

# IMHS ALUMNI & FRIENDS Newsletter

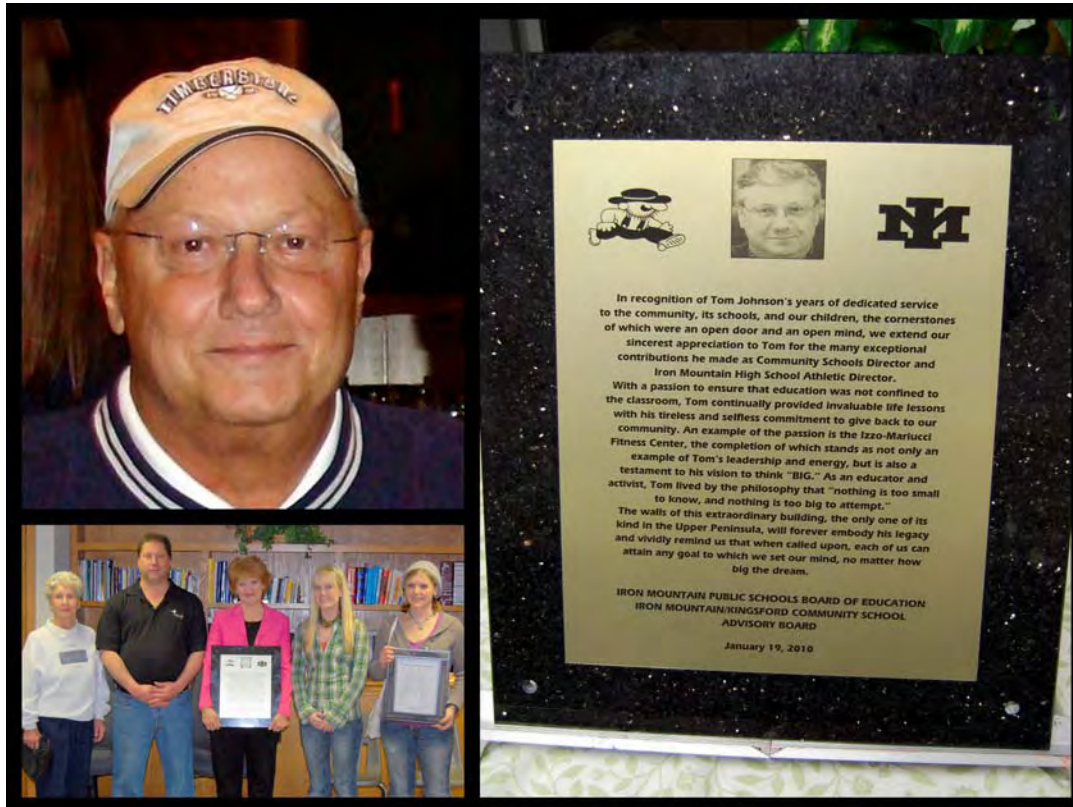
In this issue:  
IMHS All-  
American  
Trivia Contest  
Board Minutes from the Past  
.....and more!



## -Tom Johnson-

In recognition of Tom Johnson's years of dedicated service to the community, its schools, and our children, the cornerstones of which were an open door and an open mind, we extend our sincerest appreciation to Tom for the many exceptional contributions he made as Community Schools and IMHS Athletic Director. With a passion to ensure that education was not confined to the classroom, Tom continually provided invaluable life lessons with his tireless and selfless commitment to give back to our community. An example of the passion is the Izzo-Mariucci Fitness Center, the completion of which stands as not only an example of Tom's leadership and energy, but is also a testament to his vision to think "BIG". As an educator and activist, Tom lived by the philosophy that "nothing is too small to know, and nothing is too big to attempt". The walls of this extraordinary building, the only one of its kind in the Upper Peninsula, will forever embody his legacy and vividly remind us when called upon, each of us can attain any goal to which we set our mind, no matter how big the dream.

Iron Mountain Public Schools Board of Education-Iron Mountain/Kingsford Community School  
Advisory Board-January 19th, 2010



## Tom Johnson Remembered....

Adult Education, "Great 8" Winter Games, Gus Macker Basketball, \$100.00 Raffles, Izzo/Mariucci Golf Tournaments, Annual Coaches Golf Outings, Men's Independent Basketball League and Iron Mountain Athletic Events, as I look back at all of these wonderful events a few memorable thoughts come to mind. Lots of hard work, numerous top-notch volunteers, well-organized, rewarding, profitable, successful, lots of laughs, fun, things you marked on your calendar and did not want to miss!

However, before all of those thoughts come to mind, I think about Tom Johnson. He made all of these things possible through his hard work and optimistic vision. With his energy and excitement, he made it possible to pull off these large, major community events. He did everything he could to make them successful and FUN! Tommy had a knack for getting numerous volunteers to work long, hard hours knowing that they would enjoy every minute of it and then would have a great time after they were done. People knew their work would be very rewarding and also very memorable. T.J. always believed, "If you worked hard, you could play hard!" Many, many of us did that several times for him, our school and the community, and never once regretted a single second of it.

As we all travel through this journey of life, there are very few people who make an impact, a long lasting impression, or touch us in an unforgettable fashion. Tom Johnson was one of those people for me and many others. I never realized that until the day of Tom's funeral. There is a moment in time that will forever be etched in my heart and mind. As one of Tom's closest friends who served as pall bearer, we all (17 of us) lined up to escort his casket out of the Funeral Home and off to the Church service. As I stood looking around at all the men who were present, successful businessmen, successful coaches and players, people who I had admired and looked up to my entire life. Men who I would go to battle with anytime, every time. Mentally tough, hard-nosed, pillars of the community, I along with all of them, cried like little children. It was at that time that I truly realized the impact Tom had on an entire community.

Tom graduated from Kingsford High School in 1967 and he loved and supported the Flivvers. Tom worked in Norway from 1976 to 1989 and he loved and supported the Knights. His career took him to Iron Mountain in 1989 as the Athletic and Community Schools Director until his retirement last spring. He was the ultimate "Mountaineer". He truly loved the Mountaineers! He took pride in their appearance and their performance. They were extremely successful under his watch. You can scan the high school gymnasium and trophy case to verify that. He has had a great impact on many people, young and old. His legacy will always be remembered by "Mountaineers Everywhere".—John Hogberg

In October of 2009, Iron Mountain High School lost an irreplaceable leader. He was a competitive athlete, an idea genius, a competent, well-respected athletic director, and my very close friend. Current and former students, athletes, coaches and staff members will always remember, in so many ways, the legacy left by Tom Johnson.

His organizational skills, visibility at every athletic event, and unwavering support of our student athletes was evident through every season, at every game and during every tournament. He initiated events that proved to be beneficial to both students and community members. Tom had a unique way of making everyone who surrounded him feel valued and important. Anyone who ever served on a committee with Tom, volunteered to help, or got involved in any small way, felt their participation and contributions were appreciated. His creative projects, tournaments, fundraisers, and events truly brought our community together. Tom had an uncanny way of networking. Mention his name at any school district throughout the Upper Peninsula and you will hear him referred to as "a go-getter and a great guy". Players respected him and coaches knew he supported them. Tom displayed unstoppable efforts to always ensure that the appearance of our athletes under his supervision and the facilities they played in was second to none. He made sure the athletes looked sharp in uniforms that were of top quality and he oversaw the home facilities; suggesting improvements by making sure everything was kept cleaned, painted and always stellar in appearance. Our stadium, gymnasium, and practice fields are the envy of many athletic programs in districts throughout the U.P.

On a personal note, time spent with Tom going bird hunting, deer hunting and attending games at both the high school and professional level are memories that will be cherished forever. An awesome golfer, he could drive the ball a mile. He was the kind of guy you just always wanted to be on your team. I will always remember brainstorming sessions we had on road trips to games. Plenty of "windshield time" gave us many opportunities to discuss the "what if" possibilities of many of the projects of which we both became involved.

How remarkable to have so many who called him their "friend". The impact Tom had on so many of our lives will remain in our hearts forever. I will always reflect on those times with a great sense of pride and a smile. I am honored to have worked with Tom Johnson.

—Denny Chartier  
Superintendent, retired



Iron Mountain Public Schools Athletic Director, Chris Hartman; Iron Mountain Athletic Booster Club President, John Roberts; and Iron Mountain Public Schools Superintendent, Scott McClure are shown reviewing the specification of a trust that was donated in the amount of 1,000 shares of stock worth approximately \$60,000.00. The unnamed donor stipulated that the interest from the trust be used to support the activities of the Iron Mountain Athletic Booster Club. The booster club and school district greatly appreciate the generosity of the donor.

### **The Upper Peninsula "Cradle of Coaches"**

**Iron Mountain High School** in Michigan's Upper Peninsula is relatively small.

More than a fair share of our alumni have become head coaches at the college and/or professional level.

Here is an alphabetical list:

Who	What	Where	When
Randy Awrey	Head Football Coach	Saginaw Valley State University Saginaw Valley State University Kentucky Wesleyan College	1999-2007 1994-1998 1990-1993
Frosty Ferzacca	Athletic Director Head Football Coach	Eastern Michigan University Northern Michigan University Marquette University	1966-1974 1957-1965 1954-1955
Tom Izzo	Head Basketball Coach	Michigan State University	1995-Present
Omer LaJeunesse	Head Football Coach	Michigan Technological University	1957-1962
Steve Mariucci	Head Football Coach	Detroit Lions San Francisco 49ers University of California	2003-2005 1997-2002 1996
Gene Ronzani	Head Football Coach	Green Bay Packers	1950-1953

\*Submitted by Jim Mortensen      IMHS Class of 1952

## Board Minutes from the Past.....

### Annual Report of the School Nurse for School Year 1931-1932

All children from kindergarten up and including eighth grades were weighed, measured and inspected. Defects reported to parents and a great many corrections made. During the school year, eighty welfare calls were made and families were provided with clothing, food, fuel, thru the Community Welfare Fund. The children of Farragut School held a Thanksgiving offering and six baskets were distributed to needy families.

The Woman's Club paid for two pair of glasses and also one tonsillectomy case. Seven children were taken to the Children's State Hospital in Marquette for tonsillectomy. Dr. Paul did the operating.

In October month, 390 children were vaccinated. In May month and up thru to June 13th, 279 children were immunized against diphtheria, making a total of 2138 children in the school system immunized.

In May Month, Dr. J. Towey, of Powers Sanitorium, held a Tuberculin clinic in the high school and 305 children were given the test. Fifty-three showed positive, and were taken to Powers for X-Rays, which resulted in one case being active, and nine cases needing careful attention.

Baths were given weekly to children attending the Amidon, Farragut and Chapin Schools. Miss Lind, of the State Department of Public Health, lectured the PTA meeting on Public Health. Miss Hutzell lectured on Social Hygiene. Miss Fox, of the State Department, held an eight week course on Child Care, to all girls in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Summer-round-up clinics were held at the Washington, Central, Lincoln and Ludington Schools. There were eighty-seven children examined. Dr. I.R. Browning, examining doctor at the Washington and Lincoln, Dr. J.L Browning at the Central, and Dr. G. Frederickson at the Ludington School. Dr. T.A. Desilets and Dr. G. Hamm examined teeth. As there was no clinic being held at Amidon, Dr. Frederickson suggested that one be held, so will try and get same set up for June 24th. Dr. Frederickson will be examining doctor.

The following recommendations from examinations were made:

Teeth-66, Tonsils and Adenoids-28, Hernia-1, Blood Examination Complete Test-1, Eyes To Be Corrected-4, Toxoid-71, Vaccinate-72

Contagion: Chicken Pox-8, Whooping Cough-11, Measles-15, Mumps-8 and Diphtheria-2  
Signed,

Tillie A. Anderson, School Nurse

### September 16th, 1904

Whereas, it was estimated by this board that the amount necessary for the entire support of the Public Schools of the City of Iron Mountain for the present year is in detail as follows:

Teacher's Salaries=\$37,500

Janitor's and Secretary's Salaries=\$5,950

Bonds and Interest Falling Due=\$4,285

Fuel=\$4,000

Buildings and Repairs=\$9,000

Library Books=\$1,000

Maintenance of Library=\$1,750

Incidentals=\$4,000

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Grand Total=\$67,435.00





Jr. Highlites  
Iron Mountain Junior High-February 14th,  
1940

A GREAT CITIZEN-by James Poppy



Books were scarcely to be seen  
In Abraham Lincoln's day,  
And when he did see one,  
He made its knowledge pay.

And everyone who saw him  
Liked his clear, frank face.  
He had the nerve to stand for right,  
Even in a most stubborn case.

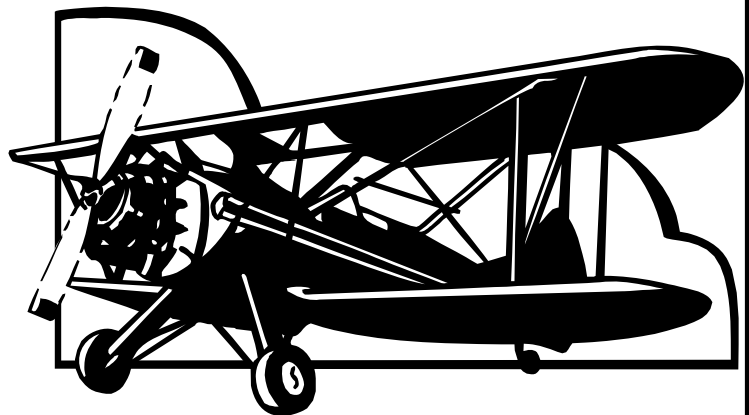
He didn't lounge around in school,  
School!! That was a luxury,  
He worked and got his lessons with a  
knack,  
And he strived to do the best  
Even when knowledge he did lack.

The Mountaineer-October 22, 1943  
Aeronautics Class Taken for First Plane Ride

Last fall, realizing that to offer a course in Aeronautics in our high school would be a timely step, Mr. Guild became interested in the subject and began to study for a ground instructor's certificate. This he received last March.

However, he soon saw that this ground training would be far from complete without the flying experience to accompany it. Since our airport was closed at this time, he had to commute to Escanaba, where he received his primary training and made his first solo flight on the first of November. He continued with his flying instruction throughout the winter and summer and finally qualified for his private pilot's license on September 5th of this year.

Mr. Guild has his own plane, a two-place Taylorcraft, which he purchased this summer. Besides local flights, he has made several cross-country trips and now has over one hundred hours in his logbook.



# Auditorium Update

If you have purchased an engraving for an auditorium seat in the "Take A Seat" Fundraiser, your plaque has been produced and can be viewed in the Iron Mountain High School Auditorium. We will continue to purchase and engrave your plaques periodically throughout the fundraiser and add them to the display until all our seats are sold!



Seat Patrons as of February 1st, 2010:

Agnessi, Alleva, Amicangelo, Anderson, Andreoli, Arnold, Bartolameo, Berg, Bird, Blair, Booth, Boyce, Braspenickx, Bruce, Buchanan, Bunnin-Staff, Carlson, Carollo, Carslon, Cecconi, Cerasoli, Chartier, Cini, Class of 1949, Cioche, Clarke, Class of 1960, Class of 42, Class of 52, Class of 58, Class of 68, Clemo, Cohodes, Colassaco, Conn, Cowell, Curtis-Staff, Dallapiazza, Danielson, Donahue, Eutizzi, Ferzacca, Finn, Fitzgibbon, Fleury, Formolo, Fortier, Foster, Frankini, Franson, Friberg, Fuse, Gauthier, Grenier, Groeneveld, Hamm, Hansen, Harry, Hogberg, Hoppenrath, Hosking, Itzov, Izzo, Jacob, Jacobs, Johnson, Klug, Knapp, Kobochich, Kukuk, Lake, Laren, Laurila, Leonard, Liscomb, Luciani, Manahan, Marchetti, Mariucci, McClure, McConaughy, McCraw, Melendes, Menghini from Staff, Miazga, Miller, Mindok, Mitchell, Mouw, Neitzel, Nelson, Nepper, Noel, Notheis, Olivanti, Palmer, Paoli, Payne, Peck, Person, Peruchini, Pesavento, Pollard, Ponzio, Poppy, Possi, Posthumus, Pozza, Pretschold, Pucci, Rigoni, Rigoni-Harper, Ring, Rizzarda, Robertson, Rogers, Rossato, Ryan, Sandona, Santini, Schinderle, Scholke, Schultz, Shefchik, Simon, Simone, Sipigarelli, Sleik, Spigarelli, St. Louis, Strang, Swanson, Swartout, Terwilliger, Thomas, Tirschel, Tomassoni, Trumbell, Truscott, Turcotte, Uhazie, Unger, Uren, Valiquette, Vardian, Verette, Verette, Vornkahl, Walts, Weber, Weiss, and Zigman

(The preceding individuals or groups have purchased a seat(s). This is not a listing of who they were purchased for or the inscriptions.)

***We still have a long way to go! If you would like to make a donation or purchase a seat sponsorship, please contact Naida Weinert at: 906-779-2600 or For complete purchasing information, go to: [www.imschools.org/Auditorium/Auditoriumfundraiser.htm](http://www.imschools.org/Auditorium/Auditoriumfundraiser.htm)***

E-mail: [alumni@imschools.org](mailto:alumni@imschools.org)  
 Visit us at: [www.imschools.org](http://www.imschools.org)



Seat Sales At A Glance...			
<b>Total Amount Sold:</b>		\$ 58,275.00	\$ 136,050.00
Percent Sold:		43%	
Seats Sold:		273	
Remaining:		421	\$77,785.00

School events in our auditorium....



Scenes from South Pacific, Peter Pan, Halloween, and Christmas Band and Choral Concerts.

# Trivia



What year did the author of the only poem in this issue graduate from IMHS?

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How many “Snuffys” are there in this newsletter?

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In what year did IMHS’s All-American graduate from Iron Mountain High School?

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What brand or type of plane did Mr. Guild own?

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How many children were given the TB test at school during the 1931-32 school year?

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Please write your name and address below:

Mail your answers to:

Alumni  
217 Izzo-Mariucci Way  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

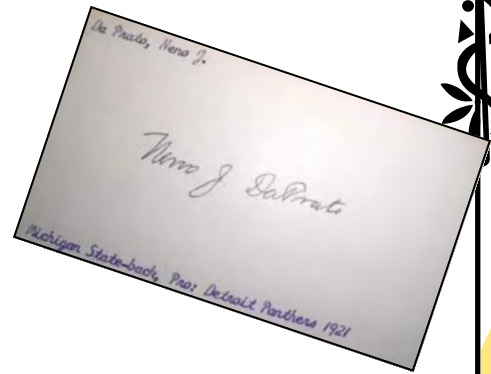


Earliest postmark wins a “MOUNTAINEER PRIZE”!





John F. Macklin and Squad, 1915



## Iron Mountain High School's All-American

Neno Joseph "Jerry" DaPrato is not in any IMHS yearbook. The Argonaut did not begin publication until a few years after his 1911 graduation, so records of his high school career are hard to find. Many fine athletes have played for IMHS, yet only one became a college football All-American.

Jerry enrolled at Michigan State in 1911. He played football (FB' 12, '14, '15, and BK '15) for "State", which was then known as "The Agricultural College of the State of Michigan" from 1912 to 1915. He became the college's first All-American in 1915.

Jerry set single-game and season scoring records. In 1915, he led the entire nation by scoring 15 touchdowns, 28 extra points and 2 field goals for a total of 124 points. This was achieved on in a six-game schedule, and averages about 20 points per game. The highlight of the season for the "Aggies" was a 24-0 win over the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The 180-pound fullback pounded out 153 yards against the Wolverines and he scored 2 touchdowns, 1 field goal and 3 extra points. Scoring all of his team's points in this particular game opened the eyes of many from the media and was recognized by the Detroit Times and the International News Service.

His brilliant performance on the field was lost for nearly 40 years due to inaccurate records. In 1952, a former MSU sports editor spied DaPrato's name while thumbing through a national sports record book. Until then, DaPrato had never been listed as an All-American in the Spartan record books.

Recalling the 1915 season to Ron Kohls, DaPrato said, "As a freshman I did a lot of ball carrying, but in the two succeeding years, I was a blocking back. After Carp graduated, I again became a ball carrier. During my senior year, everything seemed to break pretty well and besides, someone had to carry the ball".

Jerry was inducted into the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame in 1986 and the MSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2001. He died on April 29th, 1984, at the age of 92.

# IMHS Class of 1954



## 55 Year Reunion-August 29th, 2009

Sharon (Bevilacqua) Warren, Bernadine (Andreini) Blomquist, Gail (Dugas) Rosenaeau, Dorothy (Reynolds) Waldbillig, Donna (Freeman) LeGault, Sally (Oradei) James, Corrine (Balzola) Johnson, Gerald DeJuliannie, Rosella (Ruffatto) Wilson, Nancy (Best) Swee, David Anderson, Edward Poirier, Ronald Jouppi, William Trudell, Alyce (James) Derwinski, Rose Marie (Moratti) Lundell, Bruce Oradei, James Conery, Robert Rigoni, Ronald Willard, Raymond Clemo, John Rosenau, Harvey Johnson, Robert Hamm \*\*Not Pictured\*\* Raymond Furno

**Coming  
Soon!**

**The First Annual Tom Johnson  
Memorial Golf Outing**

**Watch  
for  
Details!**

Check us out on the web: [www.imschools.org](http://www.imschools.org)  
Questions, suggestions or want to contribute something? Email us at [alumni@imschools.org](mailto:alumni@imschools.org)



## **From the Mailbag:**

To the editor,

I received my Mother's (Gwen (Jenkins) Stolberg) newsletter today, and with sad regret I am emailing to inform you that she passed away 11/18/09 at 91 years. I believe she graduated in 1936. Thank you for all the past issue's that were sent. She enjoyed them.

Thank you again,  
Jan Landwehr



I am in receipt of the your newsletter for Opal Discher nee Petroske and am asking that her name be removed from your mailing list. She was my wife for over 50 years and we had a good life. She died on June 2000 and her ashes are entombed in niche 284, section BE, Row 5, at the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery on Point Loma awaiting my demise. I am 86, in fair health and have no idea when that will be. It could be today, tomorrow or some time in the future. God only knows and he hasn't told me. There may be some who get your newsletter that would like to know what happened to her, if you would like to mention it in a future issue. We have three girls, all happily married and raising my 9 grandchildren.

Bill In God We Trust Laus Deo

I heard a few months ago that Ron LaCount died. I felt so bad about it and would like to know if you could let me know when this happened. I'm 80 years old now and so Ron was 81 or 82. He was a very special person in my high school years. The one person I know that would have this info would be Coochi Mariucci. I would appreciate any info you have on him...thanks--

Dottie (Price) Peters...

Enclosed is my donation to the Newsletter. Hope to contribute yearly. I look forward to enjoying future issues as much as I have in the past. Keep up the great work.

Lois DeCarlo '56

Our family loves and appreciates The Newsletter-hope this helps to keep it going-  
Don and Sharon Scholke '51

Wanted you to know that the class really appreciated the tour through the high school and for you and Scott McClure taking the time to do it, and also the picture that was taken and emailed to the class members. Thanks again.

Kay Grenfell



During the first six months of my new position as Superintendent, I have been asked by many people how I like my new job. I sense that during these difficult economic times in our state that people are expecting me to talk about the stressful financial situation that we find ourselves in. Even though I am not naïve to the challenges that we face, I am much more impressed with the positive experiences that I have had during the past six months.

Let me share with you some of my positive experiences that have enabled me to say, “I am really enjoying the challenges and opportunities of my new position.”

My top reasons why I like my new position:

- I have had the opportunity to visit with students in a variety of classrooms and at extra-curricular events. We definitely have a great group of young people attending our schools.
- I am surrounded by a dedicated and hard-working staff.
- I work with a school board that focuses on students first.
- I have had great support and the chance to learn from experienced administrators throughout the area.
- I have noticed that most parents actively participate in their child’s education.
- I am encouraged by the way that our community has shown that it understands our trying economic times and is willing to look at every possible way to support our students.
- I find that our local media provides fair and accurate coverage of our school activities.
- I am grateful to the many volunteers who provide valuable services to each of our schools.
- I am proud of our outstanding scholarship program, and I am looking forward to participating in the selection process.
- It has been exciting to meet alumni of the Iron Mountain Public Schools and note the pride that they have for their alma mater.

Sincerely,  
Scott McClure, Superintendent



This newsletter relies tremendously on the generous support of our alumni. We would like to extend our gratitude to the following alumni who helped to make another edition possible:

**Don and Earline Mariucci-Class of 1958, Ralph and Barbara (Miller) Kramer-Class of 1963, Joseph Rizzardi-Class of 1949, Mae Thompson-Class of 1949, Don and Sharon Scholke-class of 1951, and Louis DeCarlo-Class of 1956,**

Attention Alumni!

Did you work on the yearbook staff, or did you forget to purchase your yearbook when you were in school? Help out the Yearbook staff by making a donation or purchasing a past yearbook for your collection. Many years are available to be purchased. Unfortunately, many of our students cannot afford a yearbook. Every student would like a yearbook so they can look back on their years at Iron Mountain High School. If you would like to make a donation to help our students receive a yearbook please contact Tina Flood, the current Yearbook Advisor, at 906-774-5286 or 906-396-2547.