

NEWSLETTER #79

SEPT. 2003

**Hi folks;
8 /12/2003**

Letter mailed Sun morning 8/10/2003 rec.

Additional names of people who wish to receive the NEWSLETTER. Cliff Henderson: Pete Scuria; Ralph Bayard'42; Henry Benkert '46; Richard Calascibett '53; William Jayne '43; Hal Dorer '40; Robert Miller'35: Stan Wnek'38; John Mueller '54; Saul Donner'37; Richard Dobyns'42; Sol Lipkin '25; Ed Mc Grady '49; Anthony Sytko '47; Andrew Maybo '53; Lou Nickolopolus'48; Ernest Clemence'45; Robert Weisenbach; Ray Szymanski 49; Joe Gallagher'52; Ted Bosco '44; Elinor Schmalstich Newton Hamfeldt 39; Doris Olsen '43 Lawrence & Dorothy Gernert; Eleanor Romanchick'38. Paul Rugg, Leonard Maley; Joseph D'Urso'51; Calvin Stoeckel; Francis Scott'43; Vic Petriella'59; Leo Menkin '34; Harry Hill '48; George Hetz '46; Robert Schetelich'47; Myron Bortnicker; Ron Carolan'51; Fred Bromborsky'64; Don Blair ; Charles Reber '51; Harold Arnold '39; Mike Cefolo'58; Sandy Klurman'59; Bill Chesley'52; Ted Goldberg '57; Marty Klena '47; Fred Manual.

Do you recall any of the split session that you graduated in? Did you like it, was it enjoyable? Write me, we are a split session graduate also, I loved it.

If I have not mentioned your name in the last two Newsletters, it isn't the computer that made the mistake, it is me. I am a poor typist, using the peck and hunt system. It is better when I make errors, then you folks have something to write to me about.

I got a telephone call from Shirley Lipkin, I had difficulty hearing her, She was calling from New Hampshire. I sent her a copy of the June extra, I assumed she did not get it. As many of you may have known that Paul, her husband died. I believe she is trying to maintain both homes the one in Florida and the one in Amherst, New Hampshire.

Dr. Harry Donovan, Principal at Myrtle, Grove, Florence, and Chancellor in the Irvington school system passed away on June 19, 2003. Many of you folks had Harry as your Principal, while you were in the system. Harry was 86.

Buddy Hackett passed away. Many a movie or television star have passed away the last few months. Did you ever hear the story that Buddy used to tell about his wife giving birth to her child. It was the funniest thing I have ever heard.

Katherine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, Humphrey Bogart, Rita Hayward, Doris Day, William Powell, John Wayne, Plus Frank Sinatra. Robert & Loretta Young.

Who do you recall, recently Katherine Hepburn passed away and the News papers had wonderful remarks about her affair with Spencer Tracy.

Now Bob Hope has passed away, 1903 to 2003, 100 years of Memories, his theme song, " Thanks for the Memories ".

We lived in a wonderful age. Telephone Radio, Computers, Electricity, Household needs, Washing Machine, Dreyer, Refrigerator, Automobile, They can't make us any more comfortable. What other inventions can there be, This Computer is driving me nuts.

Marty Gallagher'30 passed away at age of 91. We called him Bud, Marty was a Captain in the Irvington Fire Dept. I always kidded Bud at our Reunions to the extent that it took him 8 years to get his diploma. I played football in College in 1937 with Bud. Bud always had Roadster Cars and in his early years, was always at the high school to pick up some Chick. Bud like his Roadsters and the girls did too. At the last Reunion, it was hotter than hell, he had to drive down in the open roaster, got there late, lost all semblance of the heat, had to be taken to the hospital, and finally got home. Sol Schwartz drove his car home, the hospital sent Bud home by Bus, and his wife had to pick him up at the Newark Terminal.

How many of you folks remember Joe Schilling, Joe as I always referred to him as my "Banker ". Joe, I believe was a Charta member of the Irvington Varsity Club, although he never went to IHS, living and working in Irvington for Peoples National Bank, no one worked harder for the kids of IHS than Joe. My friend Joe passed away on July 11th. 2003 at the age of 96. May he rest in Peace?

Do you folks recall, BUD ABBOTT the straight man on the Abbott and Costello team? I never realized that he came from Asbury Park; I did not connect that situation until I read an article about them in the Asbury Park Press recently.

Asbury Park is going through the same turmoil as Irvington, politically, losing its summer customers, therefore losing business and putting the entire load on the Homeowner in the form of high real estate Taxes. A few of the politicians have been found guilty and the people have been waiting for their punishment.

Enough of this morbid Obituary, we said that we did not wish to have our Newsletter to become a obituary column however we are all getting older and it must be reported to you.

We have sent notes to many of the folks that have made contributions for stamps to keep the Newsletter going. We wish to publicly thank Sandy Klurman '59 for his contribution. Sandy your donation will buy a lot of stamps and we wish to THANK YOU.

The following was sent to Monjo in turn she sent me an e-mail of the letter. Here it is. This is from Norma Isenburg, class of '49 and Marty's apartment was my apartment house & Kathleen Applebaum, Jackie Dobowitz, Elaine Teiger, Sondra Tenner, Joan Maracsna, Eileen Reilly, Irma Sumka, & Patsy Heath's also. Norma was a very brave gal going there. I swore I'd never go back after Janie Doerr & I went after our 40th reunion and I never will. That was 13 years ago. All the wonderful memories we have to keep in our hearts about our beloved " lost " Irvington. Joan.

I just had to write this to all my Irvington friends and share it with you. Background:

Each time I have returned to NJ for a vacation I have had the desire to return to my old neighborhood in hopes that there would be some nice closure to the " good old days " but have always been persuaded not to attempt it for a variety of reasons and from a variety of people. The primary reason always seemed to be that it wasn't safe but my kids also tried to convince me that I should keep the old memories intact. My son asked me what I thought I had to gain by going back and seeing how everything had changed and he was sure I would be depress, to say the least.

Well, needless to say, my curiosity got the best of me and I persuaded my husband to come with me on the “journey “. From everything he had heard he wasn’t very enthused but seemed to understand my feelings and agreed to go.

We entered Irvington at the Union side and it was very unsettling to drive through that part of town, as everything I had heard seemed to be true. I think one of the primary reasons for continuing was that I was afraid to make a u-turn, lol Once I got to Springfield Ave and saw a street sign for Myrtle Ave. my little heart started to jump and I figured that as soon as I saw St Leo’s I would be safe! I passed the church and continued on Myrtle all the way to 18th Ave.

Marty, I saw your apartment building and it looked exactly as it did when we were kids! There was a candy store on the same corner and the house I was born in, 321 Myrtle looked the same. My first disappointment was that a red brick school that was some sort of “University” had replaced Myrtle Jr. High but as I went around the corner the three circular rooms were still there!! I had gone to kindergarten when Myrtle was a grammar school and I remembered my classroom being right there. The schoolyard was exactly the same (except for the people playing there).

I decided that I had to see Vermont Ave. so I continued on my way. As I approached 228 Vermont Ave. I saw a police car parked and I decided to put caution into work and stopped and asked the policeman if he thought it would be safe to continue on and explained my journey. He said that as long as I didn’t stay until 7/8 o’clock it was ok. (by the way he was a white policeman, yes they still have some of them) He did tell me that the State Police help them patrol the neighborhood after 9 P.M. I proceeded to the house I was raised in and I pulled over to the curb as I saw a young couple going into the house. I got up enough nerve to ask if I could take a picture of the house and explained why. They told me that their grandmother lived there and she came to the door and asked me how long ago I had lived there. When I told it was about 68 years ago she just said, “ where do you live now” and I told her, Florida.

She said it was okay to take a picture and I did and we went on our way up 18th Ave. to Sanford Ave and saw my old church, Sanford Heights and rode around that area for a while then Jack decided it was enough for him and persuaded me to start home. The tears were running down my face at this point from a combination of happiness for going back, sadness for the years gone by and also for the people that were living in the area, as they seemed to be afraid of strangers as I was going there. They have tried to keep up their houses all around Vermont, Melrose, Wills Pl., University Pl., Delmar Pl.,etc. and it’s a shame that they cannot even fathom the joys that we had while living in the most wonderful little town in the world and the safest. I pray that, somehow, our town will be able to do a turn-around with the help of the good people that are living there and once again be a haven of joy as it was for us. .

Thanks for listening and sharing this with me. Love you all.

Norma Isenburg Weinzimer

Got a note from Florence Bortnicker wife of Mike Bortnicker, He recently celebrated his 80th birthday. His health is hampered by back and hip surgery. Mike has been elected to the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame and the Irvington Hall of Fame. He has accomplished a great deal as a successful leader in our Township of Havertown and our family is very proud of his accomplishments. I have been his wife of 57 years and we love him.

Signed Florence Bortnicker

Got this note from Vic Petriella: Sorry for the lateness of my “Dues”. Keep up the good work! We’ve been busy recently. My son Victor Jr (Providence College ’98) currently working for Kraft Foods in East Hanover, will be married Oct.18th We all looking forward to that. Additionally my father Michael will turn 90 on Aug. 16th on the feast of St. Rocco on the liturgical calendar; hence my father’s middle name is Rocco! The older generation was really devoted to the patron saints. Dad still lives in his own apartment and drives.

My daughter Mary Beth (Notre Dame '91 & Seton Hall Law '95 is living in Hoboken and working in NY City. I'm still practicing in South Orange – 3 days a week and teaching two days a week at New Jersey Dental School in Newark. No retirement in sight yet. Be well --- give my regards to Bill and Beverly. ----Vic.

From Janet Hill I received the following: Dear Vito: First of all Vite – it is my fault for not sending you the money for the Newsletter you send to us. I really forgot about it- so Harry got on my case right away. Please forgive me.

We all are well – Harry is playing a lot of golf. Our son Tom is getting ready for the football season. He has the second pre-season game at Giants Stadium. That is the 2nd week of August. I will send you his games as he gets them.

I hope you are feeling better, I know you have a lot of guys and gals praying for you because we all love you very much. Please take care of yourself.

Signed Janet & Harry

I got a little note from my old teammate Leo Menkin'34 still living in Hillside. Leo: there are not many of us left, Johnny Druze You, myself and of course our great Ass't Coach Mickey Weiner. Can you folks think of any others?

I got this note from Paul Rugg; I just received my mail and your reminder was the first piece of mail I opened I am sorry I didn't send the money sooner, and I will be more prompt in the future I am very happy to get your wonderful Newsletter. Vito> Paul you being one of the old timers, do you recall any of the gentlemen still alive who may have played football with us. Miele, Druze, Menkin, in the days of Ass't Coach Weiner. and Head Coach Bill Matthews.

Mark your Calendars and tell your classmate friends The 2004 Irvington All Class Reunion will be held at Doolans in Spring Lake on Friday, May 21, 2004. Elinor will send reservation request in February 2004. Doolans is located at 700 State Hwy. 71, Spring Lake N.J. 07762. Changes had to made because Doolans can provide accommodations for those wishing to stay overnight. When making reservation for overnight rooms, mention the Reunion for Special rates. We hope to see you all there. Get your reservations in fast, They had 375 in 2003, They moved because this place can hold more people. .

I don't understand this situation, I
 thought Rutgers had high
 educational standards. How come
 this kid Robinson was unable to
 get into Miami but can get into
 Rutgers. Is Rutgers educational
 Standards lower than Miami.?+

HAPPY BIRTHDAY**HAPPY BIRTHDAY****HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 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 |
| Art Kull | 9/21/1920 | Tony Lauro | 10/18/1940 |
| Joe Feldman | 9/25/1933 | Henry Krutter | 10/24/1926 |
| George Hetz | 9/25/1928 | John Bisset | 10/24/1918 |
| Fa. Wayne Pavela | 9/27/1951 | Mickey Weiner | 10/26/1908 |
| Jerry Chirichella | 9/30/1931 | John Muha | 10/29/1931 |
| Bob Duda | 10/2/1922 | Roy Madsen | 10/29/1930 |
| Bill Mysko | 10/6/1919 | Frank Gedrowicz | 10/18/1908 |

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