



## News of the Month – August 2013

### Class of 1959 – Memorial High School Eau Claire, Wisconsin

August 1, 2013

Dear Classmates,

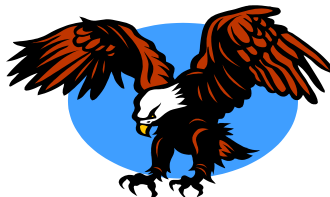
As I looked at the calendar today, I realized that we are at the beginning of August 2013, and that means our **55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee** needs to meet next month to start “pulling together” all of our plans for **September 12, 13, & 14, 2014**. After our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, it seemed as though we had plenty of time to plan, organize, and be ready for our next reunion, but the years between have slipped away, and we are entering the year of work, meetings, and fun to get ready for our next big get-together in Eau Claire. So, save the dates indicated, make your travel arrangements, and be ready to hear from the Reunion Committee Members with final plans for our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Anyone who wants to join the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee and hasn't been part of it before, please let me know, so you will be included in future notices and meetings.

Sadly, it seems that each month we lose classmates or family of classmates to death, and, unfortunately, that continues to be so this month. **Donavon E. “Pete” LaPage**, brother of our classmate, Leah LaPage Turk, died on July 3, 2013. Pete grew up on the North Side of Eau Claire, was married to Joan Stein, and had a busy life filled with many wonderful family members and friends. Also, **Bernard “Bernie” F. Vogler**, our classmate and friend, died on July 17, 2013. Bernie and his wife, Sharon, were married for 50 years. They had three children and seven grandchildren. And, another classmate and friend, **Bonita Bolier Curtis** died that same day – July 17, 2013. Bonnie had many serious health issues during her life and was on dialysis during the last two and one-half years of her life. Bonnie worked at the Eau Claire Public Library for 25 years and retired in 2003. She especially enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren. Please go to “What’s New?” on this website to find further information and the obituaries for our family and friends.

As many of you remember, our classmate, Tom Garnett, died on September 3, 2011. During the two years since then, I have been in touch with members of Tom’s family, so when Tom’s daughter, Blair Garnett, contacted me and wanted to know if I’d be available to meet with her and her friend, Jeff, when they were going to be in Eau Claire on June 8, 2013, I was happy to be able to say, “Yes!” Blair had never been in Eau Claire, and she wanted to see the town where her father grew-up. I met them in front of the Paul Bunyan statue at Carson Park, and we spent several hours together as I took them from Randall School to Memorial High School and tried to cover everything in between. It was a pleasure to meet Blair and Jeff. They are wonderful young people who met when they were in the Peace Corps. Since their return to the United States, they have decided to tour this country with a camper, so they made sure they put Eau Claire on their itinerary. John Schaaf and Jim Van Gorden provided some suggestions for seeing Eau Claire, which helped a lot. Thanks, guys! I wanted to try to get some classmates together while Blair and Jeff were here, but they couldn’t stay another day because of their camping reservations. Maybe next time! Please go to “What’s New” for pictures.

Our monthly **Class of 1959 – Lunch at the Farm** (at the Eau Claire Airport) will be at **1:00 p.m.**, on **Thursday, August 8, 2013**. Two long tables will be used, because everyone seems to feel that it is a comfortable arrangement and encourages lots of conversation with many different people. Come and enjoy the food and the fun!

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