The Sea Notes were a Marshall High School jazz ensemble that played in the mid-50s.

In the fall of '52, Jerry Swanger and Doug Wallace were encouraged by Jerry’s father to start a jazz group. He recognized the musical talent of Jerry and his friends; many of whom were Prospect Park locals, all of whom played in the Marshall High School concert and marching bands. Doug purchased two pieces of big band music from Groth Music, “You Belong to Me”, made famous by Patti Page, which later became their theme song, and “Blues on Parade” and held their first rehearsal at Jerry’s house. That first rehearsal was a reality check for all of them; ‘big band music was pretty challenging stuff’, but they persevered, practicing at Jerry’s, Dave Cornell’s and usually in Doug Wallace’s basement. “High Noon” was one of the first tunes to be learned “Some band members could write all instrumentals just by listening to the records…saved us money by not having to buy the sheet music.”

The Sea Notes played their first public appearance at the University YMCA, mostly for their folks and friends, with all proceeds going to buy additional music. Shortly, they had a repertoire of about a dozen tunes and decided to seek outside bookings; however, the band needed a name. Since they were all Sea Scouts “The Sea Notes” seemed a good choice. Some folks thought the name had to do with the band charging $100, but it took another year before the band came close to earning that much. They booked their first job for a dance in Farmington, MN – booked three pieces and took fifteen. “We played real soft in a small gym”. Their first dance at Marshall was a great success; however, the kids were probably wondering why they kept repeating the same seven, or maybe as many as twelve songs. That quickly changed as they built up a sizable library. As their experience and ability progressed so did their fame and subsequent bookings. From 1953 through 1959 they played for dances and proms at many area high schools and colleges including the University of Minnesota.

As the band matured they had some great local players join them from other schools. They shared their interest with Denny Murphy’s band from Roosevelt High School and filled in spots in both bands as needed. At their peak the band consisted of five saxes, three trombones, three trumpets, drum, bass and piano.

Six of the band members joined the 47th Infantry Division National Guard Band in ’54. In the Guard Band they played for visiting Army brass and at various Minnesota functions including St. Paul Winter Carnival and Minneapolis Aquatennial. At their two week summer camp at Fort Ripley they were one of the few units to get nightly liberty in the resort area of Brainerd.

Sea Notes Continued from Page 1

The group consisted of:
• Piano: Doug Wallace ’54 - leader, (by default according to Doug)
• Saxophone: Dave Cornell ’55, alto, doubled on clarinet
• Jerry Swanberg ’54, tenor, doubled on clarinet, Tom Upton ’53
• Denny Young ’54, tenor, doubled on baritone
• Bob Thomason, South High, after Tom Upton left
• Trumpet: Tom Cox ’53,
• Gary Pollard ’54, Art Radtke ’54,
• Jack Exline, Central High, Buddy Brisbois, after Art and Gary left
• Trombone: Dean Olson ’54,
• Don Stary ’53
• Drums: Larry Wood
• Bass: Denny Johnson, Central High
• Major soloists were: Doug, Denny Young and Dave

Some Sea Notes members continued their music; others did not:

Doug Wallace continued to play in small jazz ensembles through college. His jazz ensemble played in a Hopkins pizza house for over a year. Presently he continues to play for his personal enjoyment and has recently taken some advanced lessons on chording.

Dave Cornell finds music continues to be on his daily startup menu, practicing piano one-two hours every morning that he can, preparing music for church, home recitals and college performances. His music includes works by Chopin, Scarlatti, Debussy and Prokofiev. The last time he entered the biennial Van Cliburn competition for amateurs was in 2000; he is going to forego that experience, at least, for now. Dave recollects the concern his mother must have had over the little cups for spittal the brass players placed on her carpet.

Jerry Swanberg, in his senior year at Marshall, joined the Denny Murphy Band. Too many gigs and not enough time for U of M studies forced him to leave after two years. Jerry then played with the Joe Nemo Big Band where he also subbed in the Sea Notes. After moving to Toledo, Ohio he joined the 555th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Band. Today he is involved with the Twin Cities Jazz community. He is President of the Twin Cities Jazz Society, host of “Big Band Scene” on KBEM / Jazz 88, board member of the JazzMN Big Band and Big Band Coordinator for the Summer Jazz Festival and Winter Jazz Fest. One of his “…fondest memories of the Sea Notes was the trip to New Orleans…” Denny Young continues to play his horn and is presently in the Cambridge Concert Band. Denny remembers their first rehearsal: “Jerry and I played clarinets in the school band and we thought we could play the tenor sax part with our clarinets, because both instruments are tuned to b flat. It was quickly apparent that only the tenor sax would enable us to achieve the big band sound. The following week we both purchased new saxes (in the $500 range)”

Buddy Brisbois, although not a Marshall grad, deserves noting: Bud played lead trumpet for one year and he played his horn like Maynard Ferguson, one octave above the other trumpets. He went on to play lead trumpet with Stan Kenton and Henry Mancini and to lead his own band. He also did studio work in L.A. and wrote scores for television and movies.

Dean Olson once he started to work and have a family “…didn’t find time for the trombone and gave it up…tried once to pick it up again but the lip was gone and would have taken lots of time to recover it.”

Don Stary, after not playing for approximately 38 years, picked up his trombone and joined the Village Concert Band in Villages, Florida. There a group of 103 retired musician loves play four or five concerts a year. All of Don’s six children played music and his son Ron is band director in Montevideo, MN.

Larry Wood, after high school, went on to play in a four-piece group call the Rhythmairs that played a mix of music including old-time. Denny Young was also in the group. Woody has not picked up his sticks for close to twenty years. He receives high marks for instructing Sonny Carlson on how to play the bass drum “…at least he qualified to carry it…” so he could fulfill his military obligation in the National Guard Band along with his Sea Notes friends. RKH
Do you remember? Taking your visiting friends and cousins to see Memorial Stadium, parking cars for the Gopher football games, ushering at Gopher football games, freezing your buns off or getting sunburned at Gopher football games?

I remember all of that and we will be able to do it all again. The U of M will be building a football stadium on campus, rectifying that colossal error in judgment they made in ’81.

An interview with Joel Maturi, Athletic Director for the University, who has been involved in bringing a stadium back to the campus from the beginning, gave us the story. First, some history: The first U of M “stadium” was Northrop Field, named for U of M President Cyrus Northrup, located in front of Pillsbury Hall and was the home of the Gopher football team from 1899 to 1923. Memorial Stadium, the stadium we knew, opened in 1924; the last game played there was in November of 1981. Memorial Stadium was subsequently razed providing space for the Aquatic Center and McNamara Alumni Center.

The Golden Gophers began their run in the Metrodome the next season.

Now construction is underway building a Gopher Football Stadium on campus. The decision was the result of studies looking into a joint Gopher/Vikings Stadium that showed that a Gopher-only Stadium on campus might be an acceptable option. When a multi-million dollar pledge for an on-campus stadium rekindled the idea, even though the pledge did not come to fruition, President Bruininks believed it was the right thing and the right time.

TCF Bank Stadium, as it will be called, will be located at 2009 University Avenue, University and Oak Street, behind old fire station #19. It will have a classic look offering architecture and style similar to what is already on campus. It will be an outdoor, red brick façade, collegiate-style stadium with 50,000 seat facility mixing a nostalgic look with modern technology including:

- Safe synthetic turf grass
- 39 suites, 1300+ club seats and a 20,000 sq-ft stadium club
- An exterior hospitality plaza
- A Gopher Hall of Fame
- A home for the Gopher Marching Band
- A Gopher team store

The TCF Bank Stadium will also provide the greater campus community with opportunities for:

- Graduation and convocation ceremonies
- Recreational sports, intramurals and other sporting events
- Concerts
- High school tournaments
- Job fairs and other student group functions
- Other campus community events

Another feature of the new stadium, according to Lois Maturi, U of M Disabilities advocate, will be state-of-the-art handicap facilities.

The new TCF Bank Stadium will cost $288.5 million. Funding will include $35 million from TCF, $137 million from the State and the remainder from the University through donations, sponsorships, student fees and other resources.

Ceremonial ground-breaking took place on Sept 30, 2006, true ground-breaking was held on July 11, 2007 and scheduled opening is Sept 12, 2009. You will hear me cheering at the opening kick-off.
REUNION NEWS

Marshall’s January & June classes of 1947 held their 60th reunion at the Four Points on Sept 20th. A total of sixty-nine smiling faces attended; everyone happy to see each other.

Some came from as far away as OH, WA and CA. Bernie Minichilli reports they are considering, in the future, yearly luncheon reunions.

Marshall’s class of 1952 held their 55th reunion at the Fort Snelling Officer’s Club on Sept 14th. A social hour was followed by a delicious dinner.

Marshall’s class of 1955 held a 70th birthday party on July 11th at Van Cleve Park. Approximately thirty-six grads, spouses and significant others enjoyed a picnic filled with reminiscing and renewing past friendships. Festivities started at noon on a beautiful Wednesday and concluded just as rain moved in at 4:00pm.

Marshall’s class of 1957 held their 50th reunion on Sept 28th. The day started with a tour of MHS and concluded with dinner at Jax Café. Besides a turnout of 63 grads and 28 guests, five teachers attended, all of whom had fun trying to recognize each other. Joann Swanberg Weyrick and husband Tom put together a great reunion book.

Marshall’s class of 1967 held a 40th reunion on September 29th. A tour of Marshall was followed by dinner at the Library Bar and Grill in Dinkytown. Close to half of the class was in attendance including members from CA, OR, WA, IL, WI, DC, NY, IA, KS and the Dakotas.

REUNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Marshall class of 1958 has plans underway for their 50th Anniversary in September 2008. This Gala Reunion Event includes dinner at the U’s Campus Club and site visits to Marshall High and Pratt Elementary schools. For registration information contact:

Dick Hughes: jmhs1958@msn.com
Larry Petersen: petersen651@comcast.net.

We would love to see you next September!

An all-class reunion in Laughlin, NV is being planned for Feb. 16-18, 2009 at the Riverside Hotel and Casino. Cost is $70.00 per person which includes a hors d’oeuvre party on Monday, scenic boat cruise on Tuesday and buffet dinner on Wednesday.

Contact persons:
Lyman Swenson ’54 (763) 441-1481, Sharon Butler Padula ’54 (763) 755-4049, Ardie Swenson Lilja ’54 (763) 427-2736.

Future newsletters will include a registration form.

Marcy Elementary School

There were a number of elementary schools that fed students into Marshall High School; Marcy Elementary was one of them.

Marcy Elementary began operation in 1878 and was located on Ninth Street in Southeast Minneapolis. It served Kindergarten through sixth grade. Marcy’s name came from William L. Marcy who was a national politician active from the 1820’s through the mid-1850’s. William was born in Massachusetts in 1786. After graduating from Brown University he practiced as a lawyer, was a State Supreme Court Justice, U.S. Senator and Governor of Massachusetts before serving in the cabinet of Presidents Polk and Pierce. He died on the Fourth of July in 1857. He is best remembered for saying “To the victor belong the spoils of the enemy”.

Marcy Elementary moved to 11th Avenue Southeast in 1908. Under the five-year, federally funded experimental program, Southeast Alternatives (SEA), in 1972, Marcy was the “Open School”, enrolling students from throughout the city. Tuttle was the “traditional school” in this program and the two schools were physically united for a period of time; a poor and difficult fit. Marcy got its own facility in the fall of 1992; located on Southeast Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street in Holmes Park.

It’s now a Kindergarten through Eighth grade “open school” with a student population between 600 and 650.

How about some anecdotes from some of you Marcy grads.

RKH
White Castle

White Castle hamburgers (in my younger days referred to as gut bombs, arm pits or sliders) have a unique aroma and taste you never forget and for we connoisseurs, crave. The square little hamburger with a 7/8 ounce, two-inch square 100% beef patty containing five 3/8 inch diameter holes was introduced in 1921 in Wichita, Kansas. It was the forerunner of fast food chains.

The secret of the White Castle hamburger is they start with a layer of diced onions on the grill, place squares of lightly seasoned beef over the onions, cover each square with the hamburger bottom, overlap the bottoms with the tops and the steam cooks the beef from the bottom, through the holes allowing fast, thorough cooking without turning, sealing in the flavor.

You cannot eat only one; when taking a bag of White Castles home you have to eat at least two during the trip. I remember that White Castle also served baked beans in a little bean pot, although none of my classmates seem to remember this.

When I was attending Marshall High School there were two White Castles that we passed on the way to and from school. One was on University and Fourteenth Avenues, the other on Washington Avenue near Harvard Street. We would regularly stop at the University Ave. location; three of us walking home together savoring our four-bites per hamburger after-school snack. The Sunday newspaper would often have a White Castle coupon offering ten White Castle hamburgers for one dollar. On the day that I would bring my coupon, I would get to eat four White Castles and the other two guys would each get three. I would only get three White Castles when it was one of the other’s coupon.

A local chef confides: the recipe for a successful party is to quarter the hamburgers and serve White Castle morsels as an hors d’oeuvre.

RKH

OBITUARIES

Jim Christenson, class of ’55, of Punta Gorda, FL passed away Oct. 26 from a heart attack. Jim had attended the 70th birthday party of the class of ’55 in June at Van Cleve Park. A memorial service for Jim was held December 1 in Monona, Iowa. Several classmates attended. Sarah, Jim’s daughter, said Jim enjoyed the picnic and the family was grateful to organizers.

Joan Ostberg Finney, class of ‘44, passed away on May 18, 2006. Her husband, Jerry Finney, class of ’41, passed away on June 28, 2006. Joan and Jerry had been married nearly 60 years.

Roger Folstad, class of ‘54, passed away this year.

Dale Hadrath, class of ‘49, was vacationing with his brother Don in Mesa, Arizona when he learned in March that he had cancer. Dale died on April 12, 2006 at the VA Hospital at Fort Snelling.

Donald Lenhart, class of ’47, passed away November 21, 2006. Don is survived by his wife Margaret, four children and four grandchildren. He was a subscriber to our newsletter from the very first issue.

Was It Just Luck?

I was talking with Liz Jackson Curran (’55) and we got musing about how we got where we are. What factors or forces shaped our lives? Or are we just lucky to be here?

We were born in the Great Depression. We were just kids during World War II and the Korean War and too old for Viet Nam. We remember rationing during the war, going to Saturday matinees at the Varsity Theater, riding streetcars, playing outside all day long in our neighborhoods without our mothers worrying, and walking to our grade schools. We were lucky.

Our families were important in our formation and the direction of our lives. For a few of us, the loss of family members or the lack of family affected us greatly. Our churches made quite a difference, in some cases determining who we might date and later marry.

When we entered Marshall High, we were adolescents or young adults. Some began Marshall in the 7th grade, others started later, and some even arrived as juniors or seniors.

Teachers were very influential. Different students had different favorite teachers. We knew some teachers only as coaches or advisors.

Joanne Howard Hed (’55) remembers how Mr. Lien, Mr. O’Brien, and Mr. Olsen were all surrogate fathers for her. They may have understood that her own father was mostly out of the picture, and she appreciated their fatherly advice and support. Mr. O’Brien taught Joanne typing and was instrumental in helping her get a work/study job at a local trucking company where she worked for three years.

Was It... Continued on Page 7
We stirred-up five pages of Sidney Pratt memories from Barbara Jordan Bache-Wiig, Marshall’s January class of ’40. Her kindergarten teacher, Miss Padgett, “…pinched my ear until I cried... because she said I stole a paper clip...Two years later she put tape over my sister’s mouth because she said Polly talked too much.”

Barb also remembered Miss Becker: first grade, Miss Shroor: second and third grade, Miss Allen: sixth grade, Ms’s Ness, Atkins and Howell in seventh and eighth grades. Barb would slide down Tower Hill on cardboard during recess in the winter. “One day as I was sliding I hit the back of my head with a ‘clunk’. An ambulance came and the school nurse took me to the hospital. As the doctor gently poked through my snug, white long underwear to check to find out if I had feeling in my calves, my Mom arrived. The doctor said your daughter seems just fine. My mother thanked the doctor, leaned over and kissed me and whispered, ‘Oh Barbara, I’m so glad that your underwear was clean this morning’.”

**ALL ABOUT AHLIE**

Most of us had a friend who did crazier things than the rest of us and often involved us the innocent. Ahlie (Ahlie, as in Kukla, Fran and Ollie and Stan and Ollie) was one of them. From time to time, we’ll reflect upon Ahlie, and others we remember fondly.

**FOOTBALL PADS**

Ahlie and I tried out for sophomore football. The day we first suited-up with all the equipment was a learning experience. How was Ahlie to know that the hip pads were also intended to protect his tailbone; he had them on backwards to protect more important parts of his anatomy.

**TICKETS??**

Ahlie’s frugality was legend among his friends. I would purchase a book of season tickets for the Marshall football (or basketball) games and Ahlie would borrow it. He would use appropriately colored construction paper and pen and ink and make his own set of season tickets. The bogus tickets were hand-lettered, but realistic enough to pass off to the ticket taker as Ahlie joined an onslaught of students pouring through the ticket gate into the game.

**CHERRIES**

One day when Ahlie and I were walking home from school when, about halfway home, Ahlie pulled a jar of maraschino cherries out of his pocket. As he started to eat them, I asked where he had gotten them; he had stolen them from the House of Hansen. He had never stolen anything before and was curious to know what stealing felt like. He ate the whole bottle of cherries and drank the juice on his way home. The next day he told us he had been sick the whole night; poetic justice.

**Book Review**

By Conrad Minnich
Class of ‘49

Some of you may remember those exciting days of street cars riding around the Twin Cities. There is now a chance to look at those days again. The Minnesota Transportation Museum along with Donning Company Publishers has released a book entitled “The Como-Harriet Streetcar Line; A Memory Trip Through the Twin Cities”. In addition to the written narrative describing the route, many photos from over fifty years ago were included: Dinkytown, Mannings and other Marshall area scenes. This $12.75 publication is available by contacting Donning at 184 Business Park Drive, Suite 206, Virginia Beach, VA 23482.

**Note From the Editors**

Thank you for the positive feedback to the Newsletter we have received; it has been very encouraging. This publication was started by Hap Corbett, class of 1949 for you Marshallites, it is your Newsletter and to improve it we need your input. Send us your articles, memories, announcements and suggestions for articles to:

Tom Daly at: tmdaly@q.com
or Bob Hayes at robertkhdjh@aol.com

Marie Leight Platt’s Marshall website was featured in the January, 2007 Alumni News. Her website address is: www.marshallhighschool.org
Scholarships Awarded at Luncheon

Six Students with disabilities were awarded scholarships at the University of Minnesota this fall. Members of the Marshall Access and Education Fund were very pleased to help honor and congratulate these exceptional students.

The following students received the awards: Jenna Aaland who is finishing her degree in Public Health, Kimberly Conlon who is in the Institute of Technology, Kotumu Kamara who is majoring in Global Studies and minoring in Social Justice, Shade Osifuye who is completing her Bachelor of Science in the Inter-College Program, and Corrine Spading who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Child Psychology. These students were awarded scholarships from the Robert and Gail Buuck Scholarship Fund for Disability Services.

In addition, Jonathan Flath was awarded a scholarship from the Angela Brooke Warner Scholarship Fund. Jonathan is in the Institute of Technology and he plans to major in Mathematics.

Harvey Johnson and Ruth Stone Stewart from the Marshall Class of 1939 and Bob and Dianne Hayes and I from the Class of 1955 happily represented MAEF at the ceremony. Thanks to many of you, MAEF is now fully endowed and in 2008 will be the third scholarship fund to provide annual scholarships to students with disabilities at the University of Minnesota.

The awards luncheon was sponsored by Disability Services and the Disabled Student Cultural Center. The luncheon was held at Coffman Memorial Union. Eric Schnell, the Interim Director of Disability Services, did a fine job as the Master of Ceremonies, as did Rachel Garaghty, a past scholarship recipient, who spoke for students with disabilities.

TMD

Was It... Continued from Page 5

Carole Keay Large (‘55) remembers Mr. Straiton and strongly praises him as her favorite teacher. Meanwhile, many of us remember him as a great football coach.

Bob Hayes (‘55) swam and played tennis on George Patten’s swimming and tennis teams. Bob says Mr. Patten was very encouraging to him and prompted Bob to be more of a leader.

Otto Lausten (‘55) entered Marshall in the 7th grade and studied printing for 5 years under the direction of Karl Patrick. Otto credits Mr. Patrick with his entry into the printing industry and his eventual success as a vocational instructor. Otto also cites the excellent instruction in English he received from Mrs. Capstick in 8th grade and the support and direction he received from Miss Chapman who supervised our school paper, “The Judge”.

Bob Daly (‘53) liked Mr. Satter best. He said that Mr. Satter was great at teaching algebra and really helped him learn more than any other teacher.

Frances Anderson, Les Mikelson, and Celeste Leemhuis influenced me the most. (Of course we never would have dreamed to use their first names then.) I thought Mrs. Anderson and Mr. Mikelson were great teachers. They made you want to do better, to extend yourself as a student.

In Mrs. Anderson’s class, I agreed to debate Carol Wray. The topic was Communism and I had to defend it. I went to a library at the University and read the Communist Manifesto by Karl Marx. The next day I think I did pretty well in the debate with Carol.

Was It... Continued on Page 8
I was good in chemistry class, but not so good at doing homework. Mr. Mikelson demanded both. Several times I sat in his classroom at the end of the marking period doing homework assignments that were overdue before I could get my grade in chemistry. It was a pain, but I knew that he was right.

Mrs. Leemhuis was very special, not only to me but to so many students. Whether it was providing a safe haven for kids who were in trouble with their teachers or finding scholarships for seniors to go on to college, she was amazing. Celeste Leemhuis gave meaning to the title “Guidance Counselor”.

After I graduated from Marshall, I returned many times to visit Mrs. Leemhuis, Mr. Mikelson, and Mrs. Anderson. As a prospective teacher, I enjoyed observing Mrs. Anderson in her classroom with her students. She was a consummate professional.

How did we get where we are today? Certainly Marshall High played an important role for many of us... and we were lucky. TMD

**IMPORTANT! URGENT!! ALERT!!**
We’ve come a long way guys and dolls.
From:
rock & roll dances to an evening @ Guthrie / lead type to digital
the Charleston to Grandkids’ lullabies
black and white to color / saddle shoes to Nikis
two lane roads to freeways / careers to pensions
The world and you have made amazing strides!

**Now Read This Cardinals!!**
Because the graduates of John Marshall High School have taken the world by storm, you deserve an Alumni Newsletter that is as modern as you are.
Beginning with the May, 2008 issue our wonderful little newsletter will go digital. Save a tree! Log on!

IN APRIL WE WILL SEND YOU A POSTCARD WITH SIMPLE DIRECTIONS FOR OBTAINING YOUR COPY OF THE Alumni Newsletter ON THE INTERNET!
AREN’T WE WONDERFUL?

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**JMHS Alumni Newsletter**
180 McNamara Alumni Center
200 Oak Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Wave the Flag for Dear Old Marshall

We want to grow! Every time you contact other JMHS alumni, ask them if they are getting the Alumni Newsletter. If not, send us their name and address...and tell them we’ll be online soon!