



Bob Adams-Editor

Summer 1998

BOOKS

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Dee and Virginia Compton

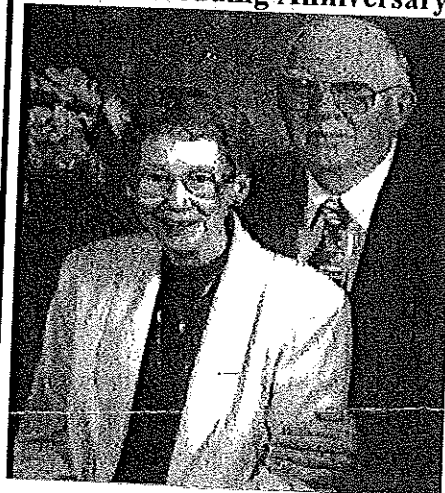


Mr. and Mrs. Leroy "Dee" Compton of Indianapolis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 16, 1998 with an open house at the Acton United Methodist Church.

Mr. Compton and the former Virginia Anne Coxen were married May 15, 1948 in the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church. He is executive vice president of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. From 1947 to 1964, he was a teacher and coach for Moral Township, Bluffton, Shelbyville, and Indianapolis Manual. He was supervisor of Athletics for the Indianapolis Public Schools for nine years, before retiring in 1985.

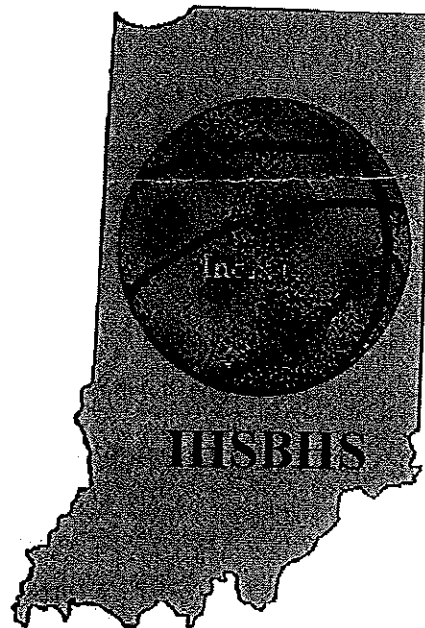
They are members of the Acton United Methodist Church and the parents of James, Ted, Charles, and Nancy Compton and Anita Hubley, and have five grandchildren.

Congratulations on Your Golden Wedding Anniversary



Bob and Margaret Whalen

The Family of Bob and Margaret Whalen invite all IHSBHS members to a reception in honor of Bob and Margaret's 50th Wedding Anniversary. It will be held at Christ's United Methodist Church, 909 East Main Street, Crawfordsville, IN from 2PM to 4PM Saturday July 25, 1998.



THAT GOLDEN SEASON

By Bob Adams

The year was 1948. Israel was a new country. Bob and Margaret Whalen were married. Oldsmobile introduced the Rocket 88, while Packard countered with its pregnant elephant look, Hudson brought forth its step-down models, and the bathtub Nash was born.

In southern Indiana, Delphus Henke coached his Spurgeon Cardinals to 21 straight wins. In the far northwest corner of the state, Ed Englehart duplicated this feat at Merrillville.

But, this is also the 50th anniversary for five teams which had golden seasons a half a century ago.

Two of the teams went through the season undefeated. Another team, whose coach got the job because no one else wanted it, was the first county team to win the big city sectional. The fourth team was led by a player who went on to star in the NFL, while the fifth team was from a once-proud basketball program that had fallen on hard times.

Fate, and the state tourney, would forever tie these teams together.

Bob Bushong coached the Milford Cardinals to a 5-14 record in 1942 before his uncle requested his presence in the service.

When he came back to Milford after the war, his 1946 team promptly won a sectional title. Two members of that team Bill Speicher and Don Wolfeman were just sophomores and teamed with Lew Speicher, and Dick and Ben Kaiser to form the nucleus of a team that would terrorize Kosciusko county opponents the next couple of seasons.

The Cardinals won 21 of 23 games in 1947, before losing to Leesburg in the semi-finals of the sectional.

Gerald Faudree came to Chester Township in 1942 after coaching for eight seasons at Deedsville and Jefferson Township in Whitley county. He coached the reserve team for one season before taking over the varsity the following season.

Faudree won a sectional in his first season, and his team posted 21-2 record. He must have liked even-numbered years, since his 1946 team went 20-4, but the best was yet to come in 1948.

Wabash native Bill Milliner came to Monroeville in the fall of 1941. The township trustee offered him the coaching job because, "no one else wants it."

The trustee was probably thinking about this when the 1942 Cubs finished 6-14. Milliner was also called by his uncle the following season, and did not return the school until 1946.

Milliner wasn't really sure he wanted to return to the Cubs, but a group a

grade schoolers he had helped coach before the war had shown a lot of promise, so he made his way back to eastern Allen county.

By the 1946-47, the grade schoolers had grown up, and this group, led by future all-star Dick Reinking, the Cubs posted an 18-04 record for their prodigal coach.

1948 Monroeville Cubs



Front row: Byron Beucler, Dick Reinking, Merrit (Don) Myers, Gene Rhodes.

Second Row: Principal George Martin, Don Lehrman, Jim Giant, Roland (Abner) Lee, Max Brown, Stan Shaffer, Bob Hullinger

Fifty miles south of Monroeville, Harold Wallace was putting together quite a run as coach of the Portland Panthers.

Wallace had come to Portland in the fall of 1944, and his first three seasons, his Panther teams had won 55 games while losing only 20. The 1946 team had won a sectional and regional title, and had repeated as sectional champs the following season.

In 1948, Wallace teamed the three "Bs", John Bright, Richard Bond, and Darrell Brewster, along with Don Graves and Ward Weisel to form what was probably the best team that ever graced the hardwood at Portland.

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, a once proud school just a few miles west of Portland was regaining basketball prominence.

After winning 16 straight sectionals between 1923 and 1938, the Muncie Central Bearcats could not get out of their own sectional for six straight seasons

After losing to tiny Center in the 1943 sectional, the Muncie faithful decided that they had had enough, and they reached back into their basketball history bag and pulled out Art Beckner.

Beckner, a 1923 Muncie grad, and a 1927 graduate of IU, had coached with some success at Dunkirk and Yorktown before returning to his alma mater.

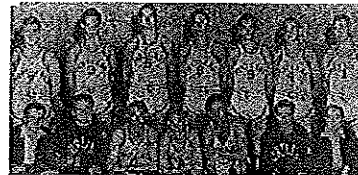
His 1944 team went 18-5, but lost in the sectional final to Muncie Burris. Despite the loss of leading scorer Jim Carey (later Delaware county sheriff), his 1945 team, lead by all-star Marvin

Fifer, used a home court advantage to win a sectional and regional title, but a trip to Indy was derailed by Huntington, 42-37 in the semi-state final.

The 1946 Bearcats won another sectional title, but lost to Richmond in the regional final. In 1947, Muncie Buttris once again upset the mighty Bearcats in the sectional.

The stage was set for the 1948 season.

1948 Portland Panthers



Front Row: Bud Bowen (mgr), Jim Priest, Bud Williams, Dick Bond, John Bright, Fred Jetter, and Bob Coulson (mgr)

Back Row: Bud Spitzer, Gene Resler, Darrell Brewster, Charles Ashley, Don Graves, Ward Weisel, and Neil Medler

THE 1948 SEASON

Milford and Chester Township were clearly the class teams in northern Indiana.

The Cardinals, with Lew and Bill Speicher and Ben Kaiser all scoring in double figures, steam rolled through the early part of the season. When the Kosciusko county tourney was played in January, Milford won their three games by an average of 18 points a game, beating Silver Lake, 39-28, Etna Green, 58-38, and Leesburg, 57-33 to cop the county crown.

Chester Township won their first nine games before running into a tough Akron team. The Panthers escaped with a 41-40 win to keep their winning streak intact. They also added a Wabash county tourney title, beating Lincolnville, Chippewa, and Laketon by an average spread of 26 points.

Monroeville won its first four games over Hoagland, Leo, New Haven and Elmhurst before stumbling against Woodburn and Huntertown. The Cubs won seven more games before their schedule took them on a long road trip to (where else?) Chester Township.

This meeting between two of the best small schools in the state had to be moved from the small Chester Township gym to a much larger gym in Wabash.

It was a game that Glen Lehrman, the only senior starter on the Monroeville team would just as soon forget.

"We were treated to dinner at the LaFontaine Hotel in Huntington. On our way to Wabash our bus broke down, and were forced to catch rides with our fans. We got to the gym cold and tired, and just never really got into the game."

He went on to add that Chester Township did not give any tickets to the

Somewhere South of Danville
by Harley Sheets



Since this is my last letter as president I would like to take time to express my appreciation to the many who have supported IHSBHS through its first four years of existence. As I sit here looking at the notes that were taken by our cofounder, Joe Quigley, at our initial meeting, which had eleven in attendance, I see the names of Mr. & Mrs. Don White, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Wohlford, John Ockomon and Jack Poore. It is to these people that I extend my sincerest thanks, because they have continued for the duration to be active members. And had they have not been at that first meeting on June 25, 1994 it is more than likely that IHSBHS would not have been in existence today. My next thanks is to Bob Adams. Although having a business to run and writing for a couple of newspapers, he has found time to do more than his share of research which is basically what the society is about. He has also done an immense amount of work such as putting together this newsletter, ordering tickets and publications and, I believe, he has attended every meeting ever since he found out about us. Kudos, also, to Bob (The Politician) Pearson, the custodian of the Joe Quigley Memorial Library, who is from the same pod as Bob Adams. They were both run out of Delaware County and are now both living up north. Pearson, also, has not missed a meeting since joining our group. My greatest indebtedness to him is this. At the last board meeting, during impeachment proceedings against myself, he told me with a mischievous smile on his face, that he could not vote against a founding father, even though he probably wanted to. I also, appreciate Bill Bueter, Dean Kendall and Wendell Trogdon, three never-say-anything-bad-about anyone type guys would be an asset to any organization. My regards go out to Olin Edgell (lifetime member) who is not necessarily a basketball and research person, but comes to most meetings with Adams and sits silently so the other more talkative of us can ramble on. I appreciate the friendships that I have developed with Bill Ervin, Mike McCormick and Randy Messel, although, I must admit that I am terribly disappointed that two of them do not attend the meetings. Other thanks go to Ruth White for her dedication and diligent note taking, Bob Whalen for his miserly care of our treasury, Doug Bradley for his meticulous and prodigious researching acumen, David Lee Compton for his dedicated research and the cards of Al Kaline and Gil Hodges - my two favorite baseball players, Roger Griffin the first lifetime member of IHSBHS and Roger Robison a very good friend and mentor whom I probably should, but don't always listen to.

Somewhere South of Danville, cont'd
Others I would like to recognize are Bart Carter (Texas), Mike Edwards (Tennessee), Bud Hand (Michigan), Don Nicholson (Wisconsin), Tim Puet (Ohio) and Jim Stinson (Washington) who are rarely with us but support us from afar, because of their love for Indiana high school basketball.

To those members not mentioned, you are also valued and appreciated.

My final thought is of Arthur Joseph Quigley, Jr. and I know that all members want to join me in thanking him for his dedication and pioneering spirit in getting the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society started. For those of you who never got the chance to know him, "Huck" was an easy going, sentimental but happy person who loved life. However, it was taken from him on July 29, 1997, but he WILL NOT be forgotten!

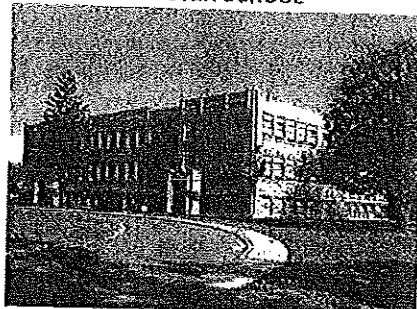
Since I will be turning over the gavel to Bob Adams on July 18, 1998 I will no longer be conversing to the membership through this column. However, I will continue to contribute my "Gems Of The Past" articles as long as the spirit moves me and the material lasts.

GENERAL MEETING
JULY 18, 1998
AT CRAWFORDSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL 1-3 P.M.

Agenda

1. Short Business Meeting
2. Bill Boone, the CHS Historian and Chairman of the CHS Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, will talk on the CHS HALL OF FAME
3. Bruce Whitehead, CHS AD, will give a brief report on the first season of class basketball in the Indiana.
4. IHSBHS member, and noted Montgomery County Historian Bob Whalen will talk on Crawfordsville and Montgomery County Basketball History.

CHESTER SCHOOL

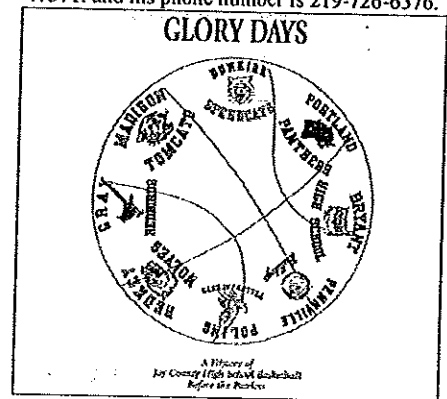


NEW BOOKS BY IHSBHS
MEMBERS

Three members of our historical society have, or will have in the near future new books available.

Dr. Roger Robison plans to have his book, Everett Case and the Frankfort Hot Dogs, ready in time for a book signing at the Frankfort Hot Dog Festival which will take place on July 23, 24, and 25th. His book signing will be on July 24 at the Clinton County Historical Society, which is in the old Frankfort High School Building.

Jay county's own, Dean Monroe, has finished his book, GLORY DAYS, and it is now available for sale. The cost of Dean's book is \$15.00 plus postage. This book includes the records and historical data on the Jay county schools prior to consolidation. Dean can be contacted at 220 Golfbrook Dr. Portland, IN 47371. and his phone number is 219-726-6376.



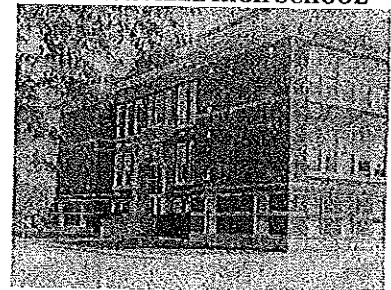
Bob Adams has finished another book on Adams county basketball. His book is entitled "The Yellow Jackets-A History of Decatur High School Basketball 1903-67."

New In the Quigley Library

Bob Pearson, our head librarian, has acquired several new books for our library. Member Bob Whalen has donated several of his books. Mr. Whalen's contributions include his basketball and football histories of both North Montgomery and South Montgomery, as well as two volumes of Montgomery county basketball history. The first volume covers the pre-consolidation era, and the second covers the era after consolidation.

Dean Monroe has donated a copy of his book, Glory Days. Dean's book covers almost every aspect of Jay county basketball prior to consolidation.

MONROEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



All Members are invited to the next board meeting.
June 27, 1998 in Indianapolis

BOXSCORE Summer 1998

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

PAGE 3

That Golden Season, Continued

Monroeville fans, so the Monroeville team were letting their fans in through the locker room windows. There was an overflow crowd that night at Wabash.

Despite all the problems, the Cubs gave the Indians a good game, finally falling, 44-42, when Dick Piper hit a shot in the last 15 seconds to give the Indians the win. It was win number eighteen in a row for Chester, while Monroeville was losing for the third time. It would be the last loss Monroeville would suffer until the semi-finals in Muncie.

1948 Chester Township



Front Row: Theron Rupley, June Hanley, Bob Johnson, Dick Piper, Tom McClure
Back Row: Richard Hapner, Don Mosher, Bob Little, Dick Frantz, Don Hyde, John Morford, Roger Grossnickle, Gerold Faudree

Piper went on to lead Wabash county in scoring that season.

The Portland Panthers were also ripping through their schedule. They were undefeated against Indiana teams, with their only regular season loss coming at the hands of Fort Recovery. After beating Coldwater, Ohio by 30 points, the Panthers were forced to forfeit the game for using an ineligible player. Portland won the Big Four Tourney with wins over Albany and Dunkirk, and the Jay County Tourney with big wins over Bryant (93-22), Pennville, (70-33), and Redkey (50-35). Bond was the leading scorer for Portland at more than 15 points per game. Brewster and Bright also were scoring in double figures.

Beckner's Muncie team was having an up and down season. Marion Acton had returned from the service to lead the team in scoring, and Bob Newton had a good enough season to be named to the all-star team. But, the Bearcats had logged seven defeats by tourney time.

The Tourney

All five teams won their sectionals rather easily. At Muncie, the Bearcats beat Cowan, Royerton, Center, and Burriss to claim the title.

Chester Township beat Chippewa, Urbana, South Whitley and Wabash to cop the 1948 sectional title.

Portland won the Hartford City title with wins over Ridgeville, Dunkirk, and Jefferson of Randolph county.

Milford won the Warsaw tourney by beating Syracuse, Sidney, Mentone, and Beaver Dam.

Monroeville became the first Allen county school to win a Fort Wayne sectional.

The Cubs beat Woodburn for the third time in four games to open the sectional, and then upset Fort Wayne Northside in the semi-finals.

This set up a sectional final with Fort Wayne Central, and the Cubs pulled off the upset once again, which put them on a collision course with undefeated Milford in the Fort Wayne regional.

The Fort Wayne regional was a small school tourney that season. Wawaka and Garrett rounded out the field.

The Speichers and Ben Kaiser were all in double figures for the Cardinals, but the Cubs got 24 points from Dick Reinking and 11 points from Don Myers, as they handed Milford their first loss in 26 games, knocking the Cardinals out of the tourney, 51-46.

Garrett beat Wawaka in the other morning game, and the Cubs beat the Railroaders at night, 37-25, to advance to the Muncie Semi-State. Reinking, Myers, and Rhodes were named to the all-regional team.

Portland traveled to Huntington where they joined the host school, Chester Center of Wells county, and Hartford Township of Adams county.

The Panthers more than doubled the score on Chester Center in the opening game, 53-26, while Hartford Township upset Huntington in the other morning game. In the nightcap, Portland beat the Gorillas 51-38 to win the Huntington regional, and the win advanced them to the Muncie Semi-State.

Muncie won their own regional with wins over Richmond and Parker. But it was Chester Township who made fans state wide take notice. The Indians put three players in double figures, lead by Don Hyde's 15 points, and opened the regional by upsetting Kokomo, 48-46. In the championship game, Dick Piper pumped in 30 points, and Hyde added 21, as Chester dominated the host school, Marion, 76-54. This win earned the Indians a trip to Muncie.

1948 Milford Cardinals



Front Row: Ben Kaiser, Lew Speicher, Dick Kaiser, Don Wolfertman, Bill Speicher.
Back Row: Duane Graff, Bob Bushong (coach), Jim Speicher, Ralph Clawson, Jack Klopstein, Henry Orm.

The clock struck midnight for three of the four golden teams at Muncie. Chester Township, after beating two state ranked teams the week before, were stung by the three Bs from Portland, losing to Bright, Bond, and Brewster, 65-54.

Monroeville met their Waterloo in the second contest, as they also fell by an 11 point margin, 49-38.

The Panthers found the home court advantage enjoyed by the Bearcats to much to overcome, as they fell to Muncie Central 56-47 in the championship game, despite leading by 5 points at half-time.

Fifty years later, this game is still talked about in Portland. Early in the second half of the game, with Portland leading, one of the officials injured an ankle, and was not able to continue. His replacement made several key calls against Portland down the stretch, leaving the Panther fans feeling "homed."

The 'Cats made the trip down Hiway 67 the following week to Butler fieldhouse, but fell in the morning session of the state finals to an Evansville Central team led by future politician Lee Hamilton, 48-40.

But, Muncie Central was definitely back. Between 1948 and 1963, the Bearcats won 16 sectionals, 13 regionals, 7 semi-states, and three state titles.

EPILOGUE

Muncie Central is the only surviving school from our group of five. Chester Township was the first to go. The Indians and North Manchester joined forces in 1957 to form Manchester High School. Milford, North Webster, and Syracuse became Wawasee in 1968, the same year that Monroeville and Hoagland became Heritage. Portland merged with the other Jay county schools in 1975 to form Jay County.

Art Beckner got into a squabble with the Muncie school board and moved to Richmond for the 1953 season, after winning a state title with the Bearcats in 1952. He was voted into the Hall of Fame in 1972.

Marion Acton, the former paratrooper, graduated from Central, went to college, and began a long career as an educator. Bob Newton made the all-star team.

Bill Milliner left a talented group at Monroeville and moved to Elkhart. Five seasons at Elkhart resulted in five sectional titles, three regional titles, and one semi-state title. Milliner left the coaching ranks in 1954 and began a new career in the banking business, which lasted thirty years.

Harry Ginn took over for Milliner at Monroeville, and he inherited a lot of talent. Losing only Don Lehrman from 1948, the 1949 version of the Cubs went undefeated in the regular season, before losing in the sectional. Dick Reinking was honored for his efforts by being selected to the all-star team in 1949.

Wallace coached eight more seasons at Portland, and won another sectional title in 1950. Darrell Brewster made the all-star team in 1948, went to Purdue, and began a long pro football career with the Cleveland Browns, and Pittsburg Steelers. John Bright made the all-star team in 1949, and after college at Butler and Ball State, began a high school coaching career that took him to White Pigeon, MI, Albany, Selma, Wapahani, and Cambridge City. His 1964 team at Selma was undefeated and his 1967 Bluebird team became the first Delaware county school other than a Muncie school to win a sectional. Darrell Bond decided not to go on to college despite several offers, and remained in Portland.

Bushong left Milford for North Vernon while Faudree coached at Chester Township until the school closed in 1957. He later coached a couple of seasons at Silver Lake.

Through the years, Muncie Central added five more state titles to its arsenal, so the 1948 team really never got much attention after that season. But, if you travel to Milford, North Manchester, Portland, or Monroeville, it is easy to find an old-timer who can tell you all about his team's golden season.

Bill Rogge and Dean Monroe contributed information to this story

Congratulations to Dee and Virginia Compton on their Golden Wedding Anniversary

**CRAWFORDSVILLE
HIGH SCHOOL
BASKETBALL 1948**

By Bob Whalen

Most Indiana Basketball Historians know that Lafayette Jefferson won the 1948 State Basketball Championship. How many of you know who was the last team to defeat them in the regular season? The team was Crawfordsville, who defeated Jeff in the next to last regular season game by a score of 43 to 38 at Crawfordsville.

As the 1947-48 basketball season was ready to start most Crawfordsville basketball fans were looking forward to a very good or at least a good season. C'ville had three starters returning from the 46-47 team and they were also the three leading scorers from the 46-47 team. They had the sixth and seventh man returning from the previous season. It would be the third year for one starter since he had started as a sophomore. Four of the other five had been starters on the reserve team of the season before. The make up of this team was eight seniors and two juniors. All in all it looked to be a good year. C'ville finished the regular season at 12-8 which wasn't as well as most fans would have liked. The eight losses were as follows; Frankfort twice, once each to Brazil, Michigan City, Franklin, F. W. South, Attica and Indy Shortridge. The twelve wins were over Lebanon twice, Noblesville, Greencastle, Bloomington, T.H. Garfield, West Lafayette, Clinton, Indy Washington, Martinsville, Lafayette Jeff and S B Riley. From this you can see they played a number of good teams and while they lost to some they also defeated some.

C'ville won their own sectional by winning four games by an average of 15 1/2 points per game. They then won their own Regional by defeating Dana in the afternoon by 11 and then defeating Attica in the night game by three points. C'ville came from behind to tie this game in the middle of the third quarter and then win it in the last quarter. You would have to say that these two teams were even as Attica won by 3 at Attica and C'ville won by 3 at home. The team and the fans went out to celebrate after the game and the team rode on the fire truck through downtown, this was a bad idea.

Their leader scorer came down with a throat infection and a bad cold from this ride and was sidelined for the Semi-Final game at Butler with Lawrenceburg. Two other players had bad colds which cut down on their playing time.

Crawfordsville had for the most part played the season with seven players, the eighth man played in most games but only scored an average of 1 1/2 points per game for the regular season.

The number nine and ten men played for the most part in games that were one sided.

As Crawfordsville entered the game against Lawrenceburg they were playing without their leading scorer and to make things worse, two others were slowed bad colds and one saw very limited playing time. But this was not the entire story. another starter was injured and sat out for some time and when he came back he was hurt again and did not return. If all of this wasn't enough another starter was in foul trouble nearly the entire game and sat out two or three times. All of this made the number eight and nine men play far more time than they would have normally played. Even with all of this Crawfordsville put up a hard fight and lost by only four points. One doesn't know what might have been. IF ONLY!

1998 DUES

Your 1998 dues are due on or before 7/1/98.
Dues are \$5.00 per year, or \$50.00 for a lifetime membership.
Make your check out to:
Bob Whalen
908 Cottage Ave.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933-1504
Bob asks that you write:
"HSBHS DUES" in the memo section of the check.

The Ten Second Line

1967 saw Selma become the first school from Delaware county, other than a Muncie school, to win a sectional. The Bluebirds and Center were moved to the Winchester that season, and became the first non-Randolph county team to win the Randolph county meet.

And who was coach of that 1967 Bluebird team? None other than John Bright, star of the 1948 Portland Panthers.

Norseman Notes

By Bob Adams

With Harley stepping down as president, readers of this newsletter get two columns for the price of one this issue.

As incoming president, I would first like to thank Harley for founding the group and for his effort as a board member and as president of HSBHIS.

Many of you know that Harley and I did not see eye-to-eye on many issues, but this does not change the fact that Harley has put a lot of time and effort into our historical society, and he should be applauded for his efforts in starting and running the society, and also for his efforts in developing and preserving the history of Indiana High School Basketball.

Like any new president, there are some things that I would like to change, and there are some things that I would like to develop.

First of all, we want to do everything possible to attract more members to meetings.

We will continue to try to have meetings in places that have some historical basketball significance, and we will continue to have speakers and programs at these meetings. It is really a shame that so many of you missed the April meeting at Columbus. Doug Bradley took us on a tour of the old Columbus gym, and also took us to Columbus East, his alma mater, and the meeting was held at Columbus North, where he then gave a talk about the history of Columbus basketball that was both very interesting and very informative.

The next meeting will be at the Crawfordsville High School on July 18. This meeting is being hosted by Bob and Margaret Whalen. It will feature Crawfordsville basketball historian Bill Boone, who will talk about the Crawfordsville High School Athletic Hall of Fame, Bruce Whitehead, the Crawfordsville High School Athletic Director, who will give a brief report on the first class basketball tourney, and our own Bob Whalen, who will talk about Crawfordsville and Montgomery county basketball history.

While I don't know much about Mr. Boone, I am looking forward hearing from both Mr. Whitehead and Bob Whalen.

With the recent financial reports and attendance reports about class

Norseman Notes, Continued

basketball, it should be interesting to hear from the Athletic Director, who was a big supporter of the switch to class basketball.

And Bob Whalen is well-known in western Indiana for his knowledge about Crawfordsville and Montgomery county basketball.

We will keep the business portion of the meeting short, so as to give these three men plenty of time to speak.

I have talked with the weatherman, and he has assured me that July 18th will be a very nice day for a drive to western Indiana.

We are looking for suggestions on how to make our general meetings more enjoyable, and want to make whatever changes it takes to increase attendance. Based on the attendance at the class basketball state finals, we will not change to class meetings.

We are also looking for a volunteer to host the fall meeting. We would like to have the meeting at a location with some historical significance, and would also want a speaker who would speak on a topic related to basketball history.

We also have two new board members. John Ockomon was elected to the board to at the last meeting to fill a board vacancy created by the election of officers. And, Bill Erwin was appointed to the board by out-going president Harley Sheets to fill Doug Bradley's term. Doug has resigned from the board and moved to Florida with his fiancée Michelle. Congratulations to Doug and Michelle on their upcoming marriage.

John Ockomon is a charter member, and was the first president of IHSBHS. He is a graduate of Pendleton High School, and has supplied us with the records of Madison county schools.

Bill Erwin has retired from the FBI, and has put his investigation abilities to use in researching both Brazil High School, and researching the scoring records of several Terre Haute Gerstmeier players.

Dues are due 7/1/98. Dues are \$5.00 per year, and, for the first time, we are offering a lifetime membership for \$50.00. Make your checks out to Bob Whalen, and on the memo line write *IHSBHS dues*.

Mail your check to Bob at 908 Cottage Ave. Crawfordsville, IN 47933.

I would like to thank Bill Rogge, Harley, Dean Monroe, Bob Pearson, Dr. Roger Robison, Bob Whalen, and Wendell Trogdon for submitting material for this newsletter. Most of these people have sent material for the past several issues. Also thanks to Don and Ruth White for supplying the labels.

If you have an article or some material you would like to see in the newsletter, please send it to me. We are always looking for unusual stories on coaches, players, and teams. If you don't feel comfortable writing, send me the information, and we'll even write it up for you.

We want to keep this informative, and want to avoid getting in a rut, so we are always looking for stories from all parts of the state.

We still have several counties and schools that we have no information on. If you have some spare time, and would like to research another county, or even a school, let us know.

50 Years Ago In Needmore

By Wendell Trogdon

It was 1948, a year the Hilltoppers were kings of the hill among rural Lawrence County high school basketball teams.

The Hilltoppers were the pride of Needmore (often called Marshall Township) High, a school that sat atop a hill overlooking what was then Ind. 37 in the northern part of the county.

Fans had not known what to expect in the fall; of 1947 when youthful Wallace Etcheson was hired to succeed the veteran Marshall George as coach. George had led the 1947 team to the county championship and a 16-6 record.

Gone from that team was Jim Galloway, one of the county's premiere scorers, and two or three role players.

Back, however, were seniors Connie Galloway, Jim's brother, and veterans Bill Johnson, Bob "Red" Lewis, Bob Fortner and George Robertson. Don Piper, a promising junior, Elbert Bartlett, Dean Anderson and freshman Dale Spoonmore added to the mix.

The team entered the county tourney, 11-0, then captured the county championship (minus Bedford and Mitchell) by beating Oolitic and Tunnelton, then easing past, Shawswick, 36-35.

The Toppers were 16-0 when they met a tough Vallonia team, led by 6 feet 5, 225 pound, Dick Robinson. A man in a boy's uniform, Robinson led the Redbirds to a 52-50 upset, ending Etcheson's dreams of an unbeaten season in his rookie year.

Needmore defeated Williams, then lost again to archrival Oolitic, 45-43, before finishing the season with a victory over Huron.

Two losses by a total of four points had kept the team from an unbeaten season.

It would need to win three games if it was to bring the school its first sectional ever. The Hilltoppers opened tournament play by beating Shawswick for the fourth time that year, another one-point victory, 33-32. They edged Tunnelton, 51-47, to move into the finale.

It would be another David and Goliath match, the small school versus the city power. Bedford was highly-ranked and featured stars such as Jack Turner, who later would be a standout at Western Kentucky.

The Stonecutters took no chances against the rural upstarts. They took a quick lead, were ahead 22-8 at the half and went on to win 48-21.

No matter. The Hilltoppers had ruled the county roost. Their success would not be matched by another Needmore team until 1964 when the school won the county tournament and its first and only sectional championship.

By then, in an ironic twist, Bill Johnson, a star on that 1948 team, was the coach at Bedford. If his Stonecutters couldn't win the title, he no doubt was happy it was his alma matter.

Johnson later was principal at Heltonville, then vice principal at Bedford North Lawrence after the consolidation united Bedford, Needmore, Heltonville, Shawswick, Tunnelton, Oolitic, Fayetteville and part of Williams. It was then the Davids became a part of the Goliath.

That 1948 Needmore team may not have captured its objective, but like Johnson, who

died during the 1989-90 school year, its other players became successes in life.

Connie Galloway became a school administrator, serving as superintendent at Washington Township (Marion County), Shelbyville, Seymour and other districts.

Bob Lewis became a journalist and wrote for the Associated Press before his early death in the 1960s.

Others players had successful careers.

It was a team worth remembering, even 50 years later.

BECOME A MEMBER OF IHSBHS

If you would like to become a member of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society, and receive *Boxscore*, please send \$5.00 to:

Bob Whalen
908 Cottage Ave
Crawfordsville, IN

Scarce as Hen's Teeth

(Editor's note: This article came from Wendell about a week after the IHSAA announced the attendance figures, or lack of attendance, at this year's state tourney. Read on to see how things have changed in the last half century).

Tickets to the state finals were precious back in the 1940. Small schools seldom received more than four or five, depending on enrollment.

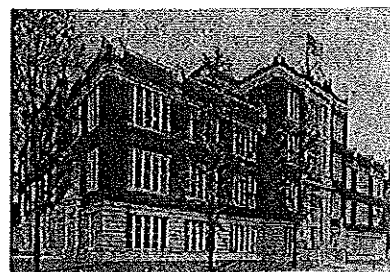
Needmore was no exception. As at most schools, those tickets were given to seniors on its basketball teams, a final reward for their participation over the last four year.

There was a problem, however, for coach Wallace Etcheson, who had led the team to a 21-3 record.

The school was allotted four tickets. There were five seniors. Etcheson conducted a drawing, four tickets and a blank ducat. Connie Galloway, the team's star, drew the blank.

Etcheson went looking for help. He wrote Al Brewster, sports editor of the Bedford Times-Mail, asking for any fan with a spare ticket to call. Brewster printed the summons in bold type.

It is not recalled how the situation was resolved, but chances are it was. The more scarce tickets, the more ingenuity Hoosiers fans used to find them.



Muncie Central

THE HECKLING OF JOHN COLDREN

BY JOHN WAYNE SAMPLES

A few athletes are blessed in their careers with a moment like no other: the grand slam that wins the series, the touchdown over the big rival, or the kiss from the cheerleader after hitting the free throw that wins the state championship. Those moments define success.

Sometimes those moments come and go in a rush of, well, lack of success. In either case, the moment often lasts forever - like it or not.

For Hickory High's famed basketball guard, Shooter, Dennis Hopper's character in the movie Hoosiers), it was the latter case. His big shot at the buzzer teased the inside of the rim, then spun out. The next chapter of Shooter's life: he became a hometown drunk.

For Portland High's famed forward, John Coldren, it was also the latter case. His big shot in the big game, actually ALL of them, never even saw the inside of the rim. None went in.

The next chapter in John's life: he became a hometown lawyer. (There's another line here but it would be too easy!)

It was the Portland Sectional championship of 1962. John was the big man on campus, about 6-foot-4, and awaiting him at the regional level was a much anticipated match-up between John and another one of the state's top players. The sports pages were already speculating about who would have the better game in the regionals because, after all, Portland was playing (chuckle) Pennville for the sectional championship and that little cross-country school had little chance.

You guessed it. For whatever reason Portland High wasn't clicking that night and Pennville was. It did go into overtime, but big John couldn't buy a basket, or free throw, in the OT either. Portland lost by one point; arguably the one John never got.

But John is a classy guy. He picked himself up, and headed off to college and law school. Time was healing his wounds when he returned to Portland to practice his trade...and to take up baseball umpiring on the side. That's where our story really begins...

Seventh inning stretch. John's sweeping the plate clean when he first hears the voice. No, this isn't the "If you build it..." thing. This is clearly coming from the stands and is clearly directed at John. "NOT ONE POINT! NOT ONE @#S% POINT!"

John repositions himself discreetly to see who is yelling. Nothing. Nobody. He gets back behind the plate and yells "Play Ball!" and like an echo in a canyon comes the reprise,

"NOT ONE POINT! NOT ONE @#S% POINT!"

He never sees the guy. The game ends and everybody goes home, with John just a little curious. OK, maybe even a little peeved.

Fast forward two or three years. John's walking in downtown Portland. A car slows down in the same direction. The passenger-side window drops and a voice from the shadowed

BOXSCORE: Summer 1998 The Heckling of John Coldren, Continued

driver's side shouts out, "NOT ONE POINT! NOT ONE @#S% POINT!"

Gathering his senses, John rushes to the curb to get a better look. The old sedan pulls a clean getaway. John doesn't remember ever seeing that car around town before, and doesn't remember seeing it again to this day.

Space restrictions prevent recounting all of these chance (?) meetings. They occurred pretty much on schedule every two or three years. And all of them were pretty much the same; the shouted one-liner, the clean getaway, and a remarkable lack of witnesses who could help identify this wound-salter. But a couple of more incidents do stand out with distinction.

John's career had gone well in his hometown. He served as Chamber president and was even elected state representative (he easily carried the Pennville precinct). One of his favorite political activities was going to watch the Indiana Pacers, and at least once, in the mid-80s, he was able to score courtside seats.

During the pre-game warm-ups one night, Tom McMillan, an even-bigger-than-Coldren forward for the Washington Bullets, walked up to John, offered his handshake and said, "Hey, aren't you John Coldren?" Impressed that his exploits in the Statehouse were known to someone like McMillan (who had already announced his intentions to run for Congress), John jumped up, grabbed the hand and acknowledged he certainly was.

McMillan looked straight into John's eyes and said, "NOT ONE POINT! NOT ONE @#S% POINT!" He turned and dribbled in for a lay-up with John still standing about three feet out on the floor with his hand out and mouth open.

Just a few years ago John was walking through the lobby of the bank building where his office is located when someone broke the respectful silence of the financial institution with "NOT ONE POINT! NOT ONE @#S% POINT!"

John spun around and this time he saw him. Positive ID. The old guy in the line at the teller's cage. Walking up to him, John prepared his "righteous indignation give-it-up-and-get-a-life lambasting."

But the old codger of slight build interrupted him before he began "I bet you have had enough of this, haven't you?" He seemed sincere. John was a bit taken back and began thinking his 30-year tongue-lashing might be over. The aging gentleman continued "Yeah I've been pretty rough on you over the years; guess it's time to quit..."

Then in what seemed to be one perfectly executed play, the man left his spot in line, pivoted around John toward the door and escaped untouched while cackling, "...when I'm dead and boxed!"

But this time there were witnesses. One of them even thought he knew where the guy used to work, but he wasn't sure. No one knew his name. And in some ways, John wasn't sure he wanted to know anymore. After 30-some years, this whole thing had reached mythical proportions and it was almost worth the humiliation and embarrassment.

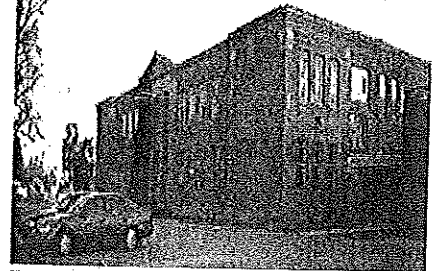
This article probably won't help put the memory of that cold February night in 1962 to

The Heckling of John Coldren Continued

rest for John. No, he'll probably find a whole new generation of hecklers from the Indiana Senate, where he is counsel to the pro tem; to the Jay County REMC, where he is corporate counsel; or to the dozen or so civic and charitable organizations with which he works in his hometown. But, that's just the price of a good "Hoosier Hysteria" story.

John Samples is manager of Jay County REMC in Portland. This story appeared in "Along Those Lines," March 1996 Electric Consumer. This story is reprinted with John Coldren's and John Samples' permission.

(Editor's Note - Coldren was set up at the Pacer game for the McMillan incident by the friend that attended the game with him.)



Portland High School

Board Meeting

The Board of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society will meet on June 27, 1998, at the Lawrence Public Library at 7700 N. Hague Rd. in Indianapolis from 1-3 P.M.

The library is next to Lawrence North High School. Take 82nd St. (Castleton Exit) east off 37/I69 to Hague Rd. Turn South on Hague.

All members are invited to attend.

Crawfordsville High School



Questions or comments on the newsletter? Contact us at:

IHSBHS

1115 W. Madison St.

Decatur, IN 46733

Phone and Fax:

(219)-724-3359

Email: unlocks@decaturnet.com

Got a good basketball story? Please share it with us!!!

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

Doctor's Orders

By Roger Robison

HOOPING IT UP by Tim Neely,

Diamond Communications Inc., Notre Dame, IN, 1995.

One of the best kept secrets in Indiana has been the excellence of the Notre Dame basketball program. This 1995 book does a great job of detailing the story. George Keogan (1890-1943) was a good friend of Everett Case and a bitter rival of Piggy Lambert. Keogan recruited many well known Hoosier prep stars. Lafayette Jefferson High School contributed the seven Crowe brothers to Notre Dame. The high-light of this book is the section which gives a synopsis of stats on every boy who played hoops for Notre Dame: Moose Krause, John Jordan, Ray Meyer, George Ireland, Johnny Dee. Hoosier prep stars included Noble Kizer, Leo Klier, and REX ELLIS FROM GREEN FORK among others. The other amazing fact about Notre Dame was all the famous football stars who doubled in basketball: George Ratterman, Johnny Lujack, etc. A great book loaded with Indiana history.

SHAKE DOWN THE THUNDER

by Murray Sperber, Henry Holt, NY, NY, 1993.

Professor Sperber teaches at I.U.-Bloomington and previously authored an expose called "College Sports Inc.". If you think that any of today's college athletes are really getting an education you

Doctor's Orders-Continued

should browse that book! Your worst fears are correct. It's all big business and being a farm club for the pros.

But his Notre Dame book is more than just football--it is a history of Catholic education in the U.S.A. and a history of the Big Ten. Rockne and the French fathers wanted in, and Chicago and Michigan wanted them out. Rockne invented big-time, big-business college coaching; complete with commercial contracts. It was newspaper articles and movies then instead of shoe and sweater contracts for the coaches. The Notre Dame connection with Wabash College and the Chicago Tribune are well covered. The Klan gets some coverage and we find out that George Gipp makes Sherron Wilkerson look good. A great book about the most famous college football school of all time, and how they got that way.

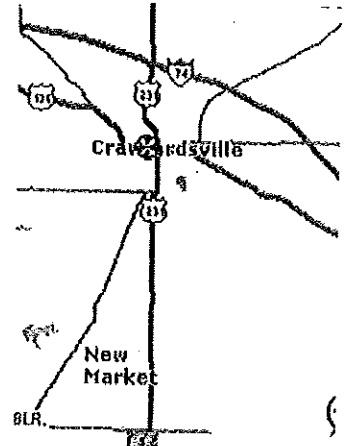
RED DEVILS

by coach Wm. Johnson

(Jeffersonville-1935, I.U.-1939), 1984.

Now available in limited quantities for \$5.00 to ISH-BISH members. Contact Harley Sheets. Lots of great pictures of the Jeff teams and coaches from 1906-1984. See the only seven footer in Indiana H.S. basketball before WWII.

Directions to Meeting and to the Whalen's Church



7/18/98 Meeting Directions

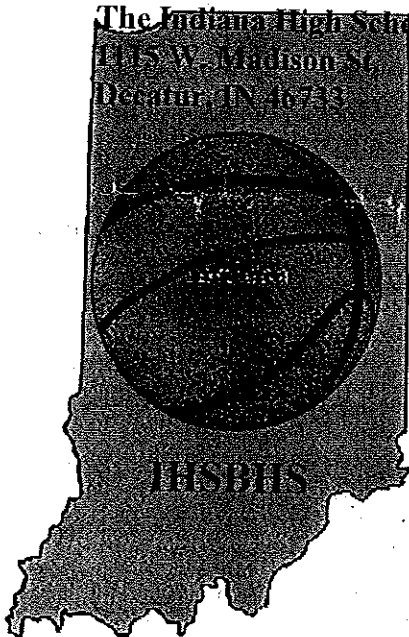
The school is located about 1 mile south of town on 47. Take I-74 to 231 South. Take 231 South to the intersection of 32/47. Take 32/47 West, then follow 47 Southwest to the school.

Directions to Whalen's Celebration

Main Street runs east and west and is one block south of 136 as it runs through C'Ville. Take 74 to 231 South. Take 231 South to Main St. (1 block south of 136). Turn left (east) on Main to church at 909 E. Main.

The Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

1115 W. Madison St.
Decatur, IN 46733



Harley B. Sheets
635 State Rd. 39 S.
Danville, IN 46122

Don't Miss The Next Meeting At Crawfordsville High School 7/18/98 1-3 P.M.