

Hew to the line. Let the chips fall where they may.

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Central Wisconsin's original history magazine

South Wood County Historical Corp. 540 Third Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. 54494



Looking into the future: Don Krohn photo c. 1950 could show someone from the future Class of 1963 (featured in this issue.) President Phil Brown, pp. 2-3; Museum Administrator Lori, 4-5; Joan Haasl, "Class of 1946," 6; 1946 Ahdawagam photos, 7-9; Chuck Hinners, "Class of 1963," 11-13, 19-27; Mary Beth's Assumption Scrapbook, 14-15; Witter Field Ice Rink, 16-17; East Side pix, 18; Ahdawagam pix, 28-29; Ahdawagam Challenge, 30-31; Uncle Dave & Betty Boop, 32.

A message from SWCHC President Phil Brown Prop. Den of Antiquity

In this issue, our newly-titled Museum Administrator, Lori Brost, mentions Christmas; for me it's Thanksgiving.

Yes, we are experiencing hard times for the world economy but, nevertheless, this is a good time at the South Wood County Historical Corp. and a good time to be president for another term.

The expansion of Artifacts into a magazine of history has proven to be extremely popular. We have had an excellent year at the Museum, featuring "Krohnographs," the photographs of Daily Tribune photographer Don Krohn, providing an unparalleled portrait of the Wisconsin Rapids area in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The "digital" history center is up and running through the "visioneering" of director Uncle Dave and the pioneering of Lori, who has made great strides in the use of the museum software, PastPerfect. She has also made it possible to open the Museum office Monday-Friday throughout the off season. With Lori on board, the increase in traffic has been something to see.

Let me take this opportunity to say thanks: to our excellent officers (vice president Marshall Buehler, secretary Sarah Sigler, treasurer Nick Brazeau); a supportive board of directors; and a membership list that is reaching new highs. In the future, look for increased focus on Betty Boop and her animator, Grim Natwick.

Speaking of cranberries, don't forget: a generous helping of our famous fruit with that Thanksgiving turkey.



Thanks! Phil accepting certificate of appreciation from Betty Havlik, representing the Wisconsin Council of Local History. SWCHC sponsored the 2008 annual regional meeting.



At the Mead: Michael Stevens, Division Administrator, Historic Preservation-Public History; Janet Seymour, Field Services Representative, Northern Region (standing); Helen Robinson, Council of Local History Central Region Representative



Board meetings (above) can be fun, as shown by directors Barry Jens, Bud Daly and Marshall Buehler at a business meeting following the September 29 annual meeting.

Honors: at the SWCHC Annual Meeting, former Museum Administrator Karen Pecher, who had been with the SWCHC for 17 years, accepted a gift and award from president Phil Brown.



All I Want for Christmas.... By Lori Brost

First, it's the kids back to school, then the colors start changing, the temperatures get cooler and before you know it, it's time for Christmas lists!

Well, I'm getting a head start this year because I know what I want for Christmas...

•YEARBOOKS!!! High school annuals from Wisconsin Rapids, Rudolph, Port Edwards and Nekoosa. If you have your yearbook and would consider donating it to us, please let me know. It would be even nicer if you would include a memory of your high school days with your yearbook.

•BETTY BOOP. Another item on my list is Betty Boop souvenirs. In 2010, there will be an 80th Birthday Celebration in honor of Betty Boop and you are invited to be part of that celebration. As you travel this country and the world, how about bringing back a souvenir for us? Betty Boop! Anything you have purchased or received as a gift that features our most famous home town girl.

You can either donate or loan that item to the Museum (or to the celebration) or you can send a photo in the mail or via e-mail for our display.

Thanksgiving and Christmas times are very special to me, from the wonderful turkey dinner to the beauty of Christmas lights and decorations. I am looking forward to decorating the Museum (with the help of Page and Sarah) for the Christmas season and invite you to stop in to enjoy the Season with us.



Clifford and Irene Lewis

Congratulations to my grandparents, Clifford and Irene Lewis, on their 68th wedding anniversary. They are the perfect example of what love and marriage are supposed to be.

Clifford's father, Hubert Lewis, was born in Nekoosa. Work took him to Keewatin, Minn., where he married Mary Neugart—and Clarence, Clifford (1920) and Ron were born. In 1925 the Lewis family moved back to Nekoosa.

Irene came from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Her father, LeRay Saunders was born in New York and met Lauretta Kreutzer in Seattle. They married and had twin daughters, Helen and Marie, before moving to Calgary, where Irene and Ina were born. In 1925, Lauretta and her daughters moved to Wisconsin Rapids, where her mother and brothers had settled after moving from Seattle.

Clifford went to schools in Nekoosa, Irene in Wisconsin Rapids. One night at a dance at the Rapids Armory, Clifford (19) and Irene (18) met and on August 22 of the following year, 1940, the two were married and their story started.

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Sign in: Each summer and fall, the Wisconsin Historical Society partners with the Wisconsin Council for Local History to sponsor a series of 10 regional conventions. This year, the event was hosted by us with meetings at Hotel Mead followed by a tour of the Museum. Below, hostess Betty Boop with attendees Betty Havlik, Helen Robinson and Dee Zillhard.



Joan Staub Haasl

Class of 1946 62 Years and Counting



We are the Lincoln High School Class of 1946. This fact binds us to a certain place and time. We share with our classmates their triumphs and tragedies. We rejoice in the good things that happen and are sorrowful and sympathetic when bad things happen. Our classmates and our home town are special to all of us. We were young here together; our lives and our values were largely formed here. We are part of the great American middle class. We have all tried to do what was expected of our generation.

When we entered Lincoln as freshmen in September of 1942, World War II was raging. When we graduated in May of 1946 the war was over. We were all looking forward to the great adventures we were sure were out there waiting for us.

Our first reunion was 1956, ten years after graduation. We were energetic and forward looking. In the reunions since, we have remembered the classmates who have gone before us. We have raised our children and some have raised grandchildren. We have seen children marry and some divorce. Some have lost children and some have lost partners. We have seen parents grown old who need our help. Now we are the older generation.

It's our 62nd reunion. Just seeing classmates alive and able to celebrate with us makes all of us happy. There was a time at reunions when there were comments about who had gained the most weight, aged the fastest or lost the most hair. None of that at this reunion. While quieter than some past reunions and not lasting as long, it was a happy night for all who could be with us on September 19, 2008. Many years ago, a teacher commented on how fast time goes by as we age. We probably didn't believe her then, but now we all know how right she was; time for the class of 1946 has slipped by at a very fast clip.

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GERALD EUGENE JOHNSON MANUAL ARTS Art Club 2, 4.







ALFRED HORNIGOLD CHEMISTRY - CONSERVATION Carroll College, B.S.



A. A. RITCHAY Principal of Lincoln High School Northwestern University, M.A.

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Ahdawagam 1963 pix of Chuck as a sophomore athlete



Sir Charles

Chuck Hinners graduated from Lincoln High School in 1965. Writing this article in early 2008 led to the Assumption and Lincoln High School classes of 1963 asking him to speak at their 45th reunion, held Sept. 20-22, 2008, at Bulls Eye Country Club in Wisconsin Rapids. Previously, Hinners authored a study of local Little League baseball published in two parts in the May and August 2007 issues of **Artifacts**.

That's the intro Chuck provided but he deserves more. When I introduced him at our Class of 1963 reunion at Bulls Eye Country Club, I said there were three things that came to mind about him. First, he has an exceptional, "photographic," memory. Second, he is a scholar. His research for *Artifacts* on the Wisconsin Rapids Little League was meticulous. Third, his admiration for our class is noteworthy. To me, we are "the worst generation." To him, we are the "best in the west."

We will forgive him for being only a flat-topped sophomore when we were seniors. The now round-topped guy I call "Sir Charles" is thoughtful, dignified, committed. He envisions enterprises and, in the River City vernacular, "puts his money where his mouth is." He fondly recalls a multitude of people and places in Wisconsin Rapids and is a promoter of this publication. Furthermore, he will be considerably embarrassed by my encomium—and, yes, he will know what "encomium" means.



Uncle Dave

Best in the West

The Class of 1963 By Chuck Hinners

The "best in the West" was a phrase my mother often used. My most vivid memory of it was her reference to the 1957 Little League Braves baseball team. I was on that team, as were six members of the Class of 1963. The Braves won the 1957 championship.

Last year, I wrote an article about the 1957 season to celebrate the golden anniversary of Little League Baseball in Wisconsin Rapids. That effort and the encouragement and guidance of *Artifacts* editor Dave Engel led me to write this article.

The oldest Little Leaguers were members of the class of 1963 and graduated from either Lincoln or Assumption high schools. For reasons below, including my personal bias developed by keen observation, the class of 63 is...*best in the West.*

My memories of the class go back before high school.

•Mimi Schill, her brother, Don, and sister, Kathy, and I, car-pooled to Sunday school at First English Lutheran on Roosevelt Street, then near the Consolidated mill, beginning in 1952. Mimi's dad, Don, drove one way and one of my parents the other way. Other Class of 1963 members who attended the church were Gloria Chell, Dennis Herzberg, Marlys Marti, Don Meyer, Anna Sweet and Kathy Worlund.

•In 1955, I went to my first Cub Scout pack meeting at the Congregational church. Beginning Cub Scouts were initiated into the pack by the older scouts. Class of 1963 members Nick Brazeau, Al Grischke, Leon Schmidt, John Farrish, Mark Suckow and Bill Hartley were the senior members and had already earned their Wolf and Bear badges. At one of the monthly meetings, Consolidated president Stanton Mead stopped by to sing folk songs and play his guitar. John Farrish's mother, Marion, usually had something to say at the monthly pack meetings; yeah, Marion Farrish was the "Leader of the Pack!" •In 1957, Little League baseball came to Rapids. Twenty-four class members were among the 60 boys chosen to play. Craig Skibba, Fred Esser, Ken Adams, Paul Witt, Bill Dachel and Dick Zellmer led the Braves to the League title. The class members who played in the inaugural season left big shoes to fill for the younger players who followed them.

•Later in 1957, Carl Alft and Lee Kelly organized a junior bowling league at Bowlmor Lanes. Nick Brazeau led a team that included Ron Brazener, Ron Zager and Butch LaChapelle. After the season began, LaChapelle and Brazener left to play for a Howe school basketball team. Undaunted, Brazeau's bowling team picked up Bill Heilman and Jim Natwick and won the league championship. Jack Hesterman was also a star bowler in the junior league.

•In 1959, our family began to play golf. Later that

summer, Bill Heilman took me to play Bull's Eye. Bill Metcalf and Nick Brazeau were playing with Nick's brother, Bill, who was 18 and a few years from turning pro. Heilman and I stood on the practice green and watched the Brazeaus and Metcalf smash the ball from the third tee. About then a guy came up behind us

and suggested we play. We could start on the third hole and follow the "big guns." During the course of the round I learned a lot about the rules of golf according to Hodag (Don Solie).

That was one of the most memorable rounds of golf I ever played and it only lasted seven holes. I got to play behind three guys I admired for their ability and intelligence and learn inside information on the rules of golf and other American institutions.

•Memories of the Class were not limited to Lincoln. Because of my good fortune to be able to play sports and participate in a wide range of community activities, I got to know a lot of kids who attended both Lincoln and Assumption. I could not keep straight then and have even more trouble now remembering who went where. Mary Beth (Habel) Rokus says it elegantly: "My feeling about the Class of 63 is that, even though we went to different high schools, the 8th grade class of '59 were very close and that friendship was maintained throughout high school and has



continued for 45 more years. I think that is probably pretty unique. One of the links was Buzz's Bar. I know I could always stop in and find someone from the Class of '63 to talk to - what a legacy!"

For the Record

AHS had 114 graduates in 1963. The school did not publish a yearbook, but provided information useful for future reunions in three-ring binders.

Lincoln published an annual yearbook, the *Ahdawagam*. The editors inserted a tag line under each Member's name that accompanied their picture in the senior class section. Dawn Davis and Anna Sweet served as co-editors in chief and led a staff of over fifty artists, typists and photographers. The *Ahdawagam* was published on time for each class member to have his or her friends "sign in" with comments commemorating their time at Lincoln.

Assumption did not publish a yearbook but did publish five editions of *Queen's Star*, the school newspaper. Peter Smullen was the Editor-in-Chief. A subscription sold for \$1.25 for the school year. Smullen was assisted by: editorial assistant Patrice Murray; feature editors Carol Simkowski and Yvonne Ott; news editors Janet Rezin and Patrick Hartman; sports editors Francis Mancl and Mary Ann Cwiklo; business manager Jeanne Frechette; circulation manager Kitty Saunders; and photographer Joe Trader from the Class of 1964.

New Frontier

Stanley Schultz, a good friend and member of the Lincoln Class of 1965 has had special insight into the class of 1963. He gained his opinions from direct observation, and, in the words of Dave Engel, "an uncanny ability to get into bars." "More than any class, they were a bellwether of our society and the embodiment of their times, the Zeitgeist of the 60s, when, in the United States, anything still seemed possible."

As the cover of Ahdawagam said it, echoing President John F. Kennedy, it was the "New Frontier." When the class began its journey in 1959, the era of good feeling that began with Dwight D. Eisenhower had not dimmed. We were on the other side of Camelot in the middle of the space race and cold war. The '60s were also remembered for the beginning of the sexual revolution, the liberal swing of the pendulum (for both good and ill), hippies, and the emergence of the religious fundamentalist.

The class had a number of personalities that both typified and personified the decade of the '60 in Wisconsin Rapids (and the world as we knew it then). With nine other classes why was the class of 1963 so special?

Initiation

When I entered high school in September 1961, the senior class of 1962 seemed distant, superior and unapproachable. The guys on the football team were much bigger, faster, and stronger!

My orientation to high school athletics was being whacked over the head by a wire hanger used to air out our football equipment between practice sessions. The seniors formed a gauntlet that the freshmen had to run to make their way down the stairs to the locker room to our first practice.

That changed a little by the time baseball and golf seasons began in March. Several not-so-green freshmen were able to contribute to the success of the baseball and golf teams.

Class Members Bill Metcalf and Ron Brazener led the golf team while Craig Skibba, Gary Utech, Keith Fisher, and Bill Metcalf led the baseball team to a conference championship, quite an accomplishment, considering that the baseball team had none of the Assumption stars: Fred Esser, Bill Reitz, Mike Miers, Bill Gillis, Phil Hamilton, and Ken Adams.

I figured that to survive at Lincoln I would have to get stronger and quicker. I was one of the first people at Lincoln to lift weights and had my own iron at home. Several members of the Class of '63, most notably Gary Utech, were regular weight lifters.

The Class of 1963 included many members who demonstrated empathy for younger students before Mrs. Hayward taught me the meaning of the word. Even the athletes, though two years older, generally treated younger athletes with respect, particularly if you gave your best effort. Jim McEvers was the prototypical example of a nice guy/talented athlete. NOVEMBER 2008

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Mary Beth's Assumption Scrapbook

Courtesy Mary Beth (Habel) Rokus. Can you find her?

> Not much changed between Joan Haasl's Class of 1946 and the Class of 1963. Second Street South photo c. 1970.









SWCHC

East Side: The class of 1946 and the class of 1963 knew the same town, one that was about to change when these photographs of First Street North were taken. The buildings above have been removed by WoodTrust bank. Those below are still on First Street North under different owners. (February 1973)



While my participation made sports a natural focus, some of the more interesting stories came from non-athletes.

Jennifer Johnson Lemke ("...sparkles like champagne") was in the first Lincoln Class to be tested by the University of Wisconsin Guidance Clinic. That happened in her freshman year in 1959. Other class members who attended were Judy Gilbert, Dick Zellmer and Wayne Miller. Dr. John Watson Murray Rothney, a professor at the University of Wisconsin engaged several of his PhD students in the project which resulted in a book authored by Rothney, titled, *Studies in the Discovery and Guidance of Superior Students* (University of Wisconsin, 1963).

After the first year, the trips were to UW at Wausau under the direction of several of Rothney's staff. Ms. Frances Nairn was the guidance counselor who managed the project at Lincoln's end. The clinic involved a full day of testing and interviews and follow-ups after the students graduated from high school.

Lemke began her college career at UW Madison. She recalls having a wretched time adjusting to advanced chemistry and calculus in the midst of UW social life in 1963. Lemke eventually attended Stevens Point and Whitewater before finishing her college degree at the University of Minnesota. She worked for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune. Lemke also worked at Mid-State Technical College and later the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. After her youngest child was 12 years old, she went to work for the Riverview Health Care Foundation. Her husband, Carl Lemke, was director of real estate for Consolidated Papers and still does consulting work for New Page, the current owner of Consolidated.

Lemke's family lived at 14th and Franklin Street in Wisconsin Rapids. Jennifer fondly remembers attending Irving School before its closing and consolidation with Howe. Dick Zellmer, Marilyn Cornwell, and Barb Panter were among her Irving classmates.

Lemke said Johanna Kumm was her most effective teacher at Lincoln. Garbed in a long black dress, seamed nylons, and sturdy black lace-up heels, Mrs. Kumm spoke with exactitude reminiscent of Colonel Klink. However, Klink would have withered had he been subjected to interrogation from her at the raised platform from which she glowered over students in her biology class.

(See "The Evolution of Oxygen from Suspensions of Chloroplasts; The Activity of Various Species and the Effects of Previous Illumination of the Leaves" by Johanna Kumm and C. S. French in *American Journal of Botany*, Vol. 32, No. 6 (Jun., 1945), pp. 291-295, published by the Botanical Society of America.)

Lemke also remembers the legendary Duke Hornigold as her chemistry teacher. Hornigold maintained order in his class by threatening to assign a paper on the alimentary tract of a camel or a cow. Hornigold assigned her a project involving the analysis of vitamin C as part of a science symposium in Madison.

Lemke remembered Marcia Koonz and Dawn Siewert as exceptional athletes in basketball and field hockey. Girls' basketball limited players to playing either offense or defense. The rules did not allow players to cross the center court line in either direction. There was no interscholastic competition for girls and the Civil Rights Law that blasted the door open for women's athletics was not enacted until 1964. That didn't stop the girls from making their own games. During homecoming week the girls and their gym teacher Gwen Cobleigh organized an all-girls football game.

Lemke's father, Ed Johnson, had his own jewelry and watch-making business on West Grand Avenue. Later, Johnson and Charlie Carpenter established a second business in a larger retail outlet in the Town and Country Mall on 8th Street. Lemke thinks her father didn't make as much money in the larger, higher-overhead mall. Johnson worked for her father during the summer, but had no interest in pursuing a career as a watch-maker or retail jeweler.

Lawyers

The law firm of Finley, Kumble, Wagner, Heine, Underberg, Manley, Myerson and Casey, grew to the second largest law firm in the United States before it imploded in 1987. The class



of '63 could match the hapless Finley Kumble in numbers of partners if it chose to. The super firm of Bowers, Brazeau, Jens-Elder, Grischke, LaChapelle, Metcalf and Schmidt could offer eight names though perhaps not the hubris to match.

Leon Schmidt: In regard to why I chose to become a lawyer, it probably had something to do with my brother and I, at age six, marching around the house in sport coats, little fedoras and small briefcases, declaring, "I protest, I protest" (it should have been "I object," but we didn't quite have that nailed yet).

Nick Brazeau was the star of the senior class play—*Tomorrow the World*. Nick played a professor whose daughter was being harassed by a Nazi. Co-stars were classmates Becky Paul, Tom Johnson, and Jennifer Johnson. Nick changed two magazines used as props from *New Republic* and *Commonwealth* to *American Opinion* and *National Review*. The play, which juxtaposed German and American philosophical values, allowed Brazeau to demonstrate his forensic and pedagogical skills. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1971 after earning a history degree in 1968.

Brazeau noticed the emergence of the transition from conservative American values to more liberal values beginning in high school. While Nick suspects that one of his teachers was a Marxist, it was certainly not his sophomore English teacher, Barbara Benbow.

Benbow was his homeroom teacher and Brazeau remembers her class being full of guys from other homerooms before the bell rang. Benbow's class was "where the action was" according to Brazeau.

After the 1960-61 school year Benbow married Murray Nixon, an Annapolis graduate. The Nixons raised three children. Murray Nixon died in 2002, and Barbara Nixon lives in Danville, California and never taught again.

Hey Metcalf

Brazeau's favorite teacher during high school was biology teacher Johanna Kumm. Brazeau remembered that Mrs. Kumm picked on fellow lawyer-to-be, Bill Metcalf. On days when a supplemental textbook was used, Kumm would excoriate Metcalf.

"Metcalf, why haven't you passed out the Buschbaums?"

The next day, Metcalf, not wishing to face Kumm's ire, would distribute the books before class, to which Kumm would retort:

"Metcalf, I haven't told you to pass out the Buschbaums!"

Butch

Among the most memorable classmates at Lincoln was Harold LaChapelle, mainly known as Butch, sometimes as "Harv," after his dad. Butch entertained with his tongue-in-cheek humor. Some thought Butch never seemed to know whether he was the instigator or victim of practical jokes.

In the sixth grade, LaChapelle transferred to Howe, where he starred in track and basketball. Butch played football and basketball at Lincoln, but a football injury in his sophomore year ended his athletic career.

Ironically, LaChapelle struggled with English even though he became a prominent lawyer. Mrs. Hayward would call on Butch for amusement in her English Class, often asking him to read aloud. Hayward's jabs were the least of difficulties that would test Butch before he graduated from Lincoln.

Stan Schultz: "Harvey" showing up late for class, with shaving cream in his ear and his shirt mis-buttoned, but nevertheless, looking like a young, tousle-haired Kennedy.

(E-mail from Stan Schultz 9/14/08)

LaChapelle was married before he graduated from high school, but his desire to be a lawyer allowed him to graduate from The University of Miami Law School by 1970. LaChapelle served as District Attorney for Wood County from 1972 to 1976.

LaChapelle had an extensive memory for oldies music and a zest for life that would have made Frank Sinatra proud, because he did it "his way." When Butch's doctor told him of his impending death, he gave the doctor his trademark dumbfounded look as if to say "What the hell do you mean?"



Buck

Carl "Buck" Nystrom came to Wisconsin Rapids in 1962 as Lincoln's head football coach. His previous assignment was at the University of Colorado as an assistant coach to Sonny Grandelius. Grandelius and his entire staff were sacked in 1962.

Grandelius and Nystrom both played for the legendary Duffy Daugherty at Michigan State in the 1950s. Nystrom was an All-American guard and linebacker, graduated in 1956 and followed Grandelius to Colorado. Nystrom's approach to football was no-nonsense blocking and tackling.

Though he had an unfortunate season with a winless record in eight games, Nystrom left his mark in Rapids before leaving to become line

coach at North Dakota State in 1963. The 1965 NDSU team won the Division II national championship.

Nystrom recruited from central Wisconsin during his tenure which ended in 1966 when he accepted a similar coaching position at Oklahoma. He was inducted into the NDSU Hall of Fame in 1994.

Nystrom mailed out his conditioning regimen to all Lincoln's football players as soon as he was hired. All you had to know to complete

the drills were basic calisthenics and running 110 yards. Two-a-day drills began in early August.

Nystrom built his team around seniors Harlan Kramer, Bruce Zanow, Edon Meyer, Jim McEvers, Fran Spaulding, Kerry Pruss, Gary Utech and Ron Brazener. However, eight of Nystrom's 11 starters were injured seriously enough to limit or end their participation before midpoint of the season. Nystrom attributed this to lack of preparation.

Nystrom's successor, Roger Harring, rebuilt football at Lincoln but credits Nystrom for getting the program back on track and "giving the younger kids "good noses." Nystrom celebrated his 75th birthday in August and still conducts camps for high school linemen, including one in Rapids in September 2008.

Penza

Meanwhile, the Assumption Royals looked forward to a strong performance from the football team in 1962. Coach Don Penza, later Wisconsin Rapids mayor, had eight Class members, namely linemen Bill Reitz, Jim Higgins, Jack Hesterman, Phil Hamilton and Walter Wolfe and backs Dick Wermersen, Nick Couse, and Don Kubisiak.

Coming into the 1962 season, Penza, and his assistant, Gordie Lewison, had already turned out Central Wisconsin Catholic conference champions. Assumption won over 76% of its games during Penza's tenure.



X-RAY Alan Grischke, Harold La Chapelle

During the 1962 campaign, Jack Hesterman earned All Conference and All Diocesan Honors for his play at tackle. Bill Reitz and Nick Couse earned second team all conference honors. Their 3-5 season record did not reflect their determination and guts, taking on schools like Madison Edgewood with an enrollment larger than Lincoln and Assumption combined.

Little known fact: Don Penza helped Buck Nystrom by watching several Lincoln

games from the press box during the 1962 season and providing helpful advice in Sunday skull sessions.

Today Jack Hesterman and his wife Barb (Judnick) AHS 1965, live in Jackson, Mich. Hesterman is a professional engineer with a firm based in Ann Arbor.

Hesterman also starred in basketball at Assumption. Hesterman and Bill Reitz helped Gordie Lewison's team pull off the upset of the year by beating #1-ranked Madison Edgewood 58-57.

Bill Reitz, AHS leading scorer, was named to the All-Diocesan team. Reitz also earned first team honors as a CWCC All-Conference selection. Jack



Hesterman was an honorable mention selection.

Don Kubisiak, Couse's running mate in Assumption's backfield, was Student Council President. Kubisiak graduated from Notre Dame and lives in Grayslake, Ill., northwest of Chicago.

Nick Couse became a dentist and practices in Appleton. He married Audrey Segal, AHS 1965. While at Assumption, Couse was an honor roll student and Vice-President of the Student Council.

Couse and classmates, Janet Rezin, Yvonne Ott, Jane Malolepsy, Jeanne Frechette, and Barbara Markech earned top scholastic honors at their graduation ceremony held May 26, 1963.

In addition, Yvonne Ott and Peter Smullen reached the finals of the National Merit Scholar competition. Three other seniors — Francis Mancl, Marianne Remitz, and Janet Rezin — were awarded Letters of Commendation.

Yvonne Ott also earned the National English Achievement Certificate. Asked to comment on her award, Yvonne replied that she hadn't expected to win. "Maybe the work of my English teachers was not in vain after all."

No one from the Assumption Class of 1963 became a lawyer.

Barbara Markech married Dick Wermersen. They live in Mosinee and began to play golf fifteen years ago. Remember, girls didn't play interscholastic sports in 1963. Barb Wermersen and Betsy Brauer would have been stars on any golf team. If you ever get a chance to play with either of them, go for it!

The Quarterback

Former LHS QB Brazener recalls that though the Raiders were zero and eight, they gained a lot of yardage on the ground.

After graduation from LHS, Brazener earned an MBA from UW-Madison and joined Mobil Oil in Dallas. Brazener later spent 13 years with Abbott Laboratories in suburban Chicago in a variety of financial positions that included a stint in Puerto Rico. In 1987, Brazener joined General American Door Co. until his retirement in 2007. Brazener continues to work on consulting projects of his choosing and recently helped his sons acquire a franchise for Play and Trade, a video game retailer.

Brazener remains in excellent physical condition today and competed in many running events until a sore hip sidelined him. He looks forward to resuming running after recent successful hip surgery.

Mary Kay Frechette Schoechert...Royal blue through and through...

Mary Kay's uncle was George Frechette, who was the manager of WFHR in Wisconsin Rapids and WSAU-TV in Wausau. Frechette remembers wearing uniforms at AHS, which never changed during her tenure.

Tuition in 1959 was \$90 per year per student. When her sister matriculated in 1962, Frechette's senior year, she thinks the family may have gotten a \$10 or \$20 discount on tuition. Her favorite teacher was Father McKillip, who taught French and religion. McKillip was a younger teacher and identified well with students.

Frechette admired Janet Rezin, the valedictorian whom Mary Kay described as "quietly smart."

Frechette remembers drinking beer with Nick Brazeau at Meehan and arguing politics with Brazeau during the Goldwater/Johnson election of 1964.

Frechette attended the 45th reunion of the Class of 1963 held at Bulls Eye Country Club on September 21 with her boyfriend, Doc Weller. Weller graduated from Lincoln in 1961 and was the second state wrestling champion from Lincoln (Gary Berg was first in 1960).

Berg and Weller were the first of thirty-six individual state champions from Lincoln. Weller was coached by Ken Hurlbut who built a strong wrestling tradition at Rapids before leaving in 1963 to coach in suburban Chicago, first at Evanston Township High School and later at Glenbrook South. Hurlbut also assisted Buck Nystrom in coaching football and coached the Lincoln Golf team. He taught geometry and advanced algebra. Ken Hurlbut died in Waupaca on January 16, 2008. He was 75.

Betsy Brauer—Star and organizer...wherever she is there's a riot...

Betsy Brauer enjoyed reading the "Early Times and Water" segment of the first Little League



article (*Artifacts*, May 2007) since she was its singular star. She was one of the organizers of the 45th reunion, along with Nick Brazeau, Mary Beth (Habel) Rokus, George Zimmerman and Sharon (Van Lysal) Nalbach.

Brauer has lived in Appleton since 2000 and runs her own independent sales and marketing consulting firm. Since graduation, Brauer's career has taken her through interesting jobs in New York City, Boston (twice), Newport RI, and Poultney, Vt., where she directed national advertising for *Ski Racing* magazine. An avid lifetime skier, Brauer started the magazine in 1983.

Brauer was the first, but not the last to tell me about Larry Wills and Quality Packaging

in Fond du Lac. She updated me about how George Zimmerman spent one career at Consolidated in the HR department and now serves as the unofficial "mayor" of Rapids. She also filled me in on the correct number of classmates that became lawyers seven.



Assumption High School

Brauer's friend, Nan Jens Elder, practices family law in

Boston and contributed greatly to the development of the law in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Nan was recently recognized by her peers as a Super Lawyer in family law, and has consistently received the best rating from Martindale-Hubbell, an international lawyer evaluation firm.

Brauer was an excellent athlete who, like all women members of the Class, didn't have the opportunity to compete in high school sports. She is a current member of the Executive Women's Golf Association and serves as a board member. She attended Northwestern University as a freshman and transferred to Wisconsin where she majored in history. Brauer was even an honorary member of Chi Psi fraternity! That leads to another story—maybe two.

Back in the day, Nick Brazeau, several other Chi Psis and Brauer decided to hop a train from Madison to Chicago and bribed a conductor to let them on a freight train. Eventually, they got bored, jumped off in Janesville and called a cab to return to Madison—then scattered in all directions, avoiding cab fare. The cab was driven by former Madison Mayor Paul Soglin. Brazeau reportedly wore jeans for the train ride, probably for the only time in his life.

Grendel

Even many Assumption students have heard the story of Grendel, not the antagonist in Beowulf,

but senior English teacher Alice Hayward. Hayward was one of those teachers who might have been called the Bobby Knight of her day but for the androgynous anachronism. Several classmates related Hayward's account of them as "the worst class she had ever

taught at Lincoln." Other

students recalled that Hayward got them to think logically, read critically, and write persuasively. One student emphasized Hayward's class prepared her for college and how to live life as an adult.

Herodotus

Dave Engel has always been one of those selfeffacing people that avoid attention. I first observed him nearly 50 years ago, lugging stacks of books under each arm yet happy to engage others in conversation.

Perhaps Engel was testing the weight of books and comparing them to the 17 or so he would write (so far). He has long been regarded as the official historian of Wisconsin Rapids though, he says, he received a C-minus from Grendel, his lowest grade



ever. Years later, he interviewed the "grande dame" and was received warmly.

I cannot imagine that there are many topics that Engel is not comfortable discussing. But, be prepared to defend your opinion. If he were a judge, Engel would deflate cocksure lawyers before his court with a simple raised eyebrow. He gathers information by careful listening and an economy of short, penetrating, statements that are both questions and comments rolled into one. Good listeners are scarce but Engel is on my short list of those few I have met.

Engel's account of Bob Dylan tells about young Robert Zimmerman, the son of Jewish immigrants who fetched up in Superior, Wis., and followed "King Hematite" to Hibbing, Minn., but is as much about Hibbing, Wisconsin Rapids, and the fulfillment of Thorstein Veblen's vision of conspicuous consumption and the leisure class.

Coley

Frank Coley was born on V-J Day, Aug. 14, 1945. That fact allowed him to play two years of little league baseball with the Dodgers. Coley served four years in the Air Force and fetched up in Sacramento California. At the urging of his brother, Tom, he moved to the Los Angeles area and became a firefighter with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Coley doesn't think he took life too seriously, but found success.

After 31 years, Coley retired, having attained the rank of Captain. Coley and his wife Jackie live in Calabasas, just north of Malibu.

Sharon Van Lysal Nalbach...Class reflector

Sharon Van Lysal was responsible for running corporate services, the executive offices of Consolidated Papers. She was one of the organizers of the joint Assumption/Lincoln reunion, though she gives credit to Mary Beth (Habel) Rokus and George Zimmerman. Sharon, like so many of the class of 1963, are willing to deflect credit to others for work they have done. Perhaps for Nalbach it came naturally from covering for subordinates and bosses alike during her career at Consolidated.

The Class of 1963 has now held two successful joint reunions. A total of 112 attended the 45^{th} reunion.

Ken Adams...in his natural habitat

Adams laments the disappearance of homecoming snake dances and bonfires at Witter Field. He observed that high school has far more impact on one's life than you realize. He is retired from Consolidated and spent his 62^{nd} birthday building a Habitat house near his home on Lake Pesobic in Lincoln County, Wis.

Hodag

Don Solie lives in Dallas and has enjoyed a successful career selling software to insurance companies. His firm recently introduced an improved compensation management system for home office personnel.

In 1957, the first year of little league baseball, Chet Bell, who controlled Johnson Hills, wanted Don on the Cubs team that the store sponsored.

Don's dad told Bell, "OK, but only if the manager wants him."

Apparently Doc Straub did not, opting to carry a player on the roster who quit the team before the season ended. The oversight may have cost the Cubs the League title, which was won by the Braves in a season-ending playoff. Solie was a talented player who played Pony League baseball as a 14 year old and was a regular on Rapids sandlots.

Solie said his most memorable teacher was Mrs. Kumm, who didn't let him get away with anything and held him to task. He said that Mrs. Kumm reminded him also of Ms. Ann Mary Pitsch, the legendary 7th and 8th math teacher at Howe school.

Mrs. Kumm was fair in all respects and presented her material well. She helped Don develop study habits that he would use in earning an MBA from Indiana University. Solie thinks that the lawyers in the class exhibited discipline, and they've all been financially successful and have done well for their clients. Solie noted that his class, by and large, proved their teachers wrong, some of whom said, "this is the worst class, you'll all be bums!"

Gringle

Tell Gringle that I am the kid who took over his Sunday Milwaukee Journal route in 1959. (e-mail Hinners to Engel 10/16/07)



If you buy 100

nuts and bolts

from your local

hardware store.

chances are that

QPI put them

in the package.

Yes, that plastic

stuff you have

to cut through

is Larry's

handiwork! So

are the printing,

the catchy

advertising

message, and

ARTIFACTS

Gringle, an administrator at Duke University, wrote back:

Dave had informed me via e-mail that you were doing this article, so I've been expecting to hear from you. Your questions certainly got me to thinking about your premise.

While on the subject of Dave, he has my vote in all the categories that I think count the most in the questions you pose. Without Dave Engel I doubt there would be an Artifacts, hence no vehicle for articles such as yours. Without the perspectives of his notable books & ongoing newspaper articles much of the rich diversity of human experience that was and is Wisconsin Rapids and its environs would Bruce Zanow was a starting guard on the 1962 Lincoln football team, coached by Buck Nystrom. A ruptured kidney ended his season and a distraught Nystrom showed up at Zanow's hospital bedside. Buck knew he lost a star player for the season, but he was more concerned about Zanow's health. Zanow worked for the Wood County Social Service Department and retired recently.

Larry Wills—Blister Bags and Clams— Quality Packaging, Inc. (QPI)

Larry Wills and his wife, Mary, founded a small packaging business in Fond du Lac in 1985. Two of Wills' sons and 110 other employees now work with QPI. Larry's third son is a school teacher.

have remained undocumentedmuch to the reflective impoverishment of all of us who have family there, grew up or lived there, and also to all who value the worth of preserving and maintaining that which provides flesh and blood to the historical record. In this



LHS band, Memorial Day, 1961

more global sense, without Dave Engel we would not have ready access to the fascinating history of the UP's copper boom and all it implies. We would struggle to put the cranberry industry of Wisconsin into meaningful context and would know next to nothing about the real roots of Bob Dylan, certainly our generation's most significant, mysterious, and misunderstood icon.

Bruce Zanow

Hi Chuck, one of the biggest reasons I think the class of '63 is the best is the continuing interest to schedule regular class reunions and to have great attendance. Having served on the committees in the past, it's always exciting to see the cohesiveness. Thanks for your interest in our class.....see you on the 20th. Bruce Zanow (e-mail 9/8/2008) the logo that attracted you to the package in the first place.

A second division of Wills' company designs, manufactures and sells customized packaging solutions. An example might be the shrink wrap on a boat chasing a truck down the Interstate.

Soon after graduating from Lincoln, Larry worked for Caterpillar in Aurora, Ill. His company now counts that same Caterpillar plant as a customer.

In the high school years, Larry was most interested in automobiles, which he paid for by working at the IGA store on 8th Street. One day the store manager sent Wills and classmate George Zimmerman to Stevens Point to pick up payroll checks from the IGA headquarters (Copps). George and Larry decided to stop at Meehan for a few



quick ones on the way back. Realizing they had to get back to Rapids to deliver the checks before the employees left, George and Larry got in the car and buried the red ribbon of the speedometer. They got back in time and no one was the wiser.

Now Wills sponsors a team, 5K Motorsports, that runs short track stock cars. The season is 32 weeks long and takes the 5K team all over the upper Midwest. Their current driver is Brett Moffitt from Grimes, Iowa. Unfortunately, Wills was with his racing team in St. Louis during the weekend of the reunion.

Wills' humility, in contrast to his business success, is the quintessence of the Class of 1963. His company web site shares credit for success with his creator, employees, community and customers.

Dede Grandkoski Skibba—Prom Queen... gentlemen prefer blondes.

Skibba attended St. Peter and Paul or "SS" grade school, moving on to Lincoln while most of her friends attended Assumption. She recalls that the Howe kids proved to be the best athletes later at Lincoln.

She remembers playing girls basketball and field hockey at LHS. Dede still shoots baskets with her grandson and even kicks footballs. I forgot to ask her if she is a straight on or soccer-style kicker! Skibba was the junior prom queen in 1962 with Dave Zimmerman, king.

After 30 years in the banking industry with First National Bank of Wisconsin Rapids and later Bank of America in Hawaii, Skibba established her own business. She now lives in Silverdale, Wash., and works four days a week as a personal assistant to senior citizens, providing them a wide range of in-home care services.

Dede and her former husband, Craig Skibba, have been divorced for 35 years, but still visit their children and grandchildren in Lansing, Mich., every Christmas. Like all members of the Class of 63, Skibba is a survivor, and has a few stories—better told by her—to prove it.

Marcia (Marcie) Koonz—Homecoming Queen...charm poise and beauty

Marcie confessed to being a closet female athlete in high school. She participated in GAA

but sneaked home and had her mother drive her to field hockey or basketball games so that her friends did not see her go into the locker room. Koonz remembers a picture of her doing a high jump in an early *Ahdawagam*.

Koonz became a teacher and lived in Hawaii with her first husband, a Marine. Koonz ran her first marathon at the age of 35. She has also competed in several half triathlons, which include a 1.2 mile swim, 56 mile bike ride, and 13 mile run. Koonz watched the first ever Iron Man Triathlon, which was run by just seven Marines. Koonz taught third grade, and during her first marathon, her entire class met her after the race and was amazed at all of the free Coke that she got during the race. Her students saw the Coke cups which were used to provide water to runners along the race route.

Koonz said she taught until age 42, then left Hawaii for Las Vegas and the prescription drug business, retiring from Schering-Plough (Claritin/ Nasonex/Vytorin/Zetia) in 2002. In 2002, she married Denny McLarry, who had been a partner with Lincoln Properties, a large national real estate developer.

Koonz, like other class members, remembers that high school engendered lots of laughter. Koonz's father, Dr. Oliver W. Koonz, is still living at age 99. Koonz and Denny McLarry live near Red Rock Country Club in Las Vegas.

Being voted Homecoming Queen in 1962 was bittersweet, she said, since she wanted her friend Anna (never bitter) Sweet to win. Koonz counts Sweet as the most memorable student at Lincoln.

Anna Sweet

Anna was quiet and unassuming but contributed mightily. She was on both the *Ahdawagam* and *Lincoln Lights* staff for 4 years. She was a varsity cheerleader, class officer and student council member. Anna also participated in Belle Cantos, Junior Academy of Science, National Honor Society, Badger Girls' State and Pep Club. She won the citizenship award presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1963 and helped plan the junior prom and senior homecoming.

Anna Sweet and I went to the same church. She and her siblings attended every week and Anna always took time to take care of the younger kids. My mother observed once that Anna Sweet was... will put a strain on an already under-funded *the best in the west* system. Many Class members have retired be

Longer life, stop ahead—pay toll.

The Class of 1963 included 278 from Lincoln and 114 from Assumption for a total of 392. Two years later, Lincoln alone graduated 393 while Assumption's graduated an all-time high of 192.

Most members of the Class were born in 1945. The actuarial tables used then predicted that only 64% would survive to attend their 45th reunion. The Class handily beat those odds since nearly 90% are still alive.

Longevity, of course will bring challenges. Social Security benefits were designed to reflect life expectancy when you were born. Longer life

JUNIOR ACADEMY

OF SCIENCE PROJECTS

will put a strain on an already under-funded system. Many Class members have retired but continue to work in second careers as consultants and advisors. Others are so passionate about their careers that they will continue to work for emotional and spiritual satisfaction, rendering financial rewards irrelevant.

Longer life expectancy will require more money. Whereas someone retiring at age 65 in our parents generation might live 25 years, insurance companies are betting on today's 65 year old women living to 92 and men to 89. One in 6 women will survive to 100 or beyond while 1 in 11 men will see the century mark. Don't spend more than 3.50% of your principal each year or you'll run out of money.



WATER ANALYSIS Jim Nuhlicek, Leon Schmidt, Richard Mittle-

Forget Me Not: Casualties of the Class of '63

Assumption:

Romelle Crabb (married name Hoefs), Peter Fogarty, Bill Gillis, Bill Hahner, Kathryn Handrick, Fred Herms, Fred Lee, Mary Levendoski (Mancl), Jean Lieble (Peterson), Mary Jane Mandry (Worzella), Fred Mitchell, Jerry Molepske, Kitty Saunders (Sebold), Carol Simkowski (Bogatin),

Larry Smoodie, Jerry Thomas.

LHS:

Arleen Mae Berry (Smith), Beverly Buteyn (Bierma), Gloria Chell, Bernell Dye, William Fitzpatrick, Judith Gessert (White), Bruce Henke, Melvin Klawikowski, Richard Kupper, Harold "Butch" LaChapelle, Betty Liezen (Annand), Robert Paul Luecht, Gloria Malcolm (Murgatroyd), Bette Mueller (Pierson), Frank Panzer, Allan Peckham, Sherry Perschke (Cardinali), Arla Robinson (Beyer), Ronald Scheuneman, Boyd Sharkey, Jay Somers, Terry Stensberg, Helen Svoboda (Schmidt), Donna Utecht (Schooley), Ronna Warner (Frischman), Kathleen Worlund (Runke), Eric Wylie.



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ARTIFACTS





1963 LHS Ahdawagam

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Ahdawagam Challenge



Match 1963 yearbook photos to inscriptions on next page

















He knows that football isn't the only place where a good line is needed Baseball 1,2,3,4; Basketball 1,2,3,4; Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3; Football 1,2,3,4; Homecoming Committee 3; Intramurals (Basketball) 4; Junior Prom Committees 3; Letterman's Club 4; Track 1.

A good guy full of fun; always nice to everyone

Basketball 1,2; Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3; Football 1,2; Intramurals 3; Junior Academy of Science 3; Track

> He's an athlete of whom we're proud, a dash of fun in every crowd Baseball 1,2,3,4; Basketball 2,3,4; Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3; Homecoming Committee 4; Intramurals 1; Junior Prom Committee 3; Letterman's Club 4, Secretary; National Honor Society 4; Student Council 4, President.

Work fascinates me; I could watch it by the hours

Audio-Visual Club 4; Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3; Orchestra 1,2,3,4.

There's mischief in his eyes, winning praise, and female sighs Band 1,2,3; Booster Club 4; Intramurals (Basketball) 2,3; Junior Prom Committees 3; Track 1; Wrestling 4.

Girls may come and girls may go, but I go on forever undisturbed Booster Club, 4; Chemistry Club 3; Intramurals 2,3; Junior Academy of Science 3.

Why do today what you can put off till tomorrow Booster Club 4; Hall Monitor 4. He's tops no matter how you look at him

Basketball 1,2,3,4; Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3; Class Officer 4; Football 1,2,3,4; Golf 1,2,3,4; Homecoming Court 4; Junior Prom Committee 3; Letterman's Club 4; National Honor Society 4; Student Council 1,4; Track 1,3; Badger Boys State 3.

Watch him girls, that bashful guy. Kid him a little and he isn't so shy Booster Club 4; Football 2,3,4; Intramurals 2; Letterman's Club 4; Track 2,3,4.

> Wine, women, and song Band 1; Basketball 1,2,3,4; Booster Club 4; Dramatics Club 4; Football 1,2; Homecoming Committee 4; Junior Prom Committee 3; Letterman's Club 4.

> > All the world's a stage and I'm just another character Debate 1.

His heart is as far from study as heaven is from earth Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3; Golf 3,4; Intramurals 1,2,3; Junior Academy of Science 3.



Lead me not into temptation, but show me where it is Booster Club 4; Intramurals 2; Wrestling 1; Ham Radio Club 1; Traffic Club 2.

School? I suppose it's a necessary evil Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 4; Dramatics Club 1; F.B.L.A. 3; Intramurals 4; Junior Prom Committee 3; Lincoln Lights Staff 3; Traffic Club 1.

> ots of mentality, full of rascality isketball 1,2, Manager; Booster Club ; Chemistry Club 3; Debate 1,3,4; ootball 1,2,3,4, Manager; Junior Academy of Science 3; National Honor Society 4, President; German Club 4.

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Every king has his crown, every class has its clown Booster Club 4; Football 1,2,3; Golf 3, 4; Intramurals 1,2,3,4; Junior Prom Committee 3; Track 2,3.

His hangout is the library Chemistry Club 3; Junior Academy of Science 3,4; Junior Science Symposium 3; Superior Students' Guidance Clinic 1,2,3,4.

> An all around athlete, fairly tall, always cheerful and friendly to all Baseball 1,2,3,4; Basketball 1,2,3,4; Booster Club 4; Cross Country 2; Football 1; Homecoming Committee 4; Junior Prom Committees 3; Letterman's Club 4.

I likeable fellow, never blue, with blenty of fun and mischief too 'rench Club 4; Intramurals 4; Student Council 4; Lincoln Lights Staff 4.

Many great men are bashful youths Band 1,2; Booster Club 4; Chemistry Club 3,4; Dramatics Club 3; Intramurals 3,4; Junior Prom Committee 3; Lincoln Lights Staff 1; Track 1; Pep Band 2.

Success follows when real effort paves the way

Band 1,2; Chemistry Club 4; Intramurals 2,3,4; Orchestra 1,2; Pep Band 2; Badger Boy's State 3.

Many his friends, none his foe; he's a boy we're all proud to know Basketball 1; Booster Club 4; Cross Country 3,4; Football 1,2; Letterman's Club 4; Track 1,2,3,4; Wrestling 2,3,4.





Greetings to those members of the Class of 1963 who are joining us in this issue. For additional subscriptions, please send \$15 to our return addres below. Beginning in 2009, SWCHC dues, which include a subscription to Artifacts, will be \$20.

Bring Back Betty Where in the world ISN'T she?



Betty Boop is the creation of animator Grim Natwick, a native of Wisconsin Rapids, and the studios of Max Fleischer. Illustrations on this page are a tiny sample of what is available on the Internet.

South Wood County Historical Corp. 540 Third Street South Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494 Editor: Uncle Dave Engel dave@swch-museum.com Assistant: Lori Brost lori@swch-museum.com Museum Office Hours: 10-3 M-F (Usually)

> With the "80th birthday" of Betty Boop in 2010 will come numerous community festivities and additions to the Museum exhibit. Wouldn't it be cool if you guys, the members, picked up Betty Boop souvenirs from all around the country and the world and brought them in for display?



P.S. Some of the photos depicting thespian pupils in *Artifacts 18* may have shown Edison school rather than Lowell school as believed.

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