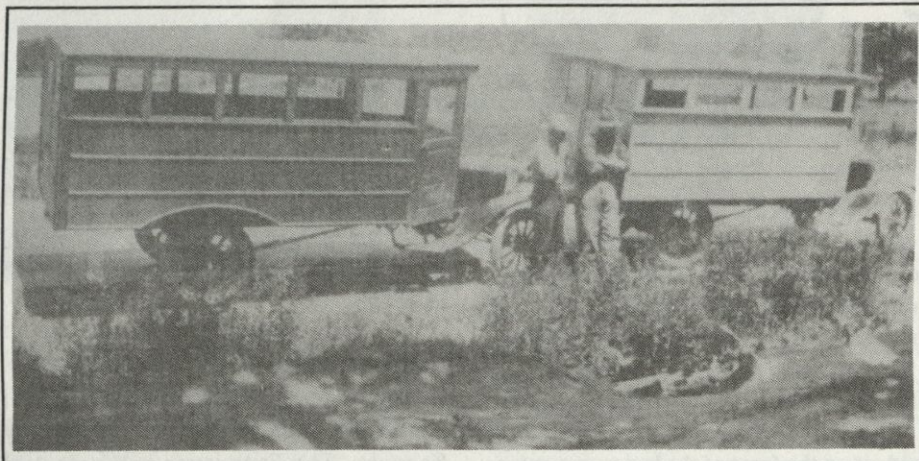


Bobcat Alumni Banner

• Grand Blanc High School • 12500 South Holly Road • Grand Blanc, MI 48439 •

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School

Let The Buses Roll



THE FIRST TWO BUSES in the Grand Blanc School system get ready for their runs. That's Walter Conquest, left and John A. Gainey, who made the buses with Ford chasses he bought from Russ Yerkey for \$500 apiece.

Ford Motor Company may have made the engines, but John Gainey did the carpenter work as back in the 20's Grand Blanc went into the school bus business.

Gainey was a farmer, but he was also a carpenter who put round roofs on many of the barns in Genesee County, and he also covered the south and west end of the Township for the school district. His son John D. Gainey who has lived in Grand Blanc all his 72 years, brought in the picture.

He remembers the day the new

buses first ran the route to the school. "Up till then they used to pick up the kids in buggies," he said. Gainey is retired from the Fisher One.

The other bus driver was Walter Conquest (the grandfather of veterinarian Doc Conquest) who made the west and north route.

George Chappel, another farmer picked up the rest of the township.

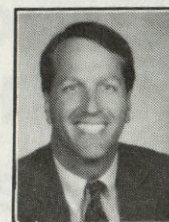
(Article from the Grand Blanc News, ca. 1980) - Submitted by John Schlaud

Four Generations of Dedication

A recent interview with Debbie (Armor) Hancock, Class of 1981, proved quite extraordinary. Debbie, elected to the Grand Blanc Board of Education last June, is not only a third-generation student of the Grand Blanc school system, she is also the third generation of her family providing service to the Grand Blanc educational system.

A few years ago, Debbie's son, Josh Hancock, Class of 2006, had an opportunity to record an interview with his great-grandmother, Virginia Baumbach for a class project. Some of the information following is from that conversation with Virginia and her memories of attending school in Grand Blanc.

(Continued on page 4)



A Message from the President

Charlie Carmody
Alumni President, '80

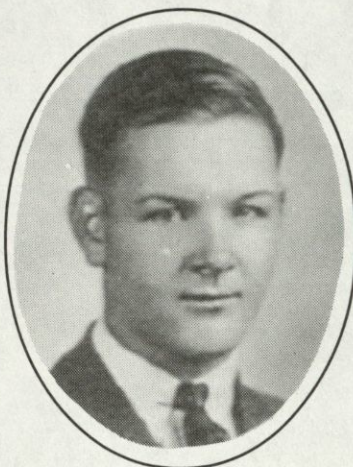
Hello GBHS Alums!

Your Alumni Association has been busy in the last six months with a number of projects that will help former Bobcats stay in touch with one another. This Alumni Banner is a product of the hard work of your Board of Directors - we hope you enjoy reading it, and will continue your support for your Alumni Association.

We have updated our website to include a vast array of information for you. Check it out - - hswww.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us - - then hit the "Alumni" icon. Information is available on the following topics: reunions, alumni messages, alumni email database, Homecoming 2002 (October 18th), Alumni Marching Band gathering, Alumni Football outing, class websites, Alumni Cheerleading gathering, old year-books for sale, vintage films for sale, old Alumni Banners, alumni meetings, Bobcat souvenirs, Alumni Baseball gathering, and retired GBHS teachers. You can call us too at (810) 591-7378.

In addition, we have framed and hung more class composite pictures in Alumni Hall. This ongoing project will include the graduating class pictures for each class from 1927 to the present. We will continue to acquire, frame and hang composites each year, as the funds become available, until this project is completed.

Once again, thank you so much for your support of our Alumni Association. You are always welcome to join us for our monthly meetings (May 1st is our next one), send us a Banner story idea, or suggest additional ways the Alumni Association can help GBHS grads stay in touch.



Gordon C. Pearson 1942

Faces From The Past



Florence (Drews) Pearson 1945

Gordon Pearson, Class of 1942, and Florence Drews, Class of 1945, were married in June, 1947. Last year they celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary.

Remembering his days in school, Gordon recalled that in the 1930's Grand Blanc had Model T and Model A school buses. Since there were no defrosters, he remembers Mr. Hoeksma, the bus driver, having a bag of salt to rub on the windshield to keep it from freezing.

Gordon also recollects that one boy would sit on the front of the bus to get out at all railroad crossings. The lad would walk to the tracks and look in both directions to ensure no trains were coming.

Sadly, Gordon Pearson passed away February 15, 2002, in Almito, Texas. A "Celebration of Life" service will be held beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2002. This will take place at the Sharp Funeral Home and Cremation Center, 6060 Fenton Rd., Flint, Michigan. This is located just south of Hill Rd. Visitation will begin at 12:00 noon until time of service.

Grand Blanc Educational Foundation

*Proud supporters of your
Alumni Association*

Once again, the Alumni Association is thankful for the financial support from the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation. The Foundation helps underwrite the cost of this Alumni Banner, and other Alumni projects. Your contributions to the Alumni Association allow us to repay the Foundation, and fund our other projects,

The Foundation is made up of community volunteers that raise and distribute funds to enhance the educational program of the Grand Blanc Community Schools. The Foundation earns most of its operating funds through its Annual Duck Race - contested each summer at the Grand Blanc Summer Festival, through Bobcat souvenir sales, and through donations. Over the past couple of years, the Foundation has given generously to the educational programs in Grand Blanc. They have purchased digital cameras for elementary classrooms, sent groups of students sailing on a science cruise up the Saginaw River, purchased CAD/CAM equipment for the high school, and exposed middle school students to the performing arts and character education through the "Mustard's Retreat" program.

With great pride, the Foundation congratulates the Grand Blanc Community Schools on the academic accomplishments of its students over the past year. They include: the highest MEAP scores in Genesee County, winning the Governor's Cup award for the second year in a row (based on best MEAP scores), and for having the second highest number \$2500 MEAP scholarship recipients in Michigan.

The Foundation invites former
(Continued on page 3)

Lessons From A Goose

As a bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for others behind it. There is 71% more flying range in V-formation than flying alone.

Lesson: People who share a common direction and sense of purpose can get there quicker.

When ever a goose flies out of formation it quickly feels a drag and tries to get back into position.

Lesson: It's harder to do something alone than together.

When the lead goose gets tired it rotates back into formation and another goose flies at the head.

Lesson: Shared leadership and interdependence gives us a chance to lead, as well as opportunities to rest.

The geese in formation honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Lesson: We need to make sure our honking is encouraging, and not discouraging.

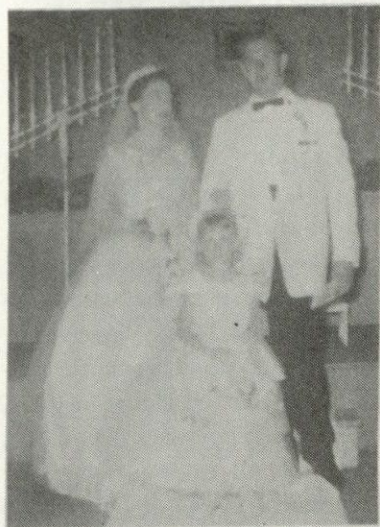
When a goose gets sick or wounded and galls, two geese fall out and stay with it until it revives or dies. Then they catch up or join another flock.

Lesson: Stand by your colleagues in difficult times, as well as in good.

Submitted By Brenda (Peterman) Debus "Class of 1957")

MARRIED ALUMNI

CLASSMATES
Phyllis Passmore and
Jack (Monk) Richardson
Class of 1956



Jack and Phyllis started going together in the seventh grade. They had their first kiss after a football game behind the school (now Perry Center). Jack played football all through school and in 1955 was the first football player from Grand Blanc to make

All-State. Later in life, he was assistant football coach at Holy Family School for six years.

After graduating in 1956, they married October 5, 1957. Classmates, Judy Nyman and Frank Harris were Maid of Honor and Best Man at the wedding. This year, they will celebrate 45 years of married life. They still live in the Grand Blanc area. Jack and Frank were co-captains of their football team.

Jack enlisted in the Army under the buddy system with classmate Joe Banfield but after entering the service they were in the same unit but in different barracks. After serving three years, Jack hired into Grand Blanc Fisher Body as an apprentice in Tool and Die in 1959. Later, he went on supervision and retired as a General Supervisor in Tool and Die. Dick Cadd and Jack started Kindergarten in Grand Blanc together and retired from the same plant together on the same day in 1993.

After retirement, Jack started wood carving and has done some very intricate carvings. One, for example is a 36" carving of Barry Sanders in a running position. Phyllis paints the carvings and also does tole painting. Jack also does needlepoint, and pen & ink drawings. He has almost never missed a GB football game since graduating. Phyllis is on the Grand Blanc Education Foundation Board. Jack credits Jack Pratt and Frank Thomas for his life and love of Grand Blanc Football. He also loves Joe Pitock and Charlie Carmody for their help and support. Jack had a sextuple heart by-pass in April, 2001.

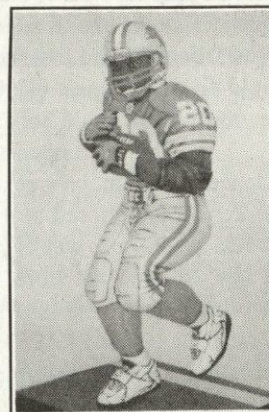
Phyllis and Jack attend Grand Blanc Methodist Church.

Phyllis and Monk have two daughters, Heidi and Holly. Heidi is married to Doug Lang and they have two sons, Ross and Blake, who attend GB. Ross and Blake will play Varsity football for GB this fall! Holly married Steve Thomason, son of Coy Thomason, (GB class of '54) and has a son Alex.

Phyllis and Jack have had ten nieces and nephews attend GB Schools through Jack's brothers and Phyllis' sister. Phyllis' older sister, Pat, married her classmate Bob Connelly '51. Jack's brother, Jim '51, married Joann Daenzer '54, now deceased. Their other brother, Charles '53, now deceased, married Jean Barrow '54.

As you can see, this truly is a Grand Blanc school family!!!

- Submitted by John Schlaud



Grand Blanc Educational Foundation

(Continued from page 2)

students to tour the Perry and High School buildings as part of their class reunions. The Perry Building has wonderful old memories to relive, and the High School has Alumni Hall and the Trophy room to visit.

For more information about the school tours, Duck Race tickets, Bobcat souvenirs, or the Foundation in general, call us at (810) 591-6014, or find us on the web at www.grand-blanc.k12.mi.us, and hit the "Educational Foundation" icon.

BoKay Ice Cream

Do you remember: "The BoKay Ice Cream Store?" It was located on Saginaw Street, one block north of Grand Blanc Road; next to the Top Hat Bar-Restaurant and the Shell Oil Company station and across from Cecil's Standard station.

In June of 1953 my mother and I took the Greyhound bus into Flint; and we got my working paper; age 14, so I could apply for a job at "The BoKay", owned by Theron and Mickey Riley.

I filled out my papers; and was hired for the summer. I had to hold a sugar cone in my hand (very carefully) and apply five (5) dips to it. Vanilla (white) Chocolate (brown) Cherry (pink) and Orange-Pineapple (orange) ice cream and Lime (green) sherbet. Pretty soon I was holding 3 cones and applying color all around. I soon found out that not everybody was able to do that. They would hold the cones too tight, and crush one or more of the cones while applying the ice cream. Many people quit before the end of their first day, out of frustration. By the first week I was able to hold five (5) cones. (That was the maximum that you could hold safely.)

The store opened at 10 a.m. and closed at 10 p.m. on weekends and opened at 2 p.m. and closed at 9 p.m. during the week. Within two weeks I was trusted with a key, to open the store. I was thrilled. I was very responsible. My brother, John Peterman (Class of 1959) accused me of cheating him. (He still reminds me of my frugility.) I didn't want anybody to think that I treated him any different, just because he was my brother; so I gave him the same amount on his cone as I did everybody else. He says that his cone was smaller (It really wasn't). He just wanted more.

The Grand Blanc BoKay Ice Cream Store was also a factory with a big ice cream maker and a large storage freezer in a large room in the back of the store. They made real ice cream and had real fruit in the cherry and Orange-Pineapple ice cream. They made the different flavors and froze them on the premises. There was a BoKay Ice Cream Store on North Saginaw near Hamilton Avenue, that the Rileys used as their main office. They had a BoKay Ice



Brenda Dianne Debus

Cream Store on Third Avenue and also one on Welch Boulevard.

Sometimes when I opened up on weekends, there were people waiting at the door for me to serve them ice cream. On warm days during the weekends, I would have long lines out the door and out to the main sidewalk all day. Some people would make the drive from as far south as Toledo, Ohio, just for a cone. I would remember them from year to year. Sometimes I would pack those five dips of ice cream into quart containers, and it would be like rainbow ice cream.

We didn't have any complaints.

I worked at the BoKay Ice Cream Store summers, all through my high school years. Theron and Mickey Riley were very good to me those four years; giving me raises and bonuses in my wages. I was good to them, too.

Mr. Riley came every night and took money away, so I never had to worry about being robbed. I never was. The next summer, after graduation; I tried working there. It wasn't the same. There had been a lot of changes. The Riley's tried to retire; and sold their stores to a family man from the Detroit area. They cut back on the flavor and the fruit of the ice cream and we were instructed to make the cones smaller; and, the prices went up! There was a lot of pressure by the new owners, and I didn't stay long. I heard later that the new owners went bankrupt and the Riley's got the stores back. A couple of years later the BoKay Store and the Top Hat Bar-Restaurant was bought out and the Citizens Bank and parking lot went into their location.

- Brenda Debus

Four Generations of Dedication

(Continued from page 1)

Virginia (Nelson) Baumbach, Class of 1931, was the first generation in her family to attend Grand Blanc schools. Virginia moved to the area during her eighth grade. One of the reasons the Nelson family located to Grand Blanc, Virginia says, was so that she and her siblings could complete elementary through high school here. Many school districts, in those days, did not have a high school. Parents wanting their children to complete their education had to send them to another district. That was very costly.



Virginia (Nelson) Baumbach
Class of 1931

Virginia, who passed away in 1997, recalled serving the school district working as a cashier during lunch hour. She laughingly said, "I would have to untie the smaller children's kerchiefs for their lunch money, and retie the same kerchief with their change."

She remembered the Study Hall being a large room on the third floor of the old high school. "It had several reference books available," Virginia said, "for students to complete their homework. This room also served as a library."

Talking about homework, Virginia felt enough time was allowed for most students so they would not have to take work home. "However," Virginia laughs, "some students would use that time to mess around and get in trouble! Then they would end

(Continued on page 5)

Four Generations of Dedication

(Continued from page 4)

up having to take their schoolwork home!"

The only foreign language offered at the high school was Latin, and the music class was great if you could sing. "Those that couldn't sing," Virginia grimaces, "didn't have much fun. The only thing the music class did was sing."

Noting this was the time of the Great Depression, Virginia tells of having to wear the same clothes for an entire week. "You removed your school clothes as soon as you got home from school," Virginia admonished, "and put on your work clothes to do the chores. The next morning I would cover my dress with an apron before going to school."

Virginia then spoke about "Snow Days." "Why, there wasn't no such thing as a "Snow Day", Virginia laughed, "If the snow was too deep for a school bus, somebody would hitch a horse to a wagon and pick up the children to take them to school!"

Virginia's daughter, Carol (Baumbach) Armor, Class of 1961, was



Debbie Hancock with her mother, Carol Armor, photo from 1984

the second generation to attend Grand Blanc. While in high school, Carol was involved with FHA (Future Homemakers of America). Carol married in 1962, a year after graduating, and later gave birth to a daughter, Debbie Armor, Class of 1981, and Robert Armor, Class of

1984. Robert currently lives in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area working for an investment firm.

Years later Carol (Baumbach) Armor worked in the cafeteria at Reid Elementary then later served as a custodian for the Grand Blanc school district. Carol also worked at Palace Jewelers in Grand Blanc. This store was owned and operated by Robert Baumbach, Carol's father, and located in the Hamady Plaza.

Sadly, Carol died of breast cancer in 1984, at the age of 40.

One of the first things Debbie (Armor) Hancock, Class of 1981, the third generation in her family to attend Grand Blanc, mentions when remembering her high school days is walking between the two campuses that existed at the time.

"Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, or hail..." Debbie laughs explaining that the Class of 1981 had over 600 students. She doesn't remember how many total students were in the high school, only that there was always somebody trudging between the two buildings.

Discussing her favorite teachers, Debbie recalls Mrs. Charlotte Kipp, her fifth grade instructor at Reid Elementary. Debbie also discusses how Mr. Gene Dolby, one of her sixth grade teachers at Perry Jr. High, and Senora Jackson, her Spanish teacher at GBHS, had great influence on her life.

After high school, Debbie (Armor) Hancock attended Cedarville University, near Dayton, Ohio. Debbie says that the University was actually smaller than Grand Blanc High School.

Besides being the starting pitcher on the University's softball team, and meeting her future husband, Keith Hancock, Debbie earned her BA in Elementary Education and Early Childhood in 1985.

Debbie was the Lead Teacher at U-of-M Day Care for three years, 1986-1989. Her son Joshua Hancock,

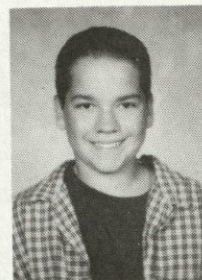
was born in 1988, and her daughter, Carolann in 1989. It was then that Debbie decided to be a full-time mom. Shortly thereafter, Keith's work took the family from Grand Blanc to Tecumseh, Michigan, for a brief period. The Hancock family returned in 1994 so that Josh and Carolann could attend Grand Blanc schools.

Besides volunteering, and being active on many various committees, Debbie served four years as PTO Treasurer at Reid.

In March, 2001, Debbie (Armor) Hancock was appointed to the seat vacated by Jeff Zittel on the Grand Blanc School Board. Later, in June of that year, Debbie was elected to serve a four-year term on the Board.

Following in their mother's dedication to the community, Debbie and Keith's children, the fourth generation of this family, have shown their desire to be involved in extra-curricular activities. Josh Hancock Class of 2006, has been involved in Quiz Bowl and Lego League. Carolann, Class of 2007, is Co-Editor of the Middle School newspaper and is presently serving on a Strategy Team for the District's Strategic Plan. Carolann has also been a part of three productions at the Flint Youth Theater.

We eagerly look forward to the legacy this family, and their future generations, will leave on Grand Blanc.



Josh Hancock
Class of 2006



Carolann Hancock
Class of 2007

...Alumni Messages...

Reunions: -

Class of 1941 - October 6, 2002 - Contact Jeanice (Brooks) Miller at (810) 653-0573.
Class of 1952 - September 28-29, 2002 - Contact John Schlaud at (810) 694-9240.
Class of 1953 - Contact Phyliss (810) 694-6571 or Lola (810) 735-7974.
Class of 1977 - July 12-14, 2002 - Contact Jill Kennedy at jefffan@bellsouth.net.
Class of 1982 - August 3, 2002 - Contact Gregg Mulholland at (810) 591-6504.
Class of 1992 - August 5, 2002 - Contact Melissa Graham at (810) 694-9075.

Messages: -

Class of 1974 - are we having a 30 year reunion?? Phil Myrick
Looking for friends 1979 - 1981 - Stacy Sharpe and Mary Chalker - from Cheryl Gruel.
Looking for Tim Roche and Kelly Whalen - from Shawn Spomer - shawn164@hotmail.com
Lost friends - T. Skwirsk, S. McAllister, S. Hamper - from Corbett - corbe05@attglobal.net
Class of 1960 - Great to see you at the 40 year reunion - Vada (Bryant) Riederich.
1979 Grads - love to hear from you - Phil Montpas - pike79@tir.com
Class of 1984- want to hear from you - Todd Honch - thonchmqt@excite.com
Class of 1956 - see you at our 50th reunion in 2006 - Max Rockafellow.
Class of 1972 - Janice, Julie, Seyda - hope you guys are doing well - Marilyn Hart.

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