Refurbished and in Good Hands

After interviewing David Jasper, the managing partner of the University Technology Enterprise Center formerly known as John Marshall High School, Otto Lausten and Tom Daly are happy to report that our former high school is looking good.

According to Jasper, many of his tenants are start-up companies—about half of them are headed by women. About 92% of the companies at the center succeed, which is an unusually good record. About 10% of the tenants are non-profit organizations.

The center tries very hard to accommodate the tenants as their needs change.

The smallest offices are about 80 square feet with a built-in desk, bookcase and chair, and rent for $180 per month including heat and electricity. Several people rent the small offices in order to write books. If you want to rent an office at Marshall, or rather, at the University Technology Enterprise Center, contact Doug Walker, senior property manager, at 612-379-3800.

Wouldn't it be fun to be back in Mrs. Montank's history class? Talk to Doug.

By Tom Daly

David Jasper, Loren Schultz and Patrick Gorman purchased the building from its previous owners in 1986 for approximately $3,000,000 and spent additional money on extensive renovations. The most notable renovation was changing the auditorium into an atrium and three stories of office spaces. David is very proud of the renovations and remodeling projects which include modernizing the heating system, air conditioning the whole building, and creating a variety of office spaces for a variety of tenants.

Our old high school continues to serve a diverse group of people. There are more than 100 different tenants. They include education programs, health and wellness programs, union offices, psychologists, psychiatrists, a law firm, a used and rare bookseller, several consulting firms, an anti-war organization, and a great deal more. The "little theater" which was below the girls' gym now houses the Indonesian Performing Arts Association of Minnesota, and it offers classes in Indonesian music and dance.
Howie Straiton Remembers Marshall

Howie Straiton said he'll turn 90 this year, but the years have not weakened his strong handshake nor dulled his sharp memory. It is hard to believe that more than 50 years have flown by since he was at Marshall.

Howie grew up in south Minneapolis and went to Washburn High School where he became an All City football player and captain of the football team. He went on to the University of Minnesota and played on Bernie Bierman’s national championship teams in 1940 and 1941.

He began his teaching/coaching career at Hutchinson, Minnesota, but World War II intervened. Howie entered the navy during the war and was part of the V-5 training program for navy cadets from 1942 to 1945. His wife June was able to be with him for most of those years.

After the war, it was back to Hutchinson until he transferred to Marshall High in 1948 where he began teaching American history and coaching football and track. His first year at Marshall, the kids on the football team far exceeded his expectations. There were only 18 players to start, but “they got better every game.” They lost their first game against Roosevelt 6-0, but they won all the rest. As Howie looked back, it was the kids who really impressed him. “The kids always felt they could do better,” he said.

Howie said that the faculty at Marshall was like a family. He remembered particularly the support he got from Mrs. Anderson, Miss Skalbeck, Mr. Mikelson, and Mr. Chapman.

He also shared several stories about Mrs. Leemhuis reminded us of her wisdom and integrity.

Howie remembered several students who enriched his history classes. John Mezzenga took over a class on Civil War music. Mr. Straiton once traded classes with Hugo Fischer, the physical education instructor, so that Mr. Fischer could enrich the story of the Civil War.

Mr. Fischer told the students about a relative from Minnesota who fought at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River in 1862. He and other Minnesotans were captured by the Confederates but were released as long as they promised to return to Minnesota and fight the Indians who had risen up against the settlers.

Talking about football, Howie said that a good player is competitive, wants to play football, can be taught what to do and how to do it. Several players came to mind very easily: Andy Janos, Jim Sticka, Larry Horsch, Sonny Carlson, Mike Doyle and Kyle Johnson. Sticka received the highest praise: “In that small body was packed all of the desire and the power and the caring - giving of himself 100% like you'd find in Bronco Nagurski.”

Howie... Continued on page 3
Howie, from page 2

Mr. Straiton also spoke with affection about the handicapped students. Because Howie lived in the Washburn area, he drove handicapped students from that part of town to Marshall each morning. He took them home again in the afternoon on days when he wasn't coaching.

Following his years at Marshall (1948-1956), Howie Straiton served as an administrator at Southwest High School, West High School, Nokomis Junior High, and Washburn High School. His experience led him to conclude, "You have to respect all the kids."

When asked to rate Marshall as a school, Howie Straiton said that he would give the kids and the faculty and the community "straight A's."

Following our interview, Howie and June Straiton and I shared coffee at their dining room table and talked about kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. They glowed with affection and pride as we spoke of their three children, seven grandchildren, and one great granddaughter, Mayah, who is growing up in South Africa with her missionary parents. I felt privileged to have the opportunity to share in the pleasure of their company and their lives well lived. (TMD)

1955 Grad Volunteers To Be Co-Editor

Bob Hayes, Class of 1955

Bob Hayes is tall, trim and tanned. Although claiming to be only 39 and looking close to it, Bob and his wife Diane both graduated from high school in 1955. He from Marshall and she from Roosevelt. Both still remember Marshall's basketball victory over Roosevelt for the District 17 championship. How could anyone forget?

Bob grew up on the edge of the

U of M campus at Oak Street and Fulton, the current site of Ronald McDonald House. He attended the U of M, but earned his BA at Metro State and his MBA at Mankato. Bob's working career included engineering/contract administration manager and being a manufacturer's representative. Bob and Diane have three sons and two grandsons, three grand puppies and seven grand alpacas.

Now retired, Bob and Diane stay trim with golf, tennis, and boating. They spend half their year in Peoria, Arizona and the other half on Lake Le Homme Dieu at Alexandria, Minnesota. When not out in the sun, they enjoy reading, card playing and antique collecting. In Phoenix Bob is a volunteer usher at Herberger Theatre and also a volunteer on the Westbrook Village Posse. "Smile when you say that, partner!"

That old box of buttons could be worth something!

I would love to see your grandma's box of buttons. I can appraise them for you, help you display them attractively, and help you to appreciate them.

Carol (Watson) Kwiecien, class of '45
Member, MN State Button Society and National Button Society
I speak to groups, especially seniors, on buttons -- from the beginning to the present time.

Carol Kwiecien 612-789-1782
3147 Ulysses St, NE Minneapolis, MN 55418-2244

Paid Advertisement
Happy’s Notes 🎵

By Happy Corbett

The greatest compliment you can pay an inventor when taking over production of his product is to improve it. That tells him and the world his idea was worthwhile.

So it is with the JMHS newsletter. The new editors and the MAEF staff have done a marvelous job of keeping it the way it was while making it better.

I’m sure, over the coming years, you’ll see many more changes and you’ll like them all.

The new editors - Tom Daly and Bob Hayes - are very talented and have some great ideas to introduce in the years ahead. They’ve shared some of them with me and I am anxious to see them.

The change really seems to have occurred at the right time in my life.

My physical energy level has taken a definite dip and the demands that go with having eight kids and 28 grandkids are taking their toll.

Aside from not having to write the whole newsletter, not having to print, fold, stuff, label, stamp, and all the other tedious tasks that went with putting it out was a welcome relief.

I still do a lot of writing, but being able to sit back and read this newsletter- without having to write it - is pure enjoyment.

When I “retired” in 1993, I started two newsletters - this one and “The Christian Response” which works at countering anti-Christian bias in the media.

I still publish that one-while continuing to do some freelance writing, but it’s a whole lot easier now.

As to health, I’m somewhere in the middle of all you other fellow old folks - not great, but not terrible.

I can still get up at 4 to 5 am, say some prayers, do some Bible reading, then sit down at the computer to quietly take care of correspondence and other writing chores.

For the fourteen years I was editor, I had to be careful about mentioning anything about my religious beliefs and activities, because that was not the purpose of the newsletter. (I hope I was fair in that department.)

Now I’m free of that restriction and don’t have to worry about an occasional reference to my religious thoughts or practices. But, I promise not to make it the thrust of my column.

I welcome any personal letters and those who write can be assured of a reply. My address remains PO Box 125, Staples, MN 56479.

PS: I just read an article in the Minneapolis Star Tribune about the need to close some schools to meet the budget. Tuttle School was among them. Ohhh, the memories of that grey brick building!

DID YOU KNOW...?

We want you to keep up with your Marshall classmates.

That’s why we are no longer asking you to subscribe to this newsletter.

RIGHT NOW IT’S FREE

But we need two things:

1ST

We need person or a business to SPONSOR the printing and mailing of this publication.

2ND

We need you to make a donations to MAFE

See page 7
Reflections in the mirror

Mrs. Anderson, our Social Studies teacher, every fall would tell us students of her experience with her sister being marooned downtown during the Armistice Day (now Veterans Day) storm of 1940. The two of them left on a beautiful, sunny morning for a day of shopping in downtown Minneapolis.

Very quickly a raging snowstorm blew in catching the state, the city and the sisters unaware. By the time they had completed their shopping and were ready to go home, the snow was deep, automobile traffic was snarled and streetcar traffic suspended. The two sisters ended up staying overnight in a hotel lobby, sleeping sitting up on two chairs; their feet propped up on the second chair.

That storm is infamous for the speed in which it arrived and for the number of motorists and hunters stranded across the state, causing some deaths. My father-in-law remembered trying to drive home that day and leaving his car stuck in a snow bank and struggling to walk just a few remaining blocks. (RKH)

REUNION NEWS

The Class of 1967 is attempting to locate classmates (maybe a 40th reunion). Contact Bill Pederson at pedersonw@msn.com.

The Class of 1966 plans to have its reunion on Friday, August 3, 2007, at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Minneapolis. Contact Betty Petroske at 612-331-7735 for information.

The Class of 1957 is working on a 50th class reunion. For more information contact Nancy Barney Blanchard signldy@aol.com.

The Class of 1955 is holding a 70th birthday party celebration at Van Cleve Park from noon to 4:00 pm on July 11, 2007. Contact Tom Daly at 952-884-5016.

The Class of 1952 will hold its 55th Reunion on September 14, 2007 at the Fort Snelling Officers Club. Social hour from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.; dinner at 6:00 p.m. A mailing will be going out according to Bee Manning McFee rbmcfee@msn.com.

The Class of 1947 will be holding a 60th class reunion for the Jan. and June classes. It will be held on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2007 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at The Four Points at Sheraton Hotels, 1330 Industrial Blvd. N.E. Minneapolis. Cost will be $35/person. Contact co-chairpersons Char and Bernie Minichilli: winter (239) 992-7997, summer (952) 938-4827.(RKH)

Reunion coming up? Want to Contact Classmates?

Maybe you have a personal story to tell.
Send your questions, comments or articles to the editors.

Deadlines:
October 15 for the January issue
February 15 for the May issue
June 15 for the September issue
Marshall feeders: Sidney Pratt Elementary School

There were a number of elementary schools that fed students into Marshall High School. The primary feeders were Marcy, Motley, Sidney Pratt, St. Lawrence and Tuttle.

Sidney Pratt, located in Prospect Park on Malcolm Avenue between Orlin and Sidney Place streets (at the base of Tower Hill), opened in 1898. University of Minnesota President Northrup spoke at Pratt's opening ceremony.

Sidney Pratt was a two story colonial style brick with six rooms located in a heavily wooded area; it seemed like a country school. In 1906 six rooms were added; in 1926 a three-story addition with a kitchen, gymnasium/auditorium, and classrooms was constructed.

Sidney Pratt was named for the son of Robert Pratt, School Board president and a one term Mayor of Minneapolis. Sidney was born in Minneapolis in 1875, attended Franklin Elementary, graduated from North High School and attended the University of Minnesota for three years leaving early to run his father's coal and lumber business. As a member of the 13th Minnesota Volunteers Army, Sidney was the first pupil of Minneapolis Public Schools to give his life in the Spanish American War.

In 1972, under the federally funded experimental program, Southeast Alternatives, Pratt became the "Continuous Progress" elementary school, enrolling children from throughout Minneapolis. Pratt closed in 1982, victim of the massive reorganization by Minneapolis Public Schools.

Thanks to a very active Prospect Park East River Road's Neighborhood Revitalization Program (PPERR NRP) the school was protected from destruction and became a Community Education Center and in the fall of 2000. It re-opened with Kindergarten and 1st grade classes. It is now a K - 5 school within the Minneapolis Public School System.

When I attended Sidney Pratt in the '40's, I literally lived on "the other side of the tracks" and was bused to school. Although we quickly learned the walking route to school from the older kids: crossing the railroad tracks, crawling under the freight trains when necessary and hiking over Sandy Hill (which I recently learned was named Morse Hill). On the way home we took a scenic route past Wrap-in-wax, through metal culverts piled high in storage, past Bambi's Bar and over the railroad tracks.

Pratt, Continued on page 7
Pratt. From page 6

We bused kids were provided hot lunches: spanish rice on Wednesdays, chow mein on Thursdays, etc. while the Prospect Park kids could go home for lunch. On days when we could not go outside after lunch due to inclement weather some of our own students would entertain the rest of us. Neil von Busch would volunteer regularly to sing to us.

Malcolm Avenue was blocked off with barricades allowing us to play in the street during recess. The barricades also allowed access to Tower Hill, site of the witch's hat water tower and the most unique school playground. This is where we usually played during recess. In the winter we slid down the hill on cardboard; although a snow fence placed by Pratt Maintenance near the bottom of the hill limited how far up we could go to start our slide. In the summer we climbed to the top of the hill to view the city or climbed on the huge rock located halfway up the hill. When we were not on the hill we played "Red Rover" in the street and "pom-pom pull-away" on the playground. Back then, girls played hopscotch or jacks and bounced tennis balls; balls that would be stored on their desks in the ink bottle

Pratt. Continued on page 8

Alums Need Your Help to Endow the U's Disability Scholarship

The Marshall Access and Education Fund (MAEF) Team has been working since 2002 to grow the Marshall Access & Education fund to $25,000 so that it can be endowed.

The current fund balance is $22,091!

We need 300 of you to make a $10 contribution.

Harvey Johnson, now 86, and 1939 classmates from Marshall High School began the Marshall Access Education Fund using money left over from their 50-year class reunion. In December 2002, they joined with Disability Services at the University of Minnesota, and the University Foundation in a concerted effort to raise funds.

We need 100 of you to make a $30 contribution.

Since then the team has raised more than $9,000, mostly in donations of between $20 and $100.

We need each of you to make a contribution.

This year the MAEF Team has assumed the job of publishing this newsletter, in hopes of raising funds while keeping the spirit of Marshall alive.

Currently, 1,000 students with disabilities could qualify for this scholarship.

The MAEF Team meets every second Tuesday of the month to discuss strategies for reaching our goals for the fund. Every dime you send is tax deductible.

We need your help in creating this wonderful legacy for Marshall alums.

Please send your donations to:

Marshall Access & Education Fund (MAEF)
CM9407
P.O. Box 70870
St. Paul, MN 55170-9407
hole. Boys played marbles and catch with baseballs.

Back in 1898 the teaching contract read "marriage by a teacher during the term of employment shall be deemed good cause for the cancellation of this contract". One of the many memorable teachers was Florence Padgett, the Kindergarten teacher in the 30's and 40's. I remember sitting cross-legged on the floor at Ms Padgett's feet as she read us a story and me puzzling at her old fashioned bloomers (mom said Ms Padgett was wearing snuggies). I also remember we brought little rugs that we were supposed to nap upon.

Sidney Pratt at that time had Kindergarten through 8th grade. Students had the option of leaving at the end of 6th or 7th grades. Most of us on the other side of the tracks took advantage of that option and left early starting Marshall High School in 7th grade.

Sidney Pratt is noted for turning out academically superior students. These superior students include: David Cornell, Marshall High '55 Salutatorian, John Goustad, Roosevelt High '55 Valedic-

This is the first in a series, if you readers have historical information and/or anecdotes regarding your elementary school please share them with us.