



SHS '44 Newsletter

Summer 2008

For Alumni of Shorewood High School, Shorewood, Wisconsin

Vol.9 No.1

First let me apologize for the length of time since the last newsletter - I had hoped it would be a spring edition but here it is Independence Day and I'm finally putting the finishing touches on it. You'll note that much of the "news" is pretty much out of date, a natural consequence of the receipt of the newsletter generating responses which I can include in the next one - months later.

Spotlights

In his Christmas letter **Ralph Welton** wrote of the activities he and his wife **Ann (Sloss)** are involved in: "Ann has developed a real routine for most weeks. With the aid of care-giver, she gets up at eight, breakfasts and leaves the apartment a little before nine. She and care-giver head for the "Gathering Place" which is an area for all kinds of coffee and fellowship. They usually spend about an hour just visiting with other residents and learning about the news and happenings of this place. Nothing much happens at Windsor -without it being discussed here. Then a little before 11 :00 it's off to exercises, five days a week, something new every week day. Yoga one day, flexibility the next, strength and endurance the next. Then off to Lunch. In the afternoon, they are pretty much off on their own and we do have other activities. MWF she spends a half hour with our physical trainer on some special exercises basically for her. On Thursday she has an oil painting class from 9 until 11 :30.

"I have gotten myself very active in Resident governing responsibilities, serving on the general council, and chairing the Dining Service Committee. I also had a chance to play some golf this past Summer, playing two of Wheaton's courses. The Golf was not very great, the swing

just isn't there any more, but who cares, it's just great to get out on the course. I'm still singing in both the Choir and Men's Chorus and thoroughly enjoying getting back to singing.

"We increased our family size by two: wife's two grandsons, one couple now living in China the other right here in Wheaton Illinois. We also had two more great grand children, boy and girl, she was born 21 st of November. It's great to be part of this kind of new generation. Only hope we can get this world straightened out for them."

Ralph and Ann reaffirmed their marriage vows on their 60th wedding anniversary last November.

Don Kiehnau says "Life is good for an 81-year-old soldier, even though I had a bout with cancer of the colon... 2007 has been a remarkable year not only health-wise but also weather-wise here in Oklahoma."

Marilyn Miller Davis passed along a copy of **Jim Scheinfeld's** obituary that appeared in the local Santa Barbara paper. She says she still loves her retirement home and the friends she has made in it. She can still drive and enjoys trips to San Diego three times a year for the opera. Last year she took a cruise down the inland waterway from Charleston to Jacksonville, and each year goes to Spokane to visit her daughter, grandchildren and (currently) two great-grandchildren.

As I recorded **Jim Scheinfeld's** death on these pages and on the web site I was reminded of a mini-reunion that took place in Charlottesville where he and his wife Elna joined **Bob and Betty (Schanglies) Smith** and Barbara and me, this was back in 2003.

At Christmas time I received a note from **Carolyn Sheets Brockway**. She wrote "This has probably been the worst year of my life, and I

hesitate to write about it - but I'll summarize! In April I fell and broke my pelvis, in September I had surgery for a blockage in my intestine caused by an adhesion from previous surgeries. I was able to spend a couple of months this summer with Cathy at her summer home on the lake in Michigan (that was the best part of my year). It took a long time for my pelvis to heal and then the incision took longer than planned [to heal]. So when all that was healed I went back on my cancer treatments, which I had not done from June on. I have three more to take and then they'll check by a scan.

"I'm getting better all the time. I have been back to playing bridge and am looking forward to my trip to Colorado for Christmas. Cathy's oldest son David lives in Lafayette with his wife and new baby boy (born Dec. 18) - my first great grandchild! The rest of Cathy's family will be there too. We'll have a wonderful time together."

Beverly Becker Koenen sent a note: "Son Chaz and I spent Xmas + 5 days with Barb and husband Tim Samuelson. Tim took us into the guest room and put a small disc on the record player. A high girlish voice began to read the poem - Flanders Fields - followed by a pause - and then another recitation. At the end, the three of them stared at me expectantly. No, I didn't recognize my voice! A slip envelope said in pencil - Beverly Becker, Miss Knoelk, room 275. 1st record 1941 - 2nd recording 1943.

"I had given Tim several albums - old 45s. This small disc came amidst one of the albums! Small world, eh?"

A nice letter came my way from **Margherita Ferch Getman**: "My life is rich and blessed with things I never hoped to experience. I moved to Connecticut to be closer to a university where I could find instruction in dance and music. Arthritis took my piano technique, but I continued taking lessons with several of the finest pianists in the world. When that became impossible, I studied composition at Yale and am currently becoming acquainted with Finale so

Deaths:

James Scheinfeld, Dec. 8, 2007
Carol Mason Rittberg, Jan. 12, 2008
Betty Fass Claus April 7, 2008
Ida Neefe Droegkamp May 20, 2008

Note: in many cases there are links to the obituaries and death notices of our recently deceased classmates on our web site. See <http://www.rgcle.com/SHS44/>

that my music goes directly into Bill's computer. It is a queer experience, but it becomes less queer as I progress.

"I have made a sort of collection of last names since I left Shorewood. Getman is what I believe to be my last one. Bill is a nurse in Intensive Care at a small local hospital. We are very happy despite a big difference in ages. I was a junior at Shorewood when Bill was born. He is fluent with computers and New Age of which I am uninformed. I am publishing my third book of poetry this spring. We live as simply as possible in these fast-paced, alarming years. I am a mystic which, in my Quaker terminology, means I try to live so as to take away the occasion for war.

"I would like especially to have correspondence with Charlotte Lubotsky. We walked together back and forth to high school. I don't "do" e-mail, but anyone who should like to talk with me can do so over Bill's computer: wbg2@cornell.edu.

"Thank you, Dick, for all your letters. God bless all my classmates."

Although **Bob Mandel** sent me a copy of **Betty Fass Claus'** death notice, which presumably was printed in the Journal-Sentinel, my web site search for it didn't succeed, so I can't provide a link to it. To say the least she seems to have led a very full life. A note from **Audrey**

Wuesthoff Uber that I received earlier attested to that; apparently Audrey and Betty were close friends and had been since 6th grade. Excerpts from the death notice:

“Betty had four passions in her life, family, church, medicine and tennis. She shared 58 years with Curt, putting up with his fishing and hunting, and doting over her daughters through their childhoods and their successful marriages and families.

“Her interest in medicine was a life long commitment. Since her graduation from Milwaukee Downer College in Bio Chemistry in 1948 she worked as a cancer research technician at McCordle Cancer research institute at University of Wisconsin Madison...

“Tennis was the major interest in her life. From her playing as a team member on the Wisconsin Junior Wightman' Cup competition while in high school to her association with Rollie and Marlon Mueller, icons of Wisconsin tennis, to her joining Polly Hoff to form a permanent doubles team that lasted over 25 years and took them to the heights of competition.”

Roy Genskow sent an email: ” I really appreciate your notice of the Betty Fass Claus obituary. She was a remarkable person in many ways. As I remember she had an excellent academic record in addition to her remarkable tennis and overall athletic skills.

“Shorewood boys sports were given a lot of print in our day. Yet, in my opinion, with girls like Betty, Joan Winter, Betty DiFancis and others our girls' teams would have dominated as well.

“Kurt and I spent many a pleasant moment as members of the Shorewood Men's Club, an offspring of the Shorewood Cooperaative Club. My father and Betty's were active members in their day. Kurts' favorite sport was fishing and I was pleased to share some time with him persuing salmon on Lake Michigan. Betty was too involved with tennis to participate very much

on these excursions.

“Helen and I are now located in Eau Claire, WI where my son carries on his duties as the City Engineer. Fotunately we have a summer cabin near by in the national forest. The fishing is good and the air seems to be clear and a bit on the cool side. No worry though, teachers always seem to have enough hot air to handle that.”

Bob Sullivan chatted at some length while I caught up with his exploits over the years. Following graduation from Shorewood he spent many years in sports under scholarships - first with football at UW but an injury forced him to devote his time exclusively to basketball. While in the Navy he played at Great Lakes, then following that he attended Marquette and played there for two years, ultimately graduating from Law School. He retired in '86.

He has traveled extensively: Ireland, Spain and Italy - his wife Bette has relatives there. His trip to Ireland was with a group where all the men had Sullivan as their surnames.

He and his wife are considering moving to a continuing care retirement community; like many of us he finds managing his large home getting more and more difficult with the onset of arthritis and the many many injuries from his earlier sports activities; as he related it to me it seemed like every joint in his body had been replaced except his spine!

He's embarked on a new hobby: oil painting. Quite prolific, his work has been exhibited in various local places. He recently was approached by an agent who wants to sell his paintings as part of a decorating service - mostly to offices and buildings, I understand.

Bob has five children in scattered locations - London, Atlanta, Austin, two in Minnesota. He has eleven grandchildren; at the time I chatted with him the twelfth was on it's way.

Sad news, **Betty Schanglies Smith** hasn't recovered very well from her stroke and is now

pretty much confined to a nursing home: Trinity Mission health and Rehab, 1150 Northwest Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22901 (in case you'd like to drop her a card). Husband **Bob Smith** will be having a right shoulder replacement as soon as he gets rid of a bothersome blood infection.

Chatted with **Betty Zien Croen** and her husband Phillip; she's still quite active playing bridge three nights a week. When wintering in Palm Desert she spends time in the fitness center there - likes Tai Chi.

Judson and Gwendolyn (Montz) Ihrig have been residents of Hawaii for 56 years now, Gwendolyn says that Judson got his degree in Chemistry at Princeton and taught for many years at the University of Hawaii Manoa campus; he still goes in to his office regularly but doesn't teach any more. She volunteers at the Lyon Arboretum on the campus and enjoys it greatly.

Given that they've been there so long I mentioned that I'd heard that people get to the point they feel uncomfortable with such a small place to live ("island fever"?), but she says that bothers newcomers at first but the feeling goes away in a year or so.

I've had a problem contacting **Jane Drengenberg Richards**. Jane, if you're out there

please let me know your phone number.

In fact, Jane is not the only one where contact is being lost. At our age many of us are moving from our homes to other places - retirement communities such as Barbara and I did, some to be near their children, others perhaps to smaller places easier to keep up, and others still to warmer climates. If you know of one of our classmates who has moved, please let me know so we can keep in touch. Use the return address on this newsletter, email me at cleave@rgcle.com or give me a call at 302-645-7098.

Meanwhile, "back at the ranch," I've kept fairly busy maintaining two web sites of my own (one of which includes the SHS segment), one for the local Civic league, one for the Residents' Association where we live, and I'm getting involved in the Dewey Beach town web site. I also manage the membership stuff for the Association. We spend most of our summers here at Dewey Beach, wintering in our permanent place about 8 miles north - a continuing care retirement community near Lewes, Delaware.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

**Shorewood High School Class
of 1944 Newsletter**

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