Hap Corbett isn’t just playing around

A recent issue of the Morris County Record highlighted Hap Corbett ’49 who has been bringing joy to nursing homes and senior centers with his piano playing. Hap, who is the founding editor of the John Marshall High School Alumni Newsletter, began entertaining folks in nursing homes when his own mother was in a nursing home.

As a youngster Hap began playing the piano at the age of four. His fascination with the piano came from sing-alongs his family had in the evenings. Although he received formal training playing the piano for about six months, Hap was able to “play by ear” and could learn songs after hearing them played.

During the 1940s, Hap played clarinet in the famous St. Lawrence Marching Band. Many of us have fond memories of that band which not only marched but also danced down the streets and won numerous awards. At Marshall High Hap added cheerleading to his list of skills.

After graduating from Marshall High, Corbett served in the Korean War. He returned to Minneapolis where he worked for the Minneapolis Argus and became the assistant news editor.

Hap married Doris Knopps in 1958 and they moved to Staples, Minnesota where they purchased a café. They named the café Happy’s and ran it for six years. While raising eight children, Hap was also involved in the insurance and investment sales business and did advertising on KNSP Radio in Staples.

In retirement Hap started two newsletters, the John Marshall High School Alumni Newsletter and the Christian Response. He began playing the piano at the Greater Staples Care Center. Before long Hap found that he was in demand at other senior centers and nursing homes. Hap plays gospel, boogie woogie, Dixieland, and jazz in addition to the old standard tunes. Hap says, “God has given me a talent. I have to share it with others.”

Ruth Stone Stewart, One of Marshall’s Greatest Generation

When we speak of the “Greatest Generation,” we are talking about those Americans who grew to maturity and faced the issues of the Great Depression, World War II, and the 1950s. Ruth Stone Stewart is one of those people: daughter, sister, student, scout leader, teacher, wife, mother, homemaker, caregiver, and friend.

Ruth was born on August 30, 1921 in La Moure, North Dakota, the fourth child of Arthur and Erma Stone. The Stone family moved to 709 8th Avenue in Southeast Minneapolis in 1926. Ruth remembers fondly Miss Mattson her first grade teacher at Marcy Grade School. “She was very kind and very sweet to me,” Ruth said. Four years later

Stone Continued on page 2
It was in grade school that Ruth began a long involvement with the Girl Scouts. Ruth began as a scout and continued on to become a camp counselor through her high school and college years and an adult leader for many years while teaching.

At Marshall Ruth took Latin and French in addition to the required courses. She remembers taking English from Mrs. Leemhuis and Miss Skalbeck, social studies from Mrs. Montank (“I was scared to death of her.”) P.J. Burningham for choir, and Miss Stevning for physical education.

Ruth and her friends from Prospect Park walked to and from school most days. She and 13 of her girl friends started a club, the Altrus. It was like having their own sorority. They met once a month. They enjoyed walking past the fraternities and sororities on University Avenue, feeling very special and imagining themselves as coeds at the U.

Unlike many families, Ruth’s family was not badly hurt during the Depression. Her father was continuously employed as an investigator for the federal government. He always had a car and traveled a great deal. However, Ruth did have a good friend whose father was often out of work and as a result the family was forced to move again and again.

After graduating from Marshall, Ruth went on to the University of Minnesota majoring in physical education and minorng in science. Ruth met her future husband, Jerry Stewart, at the University. He was majoring in physical education also. Ruth graduated from the University in 1943 and got a teaching job at Fairmont, Minnesota. Meanwhile, Jerry left the University to join the Air Force where he became a pilot and spent two years training other pilots.

At Fairmont Ruth and four other young women rented a house together. They had no car, but they made do by walking to work and helping each other with chores like grocery shopping. Ruth taught physical education and science for two years at Fairmont High.

In 1945 Jerry was able to get a month’s leave and Ruth was able to get a month off from her teaching job. They got married at the courthouse in downtown Minneapolis and were able to spend the rest of the month together before Jerry had to go back to the Air Force.

Until the war ended and Jerry was discharged from the service, Ruth traveled by bus to his base on weekends so that they could be together. After the war Ruth and Jerry moved in with her folks while he finished his degree at the University. Jerry went on to teach physical education in the Minneapolis Schools and coached park board sports. Regarding those first years of marriage, Ruth said, “We didn’t have much money, but we had friends.” They got together with their friends almost every weekend often playing card games like canasta which became very popular in those years. Frequently they went to the movies and Ruth started a collection of movie star’s signed photos.

When they began to have a family, Ruth stopped teaching and became a full time mom. They had four children. Their first child, Betsy, died in infancy, and their son John died at 34 in a construction accident. But their son Jim and daughter Peggy are doing fine, live in Eden Prairie and are a great help...
and consolation to Ruth. “They take good care of me,” she said.

After 15 years as a homemaker, Ruth went back to teaching physical education and coaching golf and tennis with the Minneapolis Schools, mostly at Southwest. Altogether Ruth taught for more than 20 years. Looking back on her teaching career Ruth is pleased that she was one the teachers who students often turned to when they had problems.

After so many years of teaching and coaching, it seemed that Ruth and Jerry deserved to have many carefree years in retirement, probably playing golf. They were members of the Minnesota Valley Country Club and had many friends there.

Unfortunately in 1983 Jerry suffered the first of a series of strokes. He lost the use of his right leg and had to have it amputated above the knee. Another stroke made his left arm useless. He was not one to give up and he worked hard to regain as much of his faculties as he could. Ruth meanwhile was thrust into the role of caregiver and did her best to help Jerry live as normally as possible. With her help and the help of his golf buddies Jerry was able to continue playing golf at Minnesota Valley where he was known as the club’s only “one armed, one legged golfer.”

Jerry Stewart passed away in 2000. After 17 years as a caregiver, Ruth has continued on with the support of her children and her friends. She now lives in her own apartment at Summit Place in Eden Prairie and takes part in many activities there. In addition, Ruth continues to be an active member of the Marshall High Class of 1939 and serves on the MAEF committee which deals with scholarship funds for disabled students at the University of Minnesota. It is a pleasure to be a friend of Ruth Stone Stewart.

TMD

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**MHS Graduate Biographies**

*A periodic feature of MHS Alumni News*

**Marshall City Champions in Tennis in 1961**

In 1961, the senior team of Ray Becker, Bob Henze, Keith Johnson, Bill Krahn, Frank Pohl, and Victor Yu finished their season with a respectable 6 - 5 record. In the City Championship team tournament, a reshuffling of First Singles player Johnson and Second Doubles player Henze led to Marshall's entry into the tournament as an unseeded doubles team. They faced the #1 seed of an undefeated Roosevelt doubles team. In a thrilling match which went 3 sets, they won 7-5, 0 - 6, 7-5.

Several victories later, Marshall won the City Championship. This duplicated the feat of the 1958 doubles team of John Desmond and Don Cooper; the 1958 team went on the win the State championship. Below are the minibios of Bob Henze and Keith Johnson.

**Robert Henze**

*Class of 1961*

I started playing tennis the summer of 1958. Before that I played table tennis with Richard Rose at his house. That summer going out for tennis, I played Joe Arnold, the tennis coach, and beat him.

My 10th grade record was 5 wins playing with DeWayne Walker. The match Keith Johnson and I played against the Roosevelt Guys was GREAT. They said we had no chance - but we won the City Championship. And, we also won the City Parks that summer. Traveling as a team was fun.

Following high school and college I worked for 3M Company in St Paul as a mechanical designer for Micrographic Lab for 17 years. I managed the manufacturing of radioactive Iodine seeds for prostate cancer for 4 years and a salesperson for 3M Scotch Brite products for 4 years. I left 3M in 1991 to get into telephone sales. Today I own my own telephone sales company. We sell Comdial Telephones and we are a distributor for ATT & GlobalCom.

I’m still playing a lot of tennis – about 2.5 times a week all year long. I played in the corporate tennis leagues for both tennis and table tennis for 21 years. I was #1 in Table Tennis at 3M for 18 of those years.

I have been living with my girlfriend (Jo Ellen Reed) who is the love of my life since 1989. I have two sons and 3 grandsons. Jo Ellen and I live in Lincoln Park. We have a sail boat on Lake Michigan and a beagle dog. We sail a lot when we are not playing tennis. Life is great.

I met a lot of good people at Marshall. I wished that I could have stayed in better touch with them. See you in 3 years at the 50th

*Bob Henze  
Class of 1961  
bhenze@americantec.com*
BiographiesContinued from page 3

Keith Johnson
Class of 1961

During the 1961 tennis season our thoughts of how well we would fare were focused more around the idea of avoiding abject failure than grandeur. We looked a little shabby and our only uniform was a white tennis shirt with a Cardinal on it. The Cardinal had a sorrowful look on its face as if to portend our possible season ending record. We persevered, and practiced at the Tower Hill courts and nearby park courts and met there each day after our fifth hour of class, as we got out early to practice. It really wasn’t much of a practice as it only entailed playing pick-up games with each other and the coach, Joe “tomato face” Arnold. One day coach Arnold asked where Bill Krahm was, and one of us said: “He’s still up at his car getting into his gear and finishing his last screwdriver”. Rules and regulations were not applied as vigorously as they are today.

All things considered, the team performed fairly well and our record in our senior year was 5-5 or 6-5 if you count a win over University High. Of course, they played in street shoes and were not familiar with athletics and/or anything not related to academics. They suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of our warriors. In thinking back, I believe our record was better than all of the other Marshall teams that year. You know, maybe that Cardinal on our uniform had started smiling at the end of the season. I don’t know. I was having a screwdriver with Krahm at the time and basking in all the glory and girls.

Shortly after the adulation died down, Bob Henze and I played in the district and city championships and knocked off Roosevelt to win the City Championship. From there we went on to the state tournament where we were beaten by the same Roosevelt duo in the first round. The Cardinal on our shirt had begun weeping profusely. Ah, what could have been. The tourney was played at the University of Minnesota tennis courts behind Williams arena. The only fan we had that day was one of our own, Bill Krahm. Later that summer Bob and I won the Minneapolis Public Parks Tennis Tournament, a national qualifying tournament that was to be held in California. The catch was that you had to pay for your airfare and lodgings. Minnesota’s loss? Nah! We would have been eaten by those other states. We were just “seat of our pants players”, not much style, but hustlers.

Bored yet? All in all, the Marshall memories are some of the most happy I have, due mostly to our friendships and class cohesiveness fostered by attending the same school building for six years rather than having a middle school in between. At first, idolizing the seniors and then progressing through the grades together and becoming BIG SENIORS and the owners of the coveted top floor halls. We were not the richest nor the most stylish, but we did value loyalty, fellowship, and true friendships. Damn! Didn’t we have some great parties and all around fun times? I wouldn’t trade our time at Marshall with any other class or school.

As for me, I retired a few years ago. Most of my career was spent in sales management, traveling, and spending too much time in airports, rental cars, and hotels. After that I purchased a retail establishment and spent more time at home in Minnesota. Lately, after selling the business and property, I took a part time job at a fitness club and find it gets me out of the house a couple times a week and interacting again. I have been traveling a little, getting to Europe a couple of times and finding it so interesting and rewarding. I hope I will be hearing from other classmates in the Alumni newsletter.

Keith Johnson
Class of 61
rockyspa@hotmail.com

John Dawes
Class of 1955

My years at Marshall started in Sept. 1951, the same year I lost my hearing. I had to travel each school day from my home in Robbinsdale to Marshall by streetcar or bus, took a while.

It was a totally new experience for me, new school, new faces and the anticipation of starting HS. This added up to anxiety on my part. Marshall put me at ease very quickly. The teachers were great but it was the friendly students that helped me adjust. I enjoyed going to sporting events, especially basketball and football games. Seeing all the attraction those sport guys got from the girls I decided that was the way to go. Not wanting any broken ribs playing football I went out for the tennis team. Mr. Patten was the coach. After watching me hit the balls out of the court most of the first season he made an astute remark to me. “Practice this summer and try to get more balls inside the fence next year”.

During my Junior and Senior years I worked summers and all sales at Dayton’s so had to go directly from school to work. That did crimp my extracurricular activities.

After Marshall I started at St. Thomas Collage. They had a two

Dawes Continued on Page 5
Dawes

Continued from Page 4

eyear pre-engineering course which was followed by 3 years at the U of M. In 1960 armed with my BSCE degree I ventured out in the world and went as far as St. Paul and the MN Dept. of Transportation where I stayed for 38 years. It’s not like I didn’t move around, I changed desk’s 4 or 5 times!!

I met my wife, Judy, at a company picnic. They had a softball game and I was playing 2nd base when Judy got a hit. She rounded 1st and they threw the ball to me. That was a mistake #1. Mistake #2 was holding the ball ready for the tag instead of running for my life. The next thing I knew was looking up at the sky. That’s when I said I have to know her, needed a strong person to take care of those mean Twin Cities thugs.

We married and had two beautiful daughters, both wed hard hats (construction guys), and four wonderful grandchildren, ages 4 to 7. Both families are now living in Guam. It all started when one daughter graduated with a teaching degree and couldn’t find a job here. She was told about the need for teachers @ the Air force base in Guam and unending parties. So that’s where she went and that led to meeting her future husband, a guy from Montana.

A few years later she urged my other daughter to come to the land of sun, coral reefs and unending parties. So off she went and got a job managing a transportation company and that is where she met her husband, a bloke from N.Z/Australia. So to see all of them we travel half way around the world and in the process we visit many Asian countries as well as Europe.

We both enjoy many outdoor sports such as biking, in-line skating, running and especially skiing.

I was a ski patroller for 27 years, mostly at Afton Alps Ski Area, MN. Since retiring I have kept busy doing volunteer work. Mostly for my wife who has an unending list of jobs but also building homes for Habitat for Humanity, grocery shopping for the home bound and doing taxes as part of an AARP program.

I have enjoyed continued friendship with several Marshall Alumni. John Dawes Class of 55

Editor’s note: It was the first day of Typing Class. I wasn’t paying attention when the teacher (Mr. Hume?) gave some instruction. I turned around to the new kid behind me and asked what had been said. The kid responded “speak a little slower, I am deaf, but can read lips”. That was the start of my friendship with Jack Dawes that continues to this day.

Riddle-Griddle Nostalgia

Judy Boelter Jorgensen,
Class of 1959 writes:

Just wanted you to know how much I’ve enjoyed the Alumni News, especially the “Reflections in the Mirror” about Riddle-Griddle. Boy, did that bring back some memories.

I was 7 years old and a second grader at Sidney Pratt when our Rosebush Bluebird Group visited Riddle-Griddle and I was chosen to be on the program. I remember reading my riddle (“How long is a piece of string? Two times one-half the length of it”) and Jimmy Valentine asked me if I knew what it meant. My answer was “No, but my daddy told me it’s a good one!” I still have a picture taken that day.

PERPETUATE KINDNESS & GENEROSITY –
TODAY IS THE DAY YOU can make a difference in the life of a student with disabili-
ties. Let’s all remember that Marshall High School invented main-
streaming. Those who at-
tended our school weren’t disabled...

they were classmates!!

Please contribute to the

Marshall Access
Education Fund.

Mail tax-deductible
contribution to:

MAEF
CM9407
P.O. Box 70870

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

Disability Services,
University of Minnesota
are the manager’s of “MAEF” &
providers of the JMHS Alumni News web site.
REUNION CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Class of 1939 Celebrates 70 Years!

By Tom Daly ’55

The Class of 1939 celebrated their 70th anniversary reunion on June 17 at the Old Country Buffet in Richfield. Organized by Harvey Johnson, the reunion went off without a hitch beginning at 11:30 a.m. and running until 1:30 p.m.

Tom Daly and Otto Lausten were invited to be guest speakers. Tom spoke about how he and Bob Hayes volunteered to be co-editors of the Marshall High School Alumni Newsletter after Hap Corbett suffered a stroke and asked for help with the newsletter. Otto spoke about how the production and delivery of the newsletter has changed over the last three years so that now it is available over the Internet on the Disability Services website (www.ds.umn.edu). The 25 participants included a sprinkling of Marshallites from the 1940s in addition to the youngsters from the 1950s. Everyone appeared to have a very good time and enjoyed sharing memories of Marshall and growing up in Southeast Minneapolis.

Harvey Johnson was the final speaker. Harvey told how the Class of 1939 began the Marshall Access and Education Fund with less than $300 following their 50th reunion. Now 20 years later, MAEF is an endowed scholarship at the University of Minnesota with more than $50,000 and has begun to grant funds to disabled students at the university. Harvey asked that folks continue to contribute to MAEF so that more students with disabilities will be helped in the future.

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to MAEF at CM9407, P.O. Box 70870, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

REUNION PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED:

1939 Class: Harvey R. Johnson, Robert Riley, Betsy Ross Lang, Elna Klaven Kemnitz, Elinor Holmquist Davison, Ruth Stone Stewart, Arthur Platakas Parker

1937 Class: Doris Homquist Northfelt

1938 Class: Stanley Eyberg, Leona D’Aoust Gramling, Bjorn Johnson

1943 Class: Jean Holmquist Ottoson, Jean Holmquist Hustad

Upcoming Reunions:

Class of 1955
The Marshall class of 1955 is going to partner with the All-School Reunion Saturday, August 28, 2010. See page 8 for details. Ya’ll come—bring the family to town.

Class of 1960
The Marshall class of 1960 has begun planning for their 50th Reunion to be held in 2010. Please contact Terry Christensen via email: terypirate@gmail.com Send Terry as much contact information as possible.

Remembering — Obituaries:
Alfred Smuda ’51
Ron Kurash ’51
Marilyn Schardin Pierson ’51

Additional 70th Reunion Photos
Courtesy of Tom Daly

Reunion Celebrations:

Class of 1959
The Class of 1959 held their 50th Reunion on June 26-28, 2009. It was truly a success in every way. We had classmates who traveled from all over the U.S. and as far away as Germany to attend the Reunion.

The Reunion started on Friday with a tour of Marshall High, followed by a gathering at Vescio’s for dinner. The Saturday and Sunday events were held at Majestic Oaks Golf Club in Ham Lake, MN. We had 85 classmates attend and with spouses, guests and teachers, we had 144 folks participate in the three day Reunion. We had four additional classmates registered that could not attend because of last minute commitments.

The same comments and sentiments kept coming up - It was so nice to visit with classmates we hadn’t seen for fifty years. Yet, when we were together, it was as if we had never been apart. That is what it is like when you are almost like family.

We grew up in a special time - the ’50’s!
—Jean Soderstrom

Class of 1951 Luncheon
The class of 1951 held a luncheon on Aug 27th at The Old Country Buffet in Fridley. It was well attended by 50-some graduates from the Twin Cities area.

It was great to see so many of our classmates, fun to hear what they are up to now and where they go for their winters. This was 58 years for our 1951 class and we are all looking forward to more such luncheons throughout each year.

—Ardie Swenson Lilja
All-School Reunion
Marshall / Marshall-University
High School
1924–1982

Spread the word—we want everyone associated
with Marshall / MUHS to join us
~Students, Staff, & Friends~

When:   Saturday, August 28, 2010

Where:  Radisson University Hotel
         U of M—Stadium Village

Information about how to register and the itineray will be available at a later date.

Keep updated at:
Or Facebook (search Marshall University Minneapolis)

Do you have particular interests / skills that you would like to use for the event or committees? Please let us know, we would love to have your help. Feel free to contact us with questions or info at: minneapolis.marshall.u@gmail.com.

We will contact you soon after.

Everyone is Welcome!
SIDNEY PRATT ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK?

Pratt, one of the few remaining schools that fed students into Marshall is, for the third time since 2007, being threatened with closure. In April of this year Minneapolis Public School officials presented their proposed restructuring to “ensure adequate-size programs to increase efficiency”. These proposed changes included closing Pratt. At that meeting Pratt parents and Prospect Park community members presented arguments against closing Pratt. They were able to forestall action and in the ensuing follow-up meeting in July “…consensus was elusive and the meeting was emotionally charged…” resulting in the board heading back to the drawing board. A revised recommendation is scheduled for early September. Pratt proponents are keeping their fingers crossed. 

RKH

For those of you who want a printed copy of each Alumni News Bob Hayes offers the following:

NEWSLETTER HARD COPY AVAILABLE

Hard copies of future Marshall Alumni Newsletters, in black & white, are now available through the U.S. Mail.

A one year subscription, 3-issues, arriving in January, May & September, is available at the cost of $5.00.

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