

NEWSLETTER # 84

MAR - APR. 2004

HI FOLKS:

I have asked you to send me information about your family and you have responded well. I am able to decipher email however it is hard to decipher some of the hand written letters that I have received. The letter from Saul Donner, states that the previous letter, #83 was both informative and brought back fond memories. You also told me that you have a granddaughter who received a scholarship to John Hopkins University in Baltimore. You also state that you have a brother in Harvard Medical School—they have his brain in a jar of formaldehyde. (I do not know if you are kidding or what). You then ask who is running the Reunion and other questions about your son, which I could not fathom. I sent you a letter on Feb.21st telling you to contact Elinor Schmalstick of 1559 Barton Rd. Union N.J. 07083 if you wish to attend. I expect to see you there, I'm going, it's a reunion of all classes, last year they had 365 people, get your reservation in quick. Next time you write me, write legibly. Now who is kidding whom?

Dear Vito

Enjoy your newsletters very much. I moved with wife and four kids to Orlando Fl. in 1968. I've been retired for eleven years after spending 25 years at Lockheed Martin as a financial systems computer designer. I have two sons and a daughter who live in Orlando and a daughter who lives in Rockville Maryland. The Orlando clan has provided us with three grandchildren, ages 9,7,and 3. Last year I attended both the Florida and Kentucky Derby's and will attend again this year. Also attended a Word Series game (the last win of the season for the Yankees) and a Tampa Bay Bucks game. Vito, I played many touch football games on Prospect Street, between Stuyvesant Ave. and Durand place. In the winter we would sleigh ride down the Prospect St. hill (small as it was, but there always was a gang there). I mention this because I believe from reading your newsletters you lived right there. I was born and raised on Styyvesant Ave. between Chancellor Ave. and Prospect St. I was a neighbor of your Nephew Andy Miele who by the way was a helliva football player for IHS. I visited your store many times on Springfield Ave. Want to wish you continue good health
Ken Giessuebel - Class of 51

PS - A little known fact from our hometown: The Olympic Park Carousel has been behind Cinderella's Castle At Walt Disney World since it's opening in 1970. Disney added 30 horses making 90 in total to the Carousel. Just hearing the organ music brings back many memories.

Hi Vito:

I received my Newsletter and I don't remember if I gave you my birth date 11/12/20 Graduate in the class of 1939. I enjoy the Newsletter very much my only link to those happy Irvington High days. I miss corresponding with Lorine Hyer. I have been in touch with her for over 15 years. Since she has passed on I think of her often. She was my home room teacher and english literature. I ride through Irvington every now and then, it's not what it used to be the whole area has changed, no more Olympic Park that is where I met my wife 1940, she went to Barringer. I worked three summers at Olympic Park, at the wheel of chance stand. We were allowed to use the pool up to 12 noons. I remember seeing Johnny

Weissmuller there; He also used to see the people at the bakery at Irvington Center next to the Castle Theatre.

I lived on Stewart Ave. two blocks away was the Tri City Stadium, Motorcycle Races, Boxing, Baseball, Rodeos, We kids had a lot of fun, we always had something to do.

Vito- I wonder if Myrtle Hodapp is related to Art Hodapp, who, I worked with in the Union N.J. Post Office. I retired from the Post Office job about 18 Years ago at the age of 65. I am 83 will be 84 in November. Thank you again for putting out the Newsletter.

Nick Forentino

Hi Vito;

Reference to your last Newsletter requesting information on Grandsons and Son in Law. Perhaps you can mention the following. My son in law is Howie Long, Hall of Famer, Ex LA Raiders and current Fox TV analyst. (I watch every Sunday on Channel 5)

His Son, my grandson, Christopher Long (article attached) has been recruited by University of Virginia. He was also selected to All American Army Team. The article states " Long would be #1 if it weren't for the competition," said Farrell, who is national recruiting analyst for Rivals, ESPN and writes a weekly recruiting column for The Progress. " However, it's no stretch to say that Chris could be the best player the state produces out of this class.

" He has a non-stop motor, a nasty streak and quickness and not often found in players at this level. Long takes angles well on defense and is excellent in pursuit. On offense he is a pure drive blocker in the run game and has excellent footwork in pass protection," Farrell said.

My three grandsons Kyle, Howe, and Chris are also proficient in Baseball, Football and Basketball.

The article by Hal Dorer mentions "The Flying Skis " brought back memories. I was a member of the team with Bill Cherney, Hal Hornish, Paul Rinaldi, and Hap Arnold. We lost that game as a result of holding penalty on a touchdown scored at the end of the game, that was called back.

I have to mention George Addonizio who was a member of the great Baseball teams of Irvington. Our home in Irvington was at Stockman place between Myrtle and Munn Ave, right next to Vailsburg Park, It sure was a beautiful town.

Keep up the good work. Frank Addonizio

Thank you for writing a legible letter. -- Vito

Hi Vito:

When I received your latest Newsletter (it was great), I was surprised to see my name among " Where Are They Now " Well I am alive and still kicking. Wrenny (Lorraine Birgy, class of '51) and I moved from Irvington to East Brunswick in 1970 and were still here. Wrenny, my high school sweetheart and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in April, 2003. We have four great kids and 8 even greater grandkids. After 30 years with Engelhard Industries, I retired in 1985 and have been enjoying my retirement with family and grandkids.

Can't wait to see everyone at Doolin's Spring Lake Heights this year. Keep up the good work sending all of us the varsity Newsletter.

Signed Jack Charette Class of '51

Hi Vito:

I am expecting my 17th grandchild at the tender age of 80 years. My 4th daughters child is expected in April.

As to Norm (Jake) Jacobus was one of my best friends was 4 F, in WW2, with a bad heart He Coached the St. Leo's CYO team, and they play St. Columbus team in

Newark off Clinton Ave. A Riot started and someone banged his head against the wall, 2 days later he went into a coma and passed on.

“CORRECTION’ Sent in by BOB Neigel as to what Hal Dorer said in his letter. The first night game between Belleville and Irvington was in 1937. That team included, ends Joe Giacona, and Art Lemke, Tackle, Sneize Kyceski and Bill McGrady, Guards Tony Cataldo and Stan Wnek , Center Joe Drum ; QB J Eglinton, HB Frankie Hiller and Edger Nevish; HB Lodge Mysko; FB John Bissett. This team was IHS best 8- 1 Irvington 31 – 0 in the Bellville game.

Signed Bob Neigel ‘40

All those folks wishing to go to the Reunion (all classes) must get your forms in immediately Friday, May 21, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Doolans, Spring Lake, N. J. Cost - \$20.00 If you have not received forms contact Mel Renick 732-926-1963 or Elinor Schmalstich 908-686-2343.

How many of you have been keeping up with the IHS athletic teams, the football team was the best they have had in a long time, they got into the playoffs but lost their only game to Union. The basketball team also was quite impressive, they got into the State tournament but lost to Westfield in the first game in the group 4 championship.

All in all, the youngsters did well under their new Coaches, Alumnus of Irvington. Eugene Robinson, basketball. Let’s keep rooting for them and who knows they may win the Championship some day. The Blue Knights gave Seton Hall Prep fits in the Essex County tourney semi finals, losing by five points. The IHS girls hoops aim for good run in the state tournament. We wish all IHS athletic teams success in all their State endeavors.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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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.

SCHOOL REPORT CARD. The Star Ledger has published a report by John Mooney. I will give you some excerpts of the report and how it pertains to Irvington.

If one could draw from the stare’s annual School Report Card for 2002-3, N. J. might have brought a B, and a warning of caution from the teacher. Classes are shrinking (20 students) the school day’s expanding 6 hours, 31 minutes, and virtually every school is wired (95.3 percent connected to the internet).

High schools have more students taking the SAT’s (76 %) and scoring well (1018 combined), more students are enrolling in advanced classes (15%) and more are going to college (80%).

In all schools N. J. teachers among the country’s best paid (\$50,002 average salary) most educated (47 % with advanced degrees). Yet overall student performance on the states test remains stagnant, if not slipping and the so-called “ achievement gap” between different races and incomes is only widening in many areas.

No matter the wealth of a community as a whole, the passing rates for black or Hispanic student were 10% to 20 % worse than those of white students.

State education commissioner William Librera addressed that achievement gap during the release of the report card data in Trenton.

Overall we continue to have a state that has its students achieve at among the highest level in the county, ”he said “Regrettably, we have the same stubborn and pernicious pattern around the differences between achievement levels of kids of race and color ...I think we have a lot to do in that area.”

As the spotlight--- make that a klieg light --- brightens on N. J. public schools, the state’s 13th annual report card provides even more data to an information rich debate in every community. How good are the schools?

There are the annual figures in spending, class size, computer use and much more. This year, the state has expanded test results to include breakdowns to include race and income. These results have been available in the past but they now can be readily accessed online and carry a much greater stake for the schools themselves.

Under new mandates of the federal No Child Left behind Act, all students by 02013 must pass the state’s achievement test. On their way there, schools each year must meet required levels of student performances for every category of student.

Just two years into the law, more than 1,000 N.J. schools are falling short in one area or another. For all of attention to money and achievement, the report finds that the tie between the two is tenuous at best. That is not to settle the argument that money doesn’t buy a better education, especially at a time when the State Supreme Court’s Abbott vs. Burke mandate requires vast new spending in the state’s urban districts.

But the Abbott districts levels of achievement remain stubbornly low and overall the data continue to reinforce the truism that family wealth remains far better predictor of achievement than school spending.

Elsewhere in the report card, N.J. experiment with the charter schools is still an incomplete picture. Some of the 50 independent public schools in the communities are among the best in the communities in terms of achievement. Some are among the worst.

One consistent pattern, the charters all do it for a lot less money.

If the ultimate goal of schools is to help prepare students for college and beyond, N.J. also can take pride in the rising share of students continuing their education either in two or four year schools. High schools are doing a better job spreading the word, educators say, especially with community colleges as increasing viable option.

But school performances carries well beyond just the numbers, with students and parents saying their own school report card would include the dedication and challenge of teachers, the comfort and safety of the school, even the amiability of the principal.

Now how does Irvington stand in this process?

Irvington is noted as one of the poorer folks in the State along with East Orange, Newark, and Orange in Essex County. The average cost for all things are higher in Irvington than the County or State average. Including faculty and administrator salary (the poor teacher).

I am going to let you be the judge as to whether the Irvington schools are taking care of their children.

We are going to take a trip to Irvington:

I recently got an email from Norma Isenburg entitled Memories it was sent to me by Joan & Alex Santoriello. Norma in her email describes her visit to Irvington, its trepidations and what she found. This past February I did likewise. I thought I would kill two birds with one stone. I, as I told you folks in previous letters, wish to visit my wife's grave at least once a year, as I am also getting on in years (I'll be 88 this coming July) I can't drive from Lavallette to East Orange safely by myself so I had help from my Granddaughter Jennifer who picked me up and took me to the cemetery. As I said I would kill to birds with one stone. I would get a ride to the cemetery and ride through Irvington.

After getting to the cemetery where I planted some flowers I said to my Granddaughter. Lets now go home through Irvington. We went over Grove St. We passed Pabst brewery, the windows are all broken, and it looks like the war zone in Iraq, that we see on TV, I related to my Granddaughter that the buildings were going to be ripped down and it would give the town more ratable. We passed 18th Ave and the two or four family house had its windows all boarded up. We passed the Church and Grove St School, but there was no activity there. Going over Grove St. we passed Berkeley Terrace School and then the high rise Berkeley Apts. I pointed out to my granddaughter that years back, there was a Baseball field on that site and on Sun. morning, huge crowds would assemble to see the baseball games.

We finally got to Springfield Ave., driving towards the center, we passed the old Elks building, Frank Daily's Coronet and now it is a Clothing store. We passed the Bus Station, which was under repairs, and finally sold to P.S. by the town. Coming to the heart of the Center, all the stores are different, and with the double-parking, traffic is worse. I was not able to see or find the building where my business once was. We then rode up to Stuyvesant Ave. On the way pointing out the Post office, the Municipal Building, The High School all off Civic Square.

Turning left onto Stuyvesant Ave, crossing Lyons Ave we got to Prospect Ave where we turned right heading for our old house 67 Prospect Ave, on the corner of Durand Pl. No one was around so we continued around the block and showed Jennifer Grandmas house on 38th St. We proceeded over 40th St. pointed out where the Scharfe's lived and across the street Olympic Park. We went over to Hollywood Cemetery where Grandma and Grandpa were buried said our little prayer and left. Going over Stuyvesant Ave, I pointed out to Jennifer some of the old stores are still there, Union has tried to maintain their Center with all its obstacles. We proceeded across Morris Ave and then we found a nice restaurant called Cioffi's and we had a nice meal. After the meal we headed home on the Parkway, it's entrance nearby in Union.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Rudy Ostermueller
Jeanne Wood
Rolf Augenstein
Don Blair
Robert Bonnet
Bob Blake

Ted Bosco'44
Anthony Bracciofore'62
Robert Browne
Lou Buckowicz
Don Burger

I cannot mention your name unless you write me, I hope you don't expect me to fabricate your news. --- VITO

We must say Goodbye to two of our old friends, Loretta Young , who passed away in Feb. and Bob Dickie'54 who passed away on March 5th May they rest in Peace.