



# MHS Class of 1958 Newsletter

Volume 4    January 2011    Number 1



## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Linda Gayhart Heimbeucher became a great-grandmother on June 22, 2010 with the birth of Jonathan Linderman, 4 pounds, 6 ounces.

Beatrice Christina Bradford became a first time great-grandmother with the birth of Camila, 6 pounds, 9 ounces on July 30, 2010.

James and Rose Marie Ambrose Donovan welcomed new grandson, Zachary (son of Joe and daughter-in-law, Kerianne), 8 pounds, 2 ounces on Sept 16, 2010.

Dennis Yerkey was elected national president of the OX5 Aviation Pioneers at the organization's 55th annual reunion at Dayton Ohio. The OX5 is a historical aviation club comprised of 1,500 pilots and historian members. Yerkey is also a member of the Cliff Ball Wing of OX5 in Pittsburgh and is presently serving as secretary of the Pittsburgh wing. OX5 was founded at Latrobe in 1955 and spread nationally. The Curtis OX-5 engine was the first mass-produced reliable aircraft engine.

<http://www.ox5news.com/>

Duane and Patricia Hillman Peters celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 11, 2010.

Michael Ferrari is recovering from surgery in October. Patty Hillman Peters has recovered from the placement of stents last May.

Marge Hunter (Mrs. Bob) has recovered from surgery last spring.

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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Priscilla Davis Webb: b1d2grammy@aim.com

Norma Mountain Haywood: normajh88@centurylink.net

## 70th Birthday Bash by Robert Roule

To mark the turning to the big Seven O, guests and 35 classmates gathered for a Birthday Bash in Monongahela on Sept. 19.

Septuagenarians and "will-bes" met at Hey Andy's Restaurant and Sports Bar for fun, food and fellowship. Sandwiched in between chitchat about past accomplishments and future plans, many of the group took time to catch snippets of the Steelers-Tennessee Titans football game.

Following a buffet dinner, the classmates sang "Happy Birthday" and then enjoyed a slice of birthday cake, that had a Greyshock's-bakery type pineapple and nut filling.

Classmates were encouraged to send in a funny senior sayings when they registered for the Birthday Bash. Taking top honors for the funniest saying was Richard "Bucky" Hyslop. Linda Gayhart Heimbuecher and Coleen Gavaghan tied for second place and Max Webb, husband of Priscilla Davis Webb, was third. There were four winners in a "share-the-wealth" drawing: Mary Etta Petras Mayak, Dennis Yerkey, Ed Fabin and Dorine Panseri. Dorine had to leave the party early so she gave her ticket to Marcia Papak Lesko, telling Marcia to keep the money if the ticket was a winner. The young ladies could have divvied up the swag, but Dorine and Marcia decided to donate the money to the class treasury. Thelma Wilson Lutes won a name-drawing.

Teacher Jeanne Tucker was a guest of the class and she received the table decorations made by Marge (Robert) Hunter.

Classmates traveled from Delaware, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia to attend the bash.

The event committee included Judy Martin Leach, Dennis Yerkey, Beatrice Christina Bradford. Thelma Wilson Lutes, Robert and Marge Hunter, Norma Mountain Haywood and Priscilla Davis Webb.

**70th**



**September 19, 2010**

R1: Bernice Schuster Pellegrini, Connie Mamie Vlah, Priscilla Davis Webb, Jeanne Tucker (teacher), Coleen Gavaghan Christy, Joy Gandley Bellecini, John Bellecini.

Behind Mrs Tucker: Clara Sue Wall McCann, Mary Ann Pohle Walters, Shirley Robison Fabin, Sondra Dragone Lettrich.

R2: Marcia Papak Lesko, Jane McNamee Lengyel, Mary Etta Petras Mayak, Gaynell Sheperd, Mary Dawson Nasim, JoAnn Drechsler Badzik, Beatrice Christina Bradford, Christine Skinkis McNeas, Thelma Wilson Lutes, Ed Fabin, Norma Mountain Haywood.

R3: Don Pellegrini, Griff Jones, Don Pender, Wilson Walters, Linda Gayhart Heimbucher, Judy Martin Leach Dennis Yerkey

R4: Bob Hunter, Bucky Hyslop, John Allen, Bob Roule, Ron Guydan, Phil Seighman

(Photo courtesy Dennis Yerkey; ID courtesy Priscilla Davis Webb.

To see more photos of the 70 Birthday Bash, 50th reunion, old photos from the 1973 reunion at Seven Springs, go to the website: <http://mhsreunion.myphotoalbum.com/>

A HUGE THANK YOU

Thank you so much, Dennis, for having the newsletter printed for us. Triple thank yous to Judy Leach, Thelma Lutes and Beatrice Bradford for doing all of the stapling, folding and stuffing the envelopes. Thank you Priscilla Webb for printing up all the address labels.

Norma and Bob



### Winners of the Funny Sayings Contest - \$25.00 each

1st prize: Bucky Hyslop - At age 70, my wife had a GPS installed on the lawn mower tractor to make sure I could find my way home.

2nd - tie - Linda Gayhart Heimbuecher - I don't want another man in my life at my age. There is tea on their ties and pee on their flies.

2nd - tie - Max Webb - 70 is not old - it is just the upper end of middle age.

3rd - Coleen Gavaghan Christy - Old is when your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and your answer is, "Pick one. I can't do both."

### Comments Following the Bash

Thanks for all the photos, they are all great!! Really had a great time, everything worked out well. Hope to see everyone in 3 yrs. at the next get together. All of you have done a great job and I really appreciate all your hard work!! Keep the e-mails coming!! Thanks again. Suzi (Clara Sue Wall McCann)

Great pictures---thanks for sharing! Sondra Kennell Katnik

Great photos...you all look wonderful...I really enjoyed seeing everyone! thank you! Rosemary Bindi Sanderson

Thanks!!! the pictures are great, We had a great time. Ron and Marie Guyden

I just wanted to tell you that I thought Sunday's birthday bash was great. We should do things like that more often. It was so casual and everyone was so friendly. Also, wasn't a lot of work for the committee. That's the way it should be. As usual, you all did a great job. I know all enjoyed themselves. Hopefully, more will see how nice it was and attend our next one. Let's face it, we aren't getting any younger. No matter what type of reunion we have, the number will dwindle through the years. No matter how many or how few we have, we will have fun. Linda Gayhart Heimbuecher

As usual, the committee did a great job. It's always wonderful getting together to catch up with our former classmates - we really had special people in our class. It was a fun-filled afternoon, and the food and cake were delicious. Thanks again to all who made it possible. Connie Mamie Vlah

There are so many of you that I would love to see but I don't get back to the valley often. The names really help for the pictures as I recognize faces but can't put names to them. I'm still in shock...we're 70? I think not!!!! Where have those years gone? I guess that's what happens when you're having fun. Patricia Isaac Furiga

Thank you so much for inviting me to your 70th birthday party. I had a wonderful time talking with all of you. I hope you know that your class is very special to me. Many thanks for the beautiful centerpiece. It looks so lovely on my table. Hope to see you soon. Jeanne Turri Tucker

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We would like to continue the newsletter, but we need your help. Tell us about what you are doing or what you have done since 1958. Your classmates are interested in you.



Edward Fabin



Marcia Papak Lesko

"A woman is like a tea bag. You never know how strong she is until she's put in hot water."  
Pat Isaac Furiga

50/50 - collected \$200.00

Split 4 ways:



Dennis Yerkey & Thelma Wilson Lutes, both winners - Dennis won the raffle and Thelma won a \$50.00 name drawing contest.



Mary Etta Petras Mayak

Doreen Panseri actually held this winning ticket. Doreen asked Marcia to hold it for her since she had to leave early. Both girls agreed to donate the \$50.00 to the MHS Class of 1958 Reunion Fund.

WINTER POEM

It's winter in Pennsylvania  
And the gentle breezes blow  
Seventy miles an hour  
At five below.  
Oh, how I love Pennsylvania  
When the snow's up to your butt  
You take a breath of winter  
And your nose gets frozen shut.  
Yes,  
The weather here is wonderful  
So I guess I'll hang around  
I could never leave Pennsylvania  
Cuz I'm frozen to the ground!

**Contributors to birthday bash:**

Suzie Wall McCann, Dennis Yerkey, Sondra Dragone Lettrich, Don Pender, Dave Burya, Bea Christina Bradford, Mary Dawson Nasim, Jane McNamee Lengyel, Bucky Hyslop, Christine Skinkis McNeas, Griff Jones, John Allen, Phil Seighman, Connie Mamie Vlah, Pete Donina.

The following sent donations to the web page: Rose & Jim Donovan, Linda Gayhart Heimbeucher, Mary Etta Petras Mayak, JoAnn Drechsler Badzik.

**Puns for Educated Minds**

from Priscilla Davis Webb

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

*In the interest of saving space, we are sending this story out in two segments. The second half will be included in a following newsletter.*

## **Harry Johnson**

By Ron Paglia, For The Valley Independent

Thursday, May 28, 2009

His given name was Harry Abrams Johnson, but he was best known as just Harry Johnson. And he wrote a legacy of success as an athlete and coach in Uniontown, North Carolina and Monongahela.

A native of West Elizabeth, Johnson was born Dec. 20, 1908, a son of the late Henry Samuel and Rita Abrams Johnson. The family later resided in Uniontown, where Harry played football, basketball and baseball before graduating in 1926. His athletic and academic skills earned him a scholarship to High Point College in High Point, N.C., where he was captain of the football team and also played basketball and baseball.

"A lot of people have told me dad was an excellent athlete," Bob Johnson, of Austintown, Ohio, said of his father. "His college yearbook also showed that he was a standout in three sports."

After receiving his bachelor's degree in education from High Point in 1932, Johnson moved to Monongahela, where he became an English teacher at Central Junior School at Fourth and Chess streets. He advanced his education and received a double master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh in 1934. He later taught health and physical education.

"Dad loved his first teaching job," Bob Johnson said. "He always had a lot of stories about being there and talked a lot about the principal, Herbert Cooley, who was a real disciplinarian."

From the junior high school, Johnson transferred to what was called the "Chicken Coop" - a building located behind Monongahela High School (now Monongahela Elementary Center). The buildings were connected by a covered walkway.

"It was really a one-room building with a potbelly stove," Bob Johnson recalled.

In addition to teaching and coaching, Harry Johnson also played for the renowned independent basketball team sponsored by Monongahela businessman and entrepreneur Frank Pizzica. His teammates on what is considered one of the best clubs of its kind in Mon Valley history were a guy from Donora named Stan Musial, the Conte brothers, Jim Norton, Ed Leonard and Cass Dale

"My father and Stan became good friends," Bob Johnson said. "Every time Stan came to town with the (St. Louis) Cardinals or to visit his family, he made a point of getting in touch with dad. I remember one time he visited us and entertained by playing his harmonica. He was darn good on that thing."

Harry's son said his father began coaching junior varsity basketball in the 1930s. Newspaper accounts of Harry's coaching career indicate that he became varsity basketball mentor at Monongahela High School in 1942. He served in that capacity until August 1950, when he requested to be moved to the junior high coaching position. The change in coaching assignments evolved from the resignation of John Conte as junior high mentor, - a position he had held since returning from military service in 1945.

Johnson was succeeded as varsity basketball coach by Bill Parkinson, the former Monessen High School and Washington & Jefferson College basketball and baseball star.

A story in The Monessen Daily Independent reported that Johnson requested the junior high post because he wanted to devote more time to Monongahela's winter recreation program.

"Those were great days for me," Bob Johnson, who became one of Monongahela High's all-time standouts, recalled of his father's stint as varsity basketball coach. "I lived in the gym and got to sit on the bench at the home games."

The latter luxury led to a memorable experience in Bob's life.

"One of the varsity players handed me a whistle while I was sitting on the bench and told me to blow it," he said laughingly. "Hey, I was just a kid and didn't know any better. I blew the whistle and the action on the floor came to a screeching halt. The referees, players, coaches and fans were all looking at me. Dad wasn't very happy about what happened and I really got it at home that night."

*(To be continued.....)*

## DWIGHT VERNON MOMEYER

Dwight Vernon Momeyer, 67, of White Oak, died Wednesday, May 2, 2007, in John J. Kane Regional Center, McKeesport. He was born Jan. 19, 1940, in Sunnyside to the late Dwight Sr. and Euphemia Secres Momeyer, was the husband of the late Deborah L. Kovacs Momeyer and also was predeceased by his sister, Carol Yavach. Mr. Momeyer was a retired maintenance aide from the Allegheny County Housing Authority, a member of Holy Family Polish National Catholic Church, McKeesport, and an Army veteran. He is survived by sons Michael Momeyer, of White Oak, and Scott Momeyer, of Chicago; a grandson, and nieces and nephews.

## EDGAR ADAM YOHE

Edgar Adam Yohe Jr., 68, of Meridianville, passed away Saturday, July 24, 2010. Mr. Yohe graduated from Monongahela High School, and was retired from the U.S. Army and SCI. Survivors include his wife, Sun Yohe; two sons, Tommy Yohe, and Michael Yohe and wife, Amanda; daughter, Donna McMeans; two brothers, Robin and Curtis Yohe; sister, Elva Ferguson; and four grandchildren. Donations can be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Edgar Yohe Jr.

### **Sincere Condolences to:**

Thelma Wilson Lutes on the death of her sister, Lorayne M. Painter Bartolotta March 23, 2010.

Michael Bove on the death of his brother Anthony (class of 1957) September 14, 2010.

Mary Dawson Nassim on the death of her husband, Abraham Jan 22, 2010.

Loretta Rizzi Glasser on the death of her husband, Emil, November 11, 2010.

James and Rose Marie Ambrose Donovan on the death of their Grandson, Jared, December, 2010.

Judy Martin Leach represented our class by making a monetary contribution or a book to the Monongahela Library to Thelma, Mike, Mary and Loretta in memory of their loved one.

“Thank you so very much for the donation to the library in memory of Emil. He would have loved that, as he was an avid reader. We used our (Saginaw) library quite often. Your thoughtfulness put a bright spot in my life.

Fondly

Loretta (Rizzi) Glasser

P.S. Thanks to Linda Gayhart H. and Clara Sue for the condolence cards.”

### **MHS Florida Annual Reunion**

The MHS reunion held every February in Florida has been cancelled this year. It seems the restaurant where it was previously held has closed.

### **Reunion/Get together**

We'd like to hear from you about our 55th Reunion in 2013. Would you like a weekend near the Mon Valley? a cruise? a weekend at a resort? Let us know. Email or write to Judy Leach - bandjl@comcast.net - 504 Jackson St Monongahela, Pa15063.

Also, if you would like to have another get together like we did for the Birthday Bash, let us know.

### **HELP!**

We enjoy doing this newsletter so much, but we are only able to continue it with your input. If you want to read about our classmates and what they are doing, then you should tell us what you are doing, too. Please send us a letter or email soon.

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