

NEWSLETTER # 87

SEPT. OCT 2004

HI FOLKS:

WHAT A MISTAKE WE MADE. in our last issue of our Newsletter #86 we in our last paragraph asked you to send in your donation as you usually do. We then went on to say, that I would take care of those that did not. My mistake was that we cannot pay for the 75% of the people that did not send in or could not afford the Newsletter. Here is my error, only 25% of the folks who receive the Newsletter, replied by sending in checks and money for stamps, 75% did not send in their donation. To those of you who have sent in checks, we thank you and some for your generosity. To those of you who have failed to send in your donation (you know who you are and I know who you are), we cannot keep sending you the Newsletter, not 75% but we thought 5 or 6 we could take care of you. Remember when you were going to IHS if you were absent the day before you had to bring a note from your Mom (the note usually lied about your illness). So will you please send check, or lie about your excuse. **THANK YOU.**

I got a note from Sol Schwartz'44 There is a family in Toms River that has produced three great athletes, Baseball Football etc and their roots go back to Irvington. These young men are part of the Frazier family. One is now in Professional Baseball. The other is in College and the third youngster is still in High /School. The Asbury Park Press is running Newspaper articles as to where the younger brother will matriculate. He has many scouts after him. These young men our part of the Fred Datke'42 family. This information was given to Sol Schwartz, by Fred's brother, Jack Datke'47. Unbeknown to us, Vito, we have followed these boys for many years when they brought the Little League Championship to Toms River East. We were not aware, they were related to the Datke family, of Irvington High School fame.

Here is information perhaps you can pass along to the Brothers Datke, Jeff Frazier will likely miss the rest of his rookie season, with a broken forearm. A strong debut season in professional baseball for Jeff Frasier, the former Toms River High School South and Rutgers star was cut short on Friday night.

The outfielder for Oneonta who was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in June , broke his forearm when he was hit by the a pitch against the Tri City Valley Cats; A Houston Astros affiliate that features former Christian Brothers Academy catcher Lou Santangelo and former Manasquan star Lance Koenig.

Baseball is big in the Monmouth and Ocean Counties, similar to Irvington in the 30's and 40's but the competition is stronger here. There are more schools with good pitching whereas we had just Bloomfield, Belleville and Montclair to worry about. Old Doc Gantz used to schedule New York City Schools for competition. More kids go to College on Scholarship and reach the big leagues in this area. Maybe it is the times, maybe it is the area, I don't know. They are considering building 10 new ball fields in this area. That would take the whole Town of

Irvington. Al Leiter former Yankee, now a Mets star is a product of the Monmouth Ocean baseball program.

I receive many things in the mail, and since I subscribe to three papers a day and read them all, we occasional miss some thing of interest to our group. We missed the story below, it was picked up by Hal Dorer'40 in the Star Ledger and I wish to extend my thanks to Hal for sending it to me. The article written by Fran Wood is self explanatory and whether she is an Alumnus or not we wish to thank her.

We received another letter from Bob "Dixie" Sayle'53

Dear Vito: I received your "Extra" Newsletter on St. George Island, Fl. At that time Bill and Sally Chesley (good friends of mine from Irvington) were visiting. We all were distraught with the headline " Decaying in Irvington" I guess we should be immune to these types of headlines since we all know what has transpired in our town over the years.

However, it was refreshing to read the e mail from Joan Jenning Santoriello. She brought back names too long forgotten.

I grew up above the terraces on the east side of Grove St. Some of the Sport Clubs in that area were the Red Wings, Apaches, Meteors, Cyclones, and the Pygmies.

Most of these clubs, along with others from various areas, participated in the Town's Municipal baseball league, which was really a farm club of "Doc" Gantz. He used to attend the games to scout talent. Along with baseball, there was the Basketball Municipal League comprised of clubs such as in baseball.

We went to Saturday matinees at the West end (16th ave Nwk), Astor (Springfield Ave. Nwk), Castle, Liberty. and Sanford.

We played stickball with a tennis ball and a light softball bat against the walls of Berkeley Ter. School. We played basketball on its outside courts.

We played a game called " Caddy " on the streets. Do you remember this game, Vito? It was played with a sawed-off broomstick and a 5" piece of stick pointed on both ends.

We played touch football on the streets, using telephone poles as goal lines, curbs as sidelines and parked cars as designed spots to cut on our passing plays. Life is good!

Your newsletter has become a conduit for our memories, not only for former athletes, but for all who want to remember the way we were.

Keep carrying the torch, Vito Warmest regards; Bob "Dixie " Sayle

Letter from Bill Koenig 11.

Dear Vito: Enclosed is a check for your Newsletter. We enjoy it so very much and say a prayer for your health and strength to continue it.

For now we are sending you the enclosed paper from the Knights of Columbus – St. Joan of Arc Council 11317 . About our life in Florida and past days and years in "Our Perfect Town" as we remember it. Bill and I are '50 grads and we have been married almost 52 years come 10/5/04, god willing. We have 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Will write more soon. Wishing you days filled with happiness! Sincerely Renee and Bill Koenig Jr.
P.S. Bill's birthday is Sept. 1 st. 1932

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH FOR MAY 2004

Our candidate for Knight of May has been a Knight in our Council 11317 for 4 years.

He is a baker and Chef from New York who retired and moved to Spring Hill, only to open and operate another bakery for a few years, sell it and retire again.

He and his wife joined St. Joan of Arc parish, worked on the building committee for our newly completed kitchen, those little doughboys started awakening in his bloodstream and came out of retirement again to become our Head Chef and Baker.

He assembled an excellent Kitchen and staff and together they prepare and serve many dinners for the Knights and the Ladies Auxiliary Functions.

He was instrumental in initiating and running the "Doughnuts and Coffee" program after Sunday Masses and the monthly extended Breakfasts.

When our St. Joan of Arc Annual Ethnic Festival rolls around, he heads the Food Planning Committee, and either prepares or oversees all the various food operations.

He was instrumental in our involvement with Kiwanis, as a co-venture in our Annual RV Rally Fund Raiser, where he and his crew worked tireless preparing the food for sale.

He is a member of the Holy Name Men's Club, where he and his crew, prepare our Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner for the benefit of the St. Joan of Arc Grounds crew.

He has previously received a Knight of the Month Award, and along with his wife Renee, has also received the Family of the Year award in our Council 11317.

He is the latest recipient of the Annual St. Jude Award Medal in the Diocese of St. Petersburg.

We are truly proud and honored to have him as a member of St. Joan of Arc parish and our Knights of Columbus Council 11317

Please stand and show your appreciation for your Knight of the Month May, 2004

WILLIAM (BILL) KOENIG 11

VITO: BILL, we are all proud of you and what you have done in your retirement and all Irvington's Senior citizens are proud of your accomplishments.

I received another letter from Al Cimirro '43

Dear Vito;

It seems that all I hear from this organization about Irvington is negative. I wonder when was the last time any of you were in Irvington.

There is no question that Irvington has changed over the years. There is no question that it has its problems. But take a ride down Springfield Ave. and you will see that just about every store is open, and these stores have plenty of customers.

I am the President of the Irvington Lions. There once was 4 service clubs in Irvington, the others took flight like many of you. The Irvington Lions still serves Irvington, since 1949 the Lions have served Irvington.

In 1949 Gerry Davidson a charter member of the club and Vice Principal of Frank Morrell High School started a Youth of the Month Program. Each month a senior boy would be honored, based on academic and other achievements. In May we honored our 489th Youth. In Dec. 2005 it will reach 500.

When you read the Newspapers all the coverage is about unsavory events in Irvington. In our Youth of the Month Program we get to see the good and hope of Irvington, over the years the racial background of these young men have changed but their abilities and achievements have remained constant.

So stop being so negative about Irvington, it still has a lot to offer and a lot of people who care about its wellbeing.

Sincerely:

Signed Al Cimerro'43

P.S. Dear Vito: Please publish this article in your next letter. Let's give our Town a break. The Lions Club is for Helping Blind Children of Irvington. We supply eye glasses for those in need and send kids to camp for the Blind.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gene Malinowski	9/6/1939	John Maddalena	10/11/1933
Bill Pierson	9/13/1939	John McGuckin	10/14/1934
Bob Eitel	9/17/1930	Dr. Richard Dobyns	10/16/1924
Richie Halperin	9/20/1933	Frank Gedrowicz	10/18/1908
Art Kull	9/21/1920	Tony Lauro	10/18/1940
Joe Feldman	9/25/1933	Henry Krautter	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
John Walek	10/9/1927	Roy Madsen	10/29/1930

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

We want to Thank all those folks who have in some form wished me a Happy Birthday on July 4th, my 88th, cooperated in every way that I have asked, by sending material for this Newsletter. **George Andreach '50; Inge Ginter '48; Saul Schwartz'44; Elinor Schmalstick; Paul Rugg'34; Bill Laggy'48; Bob Laggy '44; Sanford Klurman'58; Bob Roberts '53; Harvey Baudistel; Frank Addonizio '40; George Brown '54; David Blair; John Valestin '37; Frank Gedrowicz; Ed Liebe'48; Harold Dorrer'40; Rolf Augenstein'50; Art Willner '51; Cliff Henderson '53; Walter K osub'44; BERNARD ADLER'55; LES WEIS '35; HARRY HILL '48; ROBERT SAYLE '52; BEVERLEE HIBBS '59; ALFRED MURRAY '47; ROBERT WIESENBACH '40; KEN GIESSUEBEL'51; HERM PIZZI '48; MARTIN KLENA '47; ROBERT ZITCH '42; RAY SMITH '47; ERNEST CLEMENS '45; TED BOSCO '44; ELEANOR ROMANCHICK '38; STEVE MYSKO '57; BOB NEIGEL '40; JOE MAUREILLO '54; RON EVANGELISTA '48; HENRY KRAUTTER '44; MYRTLE HODAPP'34; BILL MIELE '65;**

There is no significance to the underline of some of the names on my list. It just happened on the computer and I don't know how to eliminate it, and I don't want to find out, because if I go around pushing buttons it will make things worst and I don't want to do that.

Now getting back to sports as many of us are interested in, as I told you I subscribe to three different Newspapers, I read them all, but sometimes I missed articles that you should know about, such as the article about Mickey Weiner Garden which Hal Dorer sent in to me. So please it would be appreciated if you see an article that you think the group would be interested in, send it in.

I just came across an article from the Asbury Park Press on the front Sports page, entitled **AFRAID OF NO MAN**. By Bill Handleman . It shows a football player, Bob Petitti, now a senior at Pittsburg University #78. Now you ask Who is Bob Petitti? Bob is the son of Bob Sr. who lived on the corner of Yale Ave and Nesbit Ter. in Irvington. Bob Sr. never went to Irvington but selected Seton Hall where he played football and was a good tackle

The article goes on to say. **PETITTI CAN HANDLE MERE MORTALS, IT'S THE SPIRITS THAT SCARE HIM**. At 6 ft. 6 inches, 335 pounds, you would think Bob Petitti would be walking around feeling invulnerable. Not so.

Turns out the big kid is scared of the dark. It doesn't say anything about this in the Pitt media guide of course—further proof of the obfuscation in NCAA athletics—but ever since his parents moved from Rumson to Red Bank and restored the beautiful 100 year old house they bought, Petitti doesn't like sleeping in his own bed when he comes home from college

“ It’s a nice little house but I think it is haunted.” He was saying yesterday at the Big East Media day, a perfect opportunity for athletes to come clean. “I thought I saw a ghost one time.”

A ghost?

“My mother says they are good Spirits.” He says “she’s religious.”

“ My brother says I should tell him to leave me alone.

The ghost, that is.

“ I don’t like sleeping there,” he insists I get freaked out, when I come home from school, I sleep down the street at my friends house.”

You get none of this from the media guide, all you get is the kid’s date of birth, his size and his accomplishments to date and how he was a two time all shore player at Rumson – Fair Haven and how he became Pitt’s most valuable lineman,as a red shirt freshman never missed a game, even though he played the entire 2003 season with a bad shoulder, and had to have surgery after it was over, After he made the first team All Big East.

Vito > For all you college football fans the season is coming up and you will enjoy seeing a good football player from this area in action. Yes, his Dad went to Seton Hall while living in Irvington but we will forgive him for that. His Mother wanted the kids to get a Catholic education. I forgot, look for #78

Vito > For all you Pro football fans we have a Gentlemen in our Organization who has a Son following up in his footsteps of being an outstanding Official. Tom Hill son of Harry Hill is officiating in the National Football League for the past few seasons. He is now a veteran. If you watch the Pro’s play, maybe you can spot Tom, his # is 97. Both these men do a good job and maybe it will make the game more enjoyable for you, knowing someone within the game.

Maybe you gentlemen have some comments to make concerning the letters sent to me, if so, please send them early so I can put them in my next Newsletter.

Thank you;

VITO