Account Manager of South Florida. He is now living in Wellington, which is big polo country. When we first arrived he was playing golf in the Celebrity LPGA Tournament at Trump's course.

When Jimmy entered my grandson Kyle in a contest, this allowed us on to Miami Dolphins home field. Kyle went through some football fundamentals under the guidance of Ray Lucas, Dolphin quarterback and Chris Chambers, Dolphin wide

receiver. Since Lucas is from Harrison, I asked him if he knew of Pechters Bakery. He responded with, "Best Bread Around "

The next day, we attended the Dolphin – Charges game in Miami. Before going in to the game, we were the guest of the Budweiser Distributor's tailgate party. It was to my surprise that our seats were in the VIP Budweiser box! Food and choice of drinks including most of Budweiser products! Not hard to get used to!

A few days later, Jimmy took me to a Florida NHL game, again we were escorted to the Budweiser VIP box where we had a few drinks. We were then taken to our seats that were in the first row, behind the glass and the goalie!

Before I left, we went to a luncheon at a top hotel in Miami with John Madden as the guest speaker. Bernice and I also visited Lee Walsky and his wife, Babs. Lee is fighting to get back to normal after some tragic health problems.

Bernice and I have 2 grandsons at Seton Hall Prep. My grandson, Louis a sophomore earned his varsity swimming letter in his freshman year. He is well on his way to another letter this year too. My other grandson, Drew, a freshman, should be playing lacrosse when the season rolls around.

Stan Wnek '38

This is the part of the Newsletter I do not like but I believe I have to tell you what is happening. A few days after getting the above information from Stan Wnek, he notified me that while on a trip to Union he was told by some friends that Harry Michaelson had passed away. We confirmed that Harry did pass away via mail and telephone on Jan. 20th. Harry was a very important person in the Irvington Varsity Club. Harry was responsible for the Football Coach and the better football player on the varsity squad attending the Heisman Award dinner at the New York Athletic Club. Some of you Athletes in the Club went to this award dinner in N.Y. never knowing that Harry, who was a member of the N. Y. Athletic Club was able to purchase tickets for the Dinner which many years ago was rather difficult to get Harry, wherever you are now, we in the Varsity "I" Club thank you for all your efforts in the past years.

Harry Stevenson '32 who served all of us as the Mayor of our wonderful Town of Irvington, on Feb. 25th was a valuable member of the Irvington Varsity Club, the Board of Education, We knew Harry well, serving with him on the Irvington Board of Education. Harry, was a track star in his years at Irvington. In his retirement Harry attended most all our Athletic Reunions. God speed to you Harry. . .

Got a note from Mary Kunz, widow of Augie Kunz, "Enjoy getting the Newsletter for all these years" I really do not know many of the folks anymore, so you can take me off the list. Augie enjoyed being a member so very much. Here is a donation for this time. Thanks. Mary: you can count on getting the Newsletter as long as we are printing it. As we get older, we do not know as many people as we normally do, knowing Augie & you for these many years, coming from Irvington, you will always be interested in Irvington.

**NOTICE IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
 ALL CLASSES REUNION LUNCHEON**

Will be held at the BARCLAY 5th Ave & A St. in BELMAR, N.J. on May 16, 2003
All you folks who are unable to attend the 7th Annual Florida Reunion held at the Renaissance Worldgate in Kissimmee on March 7th. It was a huge success under the auspices of Sol Schwartz and Bob Lapp.

FOLKS; YOU HAVE LOST YOUR TOWN, YOUR SCHOOL BUT YOU STILL HAVE YOUR MEMORIES, SO PLEASE WHY NOT ATTEND THESE REUNIONS WHERE YOU CAN MEET YOUR CLASSMATES AND HASH OVER YOUR OLD MEMORIES OF YOUR IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DAYS.

I GUARNTEE YOU WILL ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE. -- VITO

We are going to try something new in this NEWSLETTER, You folks are not sending in sufficient material so I can fill enough pages to send you news of what has happened in Irvington, so I must use my imagination in making up this composition. I am going to tell you a little true story. When we were in Irvington High School, we had Gracie Brecht, for my junior english teacher. Do you recall, those of you who had Gracie, how she would give an assignment of writing an essay of 500 words or more on Friday, to be ready for Monday morning. Any subject you wished.

Well, we was dating Lillian Richardson at that time and she lived on 38th St. and I lived on Naden Ave, which was on the other side of Town. One night on my way walking home from her house, I saw something that I thought would make a good composition. If you are familiar with that area of our Town, Chancellor and Union Ave, as we walked along Union Ave, there were Apartments that had apartments in the basement, that you could see in, just by walking by. This is what I saw, with my imagination I developed the essay. I saw a young fellow seating with his girl friend and the Mother and Father of the young lady serving them food etc. I, using my imagination went on, in the essay, developed what was in the young gentleman mind. Such as, when are these folks going to leave us alone so I can give this young lady a nice big kiss.

I developed the composition, handed it in on Monday, got it back, marked in red pencil B plus with a notation by Gracie Brecht, "Don't be so nose". That was when I knew I had the ability to write. I fooled the teacher, she had thought that I laid there watching every move of the young couple, never thinking that my imagination was the instrument in earning the B plus. I never approach Gracie Brecht concerning this matter. **THAT WAS WHEN I KNEW I HAD THE ABILITY TO WRITE.**

I have never feared writing in College and in my business efforts. I have never told any one of this incident and I know that my Lillian would never approve my telling you folks, because it like printing it in the Star Ledger. Then everyone knows.

In my retirement, I believe I told you folks that I get most of my News from the Star Ledger and Asbury Park Press. I have been reading about a young Coach of the Monmouth University Baseball team by the name of DEAN EHEHALT. Now the name Eehalt is not a common name, and we knew of a George and Cal Eehalt and Papa Eehalt, who traveled a lot with George and was a close friend of Coach Gantz. Their families lived close to each other, on the hill. Let us not get the impression that George and Cal got their jobs because of their father. Papa Eehalt was a wonderful Father and baseball fan. George was a valuable first base men and Cal, the younger one, was a very good pitcher at Irvington High School. Both George and Cal are deceased now.

So I knowing the Eehalt's for many years and George, via the Irvington Semi Pro Twilight league picked up the telephone and called Helen Eehalt, George's former wife, who is living in Toms River, after identifier myself, and I pose the question to her. I asked her, is Dean your son.? Her voice perked up and said, "no he is my Grandson" in a proud fashion she said, "isn't he doing a wonderful job at the University" I almost could feel the joy in Grandma Helen's voice when she spoke of Dean's record at Monmouth University. **WHAT CAN YOU AS A GRAMPA OR GRAMMA say and brag about your children..**

Dean Eehalt after 10 years at Monmouth University has a record of 220-220 and it is improving each year. Last year he had a 30-21 record and (23-4, first place in the Northeast conference) His outlook for this year is to win the NEC divisional championship and than go to the NCAA. Led by NEC pitcher of the year Cerone and relief ace Kelly, speed and defense, may help. Good Luck to Dean and his Grandma in this coming season, 2003.

