Bob Lerfold seems like a quiet man, peaceful and low key, but like “The Quiet Man” by Maurice Walsh, Bob is a man of many parts and a delight to know. Tall, blue-eyed and Nordic, Bob lives with his wife Kathy in a neat little house on Carl Street in the tiny suburb of Lauderdale not far from where he grew up in Southeast Minneapolis.

Husband, father and grandfather, teacher, author, naturalist, and woodcarver, Bob was born in 1937 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Minneapolis, the middle son of three brothers. His father, Olaf Lerfald, was born in 1893 in Norway and emigrated to America as a young man.

Olaf was tall and long-legged, a great walker who walked to work every day and rarely missed a day of work. From their home on 20th Avenue near Como, he walked to the University of Minnesota where he worked at the Bell Museum and part-time as a campus policeman. He was a great influence on Bob.

Bob said, “While growing up in Southeast Minneapolis, my best connection with nature was at the Bell Museum of Natural History. My dad, Olaf, worked there in maintenance and janitorial services. I often walked the two miles with him to spend the day. While he worked, I looked and studied the animals and paintings.”

Bob’s dad introduced him to Francis Lee Jacques, the master artist who painted the museum’s dioramas. Bob also was able to watch the museum’s taxidermist, John Jarosz, as he did his work with all kinds of birds and animals.

One day Bob’s dad brought home a gift to Bob from John Jarosz: four stuffed birds including a magpie and a horned lark. Mr. Jacques, Mr. Jarosz and the museum were Bob’s introduction to art, craftsmanship and nature.

Bob Lerfald went to Tuttle Grade School where he met Ron Anderson, Jack Newman, Ron Peterson, Roy Holsten, Billy Slather and Otto Lausten, friends for life. Bob remembers his kindergarten teacher, Miss Haun, and that he had a crush on her.

Continued on Page 2
He recalls that Miss Haun asked him what he wanted to do in summer school, and he told her, “Make model airplanes.” Not only did she agree to making model airplanes, but she also arranged to take the whole class on a field trip to Wold-Chamberlain Airport to see the airplanes. No wonder Bob had a crush on her.

Bob Lerfald thoroughly enjoyed school and went on to Marshall High School with his buddies who nicknamed him “Lerf.” At Marshall his favorite subject was biology and his favorite teacher was his biology teacher, Miss Trumble. He liked a lot of teachers: Howie Straiton, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Socha, Miss Capstick, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Burningham, and Mr. Strandemo.

Bob enjoyed being in the school choir and having the deepest bass voice, yet one of his fondest moments came not on stage but in a church basement at E.M.R.A. (East Minneapolis Recreation Association). When first at Marshall, Bob was often picked on by a bully named Jack. One evening at E.M.R.A at Como Congregational Church, Bob decided that he had enough of being bullied. He challenged Jack to put on the boxing gloves and Jack agreed.

Bob got his boxing gloves on first and as Jack finished getting his gloves on, Bob gave him a left to the jaw. Jack, the bully, went down, apparently knocked out, and lay on the church floor for what seemed like several minutes. Jack’s bullying days were done. He never bothered Bob again. “It was one of the triumphs of my life,” Bob said. “Oh, man. I was so proud of myself.”

After high school graduation, Bob joined the army with his buddies Otto Lausten and Ron Anderson. Following boot camp, they went their separate ways: Otto to Okinawa, Ron to Texas, and Bob to Newfoundland and Greenland where he worked on landing craft (boats). Bob said, “We had more boats than the navy. Typical army, right?”

While serving in the army in Greenland, Lerfald was involved in unloading lots of ships including tankers carrying fuel. He experienced several dangerous moments and close calls including one time when his Marshall class ring stopped a hatch cover from cutting off three fingers on his left hand.

When Bob returned home from the service, he went to college using the GI Bill. Following his heart, he graduated with a degree in biology from Bemidji State. Bob was hoping to teach biology at the high school level, but he found that as a family man there were no openings for biology teachers in Minnesota that he could afford to take.

During his college years, Bob worked as a dental technician in several dental labs to help support his growing family (his wife Terry and sons Erik and Kyle). As luck would have it, a dentist in Kalispell, Montana contacted Bob and offered him a job as a dental technician. Bob accepted the offer and the Lerfald’s moved to the beautiful country west of Glacier National Park.

Bob Lerfald had enjoyed carving and whittling as a kid, but in the early 1960s, at the suggestion of one of the dentists that he worked for, Bob began carving duck decoys. He started by gluing pine boards into a block of wood and using a handsaw, rasps and sandpaper to create the basic shape of his first decoy. He graduated to using blocks of basswood, but still uses pine boards at times.

Bob draws his designs on paper and sometimes uses a copy machine to enlarge them. He also uses dental instruments such as calipers, dividers, and a Boley guage to determine the size and shape of the bills and heads of his duck decoys. When the carving is done, Bob paints each duck’s distinctive pattern. Since the 1960s, Bob Lerfald has created more than 200 duck decoys.

Bob has gone through several transitions. After 25 years of
marriage. He lost his wife Terry to breast cancer in 1986 and after 16 years as a dental technician, Bob became a teacher, not of biology but of dental technology for 28 years at Century College in White Bear Lake. Bob and his wife Kathy were married in 1988 and now have been married for 26 years.


TMD

Fifteen of the dozens of Bob’s creations.

Life is Uncertain
Eat Dessert First

There is no Key to Happiness.–The Door is always Open

Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
The Jimmy Sticka Story

In the fall of 1952, the Marshall High School football team was experiencing an average year results wise. As the second smallest school in the conference, with no league adjustments for school size, we were often at a disadvantage in a sport that requires a lot of players. In addition, we had lost our best linebacker, Bill Christansen, when he injured his knee mid season; I broke my collarbone near the end of the season, and Jimmy Sticka, our tailback, suffered what I believe were called bone splints in the bridge of his nose, causing excessive bleeding when jolted hard in that area. Because of this, Jimmy wore a full face mask for most of the season, which was novel in that era.

Near the end of the season, Marshall played North High School. North was undefeated and later won the Twin Cities Championship, still undefeated. I had a bird’s eye view of the game because I was holding the yard markers with one arm in a sling.

The game went reasonably well in the first half, but North pulled away in the second half to win the game. During the game Jimmy went to the sidelines three times to have cotton inserted in his nose to absorb the bleeding. His mother was often upset about this process as she saw her son come to the sidelines with blood flowing down his face. The North football players also took notice of his competitiveness. (I knew this years earlier, having played multiple sports with him since fourth grade.)

Since Jimmy just never gave up, at the end of the game, the North players were so impressed with his courage, they hoisted him on their shoulders and carried him off the field. I have never seen anything like this before or since, and I do not expect to see it again.

Many years later, a neighbor of mine who played in that game for the North team, simply said, “He was a great athlete who had outstanding competitiveness and that’s why we honored him by carrying him off the field.”

Larry Horsch
Marshall High School
Class of 1953
Teacher, Coach and Principal

Walter Chapman was born in Clinton, Iowa. He attended Iowa schools until his senior year when his family
moved to Minneapolis. He graduated from West High School in 1924. He was a good student and he loved sports.

Chapman went on to Carleton College and the University of Minnesota. He played basketball for both schools. In
an interview in 1966, he said that he went into teaching because he always wanted to coach basketball.
He was a very successful basketball coach. His record was 328 – 70, which included seven seasons at Appleton,
Minnesota where he began his teaching/coaching career.

He moved on to Marshall High School in 1935. Although Chapman also coached other sports, his greatest
success was coaching basketball.

His Marshall Cardinals won five city championships: 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1947. He led his team to the
state tournament three times. The 1939 team lost 37 - 31 to Mountain Lake in the championship game.
Walter Chapman’s coaching career came to an end when he became Marshall’s principal in 1950. He served the
staff and students very well as principal until he retired in 1966.

John Ross 1936 – 1998
Marshall High School Student and Athlete

John Ross loved sports from an early age and he loved to win. When he was seven years old, he had an accident.
He fell into thorn bushes while playing football with his brothers.

His eyes were permanently damaged and he never saw again. But blindness didn’t stop him.

As a sophomore at Marshall High School, John joined Coach Hugo Fischer’s wrestling team. As a junior wrestling
at 120 pounds, Ross won the City, State and Northwest AAU Championships.

John went on to advocate for the blind encouraging them to be active in sports. He majored in journalism at
the University of Minnesota and joined its wrestling team. He enjoyed water-skiing and golfing. John started a
magazine for blind readers called “Feeling Sports” and he wrote six novels.

(Continued on page 6.)
Celeste Leemhuis: 1900 – 1993
Teacher and Guidance Counselor at Marshall 1931–1968

Celeste Leemhuis touched many lives with her kindness, generosity and wise counsel. She was an excellent English teacher, but she left the classroom to become one of the first counselors in the Minneapolis public schools.

She was an early leader in the field of guidance counseling and she was a mentor to many students and counselors. Mrs. Leemhuis was a member of the American Personnel and Guidance Association and she was chairwoman of its national convention in Minneapolis in 1964.

Celeste Leemhuis was born in Fairmont, Minnesota and graduated from high school in Rochester, Minnesota. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in counseling from the University of Minnesota. She was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and the Minneapolis Woman’s Club.
Class Reunion Announcements for May, 2015 issue of MHS Alumni News and beyond.

The Class of 1955 reunion committee has set Thursday, August 13 as the date of our 60th reunion. That’s when we plan to gather for dinner at Jax Café in Northeast Minneapolis.

Currently part of our reunion committee is enjoying warmer temperatures in places like Arizona, California and Hawaii. But we will be reconvening soon to complete our planning and send out reunion information and registration forms.

In addition to dinner at Jax Café on August 13, we have been discussing other possible activities such as a sightseeing cruise on the Mississippi, a tour of The Marshall, the apartment complex that replaced our high school, a tour of the newly opened Surly Brewing Company near Tower Hill, and a golf outing. Please feel free to suggest other activities to the planning committee.

The planning committee includes Carl Ahlberg, Millie Bjergen Caspersen, Ron Anderson, Bob Hayes, Jan Hathaway Ott, Tom Daly, Otto Lausten, Anne Moellman Lindgren, Bob Lerfald and Joel Westerberg. If you would like to join the planning committee or make suggestions, please contact Tom Daly at 952-884-5016, or Anne Lindgren at 763-551-1390, or Otto Lausten at 763-544-3317. See you in August.

Marshall Class of 1967 says “We plan to have another fun reunion in 2017, and hope that every classmate will mark August 26, 2017 on their calendar and make every effort to attend. A number of classmates who were unable to attend the 45th reunion promised to see us in 2017. We look forward to seeing you there too.” Website www.marshallclassof67.org is intended to be a continuing work in progress through 2017 so classmates may update their personal and contact information (with their desired level of privacy) and stay in touch with other classmates, in addition to reliving memories of the 40th and 45th reunions. !!!!!
My Friend Ahlie

One hot sunny Saturday Ahlie and I rode our bikes to a Lake Hiawatha beach. Ahlie on his cream-colored Columbia bike with a locking fork and me on my green Schwinn Hornet. We spent the day swimming and horsing around; finishing it off by falling asleep on the beach. We were on our stomachs and awoke with our backs and especially the backs of our legs sunburned. We found out how bad the sunburn was as we rode our bikes home in excruciating pain. That night I slept little and begged off going to church the following morning. Ahlie, however, was not that lucky; he had to attend church. On my folks return from church, mom demonstrated Ahlie’s stiff-legged Frankensteinesque walk.

RKH

Viking Stadium is Progressing

(Above) Graphic Designer’s rendering of the former Dome superimposed over the New, modern Stadium.

(Left) If you live out of town and haven’t seen the Viking Stadium construction, come to town and enjoy the progress. It is located on the site of the former Dome...Less than 2 miles from U of M & Dinkytown
Dear Classmates... we need you!

Those of us who gather stories, tour sites, interview important people, list obituaries, and put our heart and souls into assembling the Marshall Alumni News every 4 months are seeking a team to take over the Marshall Alumni News soon. Like many of you we have had some medical issues in the past years; either personally or a spouse.

Would a group of you volunteer to take over the tasks of producing this fine newspaper.  

Please phone or email any one of us should you be interested in this request/offer.

1. Tom Daly  
   952-884-5016 or tmdaly@q.com
2. Bob Hayes  
   320-763-7745 or robertkhdjh@aol.com
3. Otto Lausten  
   763-544-3317 or owlausten@msn.com

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

NEWSLETTER HARD COPY AVAILABLE

A one year subscription, 3 issues, arriving in January, May and September are available for $7.00 for a one year subscription.  
To subscribe include your name and address with a $7.00 check made out to Bob Hayes & addressed to:

Bob Hayes, MUHSAN  
9142 W. UTOPIA ROAD  
PEORIA, AZ 85382

Your newsletter mailing will begin on the next publication month following receipt of your subscription.
Bob Hayes
9142 W. Utopia Road
Peoria, AZ 85382