

NEWSLETTER # 82

JAN. FEB. 2004

HI FOLKS:

Another year has gone by and we are now in 2004. In my last letter, I asked you folks to write me of your experience, if any, over the holidays, I guess you have not had any or you are not interested, or you have forgotten how to write. The lesson taught by Gracie Brecht, Mrs Yerkes, and Lorraine Hyer have not borne fruit as yet; I guess they never will.

I wish to thank all those who have sent me personal Holiday Greetings for the Holidays. And again we thank you.

Cards, email, and letter were receive from the following Paul Rugg '34; John Druze '34; who want to send his regards to his old Coach, Mickey Weiner; Myrtle Hodapp '34 sent me Star Ledger pictures of the Oct. 1985 reunion, Janet McDonnell and Tillie Ryall catching up on old times during the Irvinton High class reunion. Keeping up with the music was Doris Wunderlich, Myrle Hodapp and Janis Hansbury, all old timers, from the class of '34 Myrtle expects to see me at our next Reunion in Spring Lake in 2004. The Lord willing, I'll be there. Bill Carbone '57; Richie Halperin'51 and his lovely wife Linda, Janet and Harry Hill '48; Did you see their son, Tom in the football officiating where the Referee Kukka was injured and it was necessary to revamp the lineup, with the Umpire taken over the Referee job, I taught perhaps it was Tommy Hills opportunity to take over, but it never happened the Umpire took over. Joan & Monty Santoriello'50 from Naples,Fl. we have many Irvingtonions now living in Naples. An old Friend Elsie Pennell, widow of John Pennell, who never misses sending a card every Holiday season. Joe Urban '38 from out in the sunny area Tucson, states that he is playing 3 to 4 times a week with a ll handicap and cannot get much lower, he does get some aches and pains but he's ok. Bob Miller moved from Pompano Beach to Delray Beach Fl. If you sent a card or email and I have not mentioned your name please forgive me. I may have misplaced it.

In as much as you have not written to me telling me of your experience over the Holidays, I guess I will have to tell you what has happened to me. As many of you folks know, Lil passed away Feb. 16, 1997, and I have not gotten over it yet. I now live alone and there are

many days that I feel blue about the situation because she was a wonderful wife, many times I thank the lord for joining us together. Lil. was a blind date for me? That's another story, I'll tell you at another time.

The Holidays were coming, I was feeling blue. So I said to myself what could I do. I recently got a postcard from the Townhouse in Pt. Pleasant which said, Join us for the Holidays ! Come for a Day, a week, a month, or longer. Short or long term stays are available. I called and decided that I would stay for the weekend. The weekend consisted of the Nov 29th and 30th. Two gorgeous days outside, but I was inside and never left the place for any outside activities. I checked in about 10:30 am and the women in charge gave me three keys on wire and she went on explaining, one was for the room #54, one in case I went out, to get back in. and one for the mail box #54 which were all available to me. All I was interested at the time was the key to the room, where it was located etc. When I got there, open the door and saw it was like a Motel room and was habitable but there was one thing lacking, a television, I asked the women who accompany me to the room and she said she would have one for me, within five minutes a man was there attaching the TV. On the table there were instruction for me. Breakfast was at 8 a.m.; Lunch was at 12.30; and dinner at 5:30 pm. I then took my shoes off, got comfortable on the bed and watched TV. Waiting for lunchtime.

At lunch time, I left a little early hoping to be introduced to some of the people, I was right, the women, introduced me to a man, Ed. Who seem to be the kingpin in the house. Ed introduced me to a few women, and off handily I asked Ed. What is the ratio of men and women in this place? He said about 6 to 1. I said, "Oh". We then went to lunch. I sat with Ed. and Ted. Who was hard of hearing. There is not much conversation that goes on with old people.

The meals are good, you can have all you want and after a few meals I saw that Ed. had double of everything. For some unknown reason he never finished what was on his plate would leave the table abruptly. I asked Ted what had happened, He said: "he does that often, don't worry." So I didn't.

Upon leaving the dining hall, I thought this would be a good time to try all my keys given to me as I was going to pass the mailboxes any way. I got to the mailboxes and there was the # 54 starring me in my face. I put the key in, turned it and the front door of the mailbox opened. It was stuffed with mail and newspapers I didn't want to disturb the whole box, so I wanted to see who had this box before me. I saw one letter, I pulled it out to look at the address and there it was, it startled me, it was addressed to Loraine Richardson, that was my deceased wife's name, her name was Lillian Loraine Richardson. She named our Twins, Barbara Lillian and Beverly Loraine, after her. This incident was scary, and frightening. I closed the door of the mailbox, took my keys and hustled to my room.

The next day when I would receive my daily call from California from my daughter Beverly I related the story about the mailbox. She

answered; “ See, Mommy was with you, she was going to make sure no one else was going to get you”.

That evening in bed, and dreaming of the situation, I cradled my left arm, because I be able to touch my arm to her head, suddenly I awoke and their was nothing there. It was there I concluded she had left me and soon I would be meeting her in heaven.

We got this email from Al Murray '47 Vito: if you are lacking some News for your Newsletter, I have some information on our sr. softball team that won the sr. softball team the winter national championship in Ft. Meyers in Nov. Let me know if you want me to foward the info. No Al, there is no need to forward the info. We are not interested in the team; we are interested in Al Murray. Are you still playing, at the approximate age of 74? How many hits did you get? Your classmates are interested in you not your team. ---Vito.

Got this letter from Richard Dobyns of Scotch Plains.

Dear Vito:

I'm a retired dentist who practiced for 47 years. I hate the word “practice. “ 27 years in Irvington, and 20 years in Springfield. I enjoyed the “Newsletter” immensely; it's really great. Marion and Bob Roberts told me about it, in fact paid my dues. We had a wonderful town and a fabulous high school, both of which have changed, unfortunately not for the better.

I guess IHS was better known for baseball than football. Doc Gantz was a magician in giving us a winning team every year. Still football was the most exciting sport, for me at least. At 140 lbs I was dedicated to spectator, but never missed a game. As to the ethic background I recall the announcer, at the start of the game, introducing the players over the microphone. “ At right half Henry Pribilowski, at left half Edward Syzmanski, at fullback John Kulikowski, and at quarterback, Tommy Smith.” That always brought a roar from the crowd. Let's not forget Anthony Rinaldi at center. I also recall the Irvington Sports Club playing on Sundays at Chancellor playground. Exciting games, I recall their quarterback, Dom Anticito, who I saw in a warm up throw the ball from one end zone to the other. He never played at IHS, I think he went to vocational school, Coach Matthews sure could have use him.

I have enjoyed going to our class reunions, and look forward to May 21st at Doolan's in Spring Lake. Thank goodness for Elinor and all of the others who make these things possible. All the best, Richard W. Dobyns (Dick) '42

Dear Vito:

My cousin forwarded your newsletter to me. I really enjoy reading about Irvington. However, most of the people you mention are a little older than me and I keep hoping I will see a familiar name. I was born and lived in Irvington until 1948 when I moved to AZ. My Grandfather was Leonard Setaro. Who was Public Safety Director

of Irvington in the late 1920's. He died before I was born so I never got a chance to know him, but heard many nice things about him. Perhaps there is someone out there that could enlighten me and pass any information of the Setaro family? I would appreciate it very much.

I have been trying to locate my neighbor from Irvington and have not success. Hear again maybe some one knows information that would be helpful to me in trying to locate her. Her name was Laverne Murphy and she lived on Myrtle Ave with her Grandfather and Grandmother. They owned Fuchs Bakery next to the Castle Theater. She went to Irvington High School in 1945-46? I had moved to AZ and the last I have heard from Laverne that she moved to Fl. and her fiancé Tony was killed in an auto accident. I have tried the internet but don't know if she ever married or what happened to her. I lost all paper work that I had. I left AZ to return to Irvington for my brother's funeral. Arthur Setara Jr. was the first person killed in Korea from Irvington and never returned to AZ. I would sure like to hear from anyone.

Irvington had a lot of good memories as well as bad memories. I visited Irvington several years ago and the house on Smith St. is still there but I didn't recognize it. We also lived above Joe's Tavern on Myrtle Ave. That was the last place I lived before going to AZ

Thank you

Love Setara Riker

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

Don Blair Fl. Henry Berkert'46; Fl.; Bob Blake'42; ? Bill Boyland'43; NJ; Don Burger '37; Ark.; Ernest Clemence '45; Ca.; John Druze '34 Az. Michey Weiner '26; NJ; Frank Addonizzio'40; Vi. Bernie Adlair '55; NJ. ; Frank Balhman'43 N J.; Fred Arnold'34; NC.; Henry Arnold '39; Ga.

Do you know these men, Were they classmates of yours, How many do you know?. I will put out many men as possible in future letters to get your brain working, at your age maybe you will start writing again. Don't forget move this letter in front of your spouse's eyes. Maybe you can jointly write me.

No! we have not forgotten our wonderful Town of Irvington, pages 5&6 have headlines of Irvington, from the Irvington Herald, Star Ledger, and Asbury Park Press. If you have any comments concerning this Newsletter, please send them in. How many went to Mt Vernon School? it's going to have a different look. Give them a chance, the football team is coming back. The basketball team has come back and the girls teams are all picking up. If the police dept. can get rid of the gangs maybe it will become a safe place to live.

VITO.