

NEWSLETTER #83

MAR. APR. 2004

Hi folks:

Your newsletter keeps asking for news from its readers, so I guess I should contribute though most of what is going on with me here in California you already know from our daily talks, but let me bring thing up to date from the San Francisco Bay Area. Today the weather is just beautiful. The sun is shinning brightly and it is hard to believe that it is Jan. 22 as I type this. We had rain in November, turkey day was wet, and heavy rain at Santa time, but January has been dry. A bit chilly in the early part of the month, high 30s at night, but the last few days have been just great. Upper 60's which is fine with me as you know I HATE rain. In fact, I just spent some time watering the plants in my front entrance and I wonder if I should be thinking of putting my sprinkler system back on. Hope I am not upsetting some of my fellow former Irvingtonians who still reside in the Northeast or snow territory. California, like Irvington, has been wild lately when it comes to politics. I love the articles you provide with the pictures of my hometown officials but I do not think any of their shenanigans can top what California has gone thru the last few months We took the cake, I believe, with a recall election. We have the TERMINATOR in charge now and so far the budget mess has not changed. In fact, Arnold has a measure on the March ballot to borrow 15 billion dollars to get us through this next year with education, health care and human services taking a strong hit again. My school position seems less secure than ever, who knows what next fall will bring for me. Maybe. retirement.

Closer to home, there was a Mayoral election in San Francisco, also in November, with a run off in December and the flamboyant Willie Brown is no longer the Mayor. Term limits prevented him from running again. I hope the new guy can help the homeless problem and continue the beautification of the glorious City by the Bay.

This week's announcement of the trial of Scott Peterson being moved from Modesto to closer to the Bay Area, San Mateo County, has put us on the map again. I assume the death of this woman and her unborn son, makes the East coast news too. Like we hear of the Martha Stewart and that NJ basketball player trials. The Peterson trial will be in Redwood City near where my friend Marilyn lives. Remember you and I and Mommy had dinner with her and her husband at her home one time when you were visiting. I have not called her to kid her about maybe being on that jury, cause I know how ugly that could be. I just got called for jury duty and it was for a homicide case and the judge excused me cause I could not leave my job for 5 weeks. I do not know how they can fell this jury when it may be 6 months. Time will tell.

Guess that is about it for now. Need to take Buddha for a walk, will talk to you tomorrow and I hope this helps fill up the pages of your next edition.

Love ya'

Beve

Vito,

I thought you could use some of this for your newsletter.

Charlie Cocuzza is a 1958 graduate of Irvington HS. He played quarterback for the Camper football team. He was appointed Kean University Head Football Coach and coached the 2003 team.

After spending 27 years as a passenger, Charlie Cocuzza finally gets his turn to drive the bus. That's the way Cocuzza explains his decision to take the head coaching job at Kean after 27 years as a Montclair State assistant, most of them as the offensive coordinator. "The time was right," said Cocuzza, 62, who last was a head coach at Cresskill High in 1975. "I think I finally wanted to drive my own bus. Not that Rick (Giancola, the head coach at Montclair State) never gave me a chance. That wasn't the case. You finally get a chance in life to see if you can do the things you want to do. Drive your own bus."

Cocuzza was part of the Montclair State program for so long, he started there under Montclair State legend Fred Hill, who has been the Rutgers baseball coach since 1984.

As the offensive coordinator, Cocuzza helped Montclair compile a 192-82-6 record, win 10 NJAC titles and make seven NCAA Division 3 playoff appearances. He coached eight of the school's top 10 passers, including Walter Briggs, Ed Collins, and Mark Casale.

One former quarterback who played under Cocuaaz, Tommy Maddox of the Pittsburgh Steelers, believes the new Kean coach will make a fine "bus driver." Cocuzza was the offensive coordinator of the New Jersey Red Dogs of the Arena Football League in 2000 when Maddox was there.

"We worked together a lot on my throwing," Maddox said by phone from Steelers training camp. "We had a great relationship. He's a fun guy to be around. I think he'll do a good job as a head coach because he's so knowledgeable and he has a great way of talking about the game that's easy to understand. That's important when you're talking about coaching college kids."

: Thank you; Charlie Cocuzza

Dear Vito:

Thanks so much for your wonderful letter. Linda {class of '55} and I are spending the winter in Boynton Beach, Florida and reading it made us feel connected to friends from our past. We will be attending the Reunion in Naples and in Belmar and look forward to these events. Thanks for including some good news from Irvington in your most recent Newsletter. Keep up the good work, with your great computer skills that keep getting better all the time.

I wanted to relate a story about Doc Gantz, my uncle Jimmy Halperin {class of '37 and me. This is a story that almost traumatized my athletic career for life. Jimmy was a tall, strapping handsome left handed pitcher who earned a scholarship to Georgetown University and became a "Bonus Baby" for the Yankees. Unfortunately, due to a rotary cuff injury, Jimmy was unable to pursue his dream of playing major league ball.

I was in the class of '51, and when Doc Gantz saw the name Halperin for the freshman class tryouts, he was excited to meet me. Through a classmate he asked for me to see him privately in his office in the gym. I went to the gym, knocked on his door, and he told me to come in. As I stood there at 5 ft. 2 inches, weighting 110 pounds, he asked what I wanted. I said, "My name is Richie Halperin and I was told that you wanted to see me" At this point, he looked me up and down expecting

to see another Jimmy, and said, “What in the hell happened to you?” I responded, “I don’t know what you mean?” He asked, aren’t you related to Jimmy Halperin?” I proudly answered, “Yes he is my Uncle” Doc replied, well he was 6’3” and weighed almost 180 pounds. His look of disappointment made me assume that my baseball career was finished before it began. Fortunately, Stan Wnek liked me and allowed me to play on the JV team and later on the Varsity team. I looked like a Little Leaguer and didn’t get to play too much.

For those that me be interested, I finally grew up to 5 foot 10 inches and at 20 years old I played Army baseball. I later enjoyed many successful years of fast and slow pitch softball. After 50 years, I am over my trauma.

Looking forward to seeing you in Belmar...be well. { the affair moved to Doolin’s Spring Lake Heights because of the crowd} .

Richie Halperin, Class of ’51.

Dear Vito:

Fred G. Arnold is now at Glenbridge Nursing Home Center. At times he is quite clear and does enjoy hearing about Irvington thru the Newsletter. He recalls being in Miss Trempers homeroom ---all boys In fact if, he said, “ a girl started to come in, she was told there was no room for her”. He recalls when he went to High School there was no school buses. (we here in the mountains have them) This meant walking and few chances of someone giving you a ride, no matter what the weather.

Thank you Vito ---Frances Haussling Arnold “36 Vito---My thanks to Dot Hecht”46 for sharing the information she may have concerning the Setaro Riker family, the email address was sent to her.

Dear Vito:

Reference subject Newsletter. Can I impose on you to send me the E-Mail address of the member of the Setaro family who wrote the article on page 3 of letter #82. My Godfather was Frank Setaro who lived on Smith St. He had two daughters, the oldest was Doris. Doris was the steady girlfriend of Norm Jacobus . Norm was a good athlete, was in the class of ’40. They were together when some riff-raff attacked them after a Weequach HS basketball game. Norm was struck in the head by a rock and passed away. The fracas was about the hoodlums using foul language in the presence of Doris Setaaro. My father and Frank Setaro served in France during WW1, with the 113<sup>th</sup> Reg. Of the 29<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Frank ;later ran his own milk route(Knorr’s Milk) until the tragic death, soon followed by his wife’s tragic death. The Setaros were a great Irvington family.

I’d appreciate that email or street address and I will contact the writer ( the information requested was sent to him by me – Vito) By the way, the Lorraine Richardson you mentioned was my cousin Harold’s wife, she now lives in Meyerstown, Pa. with her son. It really is conincidental that your wife was Lillian Lorraine Riehardson. Was there a connection - No, Yes my wife was from Irvington, she lived on 38<sup>th</sup> st. Note, we got married in Oct, ’40, when you graduated IHS. Best of health and happiness, Vito. Bob Wiesenbach ’40...#322

### Where Are They Now?

Bernard Adler ’55; Greg Albano ’65; Seguda Armas ’59; Ted Baryenski’48; Bob Basch ’51; Ed Baureis ’47; Bill Carbone ’57; Jack Charette’51; Alfred Cimirro ’43; Ernest Clemence ’45; Harry Coleman ’39; Gene Cullen ’53; Frank Cushion ; Don DeBenedett- Coach; John Dolinaj ’54; August Ernesto ’60; Kenny Giessuebel ’51; Peter Gillece ’50; David Goode ’65; Carl Gordan ’70.

Do you know any of the above Gentlemen? Why not give them a call.

Got this note from Don Freeman'45 of Sussex N. J.:

You have mentioned this young fellow on several occasion in your Newsletters, I thought you might enjoy reading this. What Don has sent me, was a write up, HILL AT HOME IN SCIL GYMS OR NFL STADIUMS by David Lumbach Herald Sports Writer, Officiating a Sussex County Interscholastic League boys high School basketball game can be fun and requires little preparation before hand.

Officiating in the NFL is a unique situation that can involve more scrutiny than that of a presidential candidate. Tom Hill does both, no; the 50-year-old teacher from Mount Olive high school isn't running for the post of Commander in chief.

He is an NFL official who happens to enjoy being in the middle of SCIL games during the week This is a wonderful article, if you can get it, it shows what NFL officials go through to get there.

The reason I write about Tom Hill is because he is the son of Harry'48 and Janet Hill'48, both graduates of Irvington H. S. By the way, Harry also was a good football, baseball player and football official, and now a good golfer, Like Father, like Son. A good athlete all around.

Do you have any sons, grandsons, daughters, grand daughters or any relative that is worthy of the mention in our Newsletter? Please send in the information..

Dear Vito:

Sorry, my printer is on the " fritz " so I have to write this in long hand! I used to collect and print letters for the 25 years club of my former employer and I know how frustrating it when everyone ask, for news, but no one writes.

I remember well the news that Richard Dobyns wrote about in his last letter. Hank Pryblowski, Ed Syzmanski and John Kulikowski in the backfield for IHS and Tommy Smith at quarterback. The Newark News called them "the flying ski's." It was a great team and I believe played the first night under improvised lights at IHS, beating Belleville 31- 0 but Garfield won the State Championship that year. They beat us 14-12 when All Stater Benny Babula ran 60 yds for a T D after Tommy Smith {I think he played defense too) threw a block on him but couldn't take him down.

I received a book full of pictures of old time Irvington. It really brought back memories. There was one picture of the cheerleaders from my era(1937 to 1940). It was a picture of Betty Clemens, Beverly Neander, Eleanor Kurfess, a red head name Ruth ( I can't remember her last name). John Venturi and others. There were pictures of the Principal and Vice Principal Mr Haerter and Chamberlain, Doc Gantz, and Bill Matthews. Great Memories.

I am currently a snow-bird in Ormand Beach Fl. enjoying the warm sunshine. I used to enjoy skiing up north in the winter but I am certainly glad to be away from all that cold weather, now. I hope you keep nice and warm up there and have good health all through 2004. Keep the Irvington News coming

Thanks for your efforts;  
Hal Dorer'40

Phil Schectman , who was Principal of Irvington High passed away on Thurs. Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> . How many of you folks had Phil as a teacher or Principal? Another good educator bit the dust.

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

**Bob Lapp**            **3/18/1927**  
**William Cordes**    **3/11/1925**  
**Richard Tarowicz** **3/19/1933**  
**Bob Dickie**        **3/2/1937**  
**Jim Panos**         **3/9/1933**  
**Bob Dickie**        **3/2/1937**  
**Louis Nickolopoulos** **4/4/1930**

**Ed Liebe**            **4/5/1930**  
**Terence King**     **4/6/1955**  
**Bob Steele**        **4/12**  
**George Addonizio** **4/24/1933**  
**Bob Knoth**         **4/28/1920**  
**Bill Carbone**     **4/29/1939**

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

**DID ANYONE IN OUR GROUP LIVE AT THE ADDRESS OR SURROUNDING ADDRESS 14, 16,18 22<sup>ND</sup>. ST. THIS IS WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA.**