

WE REMEMBER - Georgina Johnson

Georgina (Mitchell) Johnson (January 27, 1921 - December 7, 2011)

Mrs. Johnson was an Iron Mountain native, the only surviving daughter of Tom and Jean Mitchell. She graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1938 and Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1942; earned a Master's Degree from Northern Michigan University; and continued course work towards her PhD in Mathematics throughout her teaching career.

Her first teaching job was in Illinois. (On weekends she modeled for Marshall Field's in Chicago.) In 1943 she moved to Long Beach, California, where she went to work for McDonnell Douglas Aircraft. She was allowed to work in the engineering department because she'd never learned how to type. She married First Lieutenant William C. Johnson in 1944 and returned to Iron Mountain when he was sent to England as a B17 Pilot. They had three children—Bill, Louise, and Richard (Dick), all IMHS graduates—eight grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. We all remember her often saying, “a child is a day's entertainment.”

She taught continuously in Iron Mountain from 1953 to 1980. She taught and understood algebra in the variety of ways math is learned by different students. She was known for her corny math jokes, and everyone remembers the quiz she gave at the beginning of each first semester which started: “1. Read this entire test before you solve any of the problems” and ended with “Now put your name at the top of this paper and turn it in.” She loved teaching her students and was always willing to spend the time needed to help them. Her belief that as many students as possible should go on to college kept her searching for resources and scholarships.

In 1990, she initiated the “**General**” Scholarship and whole-heartedly encouraged both alumni and friends to contribute. To date, this

to 95 college-bound graduates of Iron Mountain High School, assisting them with over \$173,000! A second scholarship in her name, “**Georgina Mitchell Johnson Scholarship**,” was first awarded in 2001. Although it is available to all eligible IMHS graduates, it gives preference to students who want to attend Georgina's alma mater, Lawrence University.

After Title IX became law in 1972, she went to the school board and insisted they let her start a Girls' Golf Team. She liked being the “coach” with Linda Uren's help. With her husband, Bill, and several teachers, she wrote “Fractured Fairy Tales” that were performed at Pep Rallies. Her great grandmother Mitchell began to teach her to play bridge with her friends at Spread Eagle when she was seven. This wonderful group of friends continued to play bridge together weekly into their 80s.

She was a world traveler and after her visits remained in contact with the friends she had made in many countries. She was involved in many extracurricular activities as the advisor to the freshman class, Tri-Hi-Y, Freshman Science Club, Future Nurses, and the National Honor Society. She served as Dean of Girls and head of the mathematics department during her teaching career. She was a member of MEA/NEA, Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and Beta Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma. Locally she was active in AAUW, the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Women's Club, the Memorial Hospital League, Pine Grove Country Club, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, and she was also a Girl Scout Troop Leader and President of the Girl Scout Council.

After a car accident in 2002, she spent months working hard to recover from a

traumatic brain injury and the surgery needed to maintain her sight. She then moved to Oregon to be close to her son Bill and his family. Despite her problems she maintained her positive attitude and found ways to continue her mission as an educator. When she learned that many of the aides who helped her were studying to be nurses, but struggling with their math course, she started tutoring them, reportedly with good success. Just a few months before her death from a slow progressing Alzheimer's, one of her aides remarked, “When you're with Georgina, you just never know when a math class might break out.” She was, right to the end, an educator, dedicated to helping “her kids.” And in her mind everyone she ever taught or helped was one of “her kids.”

The family suggests memorial donations may be directed to either the General Scholarship Fund or the Georgina Mitchell Johnson Scholarship Fund, Iron Mountain High School, 300 West B Street, Iron Mountain, MI. 49801. A memorial service is being planned during the summer at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.





WE MADE IT!!!

This fall the Iron Mountain High School Academic Booster Club issued a challenge to itself to reach the goal of having an endowed fund of \$200,000 while also providing for emergent requests from the educators at IMHS.

The club has been in existence for 15 years and was one of the first of its kind in the state of Michigan. During that time we have provided tens of thousands of dollars in support to the high school while building our fund. Our vision was to create an ongoing source of income without having to go back to the community for fundraising year after year. We all know that fundraising is costly, wears out volunteers who are hesitant to ask people for donations, and taxes the businesses and community members who are often approached weekly with requests for funds. We can now say that our club no longer has to go out to the community to raise the funds needed to support our goal of providing a higher level of education for the students of IMHS.

The fund we have established would provide \$10,000 of enrichment to the students of IMHS for 20 years if we assumed a zero percent return on our investment. To put it another way, children who will graduate in the class of 2032 and beyond will still be receiving the benefits of this fund.

We would like to thank the entire community for its support of our goals. The support for the past 15 years has come from hundreds of individuals and corporations too numerous to mention individually, but they were all part of the success of the club. In addition to the companies and people who provided support to the club, the club itself has had many members over the past 15 years. They are to be thanked for the efforts that they put into making this a success.

It would be remiss not to name the founders of this club who had the vision 15 years ago to support academics yearly while building a sustaining fund to make this last into eternity. The original members of the club were Wilma Verrette, Elsa Brule, Kristina Andes, and Elizabeth Trumbell.

But our job is not finished. We will continue to support the advancement of academics at IMHS through the funding of requests from educators as well as explore other areas that will bring a greater awareness to academics and encourage broader thinking by students.

A community only gets the quality of an educational system that its people are willing to support. We are fortunate that the citizens of Dickinson County believe in a strong public education system. After all, an educated population is a population that can sustain industrial and commercial growth now and in the future.

Thank you for your support!!

Pete Anderson

President

Iron Mountain High School Academic Booster Club



The Super Update!

Spring Newsletter 2012:

As I wind down my first year as the district's superintendent, I would like to take this opportunity to update all of you on projects that were mentioned in the fall newsletter as well as some new developments.

Academic Booster Club's Goal to Raise \$30,000:

I am happy and proud to report that the Academic Booster Club (ABC) reached its goal of raising over \$30,000 this year. The ABC has an endowment fund of \$200,000 thus making it possible to halt all further fund raising efforts. The ABC will now focus its efforts on awarding about \$10,000 a year to the school's academic needs such as technology and curriculum. I would personally like to thank all past and present ABC members as well as all those who attended and generously donated to all the fund raising events. Your efforts will benefit our students for years to come.

Buy an Auditorium Seat Project:

To date our generous alumni have donated enough money to purchase 309 seats. There remains room to purchase an additional 385 seats. The cost to purchase a seat ranges from \$175 to \$200. The movement to actually install the seats is now on the fast track and will be completed no later than the summer of 2014 if the upcoming bond proposal is successful.

New Development - August 7, 2012 Bond Proposal Vote:

On August 7, 2012, the district will be asking the voters of Iron Mountain to take the time to get out and vote on a bond proposal. The proposal, if passed, would enable the district to make an \$11million dollar investment to our buildings in the areas of energy efficiency, safety, security, technology and capital project renovations to areas such as the auditorium. The main concentrations would be aimed at improving all areas of operation in the high school and North Elementary School. The district will be rolling out a great deal of information (district website, local newspaper, & TV) on this subject between May and August 2012. Stay tuned and be an informed voter and supporter of the Iron Mountain Public School District.

Congratulations & Thank You:

Before closing I would like to congratulate our students, teachers, advisors, and coaches on their many academic, extra-curricular, and sporting events successes this school year. Iron Mountain Public Schools is truly blessed to have an abundance of very talented, dedicated, and caring students and staff. I would also like to express my gratitude towards all those alumni who have enclosed a generous donation in their correspondence. These contributions are used to help produce this and future newsletters.

It is my pleasure and honor to be able to serve you and the Iron Mountain Public School District in these challenging but exciting times. Please feel free to call, email, and/or stop in my office if I can help you in any way. Thank you for your interest and support of the Iron Mountain Public Schools.

My door is always open,
Tom Jayne
Superintendent
Iron Mountain Public Schools
The Place to Succeed
Class of 1981

FROM OUR MAILBAG...

Enclosed is a check of \$82.78. This was the balance of the Class of 1951 60th Reunion held this year. At a recent class get together it was decided to donate to the Alumni Newsletter. Ray Burgess—'51

Class of 1938!!! Any plans for us oldies! Any record of how many left? I recently attended a funeral which made me the sole survivor of my Homestead WI grade school class. I understand that Kingsford High has an occasional group meeting. My brother chose KHS and attends those. Way back, when, I did attend a couple of the IM-K winter-fests set up by Georgina Mitchell (Johnson) in the Bradenton FL area. I had lived in Orlando for 25 years. Now I have been back in Appleton WI for 11 years! Appreciate anything you can send my way. Oh yes, I am the one RNP on the top left of the page in the 1938 Argonaut! Two of us with the exact same name in the class! Bob Peterson—'38

Please find enclosed two (2) yearbooks and several class pictures of the graduating class of 1937 from Iron Mountain High School. I appreciate your accepting these items as I had a problem with just dumping them in the garbage. Mary R. Shofner daughter of Gloria Graffitt Rousseau—'37

Please accept this donation in memory of my husband A. Duane Cerasoli, Class of 51. He always enjoyed the newsletter and supported Iron Mt. H.S. in any way that he could. Donna Cerasoli

I would like to make a second donation to the Iron Mountain High School newsletter which I enjoy reading. Also the article of a classmate of mine that graduated with the class of 1943. Her name is Jeanne Trudle Burns who is deceased. The daughter did not know the year of her graduation so thought you would like to know. I also made a donation towards purchasing a seat for \$225 for your fundraiser. Edith Weiss—'43

Please accept the enclosed check for \$6000. I ask that the money be used as follows: 1. \$5500 for the purchase of textbooks and/or computers for the students. 2. \$300 to the IMHS Scholarship Fund. 3. \$1090 to a fund that will be used to celebrate the high school building serving students for 100 years in 2012. \$. \$100 for the publication of the IMHS Alumni & Friends Newsletter. I will always be proud to be a Mountaineer and grateful that I grew-up in Iron Mountain. Mike Pretschold—'59

Please use this check to help defer the expense of the IM Alumni Newsletter. Darrell Wickman—'67

Enclosed is a donation toward the Alumni Newsletter. I really enjoy it. I am Earl Anderson, Class of 1952. I hope our local alumni are planning a 60th reunion. I haven't missed one yet!! Thanks again for keeping us informed. Earl Anderson—'52

Enjoy your Newsletter a great deal. Here is a donation to keep it coming. For some reason I keep getting two copies of each issue, please send only one. In many ways my IMHS years were the best of my life. Ken Carlson—'59

I enjoy the newsletter very much! This will be the 65th year since graduation in 1947—
WOW! A couple weeks ago I looked at my yearbooks when I was a Junior & Senior.
What memories it brought back—so many "friends" I haven't thought about in years. It touched me a lot!
Keep up the good work! I was an only child and I am now responsible for having 5 children 14 grand children, 17 great-grandchildren (2 more on the way) and still have 3 grandchildren in high school—. Moved to Ishpeming/Negaunee area in 1951. Pat (Ohmen) Paquette—'47

I enjoy your paper a lot. Keeping up with whats going on. Here's my yearly cont.. Keep up the good work. Victor Badini—'45

This letter is to inform you that John I Carollo passed away on Dec. 9, 2011 at the age of 90. He was a graduate of IMHS Class of 1940. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and Korea. He was a proud member of Carpenters Local #13 for 56 years. He is buried beside his wife and best friend Grace. He leaves behind 2 children, 4 grandchildren, and soon to be 5 great-grandchildren. Among his possessions, he left me his diploma—Class of June 1940, his yearbook, a graduation program and class ring. Craig Carollo, Son





50 year CLASS REUNION

Left to Right

Tom Clarke, Birdie Hanson, Todd Colenso, Margaret Rictarshich, Nick Feldhausen, Shari W. Hock, Ray King, Judy Nardelli, Jim Ochetti, Rachel Pedo, Tom Rocheleau, John Massicotte, Dan Olson.

The IMHS Class of 1961 celebrated their fifty year class reunion October 7-8, 2011. Superintendent Tom Jayne gave a tour of the Iron Mountain High School and the Izzo-Mariucci Center. The group then attended the Iron Mountain-Kingsford football game at Flivver Field where the Mountaineers won 23-6. The class donated more than \$525 for the following on-going projects of the school district: Alumni Newsletter, General Scholarship Fund, and the purchase of an auditorium seat.



DATE: Friday, June 29, 2012

SITE: Pine Grove Country Club

FORMAT: 6 person 18 hole scramble

Iron Mountain, MI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Golf Registration 9:30-11:00

Shotgun Start 11:00 a.m.

Reception 6:30 p.m.



RAFFLE TICKETS: \$10 each

Contact Lynne McClure via email smcclure@charter.net

FIRST PRIZE: \$1000 cash

SECOND PRIZE: \$500 cash

THIRD PRIZE: \$250 cash

Golf Sponsorships Available

Email questions to Chris Hartman, hartmanc@jmschools.org



MORE GOOD THINGS AT IMHS

Four new scholarships have been established for graduating seniors at Iron Mountain High School. This is another great example of how fortunate our students are to have such community support!

The first is the ***Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Federal Credit Union Scholarship***, which is providing two \$1,000 awards for the Class of 2012. The scholarships were created to assist students pursuing a college education in either a four-year college program or a two-year vocational program.

The Credit Union has been supporting academic achievement in the area for a number of years with their vision to raise awareness of the value and importance of a solid, well-rounded education. Encouraging students to continue their education in a post-secondary setting through scholarship dollars is just one way to promote this. The Iron Mountain School District is very appreciative of the Credit Union's support of higher education for our students.

The ***Barbara L. (Bongi) Hruska Memorial Nursing Scholarship*** will be awarded to an Iron Mountain High School Senior in the graduating Class of 2012.

Barbara was a 1958 graduate of Iron Mountain High School and completed a nursing degree at Northern Michigan University. Barbara worked as a hospital nurse in Marquette and Menominee Michigan, as well as in Oshkosh and Oconto Falls, Wisconsin. She also spent many years working at the Oconto Falls Nursing Home. As Barbara's husband Bob states, "she was an inspiration to all who knew her." Bob established the scholarship in honor of Barbara, who passed away on July 5, 2011.

To be eligible for the Barbara L. (Bongi) Hruska Memorial Nursing scholarship, applicants must be a graduating senior of IMHS maintaining a 2.5 GPA and be pursuing a degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Registered Nurse (RN). Applications will be available in early spring.

We are very grateful that Bob decided to honor his wife and her profession in this fashion.

The ***John "Jud" Dennis Memorial Scholarship*** has also been established this year at Iron Mountain High School.

John ("Jud") Dennis passed away on March 23, 2011, due to an explosion in his garage. He died doing what he loved to do – fixing cars. A devoted husband and father to eight children, he lived his life to the fullest. His dream of owning his own junkyard came true after working hard his whole life. He especially enjoyed visiting with the young men who came out to find the right car part, at a good price, among his back yard choices. Some of those young men who came through the line at Jud's funeral visitation told how Jud would give them a discount if they didn't use profanity. He encouraged respect and a good work ethic, what he viewed as important assets to get along in this world, even if you didn't have a college degree.

At the Dennis family Christmas gathering, family members donated items for a raffle among themselves. This year, they raised \$1,500 to be used to help fund a young person attend automotive training for his chosen career. Since Jud is no longer around to help the young folks, his family would like to continue his generous spirit by providing this scholarship.

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The Iron Mountain School District extends our deepest gratitude to the entire Dennis family for honoring their father in such a unique way by establishing this annual scholarship to help make a young person's dream come true, just as it did for Jud.

To be eligible for the John ("Jud") Dennis Automotive Memorial Scholarship, applicants must be a graduating senior of Iron Mountain High School and must be accepted for admission to an accredited one or two-year college, university or technical school, where they will study in the automotive field. The scholarship will be available in early spring.

The **John Bertoldi Scholarship** has been established this year at Iron Mountain High School.

The family of John Paul Tabaka is pleased to announce that the Iron Mountain School District is the recipient of a monetary gift in the amount of \$82,152.66 from John Paul's estate to establish a scholarship in memory of his stepfather, John Bertoldi.

John Paul "Butch" Tabaka passed away on August 10, 2011. It was his wish that a scholarship be established honoring his stepfather, John Bertoldi. Mr. Bertoldi was a graduate of Iron Mountain High School and a life-time supporter of the school where his stepchildren and grandchildren also attended.

The Tabaka and Bertoldi families have had a long history with the Iron Mountain School system. John Paul's father, John Tabaka, was a business teacher and coach for the Iron Mountain School system in the 1950's. Mr. Tabaka passed away in 1958. In 1965, Mr. Bertoldi married Marie Tabaka and became the stepfather to David, Mary, John Paul and Janie Tabaka. Mr. Bertoldi and all his stepchildren and grandchildren are proud graduates of Iron Mountain High School.

During their lifetime, both Mr. Bertoldi and John Paul supported and donated generously toward many school sponsored activities and fundraisers. It is evident that they thought very highly of the school district.

"We are elated and grateful that graduates of Iron Mountain High School will benefit from the generosity of John Paul's estate and the obvious value he placed on education to leave this wonderful opportunity for our students," stated Superintendent Tom Jayne.

To be eligible for the John Bertoldi Memorial Scholarship, applicants must be a graduating seniors of Iron Mountain High School, be acceptable for admission to an accredited two or four year college/university, and pursue a degree in the fields of Business or Accounting. They must also have averaged a 2.5 grade point average through their high school career. All other criteria being equal, financial need shall be a determining factor in this scholarship award.

GO GREEN AND HELP US SAVE ON MAILING COSTS!

Please consider subscribing to the newsletter online. Just send an email to alumni@imschools.org and put "subscribe" in the subject.

Remember to give your name and address so we can remove you from the regular mailing list.

THANK YOU...

Our Newsletter publication relies tremendously on the support and donations of Iron Mountain Alumni; thanks to all who have helped out! If you would like to make a donation toward future issues, checks can be made payable to IMHS Alumni & Friends Newsletter. Send all donations to:

IMHS Alumni & Friends Newsletter, 217 Izzo-Mariucci Way, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Cini '49, '72, 2000; Colenso '61; Burgess '51; Capra '71, '75; Hicks '43, '44; Cerasoli '51; Weiss '43; Pretschold '59; Wickman '67; Gall '59; Anderson '52; Carlson '59; Paquette '47; Badini '45

We're on the web!
www.imschools.org

Please help keep our school grounds **BEAUTIFUL!**



We are looking for volunteers and donations for the beautification of our school grounds. Retired Superintendent Scott McClure and his wife Lynn have spent this summer keeping the grounds around the high school campus and football stadium trimmed and well cared for. They have spent time working at planting flowers, weeding, watering, grass cutting, etc. Iron Mountain Public Schools could use more help in this area. We are hoping to get the Alumni and Friends of this district to join in. We could really use mulch for around the landscaping. This has not been replenished for some years now. Anything you are willing to contribute will be GREATLY appreciated!

What are you doing now?

We invite all alumni to share a high school memory about themselves, a faculty member or friend, or an update of what you are doing now for another edition.

Send stories to Alumni, 217 Izzo-Mariucci Way, Iron Mountain, Michigan, 49801