

Bobcat *Alumni* Banner

12500 S. Holly Rd
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439

The Alumni Newsletter of Grand Blanc High School

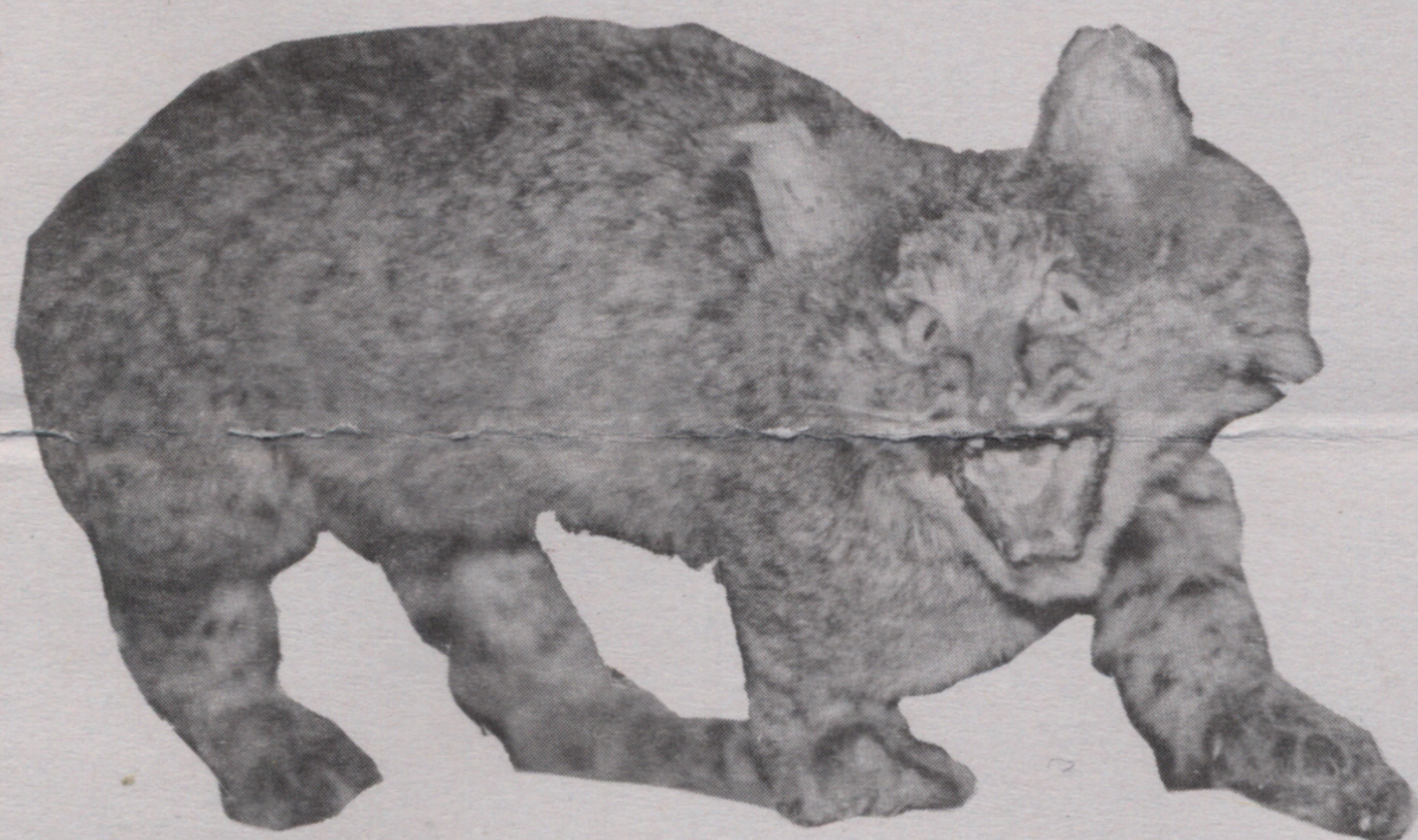


Volume I, Number 1

How Grand Blanc got its mascot

Grand Blanc's namesake Bobcat now sits proudly in the school's trophy room, the result of the actions in 1948 of then 43-year-old Walter Conquest.

In 1948, Conquest, a Chevrolet shopworker and GBHS graduate of 1925, was an avid raccoon hunter. He and a friend had received a tip about a bobcat sighting about 150 miles north of Grand Blanc, so the twosome headed north. With their dogs, the two searched all day for the elusive feline.



Conquest's original bobcat still sits in the trophy room

Not seeing any sign of the bobcat, the men decided to begin hunting raccoon instead.

Just then, however, Conquest caught sight of the future mascot. He aimed and fired, only wounding the cat. The bobcat escaped, but the hunters continued searching until finally, Conquest's dog caught the scent and tracked the cat to a hollow log. Conquest chopped out the log and put the final shot into the bobcat. By now, it was nighttime, and they had to drag the big cat three miles through the woods to their car.

When Conquest came home from his successful hunt, he had his prize mounted at the local taxidermist. Later, he decided to give the bobcat to Grand Blanc High School as a gift. In 1951, GBHS announced its official mascot would be the Bobcat, due to the gift that they had received from Conquest.

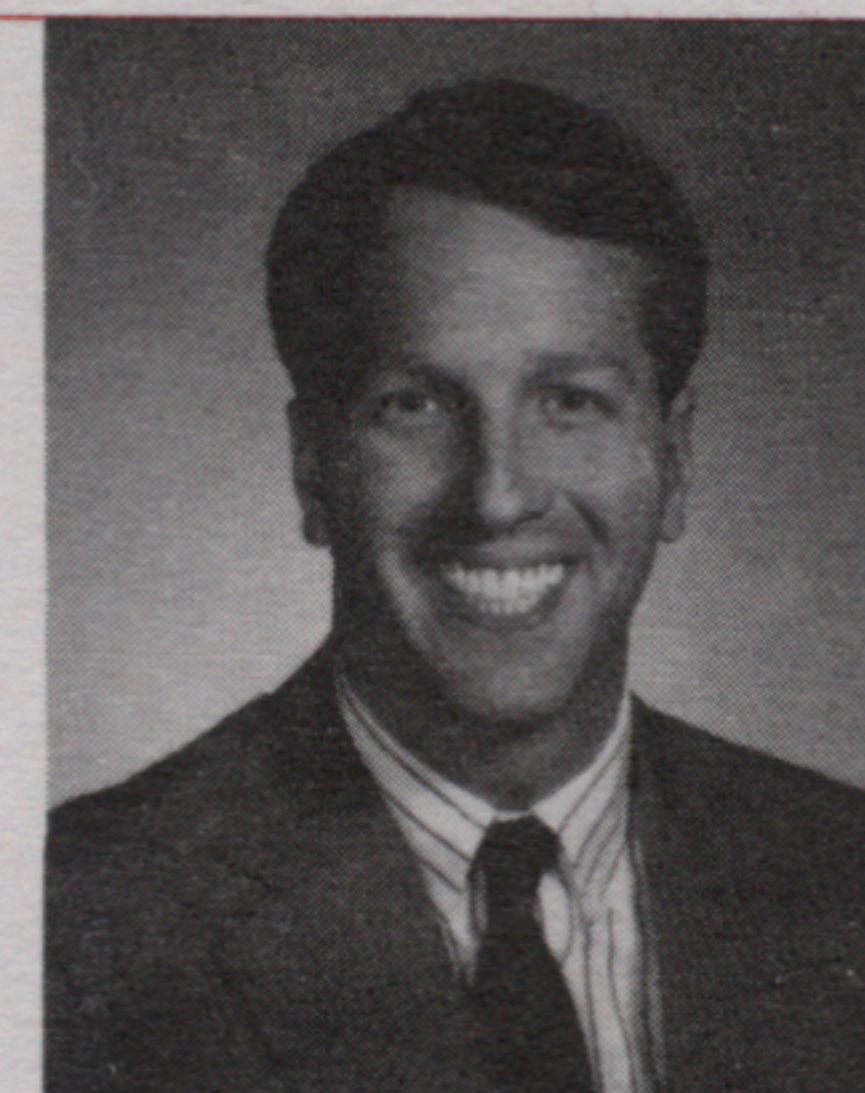
It's getting old and dingy, but it is the original

Please see *Mascot* page four

Interview with Charlie Carmody '80

Alumni Association

President



A 1980 graduate of Grand Blanc High School, Charlie Carmody is known as "The Voice of the Bobcats." He has been the announcer for GBHS football, basketball, track, and baseball for twelve years. Carmody teaches math at GBHS and is the president of the newly-formed GBHS Alumni Association.

Q: What is the Alumni Association? What are its main goals?

A: It is an organization devoted to Grand Blanc High School and GBHS Alumni. Its purpose is to inform alumni about former classmates and friends, and to promote GBHS in its current programs. We want to be the information source for GBHS alumni. Connections to others can be made through us, and information about class reunions and events will be available.

Please see *Carmody* page six

What's Inside

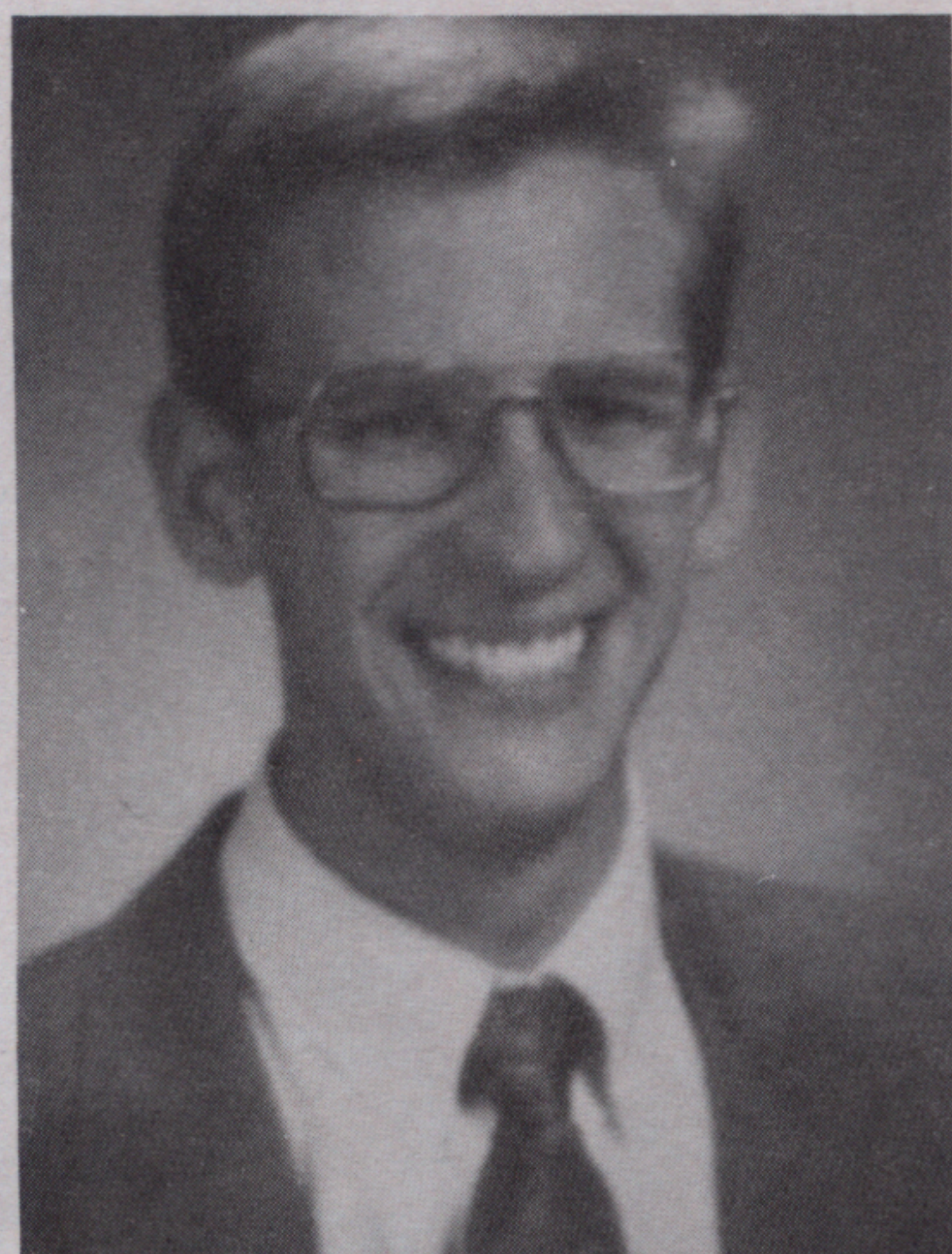
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**Please give us your comments about our
newsletter in the enclosed envelope**



Rick Shick '87

"Tradition of excellence" is GB's motto and 25 year old Rick Shick is certainly a fine example of it. A 1987 graduate, Shick has worked his way up to being a staff member on the hottest children's show around: *The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*. Shick is the visual effects artist for the program, employed by Modern Videofilm in Burbank, California. Modern Videofilm also handles the show's editing and sound effects. Shick describes his job as "rotoscoping." Rotoscoping is a form of frame-by-frame painting on the actual film footage. In this case, it is done using computers.

After graduating from GBHS, Shick attended the University of Michigan where he earned two bachelor's degrees. The first was in fine arts with a concentration in sculpture and industrial design, and the second was in art history. After college, he went on to work for Helmac Products in Flint as a graphic designer, developing packaging for new products. About four months later Shick moved to California to work as a casting assistant for the low-budget film company, New Horizons. After finishing at New Horizon, Shick moved on to do free-lance work as a graphic designer.

Less than a year ago Shick landed his current job with the *Power Rangers* because of his "creativity and enthusiasm."



Information for this story came from *The Flint Journal*

You can make a difference

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Benjamin Franklin

The Grand Blanc Educational Foundation, sponsors of the Alumni Association, exists to make a difference. Its mission is to acquire, generate, and distribute supplemental resources to enhance the quality of education by providing extended learning opportunities for students and teachers in the Grand Blanc Community Schools.

Mini grants for teachers and special lecture series addressing students, staff, and parents have been recent investments in knowledge.

If today's students are tomorrow's leaders we are wise to invest generously in their education. They will make the difference in our future.

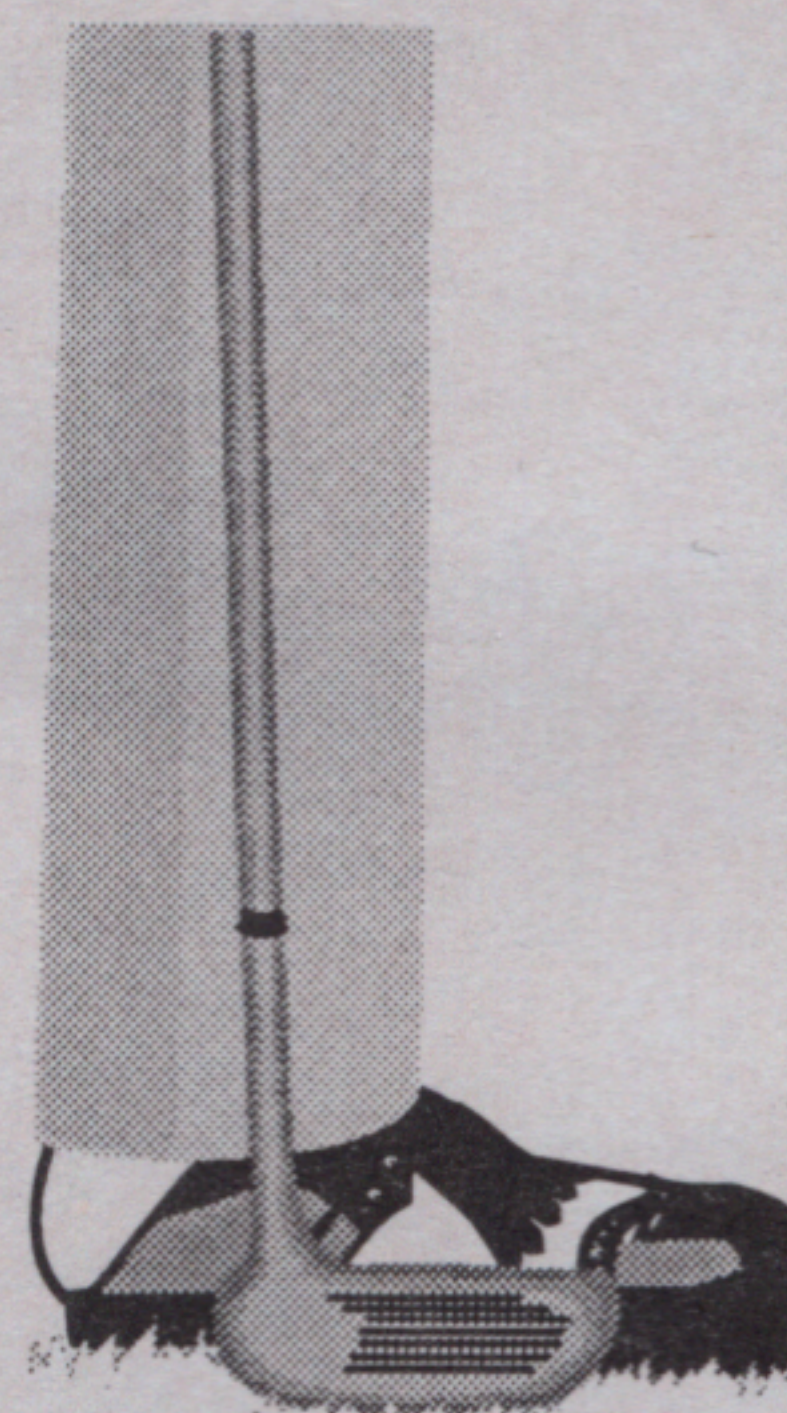
The Foundation welcomes financial support as well as suggestions for new approaches to excellence in public education. Join us in making a difference.

*Bruce Blevins, Chairman,
Grand Blanc Foundation
Board of Directors*

For more information:
Grand Blanc Educational Foundation
G-11920 S. Saginaw Rd.
Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439
Phone (810) 694-8211 Ext. 114
Fax: (810) 694-1269

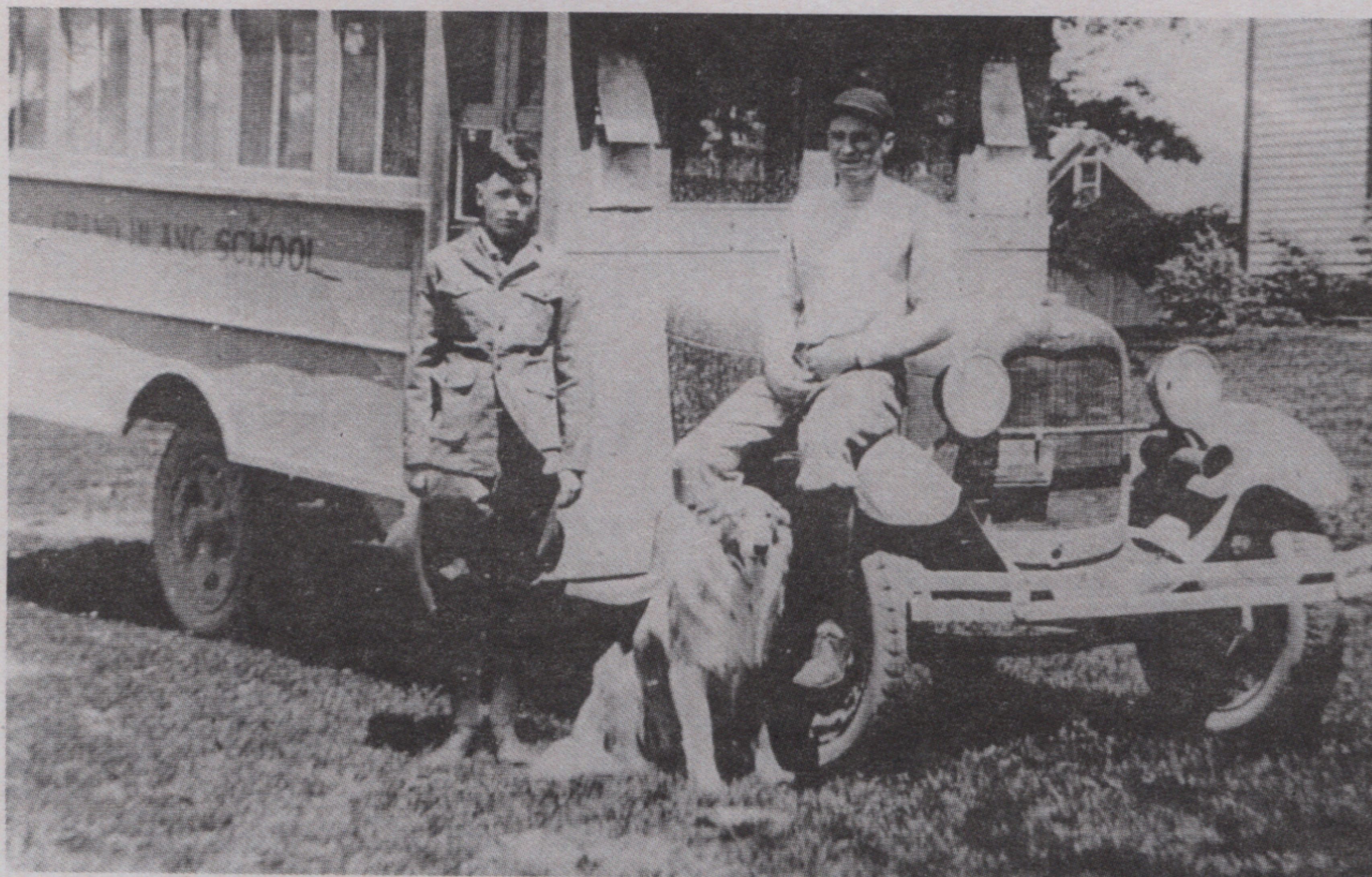
Michigan Charitable Solicitation # 715-465

Will you be in Grand Blanc in August?

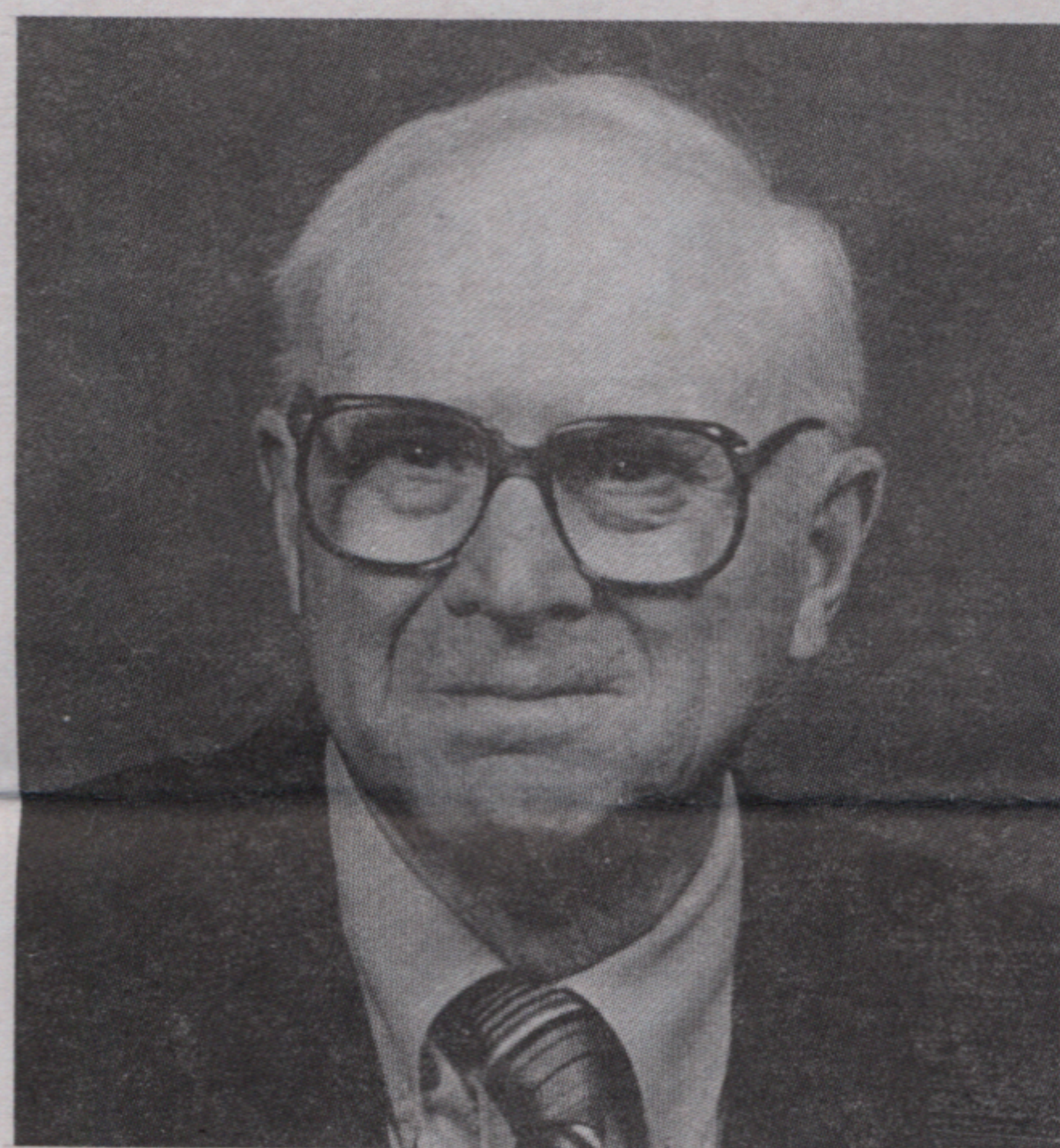


**The GBHS
Alumni Association
is hosting a
Golf Outing
at
Captain's Club
at
Woodfield
August 14, 1995**

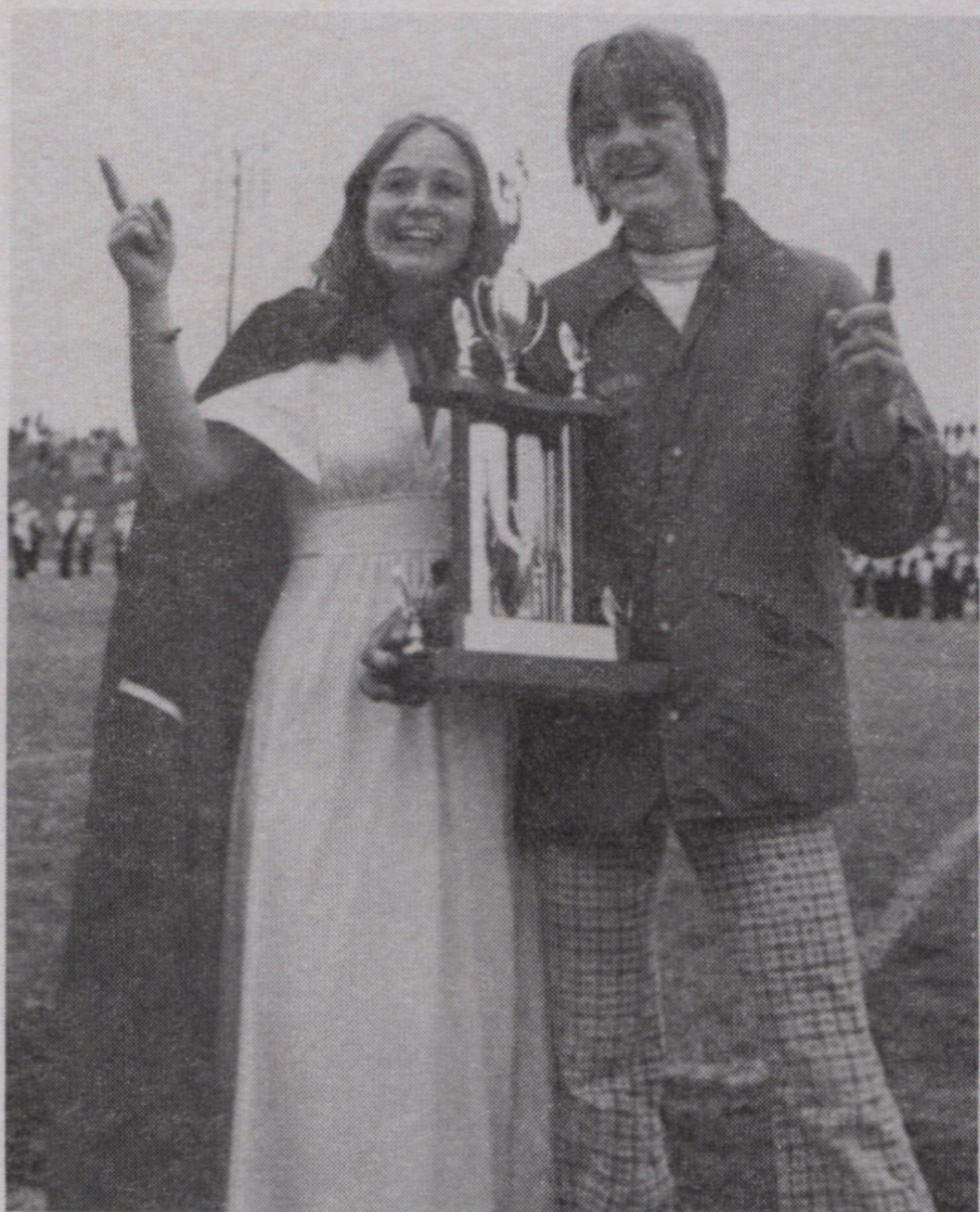
Watch for details



In 1932, Joe Myers (right) with his brother Gerald, pose alongside Grand Blanc's first school bus. As a senior in high school, Myers drove the bus.



Today, octogenarian Joe Myers lives on Vassar Rd. in Grand Blanc



1976 Homecoming Queen Diane Lambert '77 and her escort Jan Gruel '77 pose for a quick picture following her crowning.



Four-year drum majorette Linda Hahn '67 shows that practice makes perfect when performing a routine.

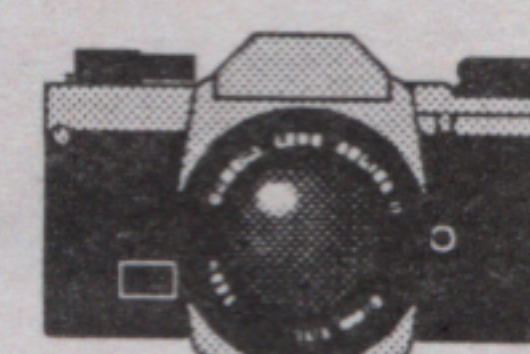


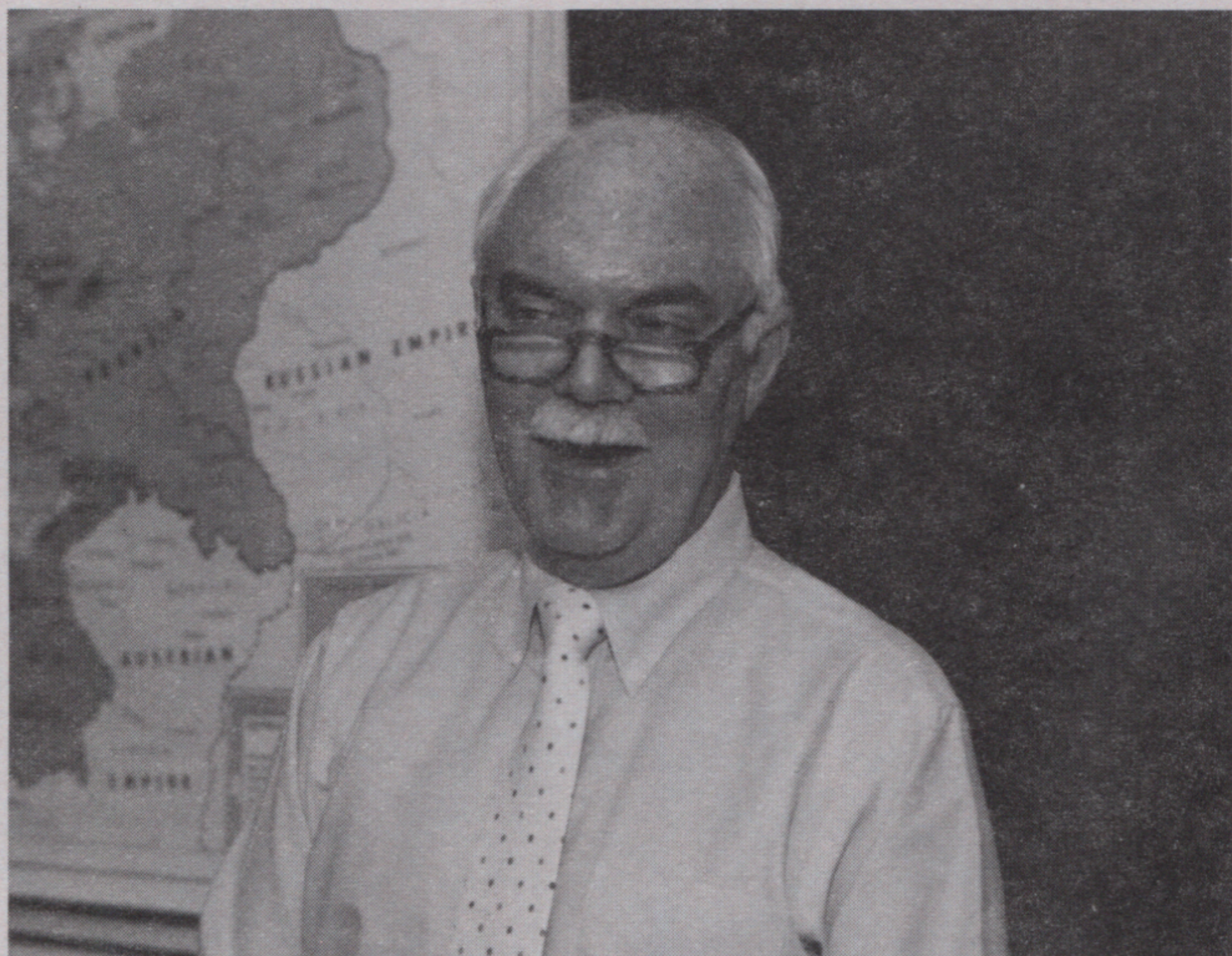
Don Batchelor was a well-respected science teacher and athletic director during the forties and fifties. In his honor, the GBHS soccer field is called Don Batchelor field.



Howard Pepper faithfully served as Principal of the Junior High and the High School for 38 years. The High School auditorium is named after him.

Do you have old photos you would like to share in future newsletters? Please send your identified photos to the **GBHS Alumni Association, 11920 S. Saginaw St. Grand Blanc, MI 48439.** We will return them!





Mr. Charles Gilbride

For thirty-three years Mr. Charles Gilbride has inspired and influenced the lives of thousands of Grand Blanc students. Born April 27, 1937, Mr. Gilbride is proud of his hometown, Flint, where he has lived his entire life. He is an only child whose father was a salesman from Canada and whose mother was a bookkeeper. He attended high school at St. Agnes in Flint. He received his college education at various colleges throughout Michigan, primarily Central Michigan University.

Mr. Gilbride began his teaching at Grand Blanc High School in 1961. He has taught tenth and eleventh grade English, European, World and U.S. History, his favorite class being European history. Throughout his thirty-three years of teaching, he has seen many changes in the school and its students. He began teaching at what is now the Perry Center, which at the time included kindergarten through twelfth grade. Within a few years he saw the high school grow to be the largest high school outside of Detroit, with over three thousand students.

"Becoming acquainted with the students on a personal level is the most rewarding part of teaching."

Over the years Mr. Gilbride has noticed a gradual change in students' attitudes. He feels that years ago, teachers were more highly regarded. In the past students came to high school more prepared to receive an education, whereas nowadays, some students tend to rely on alternative education, Mr. Gilbride feels.

His favorite aspect of teaching is getting to know students' personalities. "Becoming acquainted with students on a personal level is the most rewarding part of teaching," he says. Mr. Gilbride enjoys reminiscing about his wonderful memories at Grand Blanc High School. In the sixties, the staff used to organize faculty shows which were fun for the entire community. The teachers acted out skits in review of the school year. Mr. Gilbride received the honor of playing Homecoming Queen in one of these shows. The humor and creativity of the faculty shows were a huge success, selling out the auditorium two to three nights in a row.

When asked why he feels history is such an important subject to learn, he was quick to respond. "History gives you a perspective." He explained how history does indeed repeat itself because everything happening now has occurred in the past.

Many people admire Mr. Gilbride for his endurance in overcoming adversity. Mr. Gilbride has been battling skin cancer for many years. Within the past year, his condition has worsened. He spent a few months residing at Riverbend Nursing Home but has since returned home. Mr. Gilbride's exceptional personality, witty sense of humor, and special way with students are dearly missed by both students and staff. He has dealt with his hardships and managed to come through with great strength and high spirits. He summarized that you have to deal with what life gives you. He simply stated, "You do what you have to do."



Mascot. . .continued from
page one

feline that gave its name to the students at Grand Blanc.

Conquest, who has lived in Grand Blanc all of his life, remembers when his dad drove the first school bus which picked up everyone for school. He went to a school on Fenton Road called Grand Blanc Township Unit School until third grade. This school brought students in from all over Genesee County. Conquest also remembers laying bricks on the Perry Center when it was built in 1927. Conquest played football, basketball, and baseball, and led these teams to class "D" championships as captain. (Grand Blanc is now a "AA" school)



Sports Greats from the '50's - '80's

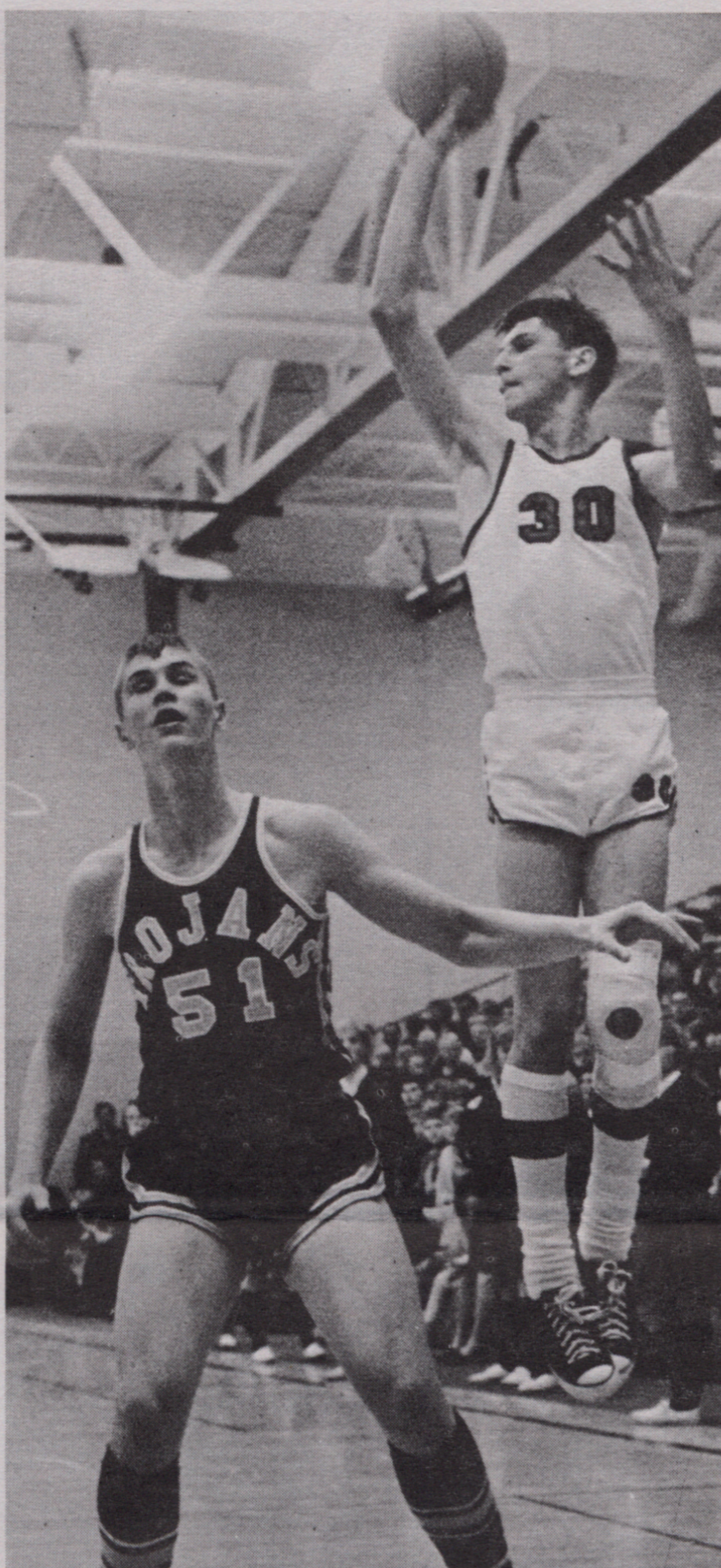
The 1950's - Bob Suci

It can undoubtedly be said that Bob Suci, Class of 1958, was the most outstanding athlete of the 1950's. In three seasons of high school football Suci had 45 touchdowns, and 3,716 yards rushing. As captain in his senior year, he had 19 touchdowns, 1,333 yards rushing, and on punt and kick returns he had 370 alone, for a total of 1,703 yards. Suci earned an impressive 15 out of 16 varsity letters in 3 sports.

Football was not Suci's only sport - he was also an exceptional athlete in basketball. He had a ten-game league average of 28.7 points, which lead the league. He was also the team captain his senior year.

Beside basketball and football Suci also ran track and set the school record of 21'5" for the long jump.

After high school Suci went on to three years of stardom at Michigan State and then to play two years of professional football for the Houston Oilers, and the Boston Patriots. Suci was the first Grand Blanc graduate to be elected to the Flint Hall of Fame. His picture hangs in the IMA Sports Arena.



The 1960's - Glenn Castle

From the '60's, the man was Glenn Castle, Class of '68. Castle was on the varsity football squad for two years and was co-captain his senior year with Don Pascoe. Castle was a member of the varsity basketball team for two years, and was captain his senior year. Castle helped lead his team to a 12 and 4 record on the 1968 season; a late season letdown allowed Beecher to capture the first place title.



The 1970's - Steve Smith

Steve Smith, a member of the graduating class of 1979, was a landmark in Grand Blanc's football history. In his high school football days, he had a total of 39 touchdowns, 26 passing and 13 rushing. He ended up with 2,526 yards total, 1,986 passing and 540 rushing. Steve was a member of the All-State football team and after graduation Steve went on to the University of Michigan to play football for the Wolverines.



The 1980's - Mark Velarde/ Jeff Arrowwood

In the 1980's, the football combo of the decade was Mark Velarde to Jeff Arrowwood, who hooked up for 26 touchdown passes. As quarterback, Velarde threw 254 passes and completed 146 for a total of 2121 yards. Arrowwood, the receiver, caught 59 passes for 1,036 yards, he had 104 catches in his career for a total of 1,992 yards. Both players were members of the All-State football team in their graduating year of 1987.



Q: What are the goals for the Alumni Association?

A: First, we want to establish a local board of directors to shape the organization. We encourage all local Grand Blanc area alumni to become part of alumni activities and the board of directors. Second, we will have to raise enough money to keep circulating this alumni newsletter.

Q: What would the Board of Directors do?

A: The Board of Directors will be involved with developing and promoting fun activities for our alumni. Maybe the annual homecoming alumni dance, the Buick Open alumni weekend get together, and seasonal functions at GBHS sporting events can be part of the Board's function. We want to raise funds for our association and have fun too! We hope the alumni will

enjoy returning to Grand Blanc on a regular basis to see old friends and reminisce. Also, the Board can help with story ideas for the Alumni Banner.

Q: What are the Alumni Association's financial goals?

A: First, we will have to raise enough money to keep the newsletter circulating. The only way we can raise funds is through memberships to the association. So please, if you enjoy reading this newsletter and want it to continue, become a member of your Alumni Association! Our excess funds will be dedicated to GBHS students for meeting certain needs in technology, sponsoring guest speakers, education, and scholarships.

Q: Why were you chosen to head the Alumni Association?

A: I love Grand Blanc

High School! As a GBHS graduate in 1980, I have many fond memories of my years as a Bobcat. I have maintained my ties to GBHS throughout the years. I am quite visible in the community with my announcing and teaching at the high school.

Q: About the newsletter....

A: We hope to circulate the alumni newsletters to our graduates on a quarterly basis. We currently have addresses for 23,000 former Bobcats.



The Bobcat Alumni Banner is a publication of the Grand Blanc High School News Publications class. All stories were written and researched by the following class members: Carrie Christman, Alyssa Georgeoff, Tina Georgeoff, Jenny Geisler, Danny Gaydou II, Alan Heath, Tiffany Munro, Andrea Mora, Michael Nguyen, Stephen Skaff, Liam Tuohy, Andrea Zito
Advisor: Mrs. Julie Bernstein



Grand Blanc Community Schools
11920 S. Saginaw Street
Grand Blanc, MI 48439-1400

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