

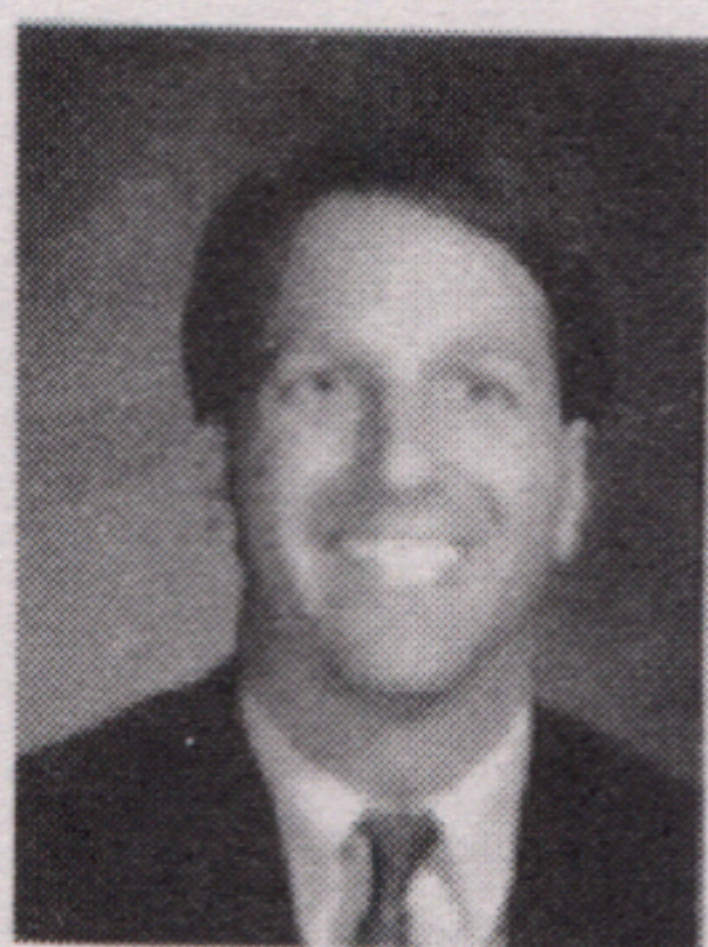
Bobcat *Alumni* Banner

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School



11920 S. Saginaw St.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Volume III, Number 1



A message from the President

Charlie Carmody '80

**Help! This could
be the last issue
of the Alumni Newsletter.**

We are so grateful to many of you who have supported us over the last three years—Thank You! But it costs approximately \$6000 each time we send our 14,000 graduates the newsletter. The Grand Blanc Educational Foundation and alumni contributions have funded the semi-annual Alumni Bobcat Banner since its inception. However, we can't afford to continue to print and send to all of our graduates. Future editions will only be mailed to our contributing members. We plan to produce at least two newsletters each year for those faithful Bobcats with the resources we continue to receive. Just donate to the Alumni Association and we'll continue to send you the best from GBHS.

- Do you have good memories from your years at GBHS?
- Do you want to rekindle some of those old acquaintances?
- Do you want to be a part of developing a link for all graduates from 1920 to the present? **Join us:**

**Alumni Association Meeting
January 7 (14th in case of snow)
7pm in Room 300 at the high school**

We need your help to plan our next newsletter, form a local board of directors and plan future events. For more information call or fax us at 810-695-7378.

"Batch" legacy honored by daughter

Donna Joan Kifer '45, daughter of former Grand Blanc teacher and coach, Donald Batchelor, has contributed assets of a value of \$5000 to the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation in memory of her father, "Batch."

Batch came to Grand Blanc in 1929, and enhanced the lives of students over a period touching five decades. He taught a full schedule of classes while coaching football, basketball and baseball. He became Athletic Director in 1950, and continued to remain active in sports even after he retired in 1961. The athletic field behind Perry Center was named in his honor.

Those coached by Batch will recall his fairness and desire to give everyone a chance. Those taught by him, particularly the science classes, will recall his enthusiastic approach, practical demonstrations and constant advice to "observe your surroundings."

Among Batch's peers were Edgar Malott, Bernice Berdan, A.J. Brendel, Howard Pepper, Joy Hough, Joe Jewett, Howard Cornford, Pete Dowd, and many others who gave Grand Blanc students an exceptional education. Batch would be described by people of today as an icon. He was a mentor and friend to many and respected by all, as evidenced by his election by Genesee

County citizens as their representative to the Michigan Constitutional Convention held in 1962.

It is the hope of the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation that the generous gift of Mrs. Kifer, while rekindling fond memories of that wonderful era to which her father contributed so much, will inspire fellow alumni to make a contribution to the Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to generate supplemental finan-

**Don
Batchelor
GBHS
Teacher
&
Athletic
Director**



cial support to enhance the quality of education and extend learning opportunities for students and teachers within the Grand Blanc Community Schools.

Grand Blanc Educational Foundation
11920 S. Saginaw St.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-603-3115

**Batch...a mentor and friend to many,
and respected by all**

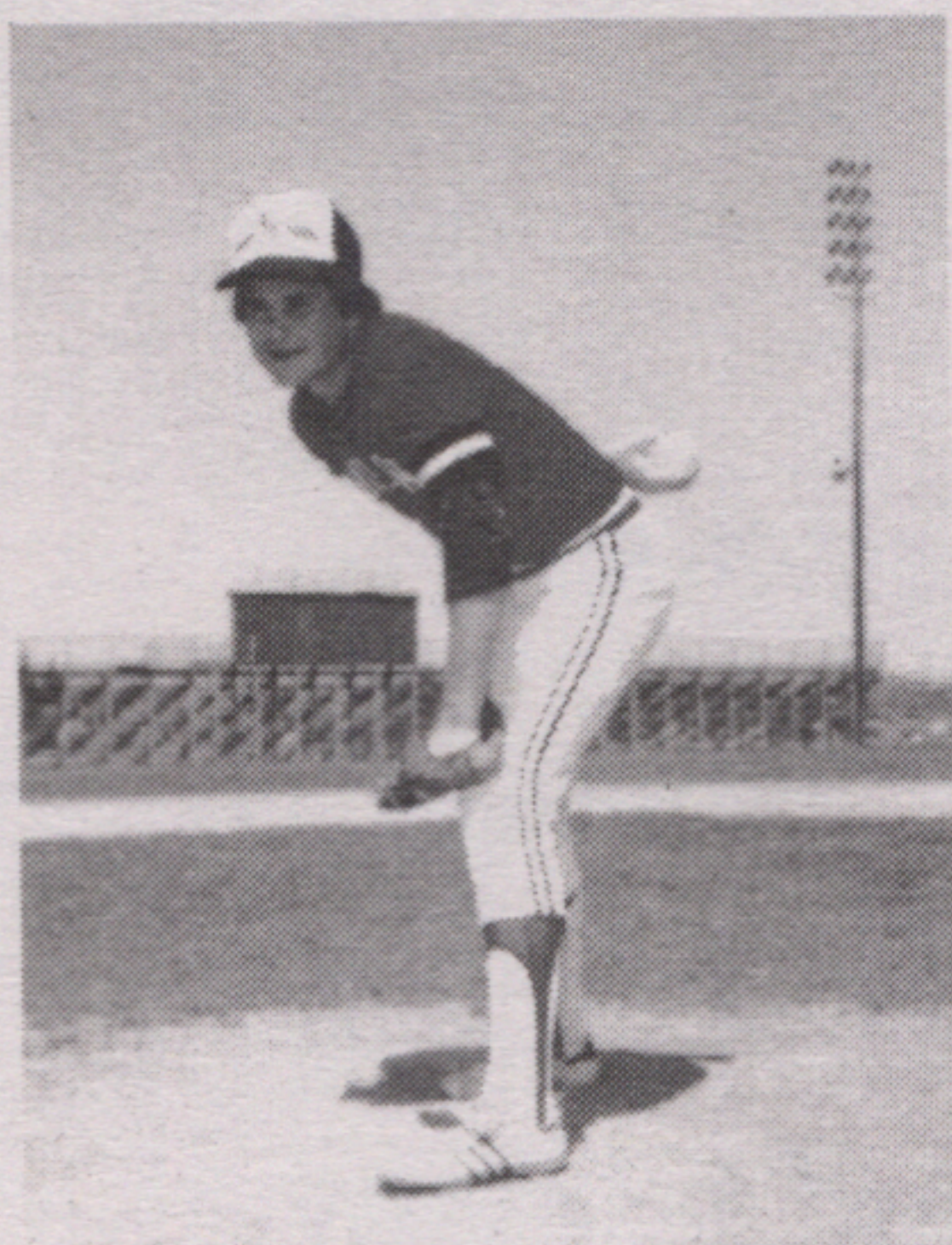


Jeff Zittel '81

I have great memories from my years at GBHS. I gained friendships that I'll cherish forever and ever...and knowledge that developed my character... and wisdom to make right choices. All that Jeff Zittel gained he has put to use as a partner in Zittel's Final Score, a sports memorabilia shop in Grand Blanc and as a registered investment advisor with Zittel's Financial Services.

Zittel's interest in the community began with his school participation in baseball, Community Education and the Youth Volunteer Program. That involvement continues. He has been the president of the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce, is trustee of the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation and is newly elected to the School Board. He sees the Alumni Association, of which he is a member, as a means to keep alive in the 90's friendships established back in the 80's. Why such commitment to GB schools? *Grand Blanc Schools have given me so much, I want to give back. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of what will be eventually given to the next generations.*

Jeff lives in Grand Blanc with his wife, Maresa, and two children.



Zittel, playing for the Bobcats

Mary Pickett, Fondly Remembered

Her eyes still sparkle. The trademark flower still adorns her hair. The enthusiasm to help remains at a high ebb. Time has been her friend. Mary Pickett, now 88, still corresponds with specific students (out of 1500) who sat in her classroom during her 34 year teaching career which was mostly spent at Grand Blanc schools.

Her calling was to help. Her standards were high. Perhaps she was the one who began the "tradition of excellence."

She's been an honored speaker, the topic of numerous feature stories and the recipient of several awards. Her desire as a teacher was to be honest, straightforward and fair. She recalls her first day as substitute in a class of 6th graders, the boys being notorious for leaving a messy bathroom in their wake. Enter Mary Pickett. She simply told the boys, "If you don't know how to use the bathroom & pick up after yourselves, I can go in there with you and help." No more problems!



She taught in the days when class size could be as large as 52 and multi-age classes were the norm. Teaching on character and values was a regular part of her day. She's had her share of woes over the years: 6 surgeries including 3 battles with cancer, yet remains optimistic. "I count my blessings."

She's up at 5, does her own cleaning and cooking and still follows two sporting events simultaneously on radio and TV. She daily writes 2-3 cards or letters and receives as many as 10 calls. She's still

teaching; her classroom is in her home. One recent phone conversation concluded with the caller saying, "You've made my day better."

She wants to be remembered for four things:

- her concern for other people
- the flower in her hair
- her desire to bring joy to others
- her strong belief in the Lord

For these and much more, Mary Pickett will be remembered.

Football field renamed to honor Frank Thomas

It's official. Grand Blanc stadium is now called "Frank Thomas Field." Thomas, at right, accepted the honor during a pregame ceremony October 10. He served Grand Blanc schools as football coach, athletic director and principal. His response to the honor was, "I'm very humbled by it. Everyone feels like they would like to leave a footprint in the sand when they leave." Thomas remains active in the Grand Blanc community.

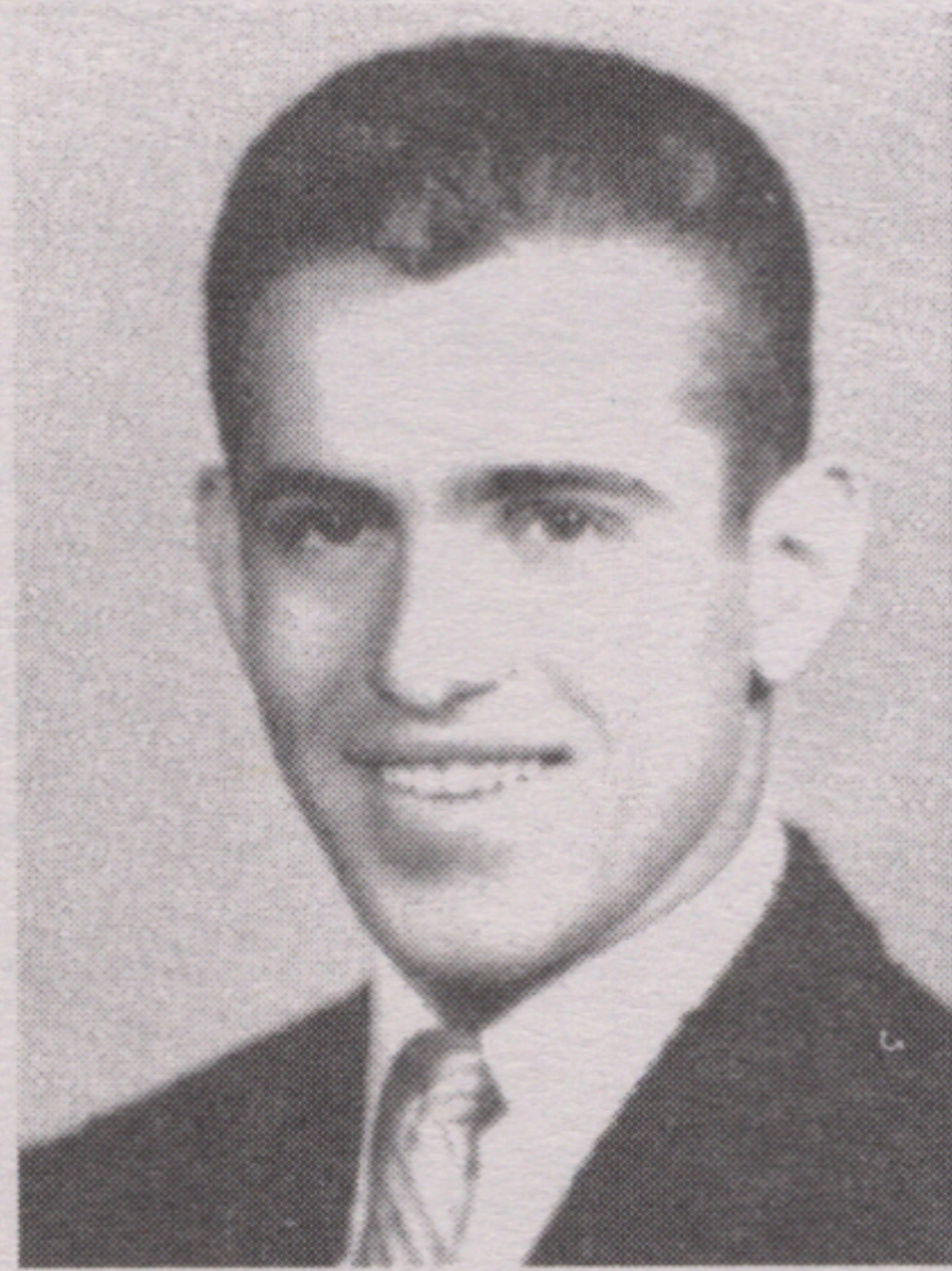


Grand Blanc News Photo

Football great Bob Suci retires jersey

Bob Suci, considered to be the greatest athlete in the seventy-eight year history of Grand Blanc High School, was honored in a special half-time presentation September 12 when his jersey, #22, was retired.

Suci starred on the gridiron during the 1955-57 football seasons, in which he scored a school record 45 touchdowns. He led the Bobcats to a school record of a 21 game winning streak while under the guidance of Coach Frank Thomas.



Bob "Roman" Suci
1958

Following graduation Suci played for Michigan State where he starred for three years as defensive halfback. During his playing days Michigan State never lost to Notre Dame or University of Michigan. Suci played in the American Football League for the Boston Patriots and Houston Oilers where he was a member of AFL championships for both the Oilers and the Patriots. Current football coach, Joe Delaney, proudly presented the jersey to Suci's former coaches Frank Thomas, Joe Pitock and Jack Pratt.

Alumni News

Alumni Association Meeting
January 7 (14th in case of snow), 7 pm, room 300 at high school. We need new members!

Alumni Library/Newsletter
We're looking for old yearbooks from 1924 to present to add to our library. If you have old pictures we can use for the newsletter send them to us.

Reunion News

Class of 1968 is planning its 30 year reunion for August 1, 1998 at the Atlas Valley Golf & Country Club. Make it a vacation and stay for the Buick Open which begins Monday, August 3. Send name/address changes to: Class of 1968, P.O. Box 592, Grand Blanc, MI 48439 or call John Mitchell (810-603-1433) or Mike Uhelski (810-695-8876.)

A look back at GBHS women's sports



1924 Basketball team, the only girls' sport offered at GBHS

1940:
1st Girls'
Tennis
Team



Row 1: Donna Day, Doris Cole, Jeannette Teer
Row 2: Margaret Day, Marjory Miller
Top: Majorie Blaisdell, Coach; Mary Bise, Anita Baker, Lila Koch, Lois Huey, Maxine Malcolm, Shirley Ford

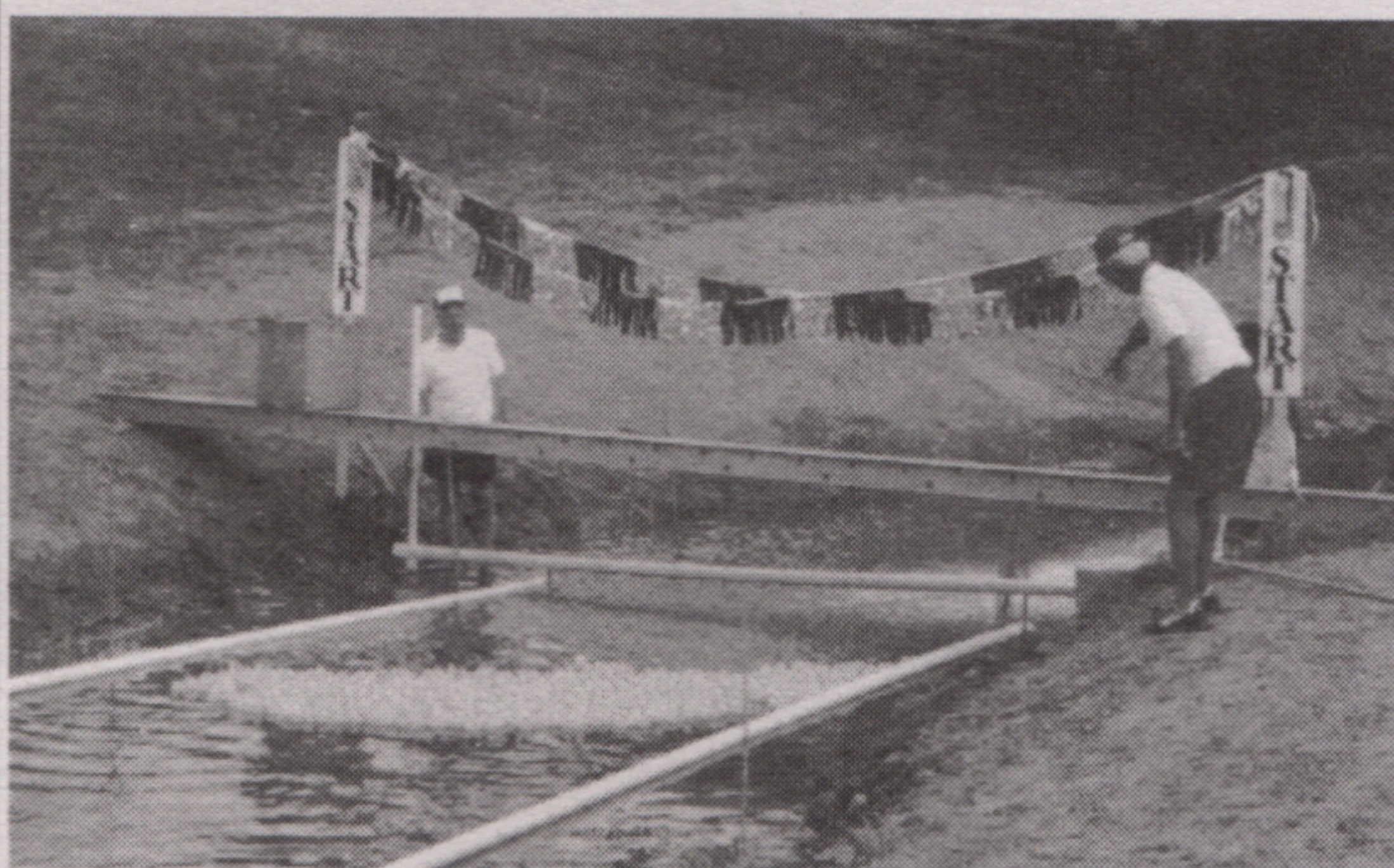
From left: Kathy Garin, Mary Jo McLearn, Maribea Dahms, Cheryl Courchesne, Mary Lengauer



1980:
1st
Girls'
Cross
Country



1992 Golf:
Using a technique all her own, Shannon Litten will do anything for par.



1997 Duck Classic

Superintendents Gary Lipe and Dave Fultz open the starting gates for the annual Duck Classic, an August fund raising event for the Grand Blanc Educational Foundation. The first 10 ducks crossing the finish line at Thread Creek net prize money for their purchasers. To participate in the 1998 race write the Foundation at 11920 S. Saginaw St. Grand Blanc, 48439 or call 810-603-3115.

Messages...

Class of '39: Only three more years until our 60th reunion. Everyone stay well and we'll celebrate!

Doris & Joe Lacina

Class of '53: Thanks to Dr. Ferris Halmark: You saved my life in an emergency operation.

Shirley (Mooney) MacGillivray

Class of '58: Thanks to the teachers and coaches who cared.

Jerry L. Cantwell

Class of '63: Gill Lindner, twin of Dale Lindner died August, 1995. He was a minister for 15 years.

Shirley Bradley

Class of '68: Reunion: August 1, 1998. For information write Class of 1968, P.O. Box 592, Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Class of '67: I'd like to contact former classmates.

Sharon (Coats) Brown

Class of '69: To June Burkett, Journalism teacher: Think of you often. What are you doing?

Kathy A. Eusebio

Class of '69: To the choir and band: Fishing is great, life is great, still living with music. Enjoy!

Kurt W. Craig

Class of '70: Please catch me up!

Susan (Utle) Shomake

Class of '81: Where is everyone?

Robin (Delek) Caudill-Thornquist

Class of '86: Charles Ronk, congratulations on the birth of your son.

Wade Foster

Memories...

Thanks for the article on Carolyn Mawby. She was amongst my favorite teachers.

Frank E. Goodroe

Class of '44: Thanks for the memory (photo) regarding the '44 girls track team. I was second from the right-- I'd forgotten!

Loretta Pickett/Edna Courter

Class of '49: It has been many years since I left Grand Blanc, but it has never left me!

Ron Weir

To Mr. James Rule: Thank you so much for the everlasting effect you've had in my life.

Nancy (Sullivan) Heard

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