

◆ Blue 'n' Gold ◆

Volume 3 Issue 2

December 1999

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A BLAST

September 11, 1999, turned out to be a beautiful day, and it was a great day for Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Close to 150 alumni and friends of the school came together to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville. Second principal Ed Kirby '45 was to have been master of ceremonies, but he took ill (it turned out to be a minor and temporary setback — he is fine now) and fourth principal Jack Mahoney '95H took his place as emcee, saying, "I've been following Ed around all my adult life (teacher, baseball coach, principal, consultant). This is just one more time." After an official welcome from current principal Kathleen Burkhart and greetings from Region One Superintendent John O'Brien, Jack read the words that Ed had prepared for the occasion: "Sixty years ago, on September 24, 1939, the doors at HVRHS opened for the first time to 374 students. This was an event important not only to these six rural towns of northwest Connecticut but also a milestone in education for the country. Housatonic became the first regional high school in the northeastern United States.

"The history of education in the region is indeed unique. 120 years ago, in 1879, our six towns had a population of 12,194. Today we have 15,866. In 1879 there were 75 school districts and 2,966 students enrolled in 74 schools. Last week our seven schools opened to 2,313 students, about 650 fewer than in 1879. Why? We no longer have the iron industry. Our towns are now residential and service communities

whereas in 1879 Lime Rock was the railroad car wheel capital of the country, if not the world.

"As time passed, schools were consolidated and, by the 1920's, North Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon and Kent had their own small high schools. Falls Village kids took the train to North Canaan, and Cornwall kids took the train to Kent. At these small high schools the offerings were limited. If

"This was an event important not only to these six rural towns of northwest Connecticut but also a milestone in education for the country."

you failed to pass Algebra 1 at Sharon HS, you had to wait a year for it to be offered again. Obviously, more comprehensive high schools were needed.

"Little known is the fact that 1999 also marks the 75th anniversary of the first meeting, in 1924, that would lead to the concept of a regional high school. There were three key people at this meeting: William Teague, Supervisor of Rural Education for the state; Lucille

Continued on page two

Inside This Issue

SIXTIETH
ANNIVERSARY

NEWS OF THE
CLASSES

REPS AND AGENTS
LISTED

QUESTIONNAIRE

TENNIS COURTS LIKELY IN 2000

The end is in sight. The Regional Board is creating a committee that will make recommendations as to siting and building the tennis courts. With the nearly \$3,000 raised at the 60th Anniversary celebration and the additional \$2,000 already donated by alumni, the sum available for the project now has topped \$60,000, more than enough, according to Mickey Riva '61, to begin work.

The cost of building four courts is projected to be around \$114,000, but the hope is to reduce that figure considerably through in-kind donations. So, yes, we are getting close to making this dream a reality, but we still need your help. Mail checks to Tennis Courts Fund, HVRHS Alumni Association, HVRHS, Falls Village, CT 06031.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE DECADE REPS

40's: Dot Winn Cecchinato, 201 Church Street, Canaan CT 06018, 824-7517

50's: Jane Clyburn Boyd, 118 Interlaken Road, Lakeville CT 06039, 435-2303

60's: Patrica Allyn Mechare, 78 Johnson Road, Falls Village CT 06031, 824-0271

70's: Dena Kenny Solan, 6 Mountain View Lane, Canaan CT 06018, 824-0399

80's: Keith Marks, 21 Horseshoe Lane, Lakeville CT 06039, 435-9906

90's: Eric Epstein, 1 Chimney Rock Road, Kent CT 06757, 927-4278

STAFF REPS

Bunny Cecchinato McGuire
Judi Thormann Moore

OFFICERS

Chairman Jack Mahoney
Vice Chairman Pat Mechare
Secretary Jane Boyd
Treasurer Dot Cecchinato

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY, Continued

Mathews Woodward of Salisbury, who had grown up in Ohio and knew about consolidated schools; and Alice Howell, also of Salisbury and an idealist who was always a few steps ahead of what might seem practicable at the moment. Through the efforts of these three, and many others who came on board along the way, HVRHS opened sixty years ago at a building cost of \$374,000, or about 7% of this year's high school budget. Students on that September day entered an unfinished building with no floors (just cement), no clocks, no lockers, and no bells. They passed carefully through the halls around piles of lumber and tools. But they survived, and two of them are with us this evening." At that point Helen Wike Humeston '40 and Ray Holst-Grubbe '40 were asked to stand and be recognized.

Then the fun began. There was clam chowder, lobsters, steak cooked to order, clams, corn on the cob, cole slaw, and strawberry shortcake. There were beverages and conversation. Background music was provided by local radio personality Dale Jones '79. There were door prizes, occasional drawings, a silent auction, and commemorative items for sale all evening such as T-shirts, pins and car stickers. After dinner there was more music, some dancing, and lots more conversation. In fact, the conversation level was so spirited all evening that the emcee had a hard time calling attention to what was next on the program, a sure sign of a successful event. The only regret was that there was no rendition of the school song. That will be remedied next time.

Thanks and high praise for organizing and contributing go to Bunny Cecchinato McGuire '55 and Dot Winn Cecchinato '47, both strategically located in the main office of the high school each day; to Judi Thormann Moore and Susie Goodsell Rundall '67 for organizing a highly successful silent auction; to Amy Bishop Camassar '87 for donating the T-shirts; to

Pat Allyn Mechare '64 for selling the souvenirs; to Dena Kenny Solan '73 and family for preparing the program; to Kevin Bousquet and his staff at the Interlaken for a superb feast, at their cost, in a great setting; and to the following benefactors for their donations to the cause: the Hopkins Inn, New Preston; the Hopkins Vineyard, New Preston; SNET; Town & Country Chevrolet, Kent; William Manasse, Attorney, Kent; Perotti Plumbing, Canaan; Cornwall Electric; House of Books, Kent; Harney Teas, Salisbury; Salisbury Garden Center; The Village Store, Salisbury; Barrington Stage Co., Great Barrington; White Hart Inn, Salisbury; Limey's Restaurant, Sheffield; Davis IGA, Kent; Bull's Bridge Inn, Kent; Mystic Seaport; Strobel's Bakery, Kent; Nora's

"HVRHS opened sixty years ago at a building cost of \$374,000, or about 7% of this year's high school budget."

Nursery, Cornwall Bridge; Beardsley Gardens, Sharon; WKZE, Sharon; Toys Galore, Kent; Fife and Drum Restaurant, Kent; Brook Run Farm, Kent; Berkshire Theatre Festival, Stockbridge; Fellerman & Raabe Glassworks, Sheffield; Hotchkiss Golf Course, Lakeville; Mohawk Mountain, Cornwall; Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge; Kent Pizza Garden; The Boston Symphony; BIC Corporation, Milford; and the Norwich Navigators, Norwich, CT.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT DUES OF \$5 ARE PAYABLE EACH YEAR ON SEPTEMBER FIRST. WE RELY ON YOUR DUES TO KEEP THESE NEWSLETTERS COMING. THANKS.

ED.

REMEMBER WHEN...

... Dr. Stoddard's chair collapsed under him in the cafeteria?

...the auditorium was being built and every now and then we would find bricks in our lockers?

...we returned to school in September of '69 to find that the front pillars and the assistant principal's office had been damaged by dynamite?

...in the 50's when we all used to hang out at Johnny's Restaurant in Canaan? Even from the wilderness of Kent and Cornwall, we would go there after dances, basketball games, movies, or bowling at the Colonial, on any night, for no reason! Coffee was ten cents — and you could sit for hours with your friends over that cup of coffee.

Actually, "Johnny's" warm welcome (tolerance?) for HVRHS students spanned four decades. It was back in the late 30's when Johnny Fracaro opened Johnny's Restaurant in a deep, narrow space (now the office of Jim's Garage) adjoining Stone's Garage on Railroad Street. Johnny married a local girl, Margaret Allyn, who was a graduate of Canaan High School. During World War II, while he was away for four years, Margaret and Johnny's parents kept the restaurant open—always 24 hours, seven days a week! Johnny and Margaret had five daughters, all graduates of HVRHS, and often employees at the restaurant. In 1960, Johnny moved the business to a new building north of town. Even though the atmosphere was totally different, HVRHS students continued to hang out and be welcomed there. Johnny was only 47 when he died in 1966, and Margaret continued to run the restaurant until 1975, when she retired. Forty years of wonderful memories!

Thanks to Susie Fracaro Clayton '71, midnight-to-six voice on WQQQ, for sharing her family history.

HOUSATONIC VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CLASS AGENTS

- 1940 Helen L. (Wike) Humeston White Hollow Road Sharon 06069 364-5484
 1941 Doretta (Beaupre) Belter 238 Salmon Kill Road Lakeville 06039 435-2257
 1942 John Segalla Box C Leedsville Road Amenia NY 12501 914-373-8153; 914-373-8151 (W)
 1943 Marjorie (Casey) Nash Ashpotag Road Norfolk 06058 542-5755 and Julia (Del Tenno) Segalla
 360 Ashley Falls Road Canaan 06018 824-5218
 1944 Gina R. (Segalla) Victory Granite Avenue Extension Canaan 06018 824-7957
 1945 Margaret "Peg" (Hanlon) Flynn 170 Beebe Hill Road Falls Village 06031 824-7852
 1946 Janet (Hedden) Wildman 27 Old Litchfield Road Washington 06794 860-868-2676
 1947 Dot (Winn) Cecchinato 201 Church Street Box 794 Canaan 06018 824-7517
 1948 Audrey (Murphy) Whitbeck Weatogue Road Salisbury 06068 824-7794
 1949 Teresa (Perotti) Solan Greene Avenue Canaan 06018 824-5790
 1950 Anna (Pedersen) Johnson Mitchelltown Road Ext. Sharon 06069 364-5158
 1951 Ross A. Beaujon Granite Avenue Box 992 Canaan 06018 824-7062 and
 Joyce (Marston) Kragel 454 Egg Harbor Road Turnersville NJ 08012 609-589-0025
 1952 Lee (Lenore Fuller) Hoag 76 Prospect Street Canaan 06018 824-4750 and Lester
 Hoysradt Undermountain Road Salisbury 06068 435-2761
 1953 Norman Tatsapaugh Housatonic Avenue #13 Box 241 Canaan 06018 824-5906 and Anne
 (Clyburn) Killawee 7 Terry Lane Canaan 06018 824-5824
 1954 Carol (O'Brien) Hall 16 Kent Hollow Road South Kent 06785 927-3655 and Jacqueline (Babuin)
 Matson 76 South Kent Road South Kent 06785 927-3888
 1955 Bunny (Cecchinato) McGuire 21 Reed Street Box 95 Canaan 06018 824-5900
 1956 Paula (Moni) Hickey 14470 Tibbles Street Omaha NE 68116 402-496-1917 and Claire
 (Johnson) Pedersen 100 Mitchelltown Road Sharon 06069 364-0051
 1957 Jean (Riva) Perotti Box 538 Canaan 06018 824-5509
 1958 Pat (Zimmermann) Miller Box 22 Falls Village 06031 435-9633 (office)
 1959 Karen (Monroe) Fulco 137 New Lenox Road Lenox MA 01240 413-637-2292
 1960 Donna Aakjar 28 Barlow Street Canaan 06018 824-5881; 364-0191(W)
 1961 Linda (Rhoades) Fitzgerald 2509 Mackinac Drive Greensboro, NC 27455 910-282-6912;
 800-523-7888, ext. 2700 (W)
 1962 Virginia (Togninalli) Catellan P.O. Box 1055 Canaan 06018 824-9989; 824-7704 (W)
 1963 Hazel (Kirkpatrick) McGuire Beebe Hill Road Falls Village 06031 824-0533; 824-7869 (W)
 and Joe Fraser 50 Farnam Road Lakeville 06039 435-9210
 1964 Pat (Allyn) Mechare 78 Johnson Road Falls Village 06031 824-0271; 927-3537 (W)
 1965 Jane (Caron) McGarry 47 East Main Street Salisbury 06068 435-0016
 1966 Suzanne (Lotz) Dodge 33 Point of Rocks Road Falls Village 06031 824-0349; 824-5672 (W)
 1967 Curt Mechare 78 Johnson Road Falls Village 06031 824-0271; 927-3537 (W)
 1968 John Hallihan 112 Canaan Road Salisbury 06068 435-1033
 1969 Joan (Segalla) Baker 7 Greene Ave. Canaan 06018 824-0216; 824-7512 (W)
 1970 Joy Martorell 148 Sand Road Falls Village 06039 824-5505
 1971 Clare (Nutt) Hotelling Box 133 Sharon 06069 364-0377 nutmeg@li.com
 1972 Rick Hotelling Box 133 Sharon 06069 364-0377 nutmeg@li.com
 1973 Paula (McGivern) Rogers 60 Chatfield Drive Lakeville 06039 435-9938
 1974 Eliza (Blake) Smith Box 1202 Sharon 06069 364-0577
 1975 Katie (Sherwood) Wood 33 Library Street Salisbury 06068 435-0071
 1976 Diane (Chinatti) Carlson Box 406 Falls Village 06031 824-4606
 1977 Brian Kenny Box 12 Sharon 06069 364-0608
 1978 Lynn (McGuire) Heacox 12 Hunting Ridge Road Sharon 06069 364-0517
 1979 Theresa (Carley) Kenny Box 12 Sharon 06069 364-0608
 1980 Sean Kenny P.O. Box 803 Canaan 06018 413-528-5278
 1981 Lisa (Fallon) Neary 75 Davis Road Harwinton 06791 860-485-1967
 1982 Kevin Wheeler 239 Old North Road Amenia NY 12501 914-373-8051
 1983 Dolores (Schaefer) Perotti PO Box 356 Canaan 06018 824-0253
 1984 Jessica Fowler 24 Dawn Hill Road Cornwall 06753 672-2849
 1985 Ann Marie (Griskauskas) Schroeder 55 West Hill Road A Elmira NY 14903 607-732-0804
 1986 Rebecca (Perotti) Lachaine Chatfield Drive Lakeville 06039 435-4962
 1987 Tracey (Consolini) Wilson 103 Rte 7 S Falls Village 06031 824-4533
 1988 Laurie Hammond 14 Rustic Lane Salisbury 06068 824-1211, 7448
 1989 Russell Coward III 30 Parkman Street #3 Brookline MA 02446 617-734-8877
 1990 Kristen (Neary) Marks 21Horseshoe Lane Lakeville 06039 435-9906
 1991 Beth (Hammond) Vernall 44 Racetrack Road Lakeville 06039 435-8899
 1992 Megan Baldwin 181 Main Street Lakeville 06039 435-6142
 1993 Eric Epstein 1 Chimney Rock Road Kent 06757 927-4278 e-mail e_epstein@gmaccess.com
 1994 Adrian Drury 111 Granite Avenue Canaan 06018 824-0542; college info: Carnegie Mellon
 University SMC 3257 P.O. Box 3320 Pittsburgh, PA 15320-3320
 1995 Heather Davidson 6 Canterbury Lane Lakeville 06039 435-9135
 1996 Ethan Mechare 78 Johnson Road Falls Village 06031 824-0271
 1997 Sarah Calhoun Gettysburg College Box 289 Gettysburg PA 17325
 e-mail: s443618@gettysburg.edu; Cornwall phone: 672-6747
 1998 Shannon Perotti 97 Trescott Hill Road Canaan 06018 824-0516

DONORS LISTED

Between last April and the end of October, these alumni have sent in donations beyond dues:

1940's: \$670

Edward Kirby, William Wilbur, Lucy Pacocha Tremont, Phyllis J. Derigan, Charlotte Whitcomb Ramuten, Claudia Sanger Faedi, Virginia Walker Hart, Gertrude Matson Erikson, Elizabeth Selfridge Bauman, Raymond Coons, Richard Brown, William Marcon, Odmund Olsen, Jeanne Menser Pozzetta in memory of husband Henry Pozzetta, John Neville, Austin Jackson in memory of wife Connie Suydam Jackson, Doris Viola Canfield, Helen Wike Humeston, and Marjorie Casey Nash.

1950'S: \$620

Peter Kenny, J. Roderick Stackleberg, Daniel Hall, Margaret Castell Bloom, Bette Ann Pidgeon Dufour in memory of W. D. Dufour, Jeanne Murray Jones, John Berti, Donald Peretti, Betty Botacchi Palumbo, Ann Zimmermann Miller, Joyce Marston Kragel in memory of brother Dick Marston, Norman Tatsapaugh in memory of Janet Lavalette Tatsapaugh, Karen Monroe Fulco and Barclay Prindle.

1960'S: \$550

Class of '64 Reunion, Joseph Fraser, Judith Gobillot Soule, Burleigh Noyes, Susan Parsons Woodard, Susan Gomez Vreeland, Irene Carlin Haskew, Lenora J. Rho, Donna Aakjar, Sandra Gobillot Perkins, Terri Tatsapaugh Sergi, Stephen Bornemann, Walter Benesch, Jerry Riley, and Frank & Ameenie Gallinelli.

1970'S: \$100

Class of '73 Reunion

...Continued on page 8

NEWS OF THE CLASSES BY DECADES

THE FORTIES

The Class of '47 held a birthday bash (70!) in August with a delicious buffet, wine, and gifts at the Masonic Hall in Canaan. Thirty three classmates enjoyed the occasion.

The Class of '49 held its fiftieth reunion with 53 in attendance as well as Mr. Clarke Wood, former Vo-Ag teacher. This class also intends to celebrate with a 70th birthday party in two years. For this occasion, Barbara Harvey Olcott thinks a three-day gathering may be considered, perhaps in North Carolina. Eugene O'Meara says he is looking forward to this one too as he keeps in touch with many of his classmates and follows the history of the class.

In attendance at the 60th Anniversary Party for HVRHS on September 11 were: Helen Wike Humeston and Ray Holst-Grubbe '40; Hank and Doretta Beaupre Belter, Isabelle Decker, Elizabeth McLaine Lovett, and Vince Johnson '41; Austin Jackson '42, Gino Cortesi '43, George Bushnell '44, Emma Carberry Paley '45, and Dot Winn Cecchinato '47.

THE FIFTIES

What a turnout! The HVRHS 60th Anniversary Party was crowded with alumni of the 50's with the Class of '56 having the most celebrants. Many came great distances, renewed friendships made more than forty years ago, shared memories of our 60-year-old alma mater, and, generally, had a wonderful evening.

The Class of '59 was also celebrating its 40th reunion that weekend. Tom Atkins and wife Cathy traveled from Oregon for the festivities; Gus and Joanne Walters '61 Gustafson returned from Thailand just in time for the celebration; and Peter and Sally Jensen '60 Hart arrived from Beckley,

West Virginia. Pete is superintendent of the 71,000-acre New River Gorge National Park, and Sally is a sixth-grade teacher. Class Agent Karen Monroe Fulco reported that they all met again the next day for brunch and to celebrate their 40th reunion. Also attending that function were Buddy Stapleton from Texas, Joan Yutzler-Langolis, Pat Hall Graf, and Joann Peterson Boardman.

From the Class of '58 and looking better than ever were Lynn Hunter Cline, who is with a law firm in Kent, Audrey Athoe Wyman, and Marilee Dufour Bristol. Did you know that Audrey and Marilee were classmates all through elementary school, high school and college? They had fun reminiscing. Any plans for a 60th birthday party in 2000?

The Class of '56, always ready to party, had an enthusiastic group: Barclay Prindle, John Berti, both former three-letter-men and huge HVRHS supporters; Jane Clyburn Boyd, Secretary of the Alumni Committee; always smiling Jerry Corcoran in from Illinois; and Ken Haley with wife Bernadette made a special effort to attend since they had been unable to get to past events. Ken recently retired after 43 years with Reader's Digest. Unexpectedly, Pepper Clark appeared at the end of the party with wife Karen. They came from the Minneapolis area to visit Pep's parents in Lakeville. A great time was had by all.

Party-goers from the Class of '55 consisted of Class Agent and party organizer Bunny Cecchinato McGuire; Phyllis Pidgeon Walsh from casino territory in Uncasville, CT; and Marion Smith Romeo. The evening was particularly memorable for Marion and brother, Clayton, married to Cynthia Barnett '52 Smith. Their father, Harold Smith, was an original HVRHS

faculty member in 1939. He taught Commercial Studies until his retirement in the early 60's. Is there a 40th reunion coming up?

The Class of '54 revelers were "Newt" Bristol, who told us that his oldest grandson pitches in Little League, though not as a lefty like his grandfather; and Bill Tobin, who played host to a houseful of alumni friends in Kent.

Class of '53 attendees were Dale Prindle, reliable HVRHS Alumni contributor; Class Agent Anne Clyburn Killawee; and Jack Dower, voted Most Popular in senior year. Avid tennis player Bob Moore came all the way from Virginia Beach to show his support for long-overdue tennis courts at HVRHS. Anne and Co-Agent Norman Tatsapaugh are already talking about a 65th birthday party for the class.

The Class of '52 had a good showing: Bette Ann Pidgeon Dufour, a generous donor to the Alumni Association, who lives in Pittsfield and Daytona Beach; Cynthia Barnett Smith, retired nurse of seventeen years at Indian Mt. School; and Class Agent Lester Hoysradt. "Ditto" Andrews, USAF retiree, came up from Longboat Key, FL. He and wife Maureen spent a fun-filled weekend with Bob Moore '53 at the home of Bill Tobin '54.

From the Class of '50, James Herd, another USAF retiree, traveled from Rancho Cordova, CA; he and classmate Jim McGuire had a lot of catching up to do. Jim is a bass fishing devotee whose greatest joy is taking his five-year-old grandson on fishing expeditions. There is excitement building for a 50th reunion. Contact Joanne Reimer Godburn, 27 Grove Street, Canaan CT 06018; 860-824-5969.

Continued on page 5

CLASS NEWS, Continued

No one attended from the Class of '51, but news from Bob Johnson was exciting. Since he retired last January, he has been following the NASCAR Winston Cup Circuit: Daytona 500 in February, Darlington, Las Vegas in March with a side trip to CA to visit friends. He has plans for Talladega in April, Charlotte in May, and on through the circuit. Hope to hear more of Bob's adventures and news of any HVRHS alumni he meets along the way.

From the Class of '57 Helen Becker Crichton sends news that her family has settled in Binghamton, NY, after living in seven states. Six of her seven children are in military service. They have adopted three more children, ages 16, 14, and 13. Congratulations! And Ed McGuire is convalescing at home after a stay at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington. Cards and letters would be much appreciated and should be sent to P.O. Box 276, Falls Village, CT 06031.

THE SIXTIES

Walter Benesch of the Class of '67 sent along his resume, and it makes fascinating reading. He has done such things as serve as a taxi driver, evening shift, in Manhattan and the Bronx. While he was Assistant Director to the Youth/Aging Program, Youth Services Agency, City of New York, "there were two contracts out on my life by gangs in the South Bronx, but three gangs were protecting me, so the balance was in my favor." During those same years in the mid-70's he "served as the foster father and teacher to Nim Chimpsky, an infant chimpanzee, in Columbia University's program to raise and teach a chimpanzee sign language in a human environment." Very active in the Freemasons, he is a Knight York Cross of Honor and a past District Deputy Grand High Priest. Since 1986 he has worked for the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C. About his authorship of

the Department's Year 2000 Management Plan, Version 1.0 these words from a department commendation: "When a crisis arose, Mr. Benesch voluntarily took on the task of development and issuance of the DoD Year 2000 Management Plan. This was done in a seemingly unreasonable time limitation. His creativity and resourcefulness prevented the Department from being the subject of Congressional criticism for not having such a plan in place." His current title is Program Analyst for the Technical Services Division of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Command Control, Communications and Intelligence, Year 2000 (Y2K) Program Office. Whew! In October of this year he received the Exceptional Civilian Service Award for his work. Walter resides in Falls Church, VA.

THE SEVENTIES

Had he not moved to Miami, FL, after his junior year, Ed Montanaro would have graduated with the Class of '71. His story is interesting: "Most of my career has been spent with the Florida Legislature where I am the Director of the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research. I also served as the chief economist for Governor Bob Graham. During the past couple of years I have been working as a volunteer at a local prison, teaching English as a second language to Spanish speaking inmates and studying Latin American Literature at Florida State University." Ed and wife Victoria have lived in Tallahassee since 1979 and have two children: Kayla, a sophomore at Florida State and Paul, a junior at Leon High School.

Ed's brother Jim Montanaro also moved to Miami after his junior year, and he would have graduated with the Class of '73. A graduate of MIT, Jim has been "working at designing integrated circuits of various flavors" for Digital Equipment Corporation and Ap-

ple Computer before moving on, with colleagues, to start his own company, Alchemy Semiconductor. In 1992 he moved to Austin, TX. For the first several months, he kept close track of CT weather, calling relatives and former co-workers to gloat whenever a storm hit New England. Then Jim saw his first Texas hail storm, hail the size of oranges, destroying the car and making pesto of the basil plants. Now he is a bit more restrained in his weather commentary. He and wife Marcia were married in 1986 and adopted teenage daughter Raquel in 1989. By November 1998 they were grandparents. Raquel and her family moved to Austin shortly thereafter so her son could be properly spoiled. Another member of the Class of '73, Susan Killawee Ringeisen and husband Conrad recently moved back to the area and purchased the New Boston Inn in Sandisfield, MA. The Inn has been doing business since 1739. Congratulations to Dena Kenny Solan, who was recently elected to the Poughkeepsie Women's Slowpitch Softball League Hall of Fame.

"Best to the Class of '74," writes Louise Hadden, who is a cum laude graduate of McGill University. Since Boston University School of Law she has been a senior programmer/analyst at a social science research firm in Cambridge, MA, and she reflects, "Who ever dreamed that the Contemporary Math class I took my senior year at HVRHS, writing BASIC programs on paper tape, would lead to my future career?" Louise has three children, all of whom are athletes — no surprise since Mom played varsity women's ice hockey at McGill.

The Class of '75 is making plans for its 25th reunion in the year 2000.

As of last spring Lieutenant Colonel Brian Bergdahl of the Class of '76 was a Squadron Commander at Nellis Air

Continued on page 6

CLASS NEWS, Continued

Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada, on temporary duty in the Balkans. Brian and wife Diane have a six-year-old daughter named Sarah. Also of the Class of '76 **Patty Alto-Cournoyer** lives in Winooski, VT, where she is a computer specialist in the school system and has three children.

Brother **Rick Alto**, Class of '77, is a member of the Secret Service and Director of Rowley Training Center. He lives in Crofton, MD, and has two children. **Kathleen "Kaki" Kirby '77** in the past year resigned her position with Winstar Productions, Non-Fiction Films in New York City and returned to Los Angeles to a new position as Senior Vice-President of Documentary Films for Foxstar Productions, which produces films for outlets such as The Learning Channel and The History Channel.

Marybeth Alto-Carroll '79 lives in Nashua, NH, where she is International Marketing Director for Liberty Mutual Insurance. She has one child.

THE EIGHTIES

Carole Alto '80 is in the restaurant business in Frankfort, IL.

Robert Griskauskas '82 sent an e-mail from Germany. He is the Treasury Business Area Controller at Deutsche Bank Headquarters in Frankfurt and lives in Idstein/Ts with wife Irene and sons Noah and Samuel. His e-mail address is robert.griskauskas@db.com.

While Editor Mahoney was away on a trip last spring, daughter **Kathleen '83** hosted a gathering at his place that featured various **Perottis, Scholls, Sternlofs, Koneaznys, and Connie Hooker**. They engaged in a cut-throat game of Trivial Pursuit.

Jessica Fowler '84 reported that she and husband **Jim Krissel** and two-year-old **Katherine** own a farm in Sharon and that she is active with the Susan B. Anthony Project and the Cornwall Library. **Diana Carlson Hine '84** wrote that after six years as a sales manager and buyer for G. Fox

she went back to school to get her teaching certification (ed. note: must be in the genes) and now has a master's degree in elementary education from the University of Hartford. **Diana** lives in Glastonbury with husband **Tom** and the adorable (sent a photo) **Miss Charlotte**, who is two years old. E-mail **TOMHINE@aol.com**.

The Class of '89 held its ten-year reunion on November 27 at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville. **Rory O'Connor** is looking to update the class list of addresses. Contact him at P.O. Box 258 Salisbury CT 06068 or call 860-435-8100 or fax 860-435-1032.

THE NINETIES

Kim Borst '90 wrote from San Francisco to say that she is teaching fourth grade in one school and serving as Head of Lower School at another. "Holding two jobs like this simultaneously is nearly killing me, but it's a great experience," she says. Those who know her are not surprised. **Kim**, who will be married in August, reports seeing **Maggie Christinat '91** and **Peter Michels '90** often.

Jennifer Barnum Wright '91 wrote to say that she and husband **Stephen** own a computer consulting company. They design and install customized computer networks and love working together.

REDEDICATION OF THE HENRY BURGESS AUDITORIUM

In recent months the HVRHS auditorium has undergone a much-needed renovation and renewal. After his passing in 1988, it was dedicated to **Henry Burgess** of Salisbury, long-time Chairman of the Regional Board, who was so committed to our school and so proud of its achievements. At a rededication ceremony in November, Principal **Kathleen Burkhart** spoke these eloquent words: "As we rededicate the Henry Burgess Auditorium this nineteenth day of November, 1999... May it be a place where the achievements of students are recognized and celebrated... A place where people come together to honor those who lead, serve,

and excel... A place where imagination, learning and debate fill the air and the echo of music and song prevail... May it be a gracious place of encouragement where individual endeavor is cherished and loudly applauded... May the colors we have chosen, the evergreen of our hills and the steadfast gray of the stones of our fields, serve to provide an aura of promise and stability which will inspire each of our students in his or her own way to reach for the blue of the sky and the gold of achievement that is the proud tradition of Housatonic."

ENCOUNTERS

J. Dean Hammond '61 ran into **Jessie Branch '56** in a Granby CT Dunkin' Donut Shop. Then, the following week, **Dean** and wife **Gail Neville Hammond '65** found **Richard Dixon '61** living next door to friends they were visiting in Wilmington, North Carolina. **Dean** and **Rich** were Housy football tri-captains along with **Tony Cantele '61**. Small world.

Laura Martin '98 spent most of an airplane flight wondering about a fellow passenger who looked familiar. Finally she got up the courage to ask, and he turned out to be **Nigel Downer '93**.

Send us accounts of your encounters with fellow alumni and we will print them in this column.

FLASH!

Word has just come in that HVRHS senior **Dan Kruger**, son of Dr. and Mrs. **Gerard Kruger** of Lakeville, has been selected as one of the two delegates from CT to the 38th Annual U.S. Senate Youth Program. **Dan** gets an all-expenses paid week in Washington plus a \$2,000 scholarship for college, all sponsored by the W.R. Hearst Foundation. Congratulations!

Printing and Folding by:

The Housatonic Mountaineer Press
Technology Education Department
Drafting and Electronic Publishing Class
Housatonic Valley Regional High School

QUESTIONNAIRE

(IT'S EASY, AND WE'RE SO EASY WE'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU RETURN IT, COMPLETE OR NOT)

The HVRHS Alumni Association Committee wishes to secure the widest possible participation in all its activities, including this newsletter. We are not the same people we were in high school. We have grown and changed and our individual stories are unique, but we retain this one thing in common: we grew up in the northwest corner of Connecticut, and we attended a special school, the first regional high school in the northeastern United States. Let's enjoy what we have in common and share what has made us each unique by attending reunions, phoning or sending e-mails or letters or cards to old friends (we have addresses and some phone and e-mail numbers in our data bank), reading this newsletter — and responding to initiatives such as this questionnaire. Thanks. Please mail to HVRHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, 246 WARREN TURNPIKE, FALLS VILLAGE CT 06031.

Do you read the newsletter? _____

What do you find most interesting? _____

What would you like to change about the newsletter? _____

Have you attended reunions? _____

What factors weigh most heavily in your decision whether or not to attend a reunion? (Please enter a 5 for the factor most important to you down to a 1 for the least important factor.)

- A. Site _____ Preference? _____
- B. Cost _____ Preference? _____
- C. Time of year _____ Preference? _____
- D. Day of week _____ Preference? _____
- E. Knowledge that old friends will also be attending _____

Have you any advice for us as we seek to broaden participation in alumni activities?

Further comments:

Do you have a change of address for us? _____

An e-mail address? _____

Dues to pay? (Attach a check made out to HVRHS Alumni Association and note that it is for "Dues.")

A donation to make? (Attach a separate check made out to same but note that it is for "Tennis Courts.")

DID YOU KNOW?

...that these faculty members, in descending order of seniority, are still in business at HVRHS and have been for at least twenty years:

David Lindsay arrived in '66, Judith Thormann Moore and Edmund Finn in '69, Ronald Dower, Richard Greco and George Wheeler in '70, Holly Adams in '71, Linda DiCorleto in '73, Linda Everett in '74, Marjorie Rote Becker, Denise Volack Dower, Michael Guy, and David Seney in '76, David Bayersdorfer in '77, Pamela Wilson in '78, and Russell Coward and Paul Padua in '79?

WONDER OF WONDERS:

hvrhs_alumni@yahoo.com

**SOUVENIRS
AVAILABLE**

Produced to be sold at the Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration in September as well as at class reunions, these Housatonic souvenirs are available by return mail for the following prices:

T-shirts (navy blue with gold lettering) at \$12 per; decals at \$5; and pins at \$5. Send your check to HVRHS Alumni Association, 246 Warren Turnpike, Falls Village, CT 06031 c/o Dean Hammond. Stipulate which souvenirs you wish to purchase and how many.

*BLUE 'N' GOLD, THE
NEWSLETTER OF THE
HVRHS ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION, IS
PUBLISHED TWICE A YEAR,
JUNE AND DECEMBER.*

DONORS, Continued

1990'S: \$150

William Rundall and Roberta Yerkes

1980'S: \$90

**John Pener, Denise Dubay Brooks,
and Mark Pener**

FACULTY: \$50

Caroline Wakefield

FLASH #2!

The Class of '60 is planning a 40th reunion and wishes to re-establish contact with members **Bonnie Dunning, Mary Lawrence, Patricia Smith, Alonzo Roberts, and Jorunn Aamodt**. Send information to **Bunny McGuire** at the school. She will enter it into the large database and forward it to **Richard Brown '60**.

Blue 'n' Gold

**HVRHS Alumni Association
c/o HVRHS
246 Warren Turnpike
Falls Village, CT 06031**

**NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #5
06031**

Inside This Issue: 60th Celebration, Tennis Courts Update, Remember When, Agents and Reps, Donors, Class News, Encounters, Questionnaire, Veteran Faculty, Souvenirs