



# SHS '44 Newsletter

Summer, 2002

For Alumni of Shorewood High School, Shorewood, Wisconsin

Vol. 3 No. 2

## Spotlights

**Jim and Ruth Freeman** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary during the 4th of July week, 2001 at their home in Victor, Montana. "All of the six Freeman children were able to be at home for the celebration, together with grandchildren and great grandchildren. A gala banquet was held at the Banque Club in Hamilton, MT. Jim and Ruth continue at home in Montana's Bitterroot Valley. Jim is a consulting professional forester and Ruth continues her work on the family genealogy." Their E-mail address is [jfreeman@bitterroot.net](mailto:jfreeman@bitterroot.net).

**Fred Beutler** wrote "Like **Jim Scheinfeld**, I had spinal surgery to remove a cyst and other tissue pressing on the nerve root leading to my left leg. It might have been a good idea to put a zipper there since this is my second time around. Happily, the surgery was quite successful, and I have recovered most of my mobility.

"The University of Michigan medical system is excellent, but dreadfully slow, so Sue and I went to Phoenix, where the neurosurgeon I had before had moved. Well, if you're going to have neurosurgery, it's nice to have it in a sunny place close to where two of my kids live.

"After a hiatus of fifty years I resumed playing the cello about five years ago. I have been part of the Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. The New York Philharmonic it isn't, but we perform the standard symphonic repertoire, which is a considerable challenge for me.

"While I'm getting back to normal, Sue is continuing her graduate studies in art at the University. Sue undertook these studies after many years interruption of marriage, child raising, and a career in education. Quite a few of her paintings and prints are now on exhibit in

juried shows around the community; one recently won a prize."

**Carol Filter Holt** wrote in March "Wow, that was a newsy newsletter. Great! I was glad to learn that Jim Freeman isn't dead. He probably was too. Marilyn usually keeps me current on deaths but I haven't talked to nor seen her for quite a long while. Don't know from where my misinformation came.

"I presume that Bill Jassoy's wife (Ann Frint) died. She wasn't on the list but that was probably because she didn't go to SHS. [*Ed. Note: right on both.*] ...How nice to hear of Bill and Joan's marriage! Hope they have many years to enjoy each other. Besides keeping track of the deaths, it's interesting to learn about the lives of our classmates and what interesting and accomplished people they are. SHS didn't do a bad job.

"Sorry I don't have an e-mail address. Doug uses the computer for his flying-related stuff, while I do my letters on this old word processor with which I'm also trying to accumulate enough for a book on machine knitting.

"We had a great trip to Montana's Glacier Nat'l Park last summer and since the old RV is still holding up, we expect to go to Florida in a couple of weeks for "Sun'n Fun", the EAA's Florida version of Oshkosh — a week of air shows, seminars, etc. in Lakeland. Then in June, we'll be going to Maine for our oldest grandson's graduation from high school. We have orders to bring our rock-hunting tools for our family's favorite entertainment.

"From your account of Doris Gnauk's many problems prior to her death, she too was a rock hound. Most likely she hunted rocks and minerals for their scientific importance while we, less brainy, hope to find those that will be

gemstones when cut and polished.”

**Martha Schreiber Bjodstrup** wrote “Am living quietly in the home my husband built about 43 years ago. Indulging in hobbies of stained glass, knitting, whatever. Love my family dearly. Two of my grandchildren will be married in the next year. Am interested in almost everything. Best wishes to all.”

From **Bob Davis** we hear “I continue to work as a radiological physicist at two hospitals. The new developments in the radiation treatment of cancer have me fascinated. I have to study hard to compete with these kids, but I would not have it any other way.”

**Jean Hawtrey Birney** said “Chick and I have lived our entire married life (51 years) in State College. Chick retired in 1988, having taught mechanical engineering at Penn State for 39 years. We have enjoyed living here and our association with the university. We cannot imagine living anywhere else, but I still have many fond memories of SHS.” Jean’s email address is cxbl@psu.edu.

From Arizona **Ralph Welton** writes “Our lives took a drastic change.... It was December 2, 2000 that Ann had that first small stroke, followed the very next day with the more massive stroke. She was in both hospitals, rehab. units and long term care in Northwest Arkansas until the first part of March. At that time, my Daughter had heard about a facility in Chicago that was very special for stroke patients called Manonjoy. I was not able to get her in the main unit in Wheaton, but they had a unit in Downers Grove that could take her. She stayed there until September 21<sup>st</sup> when I brought her back home to Arkansas. I can’t tell you the changes she has made in her mental outlook on life since coming home. She is also back to really eating well and putting on some much-needed weight. Of course, she misses her children and grandchildren, but we learn quickly that they also have lives to live. We face the issue that Ann has lost totally her left side so she is confined to a wheel chair and it means a lot of lifting for me but she is very helpful with strong right arm and leg. She is also

somewhat limited in her ability to read, but she does enjoy short notes and likes to be read to. She also really likes to talk with people on the phone and does quite well with it. I sometimes have to tell her to talk louder. So we take one day at a time and some days are very long and we count our blessing for what we do have.

“As you can well imagine, I have been pretty busy these past few months, after bringing Ann back home. Things have now settled in to a pretty good routine and it is a lot easier, except the lifting. Ann has greatly improved in many ways since coming home. It is hard to have all your children and grandchildren 600 miles away in Chicago, but they have their lives to live, and they do call quite often to keep in touch. I’m enclosing a short note that we sent out to friends at this past Christmas and it will give you some of the details of our past 12 to 16 months. Ann has also had some phone conversations with Sue Vivian and Marilyn Salmon so we have gotten some of the news, but we really think the News Letter is great. Our E-mail address is Sloton@att net.”

**Bill Rapp** reports that he spends about 80% of his time taking care of **Sallie** who is still in a wheel chair although he does get a chance to play bridge now and then.

**Audrey Bert Watry** wrote that she keeps in touch with **Sue Vonier Vivian** and sometimes **Ann and Ralph Welton**.

**Ruth Livingston Rundl** reports that she still plays tennis regularly and now has seven grandchildren; her youngest “bonus” daughter had baby boys 19 months apart in 2000 and 2001.

Our hearts go out to **Marilyn Miller Davis** who reported this spring that her husband, Richard, after undergoing extensive radiation therapy for tongue cancer in 2000 which put him in the hospital and rehab for several weeks had a recurrence of cancer. This time the brain was involved, and after surgery and another session of radiation treatments they abandoned further treatment in the face of the prognosis. “All of our kids are coming to say goodby to a

For Sale---a unique patriotically painted 2002 Harley-Davidson Road King motorcycle with saddlebags signed by Mayor R. Guillian and Willie G. Davidson. Classmate Bev Koenen is (gasp!) too old to do it justice. Any takers?

wonderful father, step-father and friend. It is sad, but better than subjecting him to more futile treatment.” She adds “I continue to be blessed with good health. I guess it’s in the genes - my Mom lived to be 93 years.” [Ed. Note: Richard died in April.]

**Art Gaulke** reports “Gayle and I continue in good health and we are fortunate to enjoy part of our year at our home in southern California and the remainder in travel or at Long Lake in northern Wisconsin. Gayle produces ‘stampings’ (personalized cards) as her most satisfying hobby and I continue to take art classes and attempt to produce showable sculpture - we both like golf and being with our grandkids. Our son, Dave, has seven children in the Milwaukee area and Pam has one and lives in Richmond, Virginia.”

**Beverly Becker Koenan** received a bunch of publicity March 16th when, in St. Robert’s raffle, she won a brand new Harley-Davidson “hog.” The win was even reported on Leno’s “The Tonight Show.” The following extract from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel gives an insight to her daily activities: *She presides over the Saturday morning prayer and communion service. She brings the Eucharist to the hospitalized. She’s served on the parish council and on the liturgy committee. She volunteers at the school, helping second and third graders with their reading. She coaches the forensic team. She is also the public address announcer at the St. Robert fair.*” You can read the whole article on line at <http://www.jsonline.com/news/Metro/apr02/34111.asp>

**Roy Genskow** reports that “**Bette Belante, Roy Genskow, Bob Mandel and Marilyn Salmon** lunched at George Pandl’s recently. The lunch must have been satisfying, for all agreed that we should proceed with plans for the class of 44’s 60th reunion. Consequently, most committee members were contacted. All those that could be reached agreed that we should take the initial steps.

Marilyn created a questionnaire to determine if there is sufficient interest among our classmates for us to proceed further. It is well known that some of us are approaching the rocking chair phase of our lives.” [See the questionnaire below, please cut it out and send to Bette as requested.]

## SURVEY!

Dear Classmates; It is not too early to make plans for 2004 - yes, for our 60th class reunion! And we need input from each one of you whether you live in Timbuktu or the arctic circle or even farther from the source of the good old days in Shorewood.

We need your opinions on the following questions, and would greatly appreciate your answers. Just cut off the bottom third of the page fill in the blanks, and return to Bette Bellanti (be sure your address label on the other side is readable so she knows who sent it!

1. Do you think that September would be a good month for the reunion? Circle one: **Yes No**

If not, what month would you prefer and why? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which events would you plan to attend? Check those you would attend:

Friday night fish fry \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday evening banquet \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday morning brunch \_\_\_\_\_

3. What establishments would you prefer for each of the above three events?

Fish fry \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ Brunch \_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you be able to help in planning and organizing this reunion? Milwaukee area residents are preferred, but all who are interested in joining the committee are welcome. Circle one: **Yes No**

Please reply to: Bette Bellanti; 4730 N. Sheffield Ave. Whitefish Bay, WI 53211. Please include your suggestions for making our 60th the best ever!

## Are you a New Snowbird?

Our data base of names and addresses of class members includes a feature that allows us to list two address/phone number sets for each person, along with the date range for each. So if you are a new "snowbird" just let me know what dates of the year you spend at what addresses and you can be sure we can stay in contact (and the newsletter will be mailed to the right place).

## A Brief Visit Home

Because the National Genealogical Society had it's annual conference in Milwaukee last spring I was a "tourist" in the old home stomping grounds for a few days. To do a little research I stopped by the library, where I hadn't been for many years. I couldn't help but be impressed with the stature of the building as well as the scope of the holdings and quality of the staff members. They went out of their way to be helpful and even helped in my research to some extent. I hope those of you who still live in the area appreciate the resource you have there.

**Marguerite Weaver** reports "Just returned from a Dazzling Dolphin Cruise, a research effort conducted by my daughter, Ann Weaver, Ph.D. (Animal Psychobiology). The cruises

with us 'ecotourists' on board help to defray the costs of the research. Morning lectures taught us how to watch for and how to behave around the dolphins that come to swim with us. Had an outstanding time in the beautiful Bahamian waters with seven wonderful days on our 82' yacht. A considerable part of the enjoyment was contributed by the presence on the cruise of Polly and Jim Morton's daughter Stacy and Jack Chamberlain's daughter Nancy Shelby. The fact that the dolphin were not particularly cooperative this year did not dim our pleasure, as the swimming and snorkeling were just wonderful. If your readers would like to hear more about Ann's cruises, either the student cruises for credit or the luxury cruises, contact her at 866.DAZZLED (866.329.9533)."

**Roy Genskow** reports "Helen and I wandered about the western United States for six weeks. The high light of the trip took place on our first day in late May. I kissed Helen under the Iowa State U.'s campanile fifty four years after she accepted my fraternity pin, and about fifty two years after she said I do!

We spent time share weeks in Palm Springs and Lake Tahoe in CA and Snow Bird in UT. Our family gathered from far and wide to join us at Lake Tahoe. The lake area had been spared any fire damage while we were there. However, the road to Yosemite had been blocked by fire on the eastern slopes of the Sierras. We did not encounter a drop of rain until we were driving through Nebraska on our last day.

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**Shorewood High School Class  
of 1944 Newsletter**

Check our class web site:  
<http://www.rgcle.com/SHS44>