

**NEWSLETTER # 78**

**EXTRA June 2003**

**HI FOLKS:**

We wish to thank you all for your cooperation in getting this Newsletter out with your contribution and financial support. We are going to mention your names and year in the following list to show your support of this Newsletter.

Ed Leibe '48; Walter Kosub '44; Anthony Ingrassia '53; Nick Fiorellino'39; Joe Arcardi'51; Peter Gilleece'50; Eugene Schwede; Robert Neigel'40; Gordan Search'51; Virginia Green ; Inge Ginter'46; Beverlee Hibbs'59; John Bisset'38; Ed Baureis '47; Rolf Augenstein '50; Robert Lapp '44; George Andreach '52; Anthony Pilone '54; William R. Smith; Saul Schwartz'44; Charles Sekella'56; Mytle Hodapp'34; John Druze '34; Lee Halperin'51; Henry Krutter '44; William Carbone '57; Dorothy Vieser '41; Arthur Willner '55; Roy Madsen '48; Michael Zusack '49; Robert J. Sayle '52; Alfred Murray '47; Joseph Polewka '46; Gil Carr; Les Weis '35; Donald Freeman '45; Alfred Cimirro '43; Barry Sirotaa '54; George D. Brown '54; Steve Mysko '57; Frank Addonizio '40; John Valestin '37; Bernard Adler '55; Frank Gedrowicz ; William Cregar '43; Mickey Weiner '26; Bill Koenig Renee '50; Herm Pizzi '48; Joseph Urban '38; Casimir Ksycewski '38; Ray Knispel '39; Harold Mullin '49; Sam Lesser '41; Pete Cullin ; Peter Granata '46; Fred Arnold '34; Bill Boyland '43; Ronald Evangelista'48; Don DeBenedett; Alex Santoriello '50; Robert Zitch'48; Dorothy Hecht'46; Fred Raffa '50; Jeanne Wood Edward Simpson '44 George Lamm'39; Frank Bahlman'43; Robert Dickie'54; Ted Klittich'60; Arthur Kull '38; Ken Giessuebel '51; Robert Eitel '48.

Can you find your name? If not, let me know. When I was in Business, at the beginning of Computers the answer was, “ the computer made a mistake, in this case we made the mistake, I am not a good typist, so I will take the blame for all errors”

Most of the comments coming with the support that is needed from you, was about my health, and most of you wishing that I take care of myself. I grant you I will, as I expect to be with for a long time. However I do wish to thank you all for your good and wonderful thoughts.

Here are some of the comments that we have found in these letters.

Hi Vito: Thanks for the great letter you sent me. I love hearing from you and all the news about the good guys from Irvington. Now I am having trouble with my legs. I have Intermittent Claudication and it makes walking painful. Thanks again and stay healthy. Keep those letters coming .

Signed            John.

>>>Vito - No John, that is whatever fancy name your Dr. wants to call it. In my eyes it is the same illness we all have when we get to a certain age, I know your age,

you are 88, and I am going to be 87 this July 4<sup>th</sup>. No matter what the Doc. wants to call it, I believe it is OLD AGE creeping upon us. I cannot walk two blocks without stopping. Ask Mickey Weiner our Coach, he is in his 90's, I believe he has the same problem. All you members in your 70's and 80's perhaps you want to verify this.

Before I go to another person, I would like to tell you a story about John Druze '34. Since we in Irvington have only memories to go by, I wish to tell you of John Druze, all from my memory. John and I played on the 33 football team, John played end and I played halfback, John was good, very good. I recall after being in the huddle, getting the play, John would motion to me, to go downfield, get the halfback while he handled the tackle opposite him all by himself. John was good, very good. After that John went to Fordham University, where as a Captain of the of the famous Rocks of Granite, most of you folks never heard of this team, That was when Fordham was a power house in football. They would fill Yankee Stadium every time they played there. They got famous for their two games with Pittsburg, successive 0-0 games. The important thing is the New York press, they are powerful but hated by others in the Press Corp. from other parts of the Country.

John after three successful years of football at Fordham signed a contract and played end for the Brooklyn Yankees but the opportunity to become an assistant Coach under Frank Leahy had a better future for Druze. After a few years of success at Boston College, Leahy accepted the position of Head Coach at Notre Dame, taken John and other Coaches with him, where they brought Notre Dame to the peak of it's national history winning many national championship's.

Personally, I wonder how many Irvington folks are aware of John Druze deeds on the Football, Basketball and Baseball field. John made All State in all three sports while at Irvington.

In my eyes I feel that John Druze '34 was the best athlete that ever played at Irvington High School.

I know there are many who will disagree with me. If you do, write me and tell me who your candidate is and give me his credentials.

Here is a email I received.

Hi Vito;

Dick "Pinhead" Manning passed away on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2003. He was my friend since second grade in St Leo's, through Myrtle & HIS. We kept in touch quite a bit through the years. We were each other's first date. It was in 1946 & we were in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I invited him to a Fashion show at the Meadowbrook in Cedar Grove where Stan Kenton 's Orchestra with the great June Christy were playing. Of course it was an afternoon affair. We took two buses to get there, On the way home, he treated me to dinner at a restaurant in downtown Newark. It was on Broad St. very close to Market St. We always kidded each other about "our date" in later years. We both grew up in the same neighborhood & he was always around Myrtle School. He was a terrific basketball player in high school & was a very loyal friend to all. At our 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion in 2000, he did our class a big favor by going to Irvington High School to get the high school banner for us to hang at our reunion. He had to wait for the band to return from a football game to get the banner and then had to go back to the high school another day, to return it. He is deeply missed by all his friends & the Class of 1950.

Thanks Vito.

Sincerely

Joan Jennings Santoriello

Vito:

It was good to finally meet you in Belmar- Happy to see you are doing well- - "We gotta hang in there" Check enclosed for future mailings, always a thrill to receive Newsletters.

As ever- Inge Ginter'46

Vito:

Thanks much for your wonderful Newsletter, My wife, Myra Witt , and I are 82. been married 60 years both grads of I. H. S. Myra has been teaching Dance for more years than we would like to remember and continues in our gated village of Winding Ways, Jackson.

We have a boy 56, girl 54, and a boy 46, 6 grandchildren and another great grand child on the way. Every one is quite successful and happy. Life has been good except for the usual aches and pains. You're a good man and we wish you the best.

Sincerely; Myra & George Lamm '39

Dear Vito;

Enclosed is my annual dues and I believe a little more. If it isn't, please let me know and I will send you whatever I owe. It was good seeing and talking to you at the Belmar Reunion. That was quite a large attendance,376. It was great seeing old friends and classmates. My wife was sick that day and could not make it. I married a class mate like many other people did, she was Anita Ott back in those days. I was hoping to see Billy Cregar at the reunion. I had heard he was not feeling well a while back.

Vito, keep up the good work, the Newsletters are just great. Stay well.

Robert Zitch'42

Dear Vito:

Sorry to hear about your recent illness, keep hanging in there. We're all rooting for your recovery. I understand the Reunion in Belmar was very successful , we hope to attend next year as my wife and I will be visiting some family and friends at that time of the year. Take care: Al Murray "47

Dear Vito: Thanks for all you do--- Stay well -- Regards --- Fred Raffa '50  
P.S. My cousin, Russ Raffa says "Hello"

Dear Vito :

Just read your Newsletter which I always find extremely interesting. Thought I would send you a check right away before I forget.

Glad you are feeling better. If we ever get our usual spring/ summer weather it will be better for all. The weather just came on TV and they indicate that this coming week doesn't sound to promising.

This winter was not too good for me either. I was scheduled for a total knee replacement in December but when I went for the pre-admission check the Doctor discovered three blocked arteries. They cancelled the knee operation and I was put in the hospital for blocked arteries They cleared all three, however they had to put two stints in. Then I had to wait five weeks before they could do the knee replacement. That was much longer and much more painful. I'm glad its all over.

Bernice my wife also graduated Irvington High school in 1945 and I graduated a year earlier. In fact we will celebrate our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

We wish you the best of health and a good summer!

Sincerely; Gene Schwedt'44

Vito>>>Gene I want you to know my motto concerning Doctors> Here it is, " a person is never sick until he goes to a Doctor" After his visit with the Doctor he, who went to the Doctor feeling fine is now sick mentally, he is not physically sick, he is mentally sick At our age a Doctor will always find something wrong with you. **THINK OF IT--- YOU ARE NEVER ILL UNTIL YOU GO TO A DOCTOR.**

Dear Vito,

Just received your June, 2003, Varsity "I" Club Newsletter. Your more recent letters are full of responses from Alumni and it is most welcome to hear how fellow classmates are doing . It is much easier for you to report "news" now that you are getting input from the field.

When I left I.H.S. I went to Duke University, then the Army, and back to Duke to graduate in 1949. Married a Duke coed, raised 4 children and spent 40 years in Marketing positions with Johnson & Johnson. I am now a retired widower.

I was saddened to read about the death of Al Oberman. He is one of the three great pitchers that I had the pleasure of playing for as a second baseman at I.H.S. Cal Eehalt, since passed away, was another and Dick Steffan was the third. I was Best Man for Dick – he married Betty Schleer (Gordan's sister). They live about 50 miles from me in Pennsylvania and we visit often. All three of us have been active with the I.H.S. Florida Reunion since it started in 1997. Saul Schwartz('44) has been very active "behind the scene " for these yearly events.

Good luck and keep up the good work on your letter.

Bob Lapp, '44

Dear Vito:

I was sorry to hear of your illness, Hope you are in the Batter's Circle again. I have never met you personally but I can tell by your writings that you are Tenacious in your belief in God, Family, Country and Friends! The backbone of this great Nation. I have enclosed my check. Keep running those bases and I can't wait for the next Newsletter.

Warm Regards, "Dixie" Sayles '52

Hi Vito:

Since I don't have e mail, I guess you can say I am out of step, and therefore I didn't know of your hospital stay until I got your Newsletter. I am glad that you are out and feeling better. I guess I will have to rely on your Newsletter to keep posted on what's going on – I always look forward to the next addition and thank you for your efforts and a job well done.

Take care; Ed Leibe '48

Hi Vito:

I sure miss the great Reunions we had, really enjoy the Newsletter, keep up the good work and keep swinging. --- Frank Bahlman  
P.S. my wife Lorraine Bougos Bahlman, class of 39 had a stroke last year, coming along very slow.

Dear Vito; From Ivy, Va. Learned of your illness in the most recent Newsletter. Hope you are feeling better keep up the good work. Check enclosed and you take it easy and stay healthy. Best regards; Frank Addonizio'40

Dear Vito: Sorry to hear of your illness. Hope everything is O. K.  
Sincerely, Al Cimirro'43

Hi Vito: Old age is catching up to me too. It's not fun living alone. I'm glad we have lots of sports to watch on T. V., without it, I would really go nuts. I enjoy reading your Newsletter. Stay well and god bless. Harvey Baudistel

Hi Vito:

Received your Newsletter #77 and was sorry to heard of your illness but was glad to hear of your recovery. I enjoy receiving News about Irvington and the friends I grew up with. I used to hang out at the Lilians Candy store. Next to the Liberty theatre. And your Sporting Goods Store. Our group belonged to the Irvington Senators, which was one of the sporting clubs around Irvington at that time. We fielded a Football, basketball and baseball teams and played games all over the area. We had such well known players among them were Lefy Marion, who I think was a All State pitcher when at Irvington High. The football games were played at Irvington Park and we used to pass the hat to help with the expenses. Vito >>> the county just received \$295,000.00 from the State to refurbish the Irvington Park, which was neglected for so many years. .Maybe that will make it usable again. There we many activities within our community. Gyms were open in the evenings, there was Ice skating in Irvington Park and Center Playground, and of course the sleigh riding on the Hills of Irvington. Those were the good old days, its sad to see what has happened to our Town, Irvington.

I think you and I are of the same class, mine was Jan. 1935, the winter graduation. Vito>>> Yes you are right, you and I were in the same class and I do recall you leaning against the building at Lilians Candy store. . . .

Les Weis

New Hope Pa.

Dear Vito; Enclosed is a Check for \$20.00 to help pay for your great Newsletter. I graduated in 1948 also my date of birth is 9/17/30 Vito, this was a tough six months for me physically. A six Heart by pass in November, and repaired my spine L 1,2,3,4,5, that was last week. The back problem was caused by two very bad aircraft crashes. In 1959 I took off from the aircraft carrier Boxer, as I passed the bow my engine failed, the aircraft flipped upside down with me in it. You have no idea of what a carrier sounds like as it sails over you.

Then in 1970 I was landing in the Jungles of Cambodia ( my 27 month tour of duty during the Vitnam war ) with a helicopter, at about 40 feet in the air, the V. C. shot me down. Tough on my back. I spent the next four days avoiding capture. So finally after all these years of Pain ( I just could not take it any more) I had, I hope my back taken care of, I'm full of medicine and pain pills, I am sorry for all the mistakes in this letter.

Bob Eitel

now- living in Carriere, Ms. 6/2/03

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Gene Malinowski	9/6/1939	John Walek	10/9/1927
Bill Pierson	9/13/1939	Joseph D'Urso	10/11/1932
Bob Eitel	9/17/1930	John Maddalena	10/11/1933
Richie Halperin	9/20/1933	John McGuckin	10/14/1934
Freeman Don	9/20/1927	Frank Gedrowicz	10/18/1908
Art Kull	9/21/1920	Tony Lauro	10/18/1940
Joe Feldman	9/25/1933	Henry Krutter	10/24/1926
Fa. Wayne Pavela	9/27/1951	John Bisset	10/24/1918
Jerry Chirichella	9/30/1931	Mickey Weiner	10/26/1908
Bob Duda	10/2/1922	John Muha	10/29/1931
Bill Mysko	10/6/1919	Roy Madsen	10/29/1930

**`We cannot wish you a HAPPY BIRTHDAY unless you send in your Birthday date into us.**