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Newsletter # 91

MAY

HI FOLKS:

We wish to thank all you folks who sent letters concerning my health; we thank you. I am feeling a lot better after hearing from you folks. I do have a question? Maybe it is better that I be sick and there is a fear of losing me, and you have sent letters all expressing fear of my health. Remember we will be 89 years young this coming July 4th. Some of you folks are older, but what is age, nothing but a few more aches and pains here and there, we all have to go. Thank you again.

Now with the letters:

Feb. 9, 2005

improving health and may a fairy godmother descend from above and assume all
Hello Vito:

Bless you for your continued labors on behalf of all of us who passed through Camptown when it was still safe to walk her streets. I wish you continually your typing duties.

As I have explained previously, I grew up in Irvington, enjoyed the full run of Florence Ave School graduated there in 1946 and our family headed for the country (Whitehouse) early in my sophomore year at I.H. S. However... I was there long enough to eye witness that incredible football win over West Side with Jimmy Moyor in 1947. I always thought that was our annual Thanksgiving Day Game...
Yes ? No ? Yes.

In addition, we frosh and sophs (afternoon attendance at overcrowded Frank H. Morrell) would gather in awe in that awful gymnasium with the wood block flooring that was popping all over the place and making basketball a life threatening game. But it was good enough for the fire ball pitchers Zurkowski, Symanski, Baryewski, and Lubiak and they all looked like Bob Feller to us kids. Man... could they throw a baseball. Didn't Symanski actually pitch in the Oriole organization where he remained a wild man but had some trouble finding the strike zone. When he did... nobody could hit him any way.

Anyway... our short time at I. H. S. was long enough to get to Ruppert Stadium. One year to watch that great team play. Don't ask me who but it might have been Columbia (Maplewood) which had a great Polish fastballer of it's own those days. The I.H.S. club must have been a team with, not oly the above named pitchers but Francis Gallegher behind the plate, Harry Hill at third (both all - staters) and I believe Bobby Morris in right field.

I did not go to last 1950 reunion up in your area because I wanted to see as many Florence Ave classmates as possible and I wasn't disappointed. I'm wondering where , here in Florida, they will gather but I know Joan and Monty will do their usual god job of organizing it. I kind of doubt that many of the kids I went to school with will make to this one but I'll wait for further word Joan.

Funny thing have tried to type initials for Irvington High School but without the periods and my computer keeps correcting it to HIS. Obviously those folks never heard of Irvington. Had to add the periods to keep it the way it should be.

All the best to you.

Health is everything

Signed. Don Blair

Speaking of pitchers, a good one passed away on March 1st, it was Stanley Couzen Sr, 89. Stan pitch in the memorial years of 1932-34 when we won the first Greater Newark Championship at Ruppert Stadium Stan was good, we played with him. The only thing in Stan way was Lefty Marion, those of you who go back that far knew of Marion. Stan wound up a very good detective for the town of Irvington. Lord--- my he rest in peace.

LEONARD "BILL" MALEY: Bill was living in New Mexico, I recently got a note from his Daughter saying that Bill passed away 4/25/2004. Bill was a good member of the group and we are sorry to see him leave us. Thank you Kathleen.

I just got another note, and they say it comes in threes, the note is from Doris Matthews, Son of former Coach Bill Matthews passed away Jan, 25 2005. Our condolences are with Doris from all who knew Jack. We knew Jack personally and he did a lot of Good things especially putting a youngster through College. I personally meet Jack at the youngsters graduation in 1999 at Upsala, where Lil and I sat with Jack and his wife Doris. Again, our condolences.

Hi Vito:

Wish to correct my name on your address file. It is listed as Richard Calascibette but the correct name is "Calascibett" with out the 'E 'at the end. Also my date of Birth is Feb3, 1935. I have lived in Sun City since 1999.

I was born in Irvington General Hospital and lived my entire youth at 47 Cumming St. until I was drafted on Oct. 1st. 55 of us were drafted along with Don Gethard. & Richie Zuruwski .

We spent the month of July at my Mother in Laws home in Belmar, N, J. I wish I could have made the Reunion at Doolans but we had other commitments in AZ at that time. While in Belmar our old crowd got together quite often. Frank Neigel from Belmar NJ. Gene Cullen from Coconut Creek FL & Andy Maybo from Lake Parsippany NJ. And our wives. We had lots of laughs talking about all the experiences we had living in Irvington. Memories of Olympic Park, where we learned hoe to swim, and our trips to Staten Island, learning how to drive next to the Ken's question even if it is 54 years late.

Mick is going to be 97 this year but his memories of IHS are as sharp as ever. Keep the letters coming - everyone talks about them and most of all we enjoy them. May God Bless you. Jinny.

Hi Vito;

Saw from the #90 Newsletter which Myrtle Hodapp usually shares with me that you have some health problems over the holidays. What a fantastic Police force you have in Lavallette that checks up on you from time to time to make sure everything is okay. Hope you are back in the groove again and working on the next Newsletter which is always a pleasure and I know consumes a lot of your time.

Noted that you have listed a birthday for Harry Niegle in the letter. You may want to delete as Harry passed away a few years ago. (I am sorry about the Niegle situation, it was not taken off the master sheet; it is now.)

High School by Orange Park, the swim team practice at Orange Y. We talked about our weekend trips to the shore & staying at Franks Mon & Dads house sleeping on the porch or any place we find to lay down.

Also as we talked we would always toast one of our crowd, Jack Criqui who passed away some years back I also miss my childhood friend Robert " Satch " Green who passed away three years ago. I missed tem for their friendship and their humor.

My wife & I own the RV motor which we travel I most of the summer. So far we have been in almost every state west of the Rockies & in 2003 we spent four months in BC., Canada, & Alaska. It was a wonderful trip but I was glad to get home for a rest.

Vito, you are doing a wonderful keeping Irvington memories alive, they were good times. God Bless and keep you.

Rick & Pat Calascibett (without the "E" at the end)

2/15/2005

Dear Vito:

We have just returned from Florida and read another of your Newsletters. Sorry to hear of your illness but sure you are recovering now. I read the letter to Mick and he got a "kick" from Ken Giessuebel's question about the five yard punt. He said Bill did this to confuse the other team in thinking Irvington was NOT going to Punt. He also said most often the play did not work! I hope this gives some closeur to Ken's question even if it is 54 years late. Mick is going to be 97 this year. His memories of IHS are as sharp as ever. Keep the letters going—every one talks about them and most of all we Enjoy them. May God Bless. Jinny. s

We must mention it, another member of our football team in Irvington, has passed away. Joseph " Red " Marke. age 89 passed away in Toms River Communi ty Hospital. Joe wound as Deputy Police Commissioner of the Police dept. in Irvington and started the P.A.L. Joe was a good man and is a perfect example of what Irvington H. S. put out.

Hi Vito: Saw from your #90 Newsletter which Myrtle Hodopp usually shares with me that you had some Health problems over the Holidays. What a fantastic Police Dept. you have in Lavallette that checks up on you from time to time to make things are okay. Hope you are in the groove again and working on the next Newsletter which is always a pleasure reading and I know it consumes a lot of your time. Noted that you have listed a birthday for Harry Niegel in your letter. (Vito; we have corrected the error made, it was not taken off the master sheet). Hopefully spring is just around the corner although I understand you have more of that white stuff in your area than we had in Northern N, J. and I look forward to seeing you at Doolans' Will be bringing Myrtle and a few other gals that day, If tommow is clear and bright I expect to get to NYC and Central Park to see the Gates. Daughter offered tom drive and I will gladly tag along and perhaps stroll through the park if its not too cold/. Stay well and take those Vitamins. Fond wishes. Ruth (Mehrer)) Bonner Class of Jan. '44

The football team of the year 1944 will be the topic of the next Newsletter , Ernest Clemence dof California has sent me all the Newsletter clippings he has of the 1944 season and he wishes that I would send them back to him when we are finished with them. I will gladly send them back to him as we welcome all the support we are getting from you folks concerning your years at years at Irvington. .

Vito... I hope this letter finds you in spirits (not in the liquid kind)

January was a tough month for my wife and me ... after making a terrific 100th birthday party for my Mom in December; she passed away in her sleep in January. Two weeks later my house burned down and a week later one of my dogs needed surgery. If things come in threes, I hope I'm done for the year. My respiratory problems are improving and I'm still working.

I'd like to get in touch with Stan Wynek (Vito – I already sent you his address.) ...I was feeling a bit low the last luncheon I attended and may not have been polite to him. Can you give me his address or e-mail address? Please respond.

Barry W Sirota '54

Don't forget - Doolans on Friday May 20th at 11:00am. You'll see many of your classmates there. Come one come all.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Louis Nickolopoulos	4/4/1930	John Mueller	5/5/1936
Ed Liebe	4/5/1930	Norman Maulbeck	5/8/1931
Terence King	4/6/1955	Fred Klittich	5/14/1942
George Addonizio	4/24/1933	Vic Petriello	5/17/1941
Bob Knoth	4/28/1920	Charles Kratt	5/21/1938
Bill Carbone	4/29/1939	John Adams	5/22/1945
Ron Carolan	5/1/1932	Peter Granata	5/22/1928
Charlie Reber	5/2/1933	George Burger	5/24/1917
Bill Cregar	5/2/1925	Gordon Search	5/25/1933
Ted Bosco	5/2/1926	Sol Lipkin	5/26/1906
Sol Schwartz	5/3/1927	Harold Ayres	5/27/1919

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

Last month I got a call from California asking me if I receive the newspaper magazine "PARADE". I told my daughter Beverlee yes. She mentioned there was a picture of Queen Latifah on the cover, interviewed by Dotson Rader. Queen Latifah, born Dana Owens, grew up in Irvington and was a star basketball player for Irvington High School. Now she is quite a successful rapper and actress.

Stamp money is near depletion, will you please send in whatever you can at this time. I cannot continue to use my own money ,o send packages to you folks at my expense . I will continue as long as I have money for paper and stamps, labor is free.