Drive-through graduation, but no hugs: How the Puget Sound region’s class of 2020 made an unexpected ending

By Hannah Furfaro and Dahlia Bazzaz Seattle Times staff reporters — June 10, 2020 at 5:00 am

Editors Note: A partial reprint from the Seattle Times.

For Seattle student Tetiana Mountha, this was the year she finally came into her own.

After spending most of her high-school career buried in volunteer work and extracurriculars, the Cleveland High School senior said she “blossomed” in 2020 and made a tighter circle of friends. Before the coronavirus pandemic broke out, she looked forward to relishing in one final last day of school feeling, a pleasant sensation of closure in her chest.

She won’t get that this year. But her mother, Charm, is determined to make sure the occasion is acknowledged. And if there’s anything the class of 2020 has mastered, it’s how to improvise.

Next week, Tetiana will be hosting a drive-through graduation ceremony in front of her house. A dozen close friends and family members will drive up to a booth, take a photo with her in her robes (and a red dress she bought for the occasion), and drive away.

“In the long run, we’ll figure out a way to have that moment together as a class,” she said.

See GRADUATION (page 5)
FEEDBACK

Dear Mr. Barton — I am writing to you because I saw an issue of the Cleveland Alumni Newsletter online where you mentioned Leona Cooper (maiden name Ipsen) and her brother Murele Ipsen!

NOTE: The above was the beginning of an email I received from Angela Duane, a graduate (‘86) of Holy Names Academy. She was looking for information on CHS alum Murele Ipsen, class of 1943, who helped save her uncle’s life as they fled a POW camp at the end of World War II. This led to an investigation and the wonderful story by Angela starting on page 18. - John Barton ‘54

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Dear John — You certainly have done your share of keeping the CHS Memorial Forest alive and kicking. It takes a small number of really dedicated people to keep things percolating and you sure are one of them. Really got a bang out of your 21 question test in this last issue I thought that was a great addition.

Have a hunch you’re reluctant to put in jokes because they can get out of hand but here’s one shorties in case you might be tempted:

“Anton, am I a good mother?”
“My name is Paul”.

Thanks for your dedication and effort in putting out a quality Alumni Newsletter.

Emil Martin ‘40

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FEEDBACK cont. on page 20

Marni’s Corner — Hello Eagles! We continue to improve the usability and features of the Alumni’s website. This quarter, we added the ability to donate “IN MEMORY OF”. This feature allows families, friends, and organizations to contribute to the Alumni Association in memory of a Fallen Eagle. [https://www.clevelandalumsea.org/donate]

Also, we have added links to Fallen Eagles mentioned in a past newsletter. You’ll find the month and year of the newsletter next to a name on the list. Click it, and a pdf of the newsletter appears for you to view, download, or print. https://www.clevelandalumsea.org/fallen-eagles/ [Note: The Fallen Eagles data is being added to the website.]

Lastly, we can add an obituary or any words you would like to add to an individual Fallen Eagle’s page as we did for Ventris M. Ingram ‘54. https://www.clevelandalumsea.org/bio/ventris-maurice-ingram/

If you have any questions, feedback, or suggestions for the website, we’d love to hear from you via email directly to webmaster@clevelandalumsea.org.

Marni Reecer clevelandalumsea.org
ReecerMedia.com

CLASS OF 1971 REUNION ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a combined Cleveland/Franklin 50th Reunion in 2021 !!!

Send your contact info to receive the latest reunion news and/or if you are interested in joining the planning committee.

Contact: Peggy Soong-Yaplee at pvaplee@gmail.com

Send us: Your Name, former name, mailing address, email & phone #

Questions to Judy Eng: judy.eng05@gmail.com

PAGE 2  CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ( CHSAA )
**TREASURER’S REPORT**

We had our board meeting on April 11, 2020. This was our first virtual board meeting utilizing the Zoom platform. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our activities have been put on hold until the schools have reopened for students to return to the school building. Alumni are encouraged to attend annual meetings and board meetings.

Out of the $15,000 approved for scholarships, $13,000 was distributed to students attending college this fall. A reserve of $2000 is being held in reserve for one student who is not attending college at this time because of the pandemic.

Our donation section is up and running on the website. Online donations are highly encouraged. The website includes a donation button.

**MAKING YOUR DONATIONS ON LINE IS MUCH PREFERRED !!!**

www.clevelandalumsea.org

**YOU CAN READ THE NEWSLETTER ONLINE**

Have you visited our NEW website ???

www.clevelandalumsea.org

**PUBLICATION INFO**

Our publication is currently around 7000 copies
September 27, 2020

Dear Cleveland Community and Alumni

It has been a successful start to the new school year, and there have been some bumps in the road, but families, staff, and students have been flexible and understanding as we work in this new virtual learning environment.

I hope everyone understands that Cleveland is not a perfect school, but we are always striving toward perfection. Many times we fall short but not for the lack of effort. This year has been tough for families, students, and staff, but I am proud of our staff, which has worked hard over the summer to prepare a quality learning experience for our students.

We are focusing on two primary themes this academic year at Cleveland. First, we want to meet the social and emotional needs of our staff, students, and families during this pandemic. If teachers, students, and families are not healthy in mind, body, and soul, nothing else matters. Creating a caring and collaborative environment for teachers, families, and students is our most essential task as a community. We have ensured that every student has access to a laptop and quality wi-fi, school supplies, school lunch, and health and wellness support through our Teen Health Clinic. We truly believe that a student’s basic needs must be met before they can perform efficiently in the classroom.

Our second focus is to make sure that students have a quality virtual learning experience. Cleveland teachers spent many long hours this summer collaborating with colleagues preparing, planning, and developing innovative lessons and projects for their students. We are social creatures by nature, so this has been an adjustment for teachers and students, but Eagles always rise above the winds of change. Cleveland students still have eight classes, four classes every other day, except on Wednesdays. Students work on Microsoft Teams with 50 minutes of live instruction followed by 20 minutes of small group instruction.

Cleveland’s goals for each student haven’t changed: they are, to reach every student where they are and help them grow one day at a time. Athletics have been affected by the pandemic also. The fall sports season as currently set will likely not happen, as King County would have to be in Phase 3 for it to happen (golf is an exception). See the schedule below:

* WIAA Season 1: Cross Country, Slow-pitch Softball, Girls Swim & Dive*, Golf (Alternative Season), Tennis (Alternative Season)
* WIAA Season 2: Basketball, Bowling, Boys Swim & Dive, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Wrestling
* WIAA Season 3: Volleyball, Girls Soccer, 1B/2B Boys Soccer, Football
* WIAA Season 4: Tennis, Fastpitch Softball, Track & Field, Baseball, Golf, Boys Soccer, Dance/Drill

I don’t know what the future holds, but the “Eagle Nation” will stick together during the storm and rise above our trials and tribulations as long as we stay strong and stay united. As always, a big THANK YOU to the Cleveland Alumni Association for your continued support; you are an integral part of the Cleveland community— I cannot wait to get back to the Eagles Nest!! Cleveland Eagles keep soaring!

Sincerely,

George L Breland, Principal
Cleveland High School

CHSAA CONNECTION — Wondering what your fellow alumni are up to? They want to hear from you too! However long or brief, submit your life course – achievements, life milestones, new adventures, etc. As an ongoing newsletter item, we want to feature our CHSAA community “living” their lives. It’s a great way to stay updated and connected.

Short Version Example:
John Doe (Class of 19xx): Just got married and starting a new chapter in Vancouver, Washington!

Long Version Example:
Jane Doe (Class of 20xx): Your story up to 500 words

Send submissions to: chsaaboard@gmail.com or Cleveland High School Alumni Association
Attn: Alumni Connections
P.O. Box 94004
Seattle, WA 98124-9404
GRADUATION (continued from page 1)
While their buildings are closed because of the coronavirus, school districts around the Puget Sound region have wrestled with how to preserve some vestiges of this rite of passage. Some schools, like Tetiana’s, are hosting virtual celebrations, with in-person festivities planned for later on.

Each district’s approach has depended on its size and whether its county has been cleared for partial reopening. In Seattle, the district surveyed students and decided to host all ceremonies online.

Graduation caps and gowns are distributed at Cleveland High School in Seattle on Monday. (Erika Schultz / The Seattle Times)

EAGLE ALUMS IN THE NEWS
By Jon Hughes, AD

More Eagle athletes have been making the news lately. Joyce Harrell, a 2015 graduate, who won two girls basketball state championships during her time at Cleveland, graduated from Boise State. Her father Bruce is a well-known Husky legend. Joyce recently was hired as an NFL scout with the Miami Dolphins. Breaking through this gender barrier is a huge accomplishment.

CJ Elleby, a 2018 Eagle graduate, who excelled at Washington State University has declared for the NFL draft. His uncle Carl Ervin was an Eagle legend in the 1970s (& played for Seattle U.). We shall find out on November 18, 2020, where CJ might land in the NBA draft! I’ll have my popcorn ready.

Both Joyce and CJ have been asked by the WIAA to create a video that offers words of encouragement to all student-athletes statewide in this time of COVID and uncertainty. Look for the videos to come out soon at www.wiaa.com. I’ve spoken with both of them recently and we have plans to honor their teams and accomplishments once we get back to regular home basketball games! The Eagle girls basketball team especially deserves to be honored, they were recently named the “All-Decade Basketball Team” in 3A girls basketball 2011-2020 by the Eli Sports Network.

More sports on pages 7 & 17

CONNECT WITH CHS PUBLICATIONS: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram have feeds to CHS and C-Pub:
CHS Website: www.clevelandhs.seattleschools.org
CHS Facebook: Cleveland High School
CHS Instagram: Search for “Cleveland High School (Seattle)”
CHSAA Website: www.clevelandalumsea.org NEW
CHSAA Facebook: @SeattleCHSAA.
Andrew Hong was awarded a $2,000 CHSAA scholarship to Stanford University and plans to major in Political Science and Data Science. Due to the coronavirus, he decided to take a year off so his funding will be postponed.

In high school, he was involved in the Politics Club, the debate team, and he was on the swim team. In his community, he was involved with a youth gun violence prevention organization and supporting candidates for public office. His hobbies and activities include competitive swimming on a club team, helping juniors and seniors write college application essays, and mapping and analyzing local and national precinct-level election data.

In his letters of recommendation, he is noted as being mature beyond his age and always wanting to help others shine. Andrew sets a high standard for himself. His assistance in helping political candidates was innovative. Andrew’s career path hopes to lead him to address issues that will improve life for south-end citizens.

Leilani Batac. The Cleveland High School Alumni Association is pleased to present Leilani Batac as one of our scholarship recipients this year. Leilani has been an active member of CHS and the greater community – serving as the President of the Filipino Club, Vice President of the Library Club, Cabinet member of HOSA, and participating in a myriad of community-oriented activities. She wrote an essay about how her father has inspired her and left her with a strong legacy of connection. She was especially encouraged by the CHS staff who served the role as her primary support team. Her experience with two particular CHS staff members and their backgrounds had inspired Leilani to pursue a career in social work – a field in which she hopes to connect people of all demographics to all the resources needed to support their physical, mental and financial well-being. She is planning to pursue a degree in social work through the University of Washington where she is enrolled in the pre-social sciences track. Leilani received a $2,000 scholarship from CHSAA.

We are proud to support Leilani’s efforts towards her chosen career path.

Chapel Barnes. Chapel’s range of activities demonstrate a good balance of class work, school governance, community (YMCA), sports (soccer), and social justice work.

She served in CHS student government for four years and is politically engaged in the community, was a leader on the first ever CHS literary magazine, and was active in mentoring 9th graders as a leader on the Link Crew.

One teacher commented that, while Chapel recognizes the inequities in the world and feels strongly about them, she is capable of listening well to the stories and concerns of others.

Chapel has successfully applied for a scholarship from The New School in New York. CHSAA has awarded Chapel $2,000 to help reduce college debt.

In college at The New School, Chapel plans to focus on education with a minor in film and has already made a film for the South End Stories’ film festival. It is her goal to support through film the racism work of educators and students of color. This career tracks with her community actions for social justice.

We wish Chapel good luck and success on her journey toward bettering the world for all.

Valeria Grasso. Installing sculptures, advertising, scheduling and settings, and leading classes and tours, Valeria volunteered for seven years at a Monarch Sculpture Park – a public outdoor center for sculpture and art set in nature. As a teenager, art was her path to understanding community, equality and individuality of its members, and the power of art as an outlet for strong mental health. Valeria’s career goal is to work as a therapist where she can help individuals who are suffering through a clinical or non-clinical crisis. She hopes to provide accessible mental health care at a systemic level. It is one reason why she has taken leadership roles and became actively involved in student government and organizations. She enjoys and is dedicated to connecting with people to build a community. She is passionate about the impact of collective community effort and rallies her communities together with her leadership and authenticity. Her teachers commended her compassion, moral compass, and academic capability and achievements. This fall, Ms. Grasso will attend the University of Washington-Seattle to study psychology. She plans to continue volunteering at Monarch Sculpture Park to give back and to keep it going for the next generation. Valeria was awarded $3,000 from the CHS Alumni Association.
JUSTIN NGUYEN. Who would decide his life’s career while doing lightsaber duels on the playground? Inspired by Star Wars, he knew as a young child that it will be astrophysics! This passion has motivated him to study advanced science and math through high school, and to be accepted by USC for training as a science researcher in a space research facility.

While Astronomy and Astrophysics is Justin’s focus, he has also embraced school activities like sports (tennis, swim team), student government (class president, Kay Club president, and FUN (robotics, art show, playing guitar, drawing).

While Justin’s success to date is the result of his high motivation and clear planning, he is quick to appreciate CHS’ group-based learning model and the support and wisdom of several teachers.

Members of the CHS Alumni Scholarship team are pleased to include Justin in the scholarship awards to help with tuition and textbooks. He was awarded $2,000 from CHSAA.

We wish Justin smooth sailing in his space career.

JOYCE ALCÓN. Joyce was a STEM student (Science Technology & Engineering and Math) at Cleveland High School where she excelled in a series of courses in computer science. Interested in becoming a nurse and working in the healthcare field, Joyce’s plans after high school include attending UW-Seattle to start in the Pre-Nursing field of studies.

While at CHS, she was Vice President of the Filipino Club, belonged to the National Honor Society, and played on the CHS volleyball team. She earned the JV softball Coach’s Award.

Joyce joined the Skills Center Health Sciences & Medical Assisting program while holding internships at Seattle Goodwill and the Boys & Girls Club. She volunteered with United Filipino to RISE, contributed to food bank activities for the Filipino Community, participated in the Seattle Community Farming and Phone Bank for Asian Counseling Referral Services; and provided technical help for Agape Christian Ministry.

Her high school counselor shared that “Joyce is a resilient student who immigrated to the US from the Philippines when she was 14. Despite many obstacles faced in her life and the difficult transition to a new country, she still excelled and put forth all her effort into succeeding in her academics and extracurricular activities. What I also admire about Joyce is her deep commitment and support for her family”. She received a $2,000 scholarship from CHSAA.

TERRESA TRAN. Terresa has been accepted at UW – Seattle. She had a GPA of 3.99 while taking multiple AP courses. She will major in Pre-health Sciences with a future goal of becoming a family physician. She was fortunate to serve an Internship at Swedish Hospital and that experience solidified her desire to enter the healthcare field as a physician. Terresa worked 24 hours a week during summers. She will receive $2,000 toward college expenses from CHSAA. One letter of high recommendation pointed out how Terresa was quite shy as a freshman, then took a leap of faith and was elected to leadership roles and became a respected leader in several areas including the Business Club and the Health Organization Student Association, which is geared to future health professionals. She is a team player and has artistic creativity. Community service includes working at a Food bank and supporting marathons. Her activities include visiting family members, frisbee and teaching herself a new musical instrument.

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Cleveland Spirit
By Don Duncan ‘43

Like many seniors coping responsibly with the lockdown I sought to bring a semblance of order to a long neglected area of my home – an upstairs closet piled high with newspaper clippings (1949-1991) and handwritten letters from those who once qualified as Seattle’s movers and shakers. Which is how I stumbled on a battered book titled “Cleveland Spirit.”

On the left side of the red-and-white cover is a sketch of snow-capped Mount Rainier atop a scaled-down Cleveland High School. On the right are dueling open-cockpit airplanes (presumably Boeing-built) followed by the numerals 1927-1928.

My discovery, of course, was the yearbook of the first students to graduate from Seattle’s then – newest high school. I am “unsure” – a better word than “forgetful” at 94 – how it came to be in my closet.

Besides being Cleveland’s first yearbook, 1927-’28 is historically significant because it pretty much marked the end of this nation’s sometimes wild-and-crazy “Roaring Twenties.” The “Crash” that triggered The Great Depression began in ’29 and didn’t end until World War II.

Full disclosure: I was born in ’26, making me one year older than Cleveland High School and graduated in ’43 – 77 eventful years ago.

Cleveland’s official colors in ’27-’28 were “blue-and-white,” and its teams were The Highlanders. The colors, of course, would be changed to red-and-white, The Highlanders would become the Eagles and “Spirit” (perhaps used only once) would give way to Aquila.

The ’27-’28 yearbook is signed by H.N. Gridley, principal of both Cleveland High School and Cleveland Intermediate School (junior high), which were first combined in a Georgetown elementary school building.

The first full-page photo inside the yearbook is of Charles Lindbergh (“Lucky Lindy”), who stunned the world by making a solo airplane flight from New York to Paris in 1927. Jeopardy question: “What was the name of Lindbergh’s plane?” Answer: “What is The Spirit of St. Louis?” Lindbergh also was Time Magazine’s Man of the Year in ’27. As for who appeared on the cover of Time the most times (“Who is Richard Nixon” (55 times).

I’d have preferred Audrey Hepburn.

I was a 13-year-old 9th grader upon arriving at Cleveland from Beacon Hill in January 1940. Almost immediately we “new” students heard about “The Trek,” which teachers and older students seemed to rank only slightly below The Lewis & Clark Expedition and the first ascent of Mount Rainier.

It started the morning of Jan. 3, 1927 at the Georgetown school. Principal Gridley led the march, at first on the level and then up “a steep hill” (huffing and puffing sound effects) as 525 high school students and their 22 teachers, plus 452 intermediate-school students and their 15 teachers pressed on to reach The Promised Land at 15th Avenue South and Lucile Street.

There they found a beautiful new three-story, all-brick schoolhouse named after Grover Cleveland, the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms in The White House as the 22nd president (1885-1889) and the 24th (1893-1897).

The new school had 31 rooms, an auditorium, a well-outfitted cafeteria and at least one indoor sports venue. There was no blueprint for juggling the schedules of high school and intermediate school students so they wouldn’t bump into each other in the halls or the cafeteria. Nor were there any outdoor sports facilities. But the latter, everyone said, were sure to come. Someday!

The ’27-’28 yearbook was dedicated to Miss Alice T. Stach, “whose teaching (English) has lifted us to heights beyond the commonplace.” Besides Miss Stach, five other teachers from the ’27-’28 faculty were still at Cleveland when I graduated 15 years later: Gaylord Peltier, Dora Leavitt, Lynden K. Hassenmiller, Bill Maginnis and Margaret Raine.

Hassenmiller, who answered to “Hassey” and taught science, coached virtually every boys’ sports team for a year or so, during which Cleveland suffered some horrific defeats (losing 65-5 against O’Dea’s basketball team). Hassey would finally settle on coaching golf, which had less pressure. Students took losses pretty much in stride, learning early to say “Wait’ll next year.”

Girls played only volleyball, basketball and field hockey, where there was less pressure.

In addition to academics and sports there were a variety of clubs. The Intermediate Boys’ Yacht Club showed imagination. It wasn’t for students whose families owned yachts, but for young men and a smattering of young women who designed and built small wooden “yachts” they showed off in a local pond.

Although the Latin Club had a handful of members, the school orchestra – open to all – had enough members to fill the chairs of The New York Philharmonic. No indication of how they sounded.

Two important notes: Ray K. Imus, who spent 35 years as Cleveland’s vice principal, had yet to join the staff in ’27-’28, and all women teachers had “Miss” in
front of their names. They would continue to be “Miss” in the years ahead “because a married woman should not be taking a scarce job from a man.” Sexism 101.

Marguerite Fox was Cleveland’s first valedictorian and Mona Mueller its first salutatorian. Also speaking at the first formal graduation were Walter Fisher, representing the arts, Gunnar Carlson, representing science, and Marjorie Brown, who touched on both writing and dramatics.

Frances Beyering wrote the senior-class poem. The first stanza: “As we leave your doors old Cleveland/To face the world anew/We want to thank you dearly/For the things we owe to you.”

Fifteen years later, the poem I was asked to write was recited by the class of ’43 at a Moving-Up Day Ceremony. It spoofed many things and was followed by a dozen or so limericks aimed at high-profile grads. Joy Malde and Ruth Barnier, singer and pianist respectively, provided background music for the limericks.

The first graduating class was small, just 52 grads. Mine, 15 years later, was barely over 100. Class photos show boys and male teachers without a hint of a beard. Nor was there a hint of trousers on girl students and female teachers.

Many girls and women teachers did, however, have “marcelled” hair (tight curls) in the ‘20s. Fifteen years later their hair was “more relaxed.”

A nice touch in the school’s first yearbook was giving each grad an opportunity to say what he or she hoped to do in life. The boys wanted to be salesmen, engineers, lawyers, journalists, airplane pilots and businessmen.

Although ‘stenographer” dominated the girls’ choices, even that of the valedictorian, some bravely hoped to become a church or theater organist, gym teacher or business women. One even said “a rich woman’s traveling companion.” Two said simply “a housewife.”

One boy said his main goal was to become “a husband.” Perhaps he connected with one of the young ladies with matrimonial ambitions.

Class prophecies were provided, gratis, for each student — predicting a career on Broadway for one student and playing in one of the great symphony orchestras for another. The amateur psychology was also interesting: “Just because a man blushes is no sign he’s bashful,” and “Knows a lot but says nothing.”

In 1997, I emceed my old high school’s 70th birthday party in the school auditorium, which hadn’t changed much in well over half-a-century. There was a wonderful turnout, even a visit by Al Hostak, who had been a student at Cleveland High School for several years before launching a prize-fighting career in which he won the Middleweight Boxing Championship of the World. Al brought down the house when his arrival on stage was delayed because he didn’t hear his name being called. “Ya shoulda rung da bell,” he said, laughing as he ran across the stage.

Don Clifford (’44) and I closed the celebration by singing lyrics I’d penned to a melody [I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face] from Lerner & Loewe’s “My Fair Lady.”

The final verse:

We’d grown accustomed to this place,
To all the times we didn’t win.
We’d grown accustomed to the rain,
To tests that were a pain.
Tan cords, white shirts, saddle-shoes and skirts,
Were such a habit with us then,
Like faded loves that might have been.
Like Mr. Imus roaming hallways
and rules that didn’t bend,
Tardy bells and blackboard chalk
– we thought they’d never end.
We’d grown accustomed to a way of living that’s no more,
Accustomed to this place.

Don Duncan spent 41 years on newspapers, 28 as a reporter and columnist for The Seattle Times. A Pulitzer judge in 1977. He won two national (Ernie Pyle) awards for human-interest writing and wrote two books."Washington: The First 100 Years" and "Meet Me at The Center.”

Biggest coups: solo interview with Elvis, two hours alone with Eleanor Roosevelt and about 15 minutes with Princess Di, while the rest of the press corps was looking for her.

Wife of 69 years died two years ago.

He never worked for the P-I, which The Times staff called "The Pig’s Eye." The P-I staff, in response, referred to The Times as "Fairview Fanny."
Kelly Benjamin Peavey, ’43 — passed away peacefully on May 11, 2020, at the age of 95 in Seattle after a long battle with prostate cancer. Kelly was a lifelong resident of Seattle and a member of the “Greatest Generation”. He attended Beacon Hill Elementary and Cleveland High before enlisting in the US Army Air Corps. It was in the service of his country during WWII when he met the love of his life, Betty June, at a USO club in Lincoln, Nebraska. After the war, they married, moved to Seattle and bought a home in the north end. They raised two boys and shared a wonderful relationship for 69 years until Betty’s passing in 2015.

Kelly owned and operated Softky Brothers Radiator Specialists on Westlake Avenue in Seattle, where he was well respected within the business community. He was able to master almost anything he put his mind to. He was an accomplished fly fisherman, accordion...

Mary Satoko Nakanishi ’37 (?) — Mary was born in Seattle, WA on August 24, 1919 and passed away on September 4, 2020. She was the third of four children born to Otoichi and Shigeyo Yamamoto. She grew up in Georgetown, WA, graduated from Cleveland High School in Seattle, WA, was interned at Camp Minidoka during WWII, relocated to Cleveland, OH after WWII and lived there for many years. She married Mitsu (Mits) Nakanishi on August 24, 1968. They moved to Renton, WA in 1988. She was predeceased by her parents, brothers, and sister and survived by her beloved husband, Mits of 52 years, three nephews and one niece, four grandnephews, one grandniece and two great grandnephews.

Fred Trier, Class of 1959, a proud Eagle who attended UW and served in the US Army, his wife, Linnea Trier, contributed to the CHSSAA General Fund in his name.

In memory of Stan Brewer, Class of 1947, Marialee Brewer made donations to CHSAA.

In memory of Alan McFadden, Class of 1958, Karen McFadden donated to CHSAA.

In memory of Howard (Bob) Duncan, Class of 1953, his classmate Roger S Bedell ’53, donated to CHSAA.
player, square dancer, bowler, putting champion and the man could build anything. After retirement, he enjoyed golf, winters in Arizona, and his family. He even taught himself computer programming in his later years.

Kelly resided at the Ida Culver House in Broadview for the last 10 years, where he was well loved and made many new friendships. He will be greatly missed by all of us who were lucky enough to have him as a part of our lives. He is survived by his sister Esther Johnson of Hansville, WA, Sons Thomas (Lynn) of Vancouver, WA & Michael (Ann) of Issaquah, WA; 5 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

* * * *

Robert Gene Broberg '50 — Robert passed away on Dec. 31, 2017. He was 85. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Mae Broberg, on Oct. 28, 2017.

Bob was an honest, generous and fun-loving man whose death leaves a void in the lives of his family and friends, but his passing ended the deep pain of losing Beverly after 65 years of marriage.

Bob was born on March 28, 1932, in Aneta, N.D., to Olaf and Helen Broberg. Bob was about 5 when the family moved to Washington.

The family built a simple home in Des Moines — indoor plumbing would come later — where Bob attended elementary school, roamed the beach like Huck Finn and played in the newly built Des Moines Fieldhouse.

After the family moved to Seattle, Bob attended and graduated from Cleveland in 1950 — but not before returning to Aneta, N.D. for a year after his dad bought a café there. That experience provided fodder for stories Bob would tell — and retell — for the rest of his life.

Bob stepped off the train in Aneta just in time to join the basketball team for the state playoffs. He played six-man football, flipped burgers, pitched hay bundles and drove a team of draft horses.

Back at Cleveland, Bob lettered in football, basketball and baseball and was featured as a Seattle Post Intelligencer high school athlete of the week.

Bob locked eyes on Bev at Cleveland, and happily took the fork in the road that led to love, marriage.

Bob attended Everett Junior College and played on the football and basketball teams before dropping out to join the aircraft mechanic apprenticeship program at Boeing. Bob and Bev were married on May 2, 1952.

Over the next few years Bob and Bev welcomed a son, Brad, and a daughter, Robin. During that time Bob served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a member of a submarine crew.

The family moved from South Park to Federal Way in 1967. By that time Bob had traded his mechanic overhauls for a shirt and tie to join the industrial engineering side of Boeing, where he became a supervisor before retiring after nearly 40 years.

Bev was diagnosed with Lewy body dementia. Bob provided loving care to Bev throughout her illness.

Bob was preceded in death by granddaughter Demini Broussard. He is survived by: brother Edward; brother-in-law Dennis Bullock (Kathy); son Brad Broberg (Julee); daughter Robin Broussard (Arnold); grandsons and granddaughters. * * * *

Carl J. Burke '51 — passed away peacefully in his beloved log home on Bainbridge Island the morning of March 13, 2020, with family by his side. Born April 23, 1933, in Seattle, he was the son of Edward and Molfred Burke and spent his childhood in the Georgetown and Beacon Hill neighborhoods.

He graduated from Cleveland High School in 1951. He soon set out for India as a Merchant Marine. In 1953 he joined the United States Marines. After training at Camp Pendleton, his ship headed for the Korean War but the Armistice was signed before the ship was able to land. Carl was always extremely proud of being a Marine.

Carl met Sandra Ericksen at Everett Junior College in 1957, marrying in 1958. They lived they're first year in Hawaii where their first son, Cary, was born. Upon return, Carl and Sandy bought their first home in Everett before moving their family, now including daughter Betsy, to Bainbridge Island in 1967. It was a great move and the family grew to include daughter, Stephanie and son Ryan.

Carl had continued his employment in the title insurance field before becoming a longshoreman on the Seattle waterfront. He retired in 2011 at age 78 after 44 years as a member of ILWU, Local 19. He also enjoyed working on his land, pursuing his avid interest in Native American history, and making memorable road trips with his nephew Raj.

Carl was preceded in death by his infant son Shawn, his parents, brother Roderick, sisters Carleen and Kay. Sister Connie passed away soon after Carl in April. He is survived by former wife Sandy, sons Cary and Ryan, daughters Betsy and Stephanie, his two adored grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. He enjoyed a full life and is dearly missed by his family.

He was laid to rest at Tahoma National Cemetery.

IN MEMORIAM (continued on page 12)
IN MEMORIAM (Continued from page 11)

Barbara Meyer MacLearnsberry ’53 — A long-time Bainbridge Island resident, Barbara died Monday morning, July 13, at age 84. Barbara was born in Waterton, South Dakota to Nicholas and Mary (Passehl) Meyer, the eighth of twelve siblings.

When she was nine, her mother died due to child birth complications. Her father, whose health had been compromised due to a poison gas attack by the Germans in World War 1, succumbed to a heart attack four days after her mother’s funeral.

Always a voracious reader, Barbara received a full scholarship to attend nursing school and became a surgical nurse upon graduation.

In 1959, she married Mathew Charles (Chuck) MacLearnsberry, her husband of 56 years.

Barbara enjoyed sampling foods from around the world, and she had an uncanny ability to cook fabulous meals without recipes from the recall of her palette. She also had a flair for stunning floral design.

Among her most outstanding qualities, drawn from her faith, were her wisdom and her devotion to her family, always setting an amazing example of a life well-lived, despite such a tragic childhood.

Barbara is survived by her son, Bruce (Kadi), two daughters, Heidi (Dean) Newcomb and Jenna (Daniel) Campau, twelve grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

Julia M. (Consolini) Braun ’54 — passed away on June 21, 2020 at the age of 83. She was born in Seattle, WA on September 20, 1936. She was a graduate of Cleveland High School in Seattle and went on to work as a secretary for the Musicians’ Association of Seattle (Local 76-493, AFM) for nearly thirty years. Julia married George Braun in 1976 and together they traveled to nearly every state in the country. They were married for 43 years before George's passing in 2019.

Retiring in 1995, Julia continued to lead a busy life. In addition to her love for finding the best bargains, she played a large role in the life of her children and her grandchildren. An avid camper, Julia often took their grandchildren camping in their motorhome. She volunteered for several charities, most notably for the Salvation Army and their Christmas toy gift program. She was an avid collector, and particularly loved to celebrate the holidays. Every Christmas, Julia put up several different types of holiday villages that would fill the home. She also loved butterflies, and the family hopes that every time you see a butterfly you will think of her.

Julia was described as the "Rock of Gibraltar" to her family. She is survived by her children, Carla Wieser (Roger), Kenneth Moore (Tammy), and Laura Jee as well as her daughter-in-law Jody Patterson. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband George and son Jeffrey Patterson.

Editor’s note: Julia was our Donna Reed look-alike.

Fred Trier ’59 — A contribution has been made to the CHSSA general fund in memory of Fred Trier, who passed away unexpectedly on March 20, 2020. He was a proud Eagle who attended the UW, served in the US Army, was stationed at the Pentagon during the Viet Nam era, worked seven years for the FBI, then followed his lifelong interest in cars and boats by owning/operating a gas station and auto repair business in North Seattle for more than 30 years. Fred is survived by his wife, Linnea, sister (Janice Trier Zitz ’56) and brother-in-law, brother, nieces and nephews. Rest in peace.
Ventris Maurice (Sam) Ingram ‘54 — was born June 24, 1937 to Mark Ingram and Josie Ella Beard in Summit, Oklahoma, a suburb of Muskogee. He moved to Seattle with his mother and step-father Clarence Dunn when he was six years old, living in the Duwamish Bend Projects that housed those working for the war effort. Ventris attended Cleveland Junior, and Senior High School. He was a very industrious teen, serving as senior class secretary, vice president of the Letterman's Club, chairman of the Boy's Club, playing on two high school championship baseball teams (Go CHS Eagles!), taking bookkeeping courses, and selling and delivering newspapers. He graduated from Cleveland in 1954 as one of 18 students to receive a scholarship from Consolidated Freightways where he worked while attending the University of Washington.

A proud member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Ventris graduated in 1963, with a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. He worked for the Post Office as a letter carrier for two years, then went to work for the federal government as an accountant and auditor for the Internal Revenue Service, totaling 40 years of public service. Ventris played an instrumental role in developing an equal opportunity program within the Seattle IRS office. He also played a role in the establishment of Volume Food Basket, the first black-owned and operated grocery store in the area.

On June 17, 1961, Ventris married his Franklin High School sweetheart and the love of his life, Anita Louise Wilson. The couple had two daughters, Jerri Lynn and Kimberly Michelle. Ventris and Anita raised their family in South Seattle. After retiring as a Revenue Agent in 2000, he and Anita decided to settle down in their dream home in Renton. Though retired, he managed to stay busy managing rental properties, and as a volunteer tax return preparer for AARP (also known as "VITA") for about 25 years at various locations, in particular, the Rainier Beach Library. In February 2004, he was recognized by the University of Washington Business School for "...Trailblazing Leadership in Business for other African Americans to Follow...", and "... with much appreciation for your courage, confidence and determination to study and enter business employment at a time when you had to open doors of opportunity for yourself and other African Americans...".

Over the years, Ventris enjoyed entering sweepstakes, collecting Red Tails memorabilia and baseball caps, and gardening, which included his prized tomato plants. He enjoyed attending ROOTS picnics (Relatives of Old-Timers) and was a proud member of the Seattle Urban League and NAACP, in addition to actively supporting several civic, civil rights and non-profit organizations.

Ventris passed away July 16, 2020 leaving to mourn his wife of 59 years, Anita, daughters Jerri Lynn and Kimberly Michelle (David), and a host of other family and friends, near and far.

* * *

Ronald A. Malaspino ’61 — Ron passed away peacefully on August 15, 2020, surrounded by his loving family. He died from complications brought on from a stroke suffered in 2014. His family and friends were a constant presence throughout his long journey. He managed his health challenges with great courage and dignity.

He is preceded in death by his parents Mike and Lucy Malaspino and brothers Mike Jr. and Robert.

Ron was born and raised on Beacon Hill where he graduated from Cleveland High School in 1961. After graduation, he went directly into the Army National Guard. Upon returning from the Guard, he went to work for the Seattle Times. He later worked for the Seattle Water Department and Seattle City Light. He completed his public service career at the King County Water District 20, where he retired as General Manager after 42 years of service in 2005.

Ron was active in his community. He served on the school board for Our Lady of Lourdes School. He was an assistant coach for CYO basketball and served 20 plus years as Commissioner for the North Highline Fire District 11 of King County. He was well-liked and respected by all who knew him, both professionally and socially. His kindness and generosity were felt by all.

Ron was an avid fisherman and hunter. He especially enjoyed bird hunting with his partner and sidekick, Padre. Ron never went anywhere without his faithful and loyal companion.

Ron was a wonderful and loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. His family was always first and foremost in his life. He loved spending time with all of them. He loved getting together for everything from dinner to camping trips, trips to Disneyland with all the grandchildren, and Hawaii for his granddaughter's wedding.

He is survived by his wife Diane of 57 years, daughters; Gina (Jerry) Patterson, DeAnne (Michael) Neudorfer, grandchildren; Kristin (James) Patterson, Connor Patterson, Megan Neudorfer, and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by several nephews and nieces, extended family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM (continued on page 14)
IN MEMORIAM  (continued from page 13)

Mathilde Gentry ‘67 — passed away on June 29, 2020 in Seattle, Washington. Mathilde was born Feb. 26, 1949 in Salzgitter, Germany, the oldest daughter of Franz and Elfriede Dyduch. She immigrated with her parents and younger sister to Seattle in 1955 and made her home in Seattle for the rest of her life. After graduating from Cleveland High School, Tillie, as she was known to friends, embarked on a career with the U.S. Postal Service for 10 years. She was proud to become a U.S. citizen in 1967. Her true delight was always her family and home. A devoted daughter, wife and mother, she took pleasure in growing a bountiful garden, cooking, singing and sewing. She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Lowell Gentry, her son and daughter-in-law, Greg and Gloria Gentry of Monroe, Wash., her daughter and son-in-law, April and Matthew Isenhower of Redmond, Wash., and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

Ron Camillo Wiseman ‘67 — passed away June 12th, 2020, after living 23 years with multiple sclerosis. He was born to Kenneth and Mary Wiseman in Seattle, WA. Ron graduated from Cleveland High School. He married Vicki Wiseman (Arnold) in 1975. Ron is survived his wife, Vicki, and three children, Aaron, Cara (Cathy) and Rachel (Noelle), his 4 siblings Cindy, Cathy (Art), Ken (Mary), and Larry (Mary) and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

Ron retired from Boeing after 26 years. He instilled a love of airplanes in his family. As a child, he witnessed "Tex" Johnson perform a barrel roll in a Boeing DASH 80 during Seafair of 1955. He was known as a handy man, able to fix anything around the house or on a car, having his own company "Ron's Fix It". He was also active with the local MS Society as a support group leader.

Ron was laid to rest at Mt View Cemetery. Instead of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Northwest Chapter.

Mariye Susan (Mizuki) Lochmiller ‘70 — It is with great sadness that Mariye Susan (Susie) Lochmiller passed away on May 16, 2018 at the age of 66. She was married to Kurt Lochmiller for 39 years and was a loving mother to Margaux Williamson (Patrick), Chase Lochmiller (Devon) and Reid Lochmiller.

She lived in Cherry Hills Village for 31 years and spent her final two years living in Castle Pines with her husband Kurt.

She was born on November 9, 1951 to Aiko and James Mizuki and spent most of her early life in Seattle, Washington. She graduated from the UW in 1973 with a B.A. in Japanese Language and Literature.

She worked as a flight attendant for 14 years for Frontier Airlines, before focusing full time on her family. She married Kurt Lochmiller on August 25, 1979 in Seattle. Apart from her family, her greatest passion was getting creative in the kitchen. She was well known for hosting dinner parties for her friends and family. She was loved and adored by many, but most of all by her husband and children all of whom she loved and was proud of.

Services were held at St. John’s Cathedral.

Shirley Mollner ’48 — August 29, 1930 – August 24, 2020. Shirley passed away on August 24, 2020. She was five days short of her 90th birthday. Special thanks to the wonderful team at Judson Park Rehab Center for the loving care they provided.

Shirley was born on August 29, 1930 in Saint Paul, Minnesota to Ann Midle Mollner and Theodore Mollner. The family moved to Seattle and settled in the Georgetown community when Shirley was eight years old. She graduated from Cleveland High School in 1948.

Shirley first job was at Safeway. She also worked at Sears, Skyway Luggage, Boeing, and Mervyn’s. Any employer was lucky to have such a positive and loyal worker like Shirley.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, stepfather Ray Vincent, and her beloved brother, Richard Mollner (Georgia). She also lost a nephew, several nieces and several close friends.

Shirley is survived by her sister-in-law Judy; her nephew Gary; and her niece Lynne. She also leaves behind her six great-nieces, four great-nephews, several great-great nieces, and great-great nephews.

Shirley was also close to her chosen family of friends who adored her. She will be missed by many.
**Fred M. Gramann ’42** — December 2, 1923 to September 22, 2020. Fred was born to Fred and Angeline Gramann in Seattle, WA. He met Jean Gronning, the love of his life, at Cleveland High. Since she lived on Beacon Hill and he lived in South Park, after school he would walk her the one mile to her home before backtracking the 5 miles to his home. They were married June 11, 1943, over the objections of Jean’s father and the minister, who stated the marriage would not last. The minister was right; their marriage only lasted 77 years. Fred attended the UW briefly after high school, but then joined the army. Serving in WWII, he was stationed on Saipan for 23 months. After the war, he returned to the UW and graduated with a degree in education. His first teaching job was in Concrete, WA in 1949. After his second year there, he was asked to become the principal of the high school, beginning his career as a school administrator. In 1957, he became the principal of Enumclaw High School, a position he held for 10 years. During this time, he also returned to school to earn his masters and PhD from the UW. In 1967 he became the superintendent of the Bethel School District, where he served until 1979. At Bethel, where a school bond issue had not passed for years, he led the development of one of the first year-around school schedules in the state. Upon retiring from Bethel, he continued working as a consultant for several school districts, including Enumclaw, White River, and Sumner. Fred loved teaching and found ways to be in the classroom even as an administrator. He loved making a difference in the lives of young men and women.

When he completely retired in the mid-1980s, he and Jean began their life as “snowbirds,” initially RVing with Jean’s brother Bud to Arizona. Over the years their time in Arizona became longer and longer. First, they bought a casita and stayed 6 months, and then a full-sized home with pool and stayed year-round. They returned to live in Enumclaw to be close to family for the last decade.

Fred had many interests. He was a musician. Having taken piano lessons from his mother, he learned to play piano by ear, and if you could hum it, he could play it. He loved golf and in their years in Arizona was a fixture at the Sunbird golf course, where he had 7 holes in one.

Fred was preceded in death by his granddaughter Nicole, and great-granddaughter Jaybrianna. He is survived by his wife Jean; sons Bob (Vikki) and Fred (Nancy), daughter Judy; and many grandchildren. Fred had a wonderful sense of humor. He loved to tease and make up the names of people he claimed to have met, throwing in a real person’s name just to keep you guessing.

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**Richard Lee Dyksterhuis** — teacher, passed away on June 10, 2020, at 93 years of age.

He was born to Eddie Dyksterhuis and Pearl Wright Dyksterhuis in Denver, Colorado, on May 20, 1927. After graduating high school at age eighteen, Richard joined the Army in June 1945, and served overseas until October 1948. On his return to the United States, he pursued degrees in higher education and served for many years as a teacher and administrator for the Seattle Public Schools. The schools he served include Monroe, Blaine, Ballard, Ingraham, Rainier Beach, West Seattle, Nathan Hale, Garfield, Cleveland, and Meany.

After retirement, he worked for over three decades as an activist promoting the completion of safe sidewalks for streets in North Seattle, including Linden Avenue North, the street of his home. As an advocate for pedestrian safety, he was featured in the 2010 documentary, "A Different Path."

Richard is preceded in death by his parents; his brother Mort Dyksterhuis; his wife JoAnn Plessler; and his longtime companion Cleta Hughes. He is remembered fondly by his many students, his dear friends, his fellow activists, and his loving family. He is survived by his children George (Gloria), Roger (Jamie), and Carol (Ken), five grandchildren, and two nieces.

"May you walk through forests of magnificent trees, listen to the songs of harmonious birds, hand in hand with your beloved Cleta. Your storytelling, your quest for justice, your thirst for knowledge, and your ability to build a kinship with a stranger while walking the sidewalks you had built, is a legacy that will live on. You spread kindness to all, and found joy in the little things. With all my love, your darling, proud, and blessed granddaughter."

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2020 EAGLE 100
CONTRIBUTIONS

DIAMOND EAGLE ($5,000-$9,999)
1952 Ileana (Oliver) Wood

PLATINUM EAGLE ($1,000-$4,999)
1944 Stanley G. Ridings
1957 Merlina (Carmignani) Tate
1957 Kenneth L. Smith
1958 Clarence Seeliger
1958 Victor Munsen
1964 Diane J. Kero
1967 Greg Di Martino
1980 Steve Mikami
Staff Andres Tanglain
Anonymous

GOLDEN EAGLE ($500-$999)
1944 Stanley G. Ridings
1947 Loretta (Seibert) Scott
1953 John O. McArthur
1954 Marilyn Shukis
1958 Clarence Seeliger
1961 Kalman Brauner Jr
1965 Clyde Gene Fulmer
1966 Wilbert Ying Look
1967 Mary Anne Reichle
1967 Kristi Knowles Butler
1980 Nicole R. Washington
Anonymous

SILVER EAGLE ($200-$499)
1945 Edward Boprey
1946 Phyllis Anderson Jurkovich
1947 Burr Cline
1947 & 1949 Dale & Jeanette George Erickson
1948 Roberta Sherry Tomkinson
1950 Akira Suwabe
1952 Lola (Ross) Simmons
1952 Jim & Marge (Primoli) Lambo
1953 Shirley Ann Currie Turner
1953 Joshua Suehiro
1954 John & Mary Lou (Zarkades) Barton
1955 Bev (Bull) Minice
1956 Ronald & Virginia (Crisp) Fairbairn
1956 Joanne (Shaner) Carrell
1957 Thomas McArthur
1957 Jerry Marcelle
1958 Susan (Araki) Yamamura
1958 Bill Koch
1958 Richard L. Nolan
1959 Janice S. Anderson
1959 Don H. Lindberg
1959 Fred Trier
1960 Robert W. Ferguson
1961 Terrance Chinn M.D.
1961 Michael Nolan

1961 Ronald & Diane Costa Malaspino
1962 Lawrence R. Bosi
1962 Allen Storasaasli
1964 Paul T Nishimura
1964 Bob Baugher
1967 Betty Lock
1967 Randy & Mary (Roppo) Brown
1975 Trena (Burns) Walker
2005 Anonymous
Friend Walton Enterprises
Friend Daniel Kaplan
Friend Karen McFadden
Staff Cecilia Moore

BRONZE EAGLE ($100-$199)
1940 Emil Martincevic Martin
1943 Donald Duncan
1943 Don Bristol
1945 Meralyn Hartmann Baughman
1948 Suzanne (Desimone) Hittman
1950 Miriam (Baughman) Munro
1951 Jim Cairns
1953 Loretta Vanzile Cook
1953 (Mary) Sue (McCaffree) Schloredt
1953 Roger S. Bedell
1954 Janet (Furlan) McFadden
1954 Dwight & Teresa (Vallala) Moberg
1955 Donald C. Barden
1955 Sandra Chun Wong
1956 Jean Giacarini Backman
1957 Judy McDonnell Keithley
1959 Darrel J. Ankeny
1959 Rima Shaffar
1960 Jeri Drager
1961 (Ira) Wes Reynolds
1961 Chuck Paulson
1961 Anonymous
1961 Janette Costanzo Dunn
1962 John E & Jeanne Gordon
1962 Nick DiJulio
1963 Bonita (Postel) Harkins
1963 Ronald Reddig
1963 Kerry A Knowles
1963 Vicki McFarlane
1964 Don A Deschenes
1964 Noriko Takei
1965 Michael Rutter
1965 Edna N. (Harrison) Whalon
1966 Amy Okazaki Maki
1967 David & Lynne Nelson
1967 Harry M. Huey
1968 Charles Lindberg
1970 Robert R Reichle
1970 Allan J. Ohlsen
1970 Andy S. Traverso
1972 Mark Okazaki
1973 Ronald Roletto
1974 Steve Fontana
1977 Julia (Piecynski) Wiese
Cleveland Eagle Athletic Update
in a crazy 2020 world

By Jon Hughes, AD

Cleveland Eagles Taking on 2020 Challenges

Many of us will never forget the evening of March 10th when the COVID crisis hit Cleveland student-athletes and coaches right on our beautiful new field. It was approximately 5:30 pm when I received a phone call from our assistant principal indicating that school was going to be closed the next day (a day earlier than the rest of Seattle Public Schools) and that I needed to clear all fields and courts of our student-athletes. We all went home early that evening not knowing what to expect. We sure didn’t think it would be for the rest of the school year. The entire spring sports season was canceled, which was a huge blow to our seniors and our student-athletes. The spring had looked promising, for example, the Eagle softball team was looking ready for a shot at making it to state (in large part thanks to the class of 2020, Molly House, who moves on to pitch at Pacific Lutheran University) and our boys soccer team had the most members ever.

The Seattle Public Schools paid for a tribute video to honor our student-athletes with a special emphasis on the seniors that lost their spring season. The spring was a weird time for all, as we transitioned to remote learning. Cleveland athletics stayed busy behind the scenes, planning for “what if” scenarios of hopefully coming back in the late spring. We also had a change in coaching in our boys basketball program during this time. Our new head coach, Sterling Carter (former Seattle University and Purdue University standout and please forgive him – a Quaker), has begun his tenure with Zoom meetings and just recently some now authorized WIAA practices (with COVID guidelines).

One of our seniors, three-sport standout Wen Eckleberg was featured in the Seattle Times in May 2020:

Fall 2020 Athletic Updates

The Eagle football team led by former Cleveland student Charles McFarland had planned to open the season by hosting Holy Rosary (Canada) at the Southeast Athletic Complex in September. Instead, the football team has been focused on remote learning and planning for the open coaching time period (9/28-11/30) when WIAA is allowing teams to practice. It’s a little tricky as we have all had to become COVID experts in this new world. We have strict COVID guidelines in place for “Return to Play” activities. The athletic director’s office is full of thermometers, sanitation supplies, and COVID screening/contact tracing guidelines. Because of the pandemic, the WIAA has adjusted the sports seasons as follows:

* Winter (12/28-2/28): basketball, boys swim, wrestling
* Spring (3/1-4/26): volleyball, football, girls swim, cross country, slowpitch, golf
* Spring (5/2-6/27): tennis, fastpitch, track, baseball

We are hopeful for our student-athletes that these seasons do take place. It is a wait-and-see scenario. For now, to see a Cleveland Eagles jersey on the football field, you’ll need to tune in to a Seahawks game. Over 200 jerseys are represented in the stands, including your Cleveland Eagles! Speaking of the Seahawks, they hosted Sunday Night Football against the Vikings on October 11th. The Sunday Night Football crew came with a food truck on 10/7/20 to provide lunch for all the hard-working teachers and staff of Cleveland High. A fun time – hope you you saw the press coverage.

More sports on pages 5 and 7
It all started with a letter—one of many that had sat in a box for years, stored in my father’s garage. We discovered them upon his death a few years back, and I’d taken some time to read through and sort them according to decade. Still, I had missed something.

This summer, I perused the “1940s” stack, again, as I was doing some writing about our family and searching for clarity on the events surrounding my Uncle John’s experience abroad as an army soldier during WWII.

Uncle John Duane was injured, captured and spent months in a German prison camp—a story that holds a sacred place in my family history/lore. Still, the tidbits shared by older cousins and my father were often fuzzy in detail or sometimes conflicting and filled with gaps. —Not surprising, as the events of 1944-1945 had been a painful experience for my uncle. He rarely spoke of the war, so details were few and far between.

But back to the letters. I squinted at one of the yellowing missives scrawled in my grandmother’s writing, postmarked August of 1945. It was addressed to my Uncle John, a couple months after he’d been liberated and made his way back to Seattle from Germany.

Toward the bottom of the letter, my grandmother wrote, “A Murele Ipsen called. He was one of the boys who carried you out of there when you collapsed. — Said you were in a bad way, bleeding from your nose and mouth. Said he saw you in the stalag! He was from Georgetown.” [Murele Ipsen, CHS class of 1943.]

I was stunned. A name. I had stumbled upon an actual name of someone who was witness to that which had been such a profound and altering experience for my uncle; a name of someone who may have had a major hand in shaping my own personal trajectory.

So, I started googling. I found census information, draft card information, and a few random links that showed old addresses in Kent and Burien—but I found no obituary or death date.

Was Murele Ipsen still alive? It was possible. He’d be 95, but … it was possible. I continued to comb through search results and ended up clicking on a Cleveland Alumni Newsletter article. Murele’s sister Leona was mentioned, along with a reference to Murele’s capture in WWII!

I immediately emailed John Barton who had written the piece and held my breath. Would he respond? Would he think I was some sort of solicitor or weirdo trying to take advantage of an older veteran? Miraculously, John Barton emailed me back and agreed to reach out to Murele or his family if I drafted a letter of intention.

No problem! But … what was I to tell him? That I was still searching for closure, 31 years after Uncle John’s death? That I still wanted answers; clarity; insight into the life of my mysterious but beloved godfather?

Despite the altering experience of war, John Duane had been a kind, gentle, goofy soul—and he always watched out for me. He read to me; babysat me; took me too/from school; lifted me up to see into Grandma’s cabinets; gave me my first calculator, desk, nail polish, desk lamp, first camera—the man even bought all of my Holy Names candy bars so I wouldn’t have to stand in the cold to help our school raise money.

In a way, Uncle John also saved my life. I was a “good girl,” but my teen years were fraught with turbulence as I battled with my parents in a strict Catholic household. We were constantly at loggerheads, and it made for a rather stressful adolescence. Let’s just say my stuff ended up on the porch (along with myself!) on more than one occasion. After high school, I started college and then took a break about a couple years in. Money was running short, and tensions were only worsening at home which didn’t allow for focus. I found work in a restaurant but was starting to turn toward not-so-nice people for comfort and support, heading down potentially dangerous paths. Then Uncle John died. It was a horrible shock that just about
did me in. –But my godfather had been looking out for me ’til the very end. In a final selfless and generous act, he left me a college fund. I was able to finish school, move out, and I found some much needed stability. Meanwhile, my family finally found some peace. I mean, I loved my parents, but sometimes people get along better when they don’t live together!

Well, I wrote to John Barton and told him all of the above, explaining that I wanted to thank Murele Ipsen for helping my uncle; a man who had such a major impact on my life. But I was also hoping that maybe Murele could shed some light on what, exactly, happened in Germany during the war.

Feelings of guilt and excitement clashed in my brain. Maybe my uncle wouldn’t want me stirring all of this up. Maybe I should just let it rest. Maybe it was time to accept that you just don’t get clarity or “closure” on everything in life. –I decided to leave it up to fate.

The wonderful John Barton delivered my letter to Murele’s house in person (imagine—Murele’s place is just a short distance from him!). However, his stepson, Dale Leyde, quickly clued us in on a sad situation. Murele suffered a stroke last year, and his family doesn’t anticipate that he’ll live much longer.

Fortunately, stepson Dale was kind enough to share what details he had heard about Murele’s capture. Separated from a larger unit, Murele’s group had surrendered upon a run-in with a German tank and ended up at the stalag listed on my uncle’s records. Hmmm.

My understanding was that my uncle had been wounded and in a hospital before ending up in the prison camp. Had my uncle really been with Murele during his capture? Once again, I was working with another set of conflicting information. But let’s face it: stories told over time and through the lens of trauma can change.

My brother Peter and I discussed the information we’d been privy to over the years, comparing it to these new details. In an “aha” moment, we agreed that it was possible Murele and Uncle John had been captured in separate incidents but then ended up in the same camp. Then Murele could have helped Uncle John leave the camp when the guards bailed (following German surrender).

I also remembered a cousin had told me that Uncle John said the guards treated him “like a Jew.” My uncle could easily pass for Jewish, so I often wondered if that had affected his prison stay. The worst of it for Murele had been a head-butting with a rifle when he reached for a cabbage off a train rolling by. Perhaps my uncle faced more routine beatings?? It was possible that he could have been recently roughed up and was not in good shape the day they all “walked out.” –And the only reason he may have been able to actually/physically leave that place was because of Murele’s kindness and integrity.

Then … enter another clue from stepson Dale: He said that en route to allied territory, Murele’s crew happened upon a bombed out camera store. Murele found a camera and some film, then took a few pictures … one of which included a wagon. Amazing. All of the stories my own family had discussed over the years involved a “wagon.”

It was coming together: The camp … liberated. Everyone is leaving. Murele and perhaps a couple other Seattle or west-coast kids stick together as they make their way out. Murele sees a bloodied John Duane collapse nearby, and Murele and some “other boys” help carry him through the gates. They snag a wagon en route to allied territory; perhaps they take turns pushing injured or sick comrades who could now ride versus walk. Then they stop at what was left of the camera store, scavenge a camera or two and snap some pix before continuing on their way. –Was that exactly what happened? We’ll never know. But I think that’s as close as it’s ever gonna get.

Dale Leyde told me he was glad I had such a good uncle in my life, and I told him I was glad he had such a good father in his life. It was a very nice conversation—he even said he’d try to dig up the aforementioned photos!

In the meantime, I am happy to have experienced such beautiful (and almost impossible!) “connection in the time of Covid.” Connection across generations, history, time, and place. After speaking with John Barton, I cried for an hour as he reminded me so much of my father.

See FINDING AN EX-POW page 22.
SAVING THE CHS MEMORIAL FOREST
- By John Barton ’54

If we’re to save the Cleveland Memorial Forest, we need your help. Right Now. Here’s the story.

And one simple thing you can do to help.

Background: During WWII, enterprising CHS students with an eye to the future raised $300 to purchase property for a memorial forest. To make this dream a reality, they planted 10,000 trees and named it the Cleveland High School Memorial Forest, and dedicated it to CHS alumni who lost their lives during the war. Today, it’s a beautiful 131-acre virgin forest filled with Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, and Western Red Cedar. It’s located northeast of Issaquah, and today it is worth millions of dollars. The property was given to Seattle Public Schools (SPS) as a perpetual memorial to “the Cleveland boys who lost their lives during the war.” But now, with the school system always in need of money, alumni fear the property will be sold or used for some other purpose.

The CHS Alumni Association has been promoting a plan for SPS to sell the development rights to the property to a land-conservation group so the land can never be developed for any other use. SPS would still own the property, but this single act would likely protect the property in perpetuity from being developed for other uses.

We are making good progress in saving our forest. Should our plan proceed, it would have to be presented to the Seattle School Board for approval. We can best demonstrate broad-based support to preserve the Cleveland Memorial Forest by presenting letters of support from alumni and military-related organizations.

Progress: We had a busy spring gathering letters of support from alumni and military-related organizations to protect the CHS Memorial Forest. So far, we have received letters of support from the following national organizations, plus 54 from alumni.

- The American Legion
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- American Ex-Prisoners of War
- The Marine Corps League
- The National Association for Black Veterans
- The World War II Museum
- Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The American Legion has 21,000 members in Washington State with over 6,000 members in King County.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has 24,000 members in Washington State, with over 7,000 members in King County.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) has 2,360 members in Washington State with 600 members in King County.

Failure: While we requested letters of support from the 6,800 recipients of the CHS Alumni newsletter, we’re greatly disappointed that only 54 people responded – less than one percent. To make matters even worse, the very first letter of support came from Diana Hill, a Franklin High School graduate. Diana is the wife of CHS graduate, Bradley Hill ’56 (you made a good choice, Bradley). Such a low response rate will not be persuasive to the School Board. Alumni must step up with letters of support if we are to keep the forest out of the hands of developers.

The CHS Memorial Forest is a beautiful memorial to alumni who lost their lives while fighting for our country. We cannot let it fall to real estate developers.

CHS alumni, we cannot do this without your help. Please step up with your support by simply going to the CHS Alumni website, downloading the letter-of-support form, and emailing or mailing a signed copy to us. We’ll get it delivered and save our forest.

The website address is:

Remember, CHS is unique. We are the only high school in the universe that has a memorial forest dedicated to alumni who lost their lives while fighting for our country during World War II.

FEEDBACK continued from page 2

Good afternoon, John. Wow - this is unbelievable! We will spend more time this weekend checking out the website, and look forward to making a donation. Thank you so much for the support and condolences from the CHS Alumni Association!

Kymi Ingram-Baun

[NOTE: Kymi is the daughter of Ventris Ingram ‘54. Per the request of family friends, we added an obituary page so people can donate to CHSAA in honor of fallen eagles. See Marni’s Corner for detail.]
Don Aaland ‘46 (ASB Pres) has been gardening and enjoying family and grandchildren in the Great Northwest. “There are so many things I want to do at 93.”

Dallas “Dal” Amidon ‘58 recently retired. He celebrated 80th birthday this year and looking forward to some traveling.

Augie Antonino ‘62 has been living in Phoenix for the last 15 years and “missing the Seattle we grew up in.”

Don Ashmore ‘62 is an Associate Professor Emeritus at University of Tennessee and is spending retirement golfing, gardening, and volunteering in Maryville, Tennessee.

Bill W.R. Balzarini ‘62 is enjoying being active with Amateur-Radio hobby and Puget-Sound Garden-Railway-Society.

Bob Baugher ‘64 is teaching at Highline College and has created his own website: http://www.bobbaugher.com

Ruth (Fjarlie) Alford ‘64 is enjoying retirement living a “snowbird” lifestyle splitting time between Arizona and Washington.

Bev Akada ‘76 joined Costco Wholesale in 1984 and is an Assistant Vice President of Corporate Communications and Community Relations Departments.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Ben A. Wattum ‘55 After graduating from high school, I was accepted to the University of Washington. I was only 17 years old and felt very intimidated. My father passed away that summer, and I decided to go into the Army to avoid the draft. I ended up in the Alaska Communication System (ACS), which at the time was the AT&T of Alaska. I learned to type at a military school and was typing 85wpm without any mistakes. That’s how I ended up in Alaska. I was stationed in Anchorage U.S. Army Signal Corp (basically the Western Union of Alaska). This is where I met my Wife. She was the Alaska State Fair Queen.

On the left, the house, fiber mill center, and greenhouse on the right. The COVID-19 has affected the mill operation, but we have been able to keep employees with no layoffs.

After my discharge in December 1958, I took FCC tests in Seattle and obtained FCC license and began a career in the communications field. In May 1959, I returned to Alaska and have not looked back. My wife passed away in September 2017, and the whole purpose of life sort of really changed. I did a lot of television, gardening and just being by myself. My daughters visited and told me to get off my butt and do something.

I decided to move to Fairbanks where my youngest daughter has a small farm where she raises sheep and Alpaca and operates a commercial fiber mill called Coyote Trail Farm and Fiber Mill which my wife and I had helped her build in 2016. I built a new house on the property and I am in the process of moving from Palmer to Fairbanks.

I really feel privileged that my children and I get along so well and that they want to take care of me. I still can work a 10-hour day as there is plenty to do on the farm and the mill. The largest quantity of fiber we process is Musk Ox. But we have processed dog, bear, goat, moose, and not to be forgotten “reindeer”. In fact, we are probably the first and only mill that has processed reindeer.

Talk about living in a third world for cell coverage, we stand in front of a certain window to make and receive calls. For Internet service, we drive 8 miles to town and find a guest site that we can use. We are waiting for Elon Musk to get his satellite service up and running. If anyone has any influence, I could use the help. That’s all for now.

ALUMNI MEMORIES

Michael Nolan (Class of 1961) I started Cleveland Jr/Senior high school in September of 1955. My class became the “Last Six Year Class” of Cleveland High School as Mercer Junior High opened and housed 7th, 8th, and 9th graders during my sophomore year.

Our class had 300 students: 150 boys and 150 girls. Many of us still get together annually in Burien for dinner and great conversations.

What was great about being a six-year student during those years?

1) Only few families moved during those years.
2) No gangs
3) Lunch time serial movies and dancing in the girls’ gym.
4) We really liked our teachers. Several of my classmates called Mrs. B. Hansen “mom.”
5) Wonderful participation at athletic events and many athletes lettered in two or three sports
6) Early release to attend afternoon football games.
7) The annual school fair in two gyms, with games
I felt like I’d made a new friend but that I was also given a gift of time travel to spend a few minutes with my “dad” again. After speaking with Dale, I felt a kinship in having been cared for by men of such special character and decency—and also started to feel more at peace with my quest. I think that Uncle John would understand that my search for answers was just another way of staying connected to someone who had loved me so much and who had given me so much. Someone who I will miss forever.

But … the journey wasn’t quite over! A couple nights ago, I stumbled upon an old email with a link to online POW records I’d found several years ago. I brought up my uncle’s record, and then I backtracked to the search tool. I held my breath and typed in Murele’s name. Success!

I compared the records side by side but could not cross-check their unit numbers as Murele’s was blank. Arrgh! Then I paused. “Theatres” were listed for both men (a theatre is the area of capture). And … Uncle John had been captured in Holland; Murele had been captured in Germany. I scrolled down further, and … the same prison camp was listed for both. Wow.

So the theory about Murele carrying my uncle out of the camp was probably correct, after all.

In closing, I can’t say for sure that my “version” of such a long-ago chapter is totally accurate, but I’m fairly certain that my uncle made it out of that place because Murele Ipsen took the time to be a decent human being. –Because Murele Ipsen had been a soldier and a gentleman.

Summer is over; fall is around the corner. The days continue to move forward, and Mr. Ipsen may not have much time left in this world. But I choose to believe that John Duane will be ready and waiting to help him through the gates of the next one. Thank you, Mr. Murele Ipsen, for taking care of my uncle and making it possible for him to return home to us. You saved his life, and because of that, you saved mine. Finally, a special thank you to John Barton for joining me on this journey.

Editor’s note: This was a great story to work on because of the people who were involved.
We suggest that your donation include $15 to help defray our mailing expenses and publication costs. Please make your check payable to: **CHSAA or Cleveland High School Alumni Association**. Donations should be mailed to: **PO Box 94004, Seattle, WA 98124-9404**.

I would like to support the work of the Alumni Association with a donation as indicated below:

- Mailing expenses – ($15 suggested) $__________
- Alumni Association general fund $__________
- CHS Athletics $__________
- Memorial Forest activities $__________
- Annual Scholarships $__________
- Ed Landon Scholarships $__________
- Music Department $__________
- Other = __________________________ $__________

My Total Donation is $__________

**Alumni Donations totaling:**
- $100 - $199
- $200 - $499
- $500 - $999
- $1,000 - $4,999
- $5,000 - $9,999
- $10,000 plus

**Eagle 100 Club Designation:**
- Bronze Eagle
- Silver Eagle
- Golden Eagle
- Platinum Eagle
- Diamond Eagle
- Special Honors

Note: You may choose to make multiple donations over the course of a calendar year. Your name will be added to the Eagle 100 Club list if your cumulative total equals or exceeds $100.

Contributor Information: _____ Check here if you made a change in contact information.

Member #1 ___________________________ Class _____
Enter First (Maiden) and Last Name

Member #2 ___________________________ Class _____
Enter First (Maiden) and Last Name

Address: ________________________________

City ___________________________ State _____ Zip Code ___________

Telephone Number _______________________

My E-mail address is: ______________________________

CHSAA Contact Information:
Alumni Website: Check out the latest activities: **http://www.clevelandalumsea.org**
Alumni Passages: Please send death notices and obituaries to our Post Office Box listed below.

Attention - Membership Coordinator [or phone 425-830-3990 or email: chsaaboard@gmail.com]
Reunion Planning: Email chsaaboard@gmail.com or phone: 425-830-3990
Board Members: Call them directly by phone or email — See page 2 information

Cleveland High School Alumni Association, PO Box 94004, Seattle, WA 98124-9404
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

GO EAGLES !!!

CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement: A non-profit organization of Washington State and the United States 501(c)(3), this Association was founded for the exclusive purposes of: (1) preserving the Cleveland High School Memorial Forest in perpetuity to honor former Cleveland students who gave their lives in service to the United States of America, (2) supporting educational studies in forestry, ecology, botany and environmental studies of the forest, and (3) supporting and assisting the students and staff of Seattle’s Cleveland High School in their educational activities. Any individual who attended Grover Cleveland Junior or Senior High School is a member of the Cleveland High School Alumni Association.

Please help us keep the database current by sending a post office change of address form or by contacting the membership secretary when you move. To protect your privacy membership list is not distributed to anyone except for activities associated with the Alumni Association.

Volunteer Opportunities:
I would like to help build a strong alumni association. I am interested in the following:

_____ I can serve on the Board
_____ I can serve on a committee: Alumni Relations, Scholarships, Golf Scramble, Finance & Budget, Memorial, Fundraiser, Forest, Audit, Bylaws Review, and/or Nominations/Election
_____ I would like to help out with an event, activity, or a specific project
_____ I would like to help publish the newsletter
_____ I would like to help in some other way

Check out our Alumni website for the latest information on what is happening with the Alumni Association:
http://www.clevelandalumsea.org

Alumni Passages: Please send death notices and obituaries to our Post Office Box: Attention - Membership Coordinator
OPTIONS: Phone 425-830-3990 or email: chsaaboard@gmail.com