

Spring 2008



E-ALUMNI NEWS

www.victorschools.org

1959 Grad Is Named Victor Central Schools' 2008 Graduate of Distinction

*Author and
Newspaper Publisher
Lewis Fisher to Be
Honored*



When Lewis F. Fisher graduated from Victor Central High School in 1959 the quote he chose to be printed beside his photo read: "Who costs to write a line, must sweat." It seems that Mr. Fisher has lived these words well.

After graduating from Victor Schools, Mr. Fisher received a bachelor's degree from Allegheny College and a master's from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. He was a captain in the U.S. Air Force, serving in Izmir, Turkey and Wiesbaden, Germany.

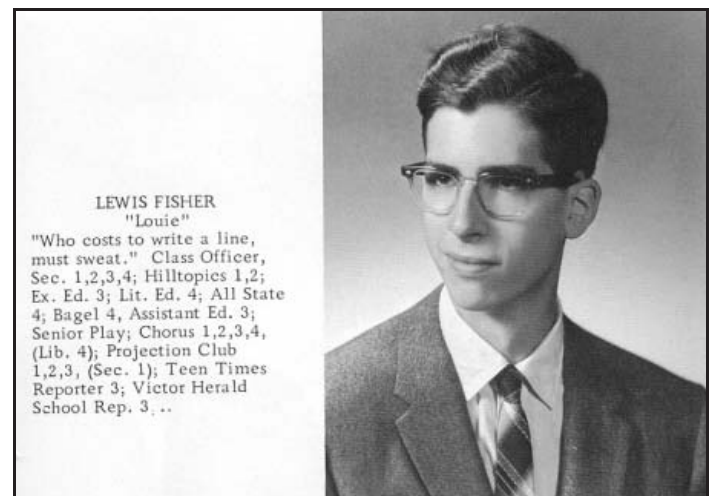
After working as a reporter for the San Antonio *Express-News*, he left in 1971 to establish *The North San Antonio Times*, which grew into a group of ten suburban weekly newspapers that he published for 21 years. He was elected president of Suburban Newspapers of America for 1988–89. His Maverick Publishing Company has published more than 30 general interest

books on San Antonio and Texas, ranging from San Antonio place names and great motorcycle rides to a guide to Texas wines. He has received numerous local, regional, state and national citations for newspaper editorials and column writing plus the Texas Society of Architects John G. Flowers Award and the Friends of the San Antonio Public Library Arts and Letters Award.

Fisher is the author of nine books about San Antonio, among them *Saving San Antonio: The Precarious Preservation of a Heritage*, *San Antonio: Outpost of Empires*, *The Spanish Missions of San Antonio*, and *River Walk: The Epic Story of San Antonio's River*, which in 2007 received the Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Regional Book from, The Independent Book Publishers Association.

He is also the author of *Victor: The History of a Town*, written in 1996 and reviewed in *New York History*

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LEWIS FISHER
"Louie"

"Who costs to write a line, must sweat." Class Officer, Sec. 1,2,3,4; Hilltopics 1,2; Ex. Ed. 3; Lit. Ed. 4; All State 4; Bagel 4, Assistant Ed. 3; Senior Play; Chorus 1,2,3,4, (Lib. 4); Projection Club 1,2,3, (Sec. 1); Teen Times Reporter 3; Victor Herald School Rep. 3, ..



Superintendent Timothy J. McElberan presents Mr. Mandrino with his diploma.

A Diploma for Life *“Operation Recognition”* **Honors Local Resident** **and WWII Veteran** **Anthony Mandrino**

He was drafted by the U.S. Army one month after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor but instead of seeking an exemption for being an integral part of his father’s farm, where he had been working since leaving Victor schools following eighth grade, 21-year-old Anthony Mandrino followed his patriotic heart and left the safety and serenity of his winter job at Victor Insulators and family farm to “see a little adventure.”

It turns out he saw more than a little adventure; he lived it.

This past winter, at the November Board of Education meeting, 87 year-old World War II veteran and community member Anthony Mandrino lived yet another adventure when he received a Victor High School diploma for the knowledge and experience he gained during his three year-long WWII journey. It was all a part

of a New York State Education Department program called “Operation Recognition” which honors veterans of WWII, the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War who were unable to complete their high school educations for any reason.

After being drafted in 1942, he spent two years stateside, including some time in the California desert where he trained to fight in Africa. When the fighting ended there, Mr. Mandrino’s 32nd Armored Regiment was sent overseas to fight the good fight. There, he drove a four man armored car across a war-torn Europe where he lost many of his regiment along the way at some of

the bloodiest battles, including the infamous Battle of the Bulge. During this confrontation, Mr. Mandrino narrowly escaped execution by the Germans. One of the platoons in his division who took an alternate route was not so lucky.

Mr. Mandrino took part in five WWII campaigns in all: Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He turned down a Purple Heart because he felt that a shrapnel wound to his left arm was minor compared to the wounds suffered by so many of his comrades. Through it all, he stayed in constant correspondence with his young wife, Florence, whom he met while working at Victor Insulators and later married when she visited him at Fort Polk, Louisiana in 1942. When all was said and done and the War was finally over, Mr. Mandrino was honorably discharged in October, 1945 and returned to help his father and younger brother on the family farm.

Today, Anthony Mandrino, his wife of 65 years and his new diploma live on his New Michigan Road ranch in Farmington – just a mile down the road from the farmhouse where he was born and raised and a world away from the War that took him on the adventure of a lifetime. ■



Mr. Mandrino is shown with his family. It was Mr. Mandrino’s children who learned about “Operation Recognition” and gathered the necessary paperwork for the diploma.

Victor's "Number One Fan" Gave Us Much to Cheer About *Ken Weigert Leaves His Post on the VCS Board of Education after 33-years of Service*

When Ken Weigert vacates his post on Victor Schools Board of Education this July he will leave more than 33 years of hard work and dedication in his tracks, he will leave a legacy that has touched thousands of students, teachers, staff and administrators. Through the years, this tireless leader, known as "Victor's Number One Fan", has played a monumental role in the growth and development of the district. It is safe to say, Mr. Weigert has seen it all —and, then some. After all, he graduated from Victor Schools in 1950 with just 32 students in his class. (The current class of 2008 has 275 students graduating.)

When he was a freshman in High School there were only 2 sports at Victor Schools, basketball and baseball. He played both of them. (Today, there are more than 80 sports at Victor including Modified, JV and Varsity levels.)

In 1948, Ken was the only freshman who played Junior Varsity Basketball. Back then, seniors played JV too. In 2007, Ken Weigert was inducted into the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame.

Mr. Weigert's roots in Victor as a student, athlete, parent, grandparent and businessman are what made his role on the Victor Board of Education so invaluable. He not only understood what the

*Ken Weigert
and his #1 fan
and wife of 52
years, Ann.*



community wanted and needed, but he also lived it. As cliché as it sounds, Ken Weigert's record on the Board of Education really does speak for itself.

In his 33 years of service on the Board of Education, Ken served as President for two years, Vice President for three years, and second Vice President for nine years. He worked with 39 different board members and six superintendents to accomplish great things for our students. ■

Major School Projects, Programs and Policies Accomplished during Weigert's Leadership:

2/27/68

Approved purchase of land on Lane Road to construct bus garage

10/8/68

Erect a new school building for use as Intermediate School

6/2/70

Passed participation of high school girls interscholastic program for the 1970-1971 school year

10/20/70

Approve Football Field and Track construction by way of a change order for \$63,478.50

3/9/72

Approved addition to the Senior High School which included the swimming pool

12/6/72

"The legal name of our school to be changed from District Number 1, Towns of Victor, Farmington, E. Bloomfield in Ontario County, Perinton In Monroe County Victor Central School" be amended to read just "Victor Central School".

3/14/74

Football field named Corbit Field upon the retirement of Alton B. Corbit

12/20/76

Construct new cafeteria and gymnasium in the Junior High School (now the VEC)

5/14/97

Approved capital project for Junior High School to be added onto the Senior High School as well as improvements to the District athletic fields.

12/18/00

New wing on Senior High School

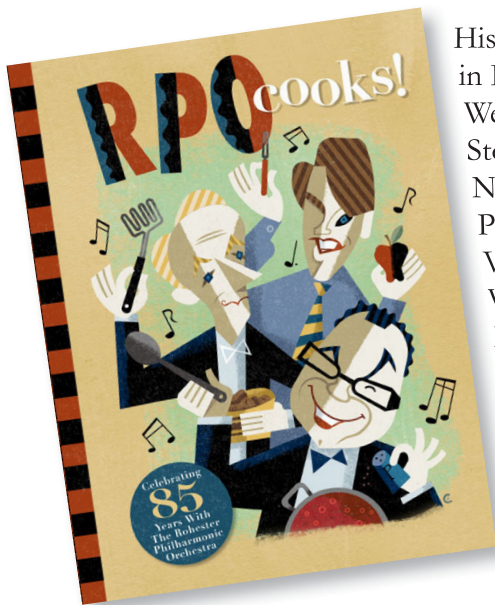
12/20/04

New auditorium, auxiliary gym, new wing on Junior High, new wing in Intermediate Building, VEC wing, updates to Primary School

9/7/07

Capstone project which will include addition to intermediate school cafeteria as well as turf on football field

David Cowles Adds a Dash of Artistry To Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra Cookbook



His work has appeared in Entertainment Weekly, Rolling Stone, Vibe, Time, Newsweek, Playboy, People, The Village Voice, Money, Worth, Fortune, Fast Company, Los Angeles Magazine, New York Magazine, The Boston Globe, The Chicago Tribune, The

New York Times, The New Republic and Vanity Fair, to name just a few. Now Victor alumna David Cowles' (class of 1979) illustration work can be found on the cover of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's new cookbook, RPO Cooks!

Victor resident and RPO musician Olita Povera said that having David Cowles do their cookbook cover was "the icing on the cake."

"For fans of his artwork the book stands alone as a collector's item. His caricatures of our three conductors (Christopher Seaman, Jeff Tyzik and Michael Buttermann) are spot-on. It just looks hip!" she said.

RPO Cooks! is a culinary portrait of RPO musicians, RPO League members and staff. The book features 215 mouth watering recipes that range from heart healthy entrees and sinful desserts to fast fixings and more complex cuisine. Povera says every recipe was tested and tasted before being put in the book. "We had nine tasting events over the course of 2 years," she said.

When you are finished whipping up a recipe from RPO Cooks! be sure to check out your former classmate and professional illustrator, David Cowles' web site at www.youllputyoureyeout.com/cowles

It REALLY cooks!

A special collection of some of David Cowles' work will be on display at the Victor Public Library during the month of June. ■

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Victor Central School District is seeking nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame Program. Any individual can nominate a potential candidate by completing a Hall of Fame nomination application. Applications are available on the school district website at www.victorschools.org or contact Ron Whitcomb, VCS Director of Athletics at (585) 924-3252 ext. 1461 or whitcombr@victorschools.org.

Through nomination and committee selection, the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame will recognize individuals who fall under any of the following categories:

- 1. Athletes:** Individuals who were athletes in the Victor Senior High School and have been graduated a minimum of ten years.
- 2. Coaches:** Individuals who have made a significant and extraordinary contribution to the Victor Athletic program.
- 3. Honorary:** An honorary candidate must have made a significant impact on Victor athletics and/or on sectional, regional, state, national, professional, administration or international levels of athletes. The honorary category may include but not be limited to counselors, faculty managers, scoreboard/book operators, cheerleading coaches, as well as local community supporters.

The Hall of Fame was established in order to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and Blue Devil supporters. Through recognition, those individuals and their families will be reconnected with Victor Central School providing current student athletes with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of Blue Devil athletes. ■

continued from cover story

Magazine as "an eminently readable and authoritative history of the town, a balanced study."

Mr. Fisher will be formally recognized at a special Graduates of Distinction breakfast ceremony on Sunday, June 29 at 9:00 a.m. at DiPacifics restaurant in Farmington, N.Y. Following the reception, he will join the class of 2008 as they process to their graduation ceremony at the Constellation Brands-Marvin Sands Performing Arts Center at Finger Lakes Community College at 12:00 p.m.

The Graduate of Distinction program was initiated in 2002 as a way to recognize VCS alumnus who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and made significant contributions to society. ■

VCS Bids a Fine Farewell to 2008 Retirees

They have shaped the lives of thousands of students through the years by teaching, counseling and coordinating. Some of them stood at the front of the classroom everyday, others worked diligently behind the scenes. Whatever their role, they did it with heart. They did it with excellence. They did it for our students. They will be missed.

Early Childhood Education Center:

Rebecca Wrenn Jones, 1974-2008, Elementary Teacher

Bonnie A. Lew, 1985-2007, Teacher Aide

Victor Primary School:

Linda A. Sheehan, 1993-2008, Elementary Teacher

Elizabeth D. Herendeen, 1987-2007, Elementary Teacher

Victor Intermediate School:

Linda Sachs, 1975-2008, Elementary Teacher

Marianne S. Naylor, 1978-2008, Elementary Teacher

Victor Junior High School:

Vincent P. Yacobellis, 1979-2008, Special Education Teacher

Brian P. Wolf, 1974-2008, Technology Teacher

Ellen Lester, 1983-2008, Guidance Counselor

Victor Senior High School:

Kathy L. Wright, 1983-2008, Library Clerk

District Office:

Kathleen M. Holahan, 1994-2007, Substitute Caller

MESSAGES FROM NEAR AND FAR

Following our November E-Alumni News, we received several messages from alumni and wanted to share them with you.

Richard Fisher, class of 2001

Submitted by his sister, Jamie (Fisher) Jewell on 11/22/07.

I would like to call attention to my brother's service in the Marines.

He started boot camp at Parris Island and graduated with honors. From there, he went to a Marine barracks in Washington, D.C. First he was the Non-Commissioned Officer in charge of the firing party (21 gun salute) given to each and every Marine buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He also performed in several parades in front of thousands of spectators and many key government officials. He was in the Honor Guard for President Reagan's funeral. At the completion of his tour there he received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding leadership while serving as a squad leader, platoon guide and platoon sergeant. In November, 2005, he received orders to 2nd tank Battalion Tow Platoon in Camp Lejeune, N.C. There, he trained for five months before being deployed to Fallujah Iraq. His unit was in charge of conducting daily security patrols from 10 miles west of Baghdad to 10 miles east of Ramadi. He was there for 210 days, only four of which he had "off" and didn't have to go on patrol. When he arrived home on October 31, 2006 he was promoted to Sergeant and awarded a Navy and Marine Medal with a combat "V" for Valor. He received it due to heroic efforts and steadfast leadership in several engagements throughout his deployment. He spent

the next five months of his enlistment preparing to come home to civilian life. He is now home, bought a house in Fairport and is working for Liberty Mutual as a licensed salesman. We are so proud of him and of ALL of the men and women that serve our country everyday. We are so lucky that he made it home when so many of our servicemen did not.

Shelly Roden, Class of 1991

Submitted on 11/19/07.

After I graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Ithaca College in '96 I left New York for Los Angeles to explore a career in film. I worked my way through the post-production sound end of it and became a self-taught Foley-Artist, a person who creates sound effects for films on a recording stage after the film has been shot. My credits are listed on my website:

www.geocities.com/srodenfoley

My job involves watching the movie on a screen and performing footsteps in sync with the actors or embellishing the production sound by manipulating a prop such as a diner plate and silverware in sync with the actions on the screen. It's very focused, intense, physical and creative. Eventually, my husband and I will want to move away from Los Angeles and explore a quieter life, and becoming a teacher is one possibility for me.

Dan Becker, Class of 1982 SMSgt, USAF Chief, Morale and Welfare Activities HQ ISAF, Kabul, Afghanistan

Submitted on 11/19/07.

Thanks! This is a great newsletter! I especially enjoyed reading about those folks serving their country in Iraq. I myself am currently deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan. I arrived in June and will be staying here through Thanksgiving, Christmas and possibly New Years. I support an International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) at the Headquarters Support Group by providing fitness and recreation

programs and activities. The base is composed of military personnel from 37 different nations and is organized under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). I have personnel from Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, Afghanistan, South Africa and the United States working for me. It is quite a cultural learning experience!

I am one of the class of 1982 and have been in the Air Force since 1983. I will reach my 25th year of service in April and am currently a Senior Master Sergeant. My job at my current permanent assignment is in Grand Forks, North Dakota where I serve as the Mission Support and Services Squadron Superintendent. Please keep providing us with this wonderful information. It's nice to hear about the things that are going on back home when you can't be there.

Send Us Your News

If you are an alumnus of Victor Central Schools, we encourage you to e-mail us at alumni@victorschools.org. Feel free to tell us about accomplishments or events in your life such as a wedding, birth of a child or grandchild. Whether or not you have visited campus lately, participated in a recent alumni event, or browsed our directory, you are sure to find information instrumental in helping you maintain a connection to your alma matter and other Victor graduates.

VICTOR
CENTRAL
SCHOOLS
113TH
ALUMNI
BANQUET



DiPacifcs Restaurant & Party House
1259 Routes 332 and 96, Farmington, NY 14425

Sunday, June 8, 2008
6 p.m. Cocktails, 7 p.m. Dinner

*for reservations call Ken at 924-2944,
Kathleen at 924-7982, or Mike at 924-8169*

VCS Class of 2008
Graduation Ceremony

featuring a new time

Sunday, June 29, 2008
12:00 pm

*Constellation Brands - Marvin Sands
Performing Arts Center
at Finger Lakes Community College*



BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*Timothy J. McElheran
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Director of Special Projects and Programs*

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alumni@victorschools.org