

The Leprechaun

A Publication of the Harper Woods Notre Dame Alumni Association

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

WINTER 2013 EDITION

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The Leprechaun is a newsletter devoted solely to the alumni and friends of Notre Dame High School of Harper Woods, Michigan. It is produced and distributed free of charge. For more information, please see the Notre Dame Alumni Association's official website: www.friendsofnotredame.com.

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Keeping the Spirit of the Fightin' Irish Alive Since 2005!

Friends of Notre Dame to be Honored by the Bishop Gallagher Society

The Friends of Notre Dame High School will be honored by the Bishop Gallagher Society at their annual awards dinner at the Academy of the Sacred Heart on Thursday, November 8, 2012. The Bishop Michael J. Gallagher Society is a group dedicated to the collection and preservation of Detroit Catholic school history. The Society will host its second-annual awards dinner on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills. The evening will begin with a mass concelebrated by Fr. **John Kiselica** who taught at Notre Dame High School for 15 years. The mass is at 6pm with dinner and an awards program to follow. The Friends of Notre Dame will be accepting an award for their continued work in keeping the spirit of Notre Dame High School alive. Keynote speakers will be US District Court Judge Gershwin Drain, a graduate of St. Gregory High School, and Mike Duggan, a Detroit Catholic Central graduate and currently CEO of the Detroit Medical Center. There will be presentations recognizing contributions to Catholic education and historic preservation in the Detroit area. **Jim Mandl '66** will give a brief speech covering the history of Notre Dame High School and will accept the award from the Bishop Gallagher society on behalf of all Notre Dame alumni.

All are invited to attend. Additional details and registration information can be found at www.bishopgallagher.org or by calling Mike Butler (CC'71) at 734-776-0231. ✨

Class of 1962 Celebrates 50 Years

The Notre Dame High School Class of 1962 celebrated its 50-year reunion on Thursday, August 16, 2012. Special guest Fr. Robert Champagne, s.m., 90, a founding Marist at Notre Dame High School in 1954 and a favorite teacher of the class of '62, flew in from Massachusetts to attend. More than eighty alumni and guests enjoyed a strolling dinner while the DJ played 1950s and 60s music reminiscent of the famous ND record hops. Special thanks to the reunion committee members and their wives who helped make the evening a success: Jerry Alderman, Jerry Lesperance, Tom Lueck, Victor Marrocco, Mike Petrucci and Jack Hettrick. The following day, Jim Mandl '66, John McCabe '63, and Jerry Alderman '62 treated Fr. Champagne to a tour of the old Notre Dame High School facility which is now Chandler Park Academy.



Notre Dame Alumni Association On-Line Store

www.friendsofnotredame.com



*ND Varsity Letters and NDHS Limited Edition bricks are
now available in the NDAA store!*

Interview with Andy Dold '98

Andy Dold '98, is the head basketball coach at Dearborn Divine Child. He led the Falcons to their first regional championship in over 20 years in 2011. He is also the school's technology specialist and teacher. He was recently in the news for his involvement with HATCH Detroit - a vehicle to champion and support independent retail businesses in Detroit. He has created HoopCoach.org - a web site for basketball coaches. In between meetings, Andy sat down to talk with us.

FOND: How did Hoopcoach.org get started?

DOLD '98: I bought the domain name in 2006. It took me until 2007 to get a site designed and up.

FOND: What was the inspiration for it?

DOLD '98: I was interested in coaching at the college level. When I started talking to people about that, they told me it was all about knowing people and making connections. That was originally why I started the site. I wanted a central place to get basketball coaches together to network about coaching and about jobs.

FOND: So is it sort of like LinkedIn for coaches?

DOLD '98: That was sort of the idea when I started it, but it has evolved into so much more. We can share plays and strategies and it's really helped youth coaches connect and learn more about the game.

FOND: I was looking at the site and noticed quite a few job postings for college jobs all over the country. How do the postings get created?

DOLD '98: Until this year, I've had to upload them manually. The site has grown so much that I needed to have the process automated.

FOND: Is there a fee involved?

DOLD '98: Not yet. That's another thing I'm working on. We've got over 8,500 members currently.

FOND: Is the membership free as well?

DOLD '98: Yes it is. In the future, I'm planning to have a premium level membership that will unlock access to more advanced features of the site.

FOND: Are you aware of anyone who has found a job as a direct result of the site?

DOLD '98: Curtis Rybski '98 is helping out at Northern Michigan University. He told me that the head coach at Northern found the job posting on HoopCoach and applied and was hired. There is another coach out in Colorado who posted an ad looking for an assistant coach. I do a newsletter every week and I added that posting to the newsletter. She said she got four applications that week. She said she had only received four applications in the month prior to the newsletter going out.

So, yes, some people are definitely finding jobs through the site.

FOND: Tell me a little more about the site content. What do users have access to?

DOLD '98: I'm trying to build a community where coaches can help each other improve and network. When I first started the site, I thought it would be strictly to help coaches find jobs. It has evolved into so much more. It is a site where coaches and aspiring coaches can go to learn from and help each other.



Andy Dold '98 Celebrating with His 2011 Regional Championship Team at Divine Child.

FOND: Anything else you'd like to say about HoopCoach.org?

DOLD '98: If there are any Notre Dame guys out there who do programming, I would love to hear from them. It would probably be a lot easier to work with a Notre Dame guy than to work with programmers in other countries. I really need a local programmer to help me out. I also have basketball plays software that animates plays. That is very useful for teaching because it helps the players visualize.



Andy Dold '98 of Detroit River Sports with his Dog Lue.

FOND: Let's talk about your Notre Dame years. You were on the varsity basketball team all four years?

DOLD '98: My freshman year, I started out on the varsity team, but went down to JV for league play. I got moved back up to varsity by the end of the year.

FOND: What position?

DOLD: Guard. Sophomore year, we essentially had four starting point guards that rotated. I started my junior and senior years.

FOND: Any interesting memories or stories from your playing days at ND?

DOLD '98: This really doesn't have much to do with me, but the best shot I have ever seen in a high school game was my freshman year when we were at Lutheran East. We were down by 2 points and we hadn't won the district in several years. Lutheran East started to chant 'MAYBE NEXT YEAR!' **Brett Karas '95** threw the ball in to **Brian Bouyer '95** who took a dribble or two, which was significant in and of itself because I don't think he was ever allowed to dribble, but he did it anyway. Bouyer hits **Bedford Jackson '95** with a pass. Jackson jumps off one foot leaning, off balance and nails a three pointer as time expired and we won the district. In high school sports, it was the greatest shot that I ever remember seeing.

FOND: What was it like in the gym right after that?

DOLD '98: It was crazy! We piled on Bedford and I remember Father Bryson tossing kids off the pile and off the court. Who knew he had that kind of strength! (Laughing)

FOND: I like hearing stories like that because it gives life to the trophies we saved when Notre Dame closed. I think we gave that trophy to Brett Karas '95. I could be wrong, but I think he has it. **DOLD '98:** No doubt. The trophies mean something.

FOND: So who was your favorite team to beat when you played at Notre Dame?

DOLD '98: Well, certainly DeLaSalle. We beat them twice my sophomore year. They pulled off a miracle my junior year. They really had no business beating us that year. Then we beat them twice my senior year. I know some people get

pissed about DeLaSalle still, but LaSalle really doesn't bother me all that much since we beat them most of the time when I was there. I don't have the animosity that some people still have.

FOND: I think it's different when it comes to other sports like football.

DOLD '98: You may be right. I don't think we beat them much in football.

FOND: No, not much. I think we may have beaten them in football twice in the last 20 years Notre Dame was open.

DOLD '98: It is what it is. But we did beat them in football in 1997 when I was a senior.

FOND: How about your coaching career at Divine Child? How long have you been coaching there?

DOLD '98: I'm entering my 6th season.

FOND: Did anything about the Notre Dame experience help with your coaching?

DOLD '98: As you know, I was coaching at Notre Dame when the announcement came from the Archdiocese of Detroit that they were closing the school. I was an understudy to Don Sicko who had just taken over at ND. He had coached at U of D Mercy for a long time. I was really learning a lot from him and then the announcement came. I really took it hard. I was bummed that I wouldn't get to learn from this great coach at my alma mater. One thing the experience taught me was how to help young people deal with adversity. I had players calling me and asking where they should go to school and if I'd get upset if they transferred to DeLaSalle. It was horrible, but we always learn more from tough times than good times. I also learned a lot about the game from Mike Maltese when I played at ND. I still use some of the same drills and plays with my Divine Child players that I learned from him. I even kept the same names for the plays.

FOND: Did that year of coaching at ND lead right to coaching at Divine Child the following year?

DOLD '98: No. I interviewed for the job at Clawson and didn't get it. I got beat out by the old Notre Dame Basketball coach - Bob Shoemaker. I was out of coaching for a year. I don't tell people this much, but Liggett called and I coached there for one year. That was a different world for sure. I was at ND for two years, out of coaching for year and then at Liggett for one year. Then the head coaching job at Divine Child opened up and I got it.

FOND: Since Divine Child is co-ed, did you do any coaching of the female teams?

DOLD '98: I did. And it was one of the best coaching decisions I have ever made. I

coached freshman girls for three years. I coached them the same years I was coaching the boy's varsity so it was like getting an extra year of coaching in. It was great! It was frustrating at times, but overall it was a really great experience.

FOND: Have you had any players go on to play at the next level?

DOLD '98: Yes. I have former players at Hillsdale, Michigan Tech, and Calvin College.

FOND: We covered who you loved beating as a player earlier. Who do you love to beat as a coach?

DOLD '98: Still DeLaSalle, but to be honest, it doesn't happen very often. We beat them to win the league once, but that's about it. We almost got them two years ago, but they were just too big.

FOND: You recently were involved in something exciting - HATCH Detroit. How did you get involved with that?

DOLD '98: Just got kind of lucky. I went kayaking one day and when I got back, I decided to build a website about kayaking on the Detroit River. I went home and bought the domain name. I was sharing this idea with my neighbors and, turns out, they were already working on a similar idea with HATCH Detroit. They really liked the name I came up with, Detroit River Sports, and asked me if I wanted to be a partner.

FOND: So this really didn't evolve from idea to HATCH?

DOLD '98: No, it really started with HATCH and evolved into what we're working on today. We all just wanted to come up with an idea to enter the contest.

FOND: Do you already have a complete plan to launch the business?

DOLD '98: We had a plan that we were going to launch had we won the contest, but that was contingent upon winning the \$50,000. We've been going back and forth trying to secure loans to get the business off the ground. We're working with Great Lakes entrepreneur assistance groups. Our original plan was to open a shop with the \$50,000. Now we're looking at using shipping containers to store the kayaks so, essentially, we can be mobile and be anywhere. The downtown Detroit Partnership wants to help us out and there is a group that is trying to get us to come to southwest Detroit as well.

FOND: Ideally, where would you like to be?

DOLD '98: Harbor Island which is right at the end of Alter. We wouldn't mind being right downtown also. With the state planning to take over Belle Isle, the canals will get cleaned up so that wouldn't be a bad location either.

FOND: How hard is it to paddle a kayak out there on the Detroit River?

DOLD '98: It's not bad, actually. I gave it what

I call the "old man test." I took my dad, who had a triple bypass, out there. I decided to risk his life to test it out and he was totally fine. (Laughing)



Andy Dold '98 (left) with his Detroit River Sports partners Brian Ellison and Alex Howbert.

FOND: How did the HATCH contest conclude?

DOLD '98: We were in the final four. Ironically, we were up against Elias Kahlil '88 and his sister Naomi from Regina. I had no idea he was an ND guy until you told me. Our facebook page was blowing up. We actually thought we were going to win especially after the HATCH Off.

FOND: HATCH Off?

DOLD '98: There were four judges who were local business owners. They voted for us and we won the judging portion. Elias won the popular vote. It then went to a tie breaker and we ended up 2nd after that.

FOND: What did you get for 2nd place?

DOLD '98: Nothing really. We got to make a lot of good connections, so that's good. We actually just met with the Detroit Economic Growth Club and they may be able to provide some funding for us. But in terms of prizes, we didn't get anything for 2nd place.

FOND: When can we expect to see Detroit River Sports open for business?

DOLD '98: We should definitely be open in some capacity by the spring.

FOND: Any closing thoughts?

DOLD '98: I would really like to see the Friends of Notre Dame end up like the alumni group from the old Austin Catholic in Detroit. They've been closed since 1978 and they still have a very strong alumni group without having the assistance of a school. I'd also like to see more ND guys get involved. It's one thing to have ideas; it's another to get involved and make things happen. 🚣



Pat O'Keefe '72 Studies Effects of Bridge Proposal

A financial consultant hired by businessman Manuel (Matty) Moroun released a detailed financial rebuttal to the case for the New International Trade Crossing bridge project, saying the numbers don't add up.

Patrick O'Keefe '72, founder of the O'Keefe & Associates financial consulting firm, told reporters at a briefing that Michigan is likely to lose about \$325 million in expected tax revenue over the next 20 years as traffic diverts from existing border crossings with Canada to the NITC.

Gov. Rick Snyder and other NITC backers have said any lost revenue of that sort would be more than made up by new economic development generated by a more modern bridge.

O'Keefe also released detailed analysis of the project costs of NITC, estimated to be about \$2.1 billion in NITC projections. O'Keefe said that even relatively modest cost overruns on construction and shortfalls of traffic and toll revenue projections could swell the cost of NITC to more than \$8 billion over the next 50 years as interest on the debt piles up.

But O'Keefe did not say exactly how that cost would rebound to Michigan taxpayers as long as the contract between Michigan and Canada holds up, a contract that says Canada will pay all costs and Michigan taxpayers will not pay for any of it. During a call-in news conference, O'Keefe told reporters that the NITC wasn't needed. "Crossings today are running significantly below capacity at existing bridges and tunnels," he said. If NITC is built, he added, "We ask the question, Who Pays?"

O'Keefe was joined at a call-in news conference by Grover Norquist, founder and CEO of the national antitax group Americans for Tax Reform, who backed the Moroun-funded Proposal 6 on the November ballot in Michigan, which would require a statewide and local vote before Michigan could pay for new international bridges or tunnels. "I think this is an important question not just for taxpayers in Michigan but across the country," Norquist said. And given that federal money would pay at least part of the cost of the new federal customs plaza at the NITC, he added, "When you ask for federal funds for something, it's not free."

Mickey Blashfield, Moroun's director of government relations and director of the Moroun-financed group the People Should Decide backing Proposal 6, told the call-in news conference that some of the estimated \$2.1-billion cost of the NITC and any related overruns and debt would somehow rebound to Michigan taxpayers. "We do believe that there are costs that are not being covered by the Canadian investment," he said. But he said he would not render an opinion on whether any costs or overruns could burden Michigan taxpayers under the current contract signed in June between Snyder and Canadian Transport Minister Denis Lebel. Under that contract, known as the Crossing Agreement, Michigan bears no liability for any of the costs related to the bridge.

Some have noted that Canada and Michigan might renegotiate that some day, but Blashfield did not say today whether any costs could flow through to Michigan taxpayers absent such a renegotiation.

In reaction to the Moroun arguments, Tom Shields, a spokesman for Taxpayers Against Monopolies, a group that supports building the NITC, released a statement criticizing Moroun for partnering with Norquist. "We fail to see the relevance of another Washington political operative joining the Moroun team," Shields's statement read. "Norquist was Jack Abramoff's sidekick in fleecing Indian tribes for millions of dollars. He now joins Dick Morris, who was named one of the state of Connecticut's largest tax deadbeats, on the Moroun payroll. This is the kind of support you attract when a billionaire drags million-dollar bills through the streets of Washington."

"We give the people of Michigan the credit for being able to understand this issue and see through the Moroun schemes. The people of Michigan respect the views of the people they know like Michigan leaders that include the last five governors of the state, Bill Ford, Jr., L. Brooks Patterson, Mayor Dave Bing and Michigan's business, farm and labor community who support the NITC bridge and oppose Proposal 6." ❄️



Pat O'Keefe '72

Upcoming Events

First Ever ND Alumni Fowling Tournament - Sunday, November 11, 2012

The Fowling Warehouse, Detroit, MI

Complete details are on our web site: www.friendsotnotredame.com

Annual Alumni Hockey Game - Wednesday, December 26, 2012

Mt. Clemens Ice Arena. 2:30pm - 3:50pm Ice Time. Pizza at 4pm. \$15 per skater.

Annual Alumni Basketball Tournament

March 1, 2, and 3 at the De La Salle BRAC. \$30 per player.

Complete details will be released sometime in February.

Alumni Softball Tournament - SPRING 2013

Total Sports in Harrison Twp, MI

Complete details will be released in the Spring edition of the Leprechaun

2nd Annual Fr. John Bryson Memorial Golf Outing - Friday, June 28, 2013

Sycamore Hills Golf Club, Macomb, MI - Complete details will be released in the Winter edition of the Leprechaun

Woodhouse '91 and Embree '02 Featured in Michigan Outdoor Sports Blog

The Detroit River, Lake St. Clair, the Mighty Great Lakes – all icons of fresh water, outdoor sports and what makes Michigan a great four-season state. They're our best-kept secrets.

Secret no more. There is a growing wave of interest via the media and marketing geniuses as to how rich these waterways are in terms of what they bring to our lives as well as our lifestyle.

The May issue of Gentleman's Quarterly praised our fishing prowess, putting Lake St. Clair into the public eye in terms of the great angling to be done there.

Since then, there have been many more people, places and things realizing that our waterfront is a massive draw for the region. There are swimming events centered around the Detroit River, drawing hundreds to the city, Belle Isle and its beaches every year. There are internationally known fishing bloggers lending their credibility to the Detroit fishing scene, turning more people onto the great smallmouth bass, walleye and other beasties here to catch. And there are up-and-coming businesses that see the potential profit to be had in creating tours, T-shirts and identities around our wonderful waterfront, giving outdoorsmen and women a way to express their passions everywhere they go.

Just to have a 10,000 foot view of all this...It is an exciting time to be in Detroit. There are huge obstacles to our success, and no one denies them. Yet there are things coming together that have a kind of charmed quality to them – as if the moment of resurrection is finally here. Enough people believe and are making efforts to see a real turnaround occur.

Back to the swimmers and outdoorsmen. Shannon Dunworth is owner of Different Strokes, a swim shop in St. Clair Shores. Shannon is the organizer of the Motor City Mile Open Swim, an annual Detroit River swimming event held in July that raises funds and awareness for the Lance Armstrong Foundation.

"For all those who think the Detroit River is just a place to dump garbage or chemicals, you're dead wrong. It's a great fresh-water swim," Shannon said. The Motor City Mile, which started 13 years ago, has gone

from about 30 people to nearly 600 this time around (along with 100+ volunteers and hundreds more spectators) because of the beauty and majesty of the scenery in and around the water.

"When you first say 'Detroit River' to someone, it doesn't create the best visuals. People think of the industry and dumping," he admitted. "But that's all downriver; it can't go upstream. And there's something about being on the



Eric Woodhouse '91 and his wife, Kelly, at the Born and Raised Detroit Foundation City Social at Eastern Market's Shed 3 in September 2012.

River. ... When we created this event, we wanted the big water and the city as a backdrop."

But before he let anyone take their first jump in, Shannon spent some quality time with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources. And every conversation and meeting convinced him that the water was clean, pure and perfectly fine for a 5K swim. Whereas other beaches have regular closures because of bacterial contamination, the Detroit River pretty much remains pristine.

"Everyone who does (the Motor City Mile) walks away with a completely different perspective of Detroit and the River," Shannon said. "And as we get more press, the event grows and grows. It's a win-win for everyone, and all of the groups from Belle Isle to the Detroit Yacht Club have stepped up to make it great."

Besides swimming, there are a plethora of activities that take place around Detroit's riverfront, says **Eric Woodhouse '91**, owner of Detroit River Outdoors. The company's goal is to create a lifestyle brand around Michigan's vibrant outdoor enthusiast community,

giving them an identity and a tagline of sorts to rally about. "The one thing we have as a state that no one else does is fresh water," Eric said. "It is part of our identity."

So is hunting, fishing, canoeing, kyacking and every other water-based sport – all of which Eric and his family does on a regular basis. His wife recently ran the Detroit Marathon, which is routed along the Detroit Riverfront. Being outside and breathing in Mother Nature is second nature to them having been on the East side their whole lives.

A little background on Eric's company – it originally started around 2009 as Detroit Custom Tackle, an online retailer specializing in hand-made lures, jigs, perch pounders, stinger hooks and other classic fishing tackle. Recently, he split from his partner, who took the tackle part of the business. Eric maintained the apparel portion, focusing on the fun fish-shaped "Detroit" logo.

Eric soon partnered with **James "Jamey" Embree '02**, a newly minted entrepreneur whose enthusiasm for business is rivaled only by his love for athletics. Together, the cousins-in-law are trying to make Detroit River Outdoors a household name – a kind of Michigan-based symbol of what it means to be in love with a four-season state. "To live in Michigan, you have to embrace the diversity of the four seasons," Jamey said.

Eric agreed. "You have to love something. In the winter, you snowshoe. In the fall, you hunt. In the spring, you fish. In the summer, you sail. Those things are built into our brand," he said.

Their gear is in several stores at Metro Airport in addition to Ken's Marine at the Gas Dock, Lakeside Fishing Shop, & Funky 7. They also debuted a new t-shirt line based on team colors. You can now purchase Lions Honolulu Blue, MSU green and U of M Blue.

They don't want to be just another T-shirt company; they want to be an organizing force for the region. They want people who wear the shirt or slap the bumper sticker on their boards, bikes or poles to be the real deal – people who live and breathe the outdoors.

Fresh air. Fresh perspectives. Good stuff. 🐾

Source: blog.thedetroithub.com

Notre Dame Mentioned in Article About St. Ambrose

David versus Goliath. At least David had a sling and a couple of stones. There were no cleats on his sandals, either. All St. Ambrose had was a student body that numbered slightly more than 400. That, against the teeming hordes that numbered in the thousands at Detroit Cooley.

It was 1962 and some 38,000 rabid high school football fans gathered at Briggs Stadium that year for the annual Goodfellows game matching the best in the Catholic League against the best from the Public School League in Detroit.

Rumor has it that they stopped taking bets in Vegas that year because the odds were so overwhelming.

Chalk another one up for David. It was 19-0 in favor of tiny St. Ambrose in the Goodfellows game. Earlier that year in the Soup Bowl to decide the Catholic League champion, St. Ambrose downed *Harper Woods Notre Dame* 33-13.

George Perles was the St. Ambrose head coach. Perles would later go on to coach in the NFL and at Michigan State University. Larry Bielat was Perles' backfield coach. Bielat, who played at Michigan State, eventually coached at every level from high school to pro ball.

Anyone with even cursory knowledge of high school football in the 1950s and 1960s in the Detroit area knows that with St. Ambrose, the David role was woefully miscast. The school, which was located in Grosse Pointe Woods and closed in the early 70s, was a football powerhouse.

Ron Albers was the quarterback of that 1962 team. While Perles was his coach that senior season, Albers played for Tom Boisture his first three years at St. Ambrose. Boisture later coached in college. In the NFL he worked for the Patriots and later became director of player personnel for the New York Giants.

When Albers was a junior quarter back, St. Ambrose beat Detroit Southeastern in the Goodfellows game. "It was unique. St. Ambrose was a small school, but we were very disciplined. Tom Boisture ran a very tight ship. We worked hard. Our motto was: 'Work hard during the week and games are more fun.'

"We did a lot of wind sprints. We ran up and down hills in full pads. We would do a drill called Bull in the Ring. One person was in the middle of the circle and a coach would call out a name, and he'd go in and hit the guy in the middle. That would last four or five guys, and then they would switch the guy in the middle. The drill continued.

"I was never in the ring. I was a quarterback," said Albers, laughing. "We'd be over running plays and doing sprints somewhere else. There was power training, where we'd run for say, an eighth of a mile, and then do exercises. We'd do that again and again. "All that hard work paid off. Our games would usually be close through the first half, and then we would dominate in the second half," said Albers.

After high school, Albers, who grew up in St. Clair Shores but resides in Clinton Township now, went to a junior college in Nebraska. He played football for another year, but decided he liked the gridiron a lot more than the classroom. He drove a truck for 30 years and has two grown children; Ron Jr. and Theresa Anne. He also has two grandkids. "It was a thrill playing at St. Ambrose. We had so much fun. Everybody in the school knew everybody else. There were 98 kids in my class and half of them were girls. There were 13 of us on the football team."

Joining Albers in the backfield were Ray Malcoun, Pete Genord and Mike VanGoethem. Tom Beer was an outstanding right guard and middle linebacker. "It was all power running. We very seldom threw the ball. I'm not sure if we even passed five times a game. I do remember throwing a touchdown pass that probably covered 30 or 35 yards to Mike Goff in the Goodfellows game my senior year. I think Larry Bielat called that play; I don't think it was George Perles," said Albers, chuckling.

There were plenty of chuckles at Ford Field. Members of the 1962 championship team were honored during the Catholic League's annual Prep Bowl festivities. It's been 50 years since the guys from St. Ambrose huddled up. Rumor has it they all still had slings and stones in their pockets. 🐼

Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1963

50-year reunion weekend is being planned for September 2013.

Plans are in progress.

Reunion Committee:

John McCabe (586) 822-5153
Don Herman (586) 781-0220

*For up-to-date reunion info,
please visit our web site:*

www.friendsofnotredame.com

Class of 1965

50-year reunion in 2015

TBD

The committee is looking for up-to-date e-mail addresses and contact information.

Reunion Committee:

Dennis Berger
dennisberger@aol.com
(909) 223-4483

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Jerry Drenzek's '75 1948 Ford Named Car of Week by Old Cars Weekly

Jerry Drenzek '75 is probably like a lot of guys who love old pickups. He can't pinpoint exactly what it is about them that trips his trigger; it's more a conglomeration of an old truck's personality traits that makes it so appealing. Moreover, it's often not what an old pickup is, it's what it isn't, that makes it so loveable. "I was into everything from muscle cars to Austin-Healeys to Cadillacs, but then I started getting into 1950s pickups," noted Drenzek, a resident of Macomb, Mich. "There is nothing that says Americana like old 1950s pickups. I like the looks of them. I like the simplicity of them. I just love everything about them."

One of Drenzek's favorite toys, and his most recent addition to his vintage pickup fleet, actually predates the 1950s by a couple years. His 1948 Ford F-1 half-ton was a bit of an impulse buy after Drenzek had already acquired 1952 and '55 Chevrolet half-tons. "I was really thrilled to find this one because it was unmolested. It was really original, which was important to me," he said. Drenzek had given his '52 Chevy a ground-up restoration and he was not particularly eager to do again on the 1948 F-1. Fortunately, the '48 Ford hauler didn't need such a complete makeover. The truck had a bit of a "barn-find" past, had been partially restored once some years earlier, and was plenty appealing just the way it was when Drenzek found it on Craigslist. The pickup had belonged to a professor at Western Michigan University, where, according to Drenzek, it had been used, among other things, to tow homecoming floats for the football team. Originally, the truck was owned by a plumber in New Jersey. After the man's death, his widow apparently parked the pickup for 40 years. When the widow died, her family sold the truck to an Ohio man who did "a quick amateur restoration," according to Drenzek, before the professor in Michigan became its third owner.



Jerry Drenzek '75 and his 1948 Ford F-1 Pick-up.

"It was pretty nice when I got it," Drenzek said. "I had to replace the bed, because the boards in back were just shot. They were like match sticks — all dried out. Lucky me, a local guy here had put together a kit for these things, with the dovetail and all that and all the sections you need. All I had to do was put on a coat of varnish and fasten down about a million fasteners and I was good to go. The wheels had been painted white, and I didn't like that, so I painted them the color of the truck. I bought some new hubcaps. It already had the wide whitewalls, so I left those.

"[The odometer] shows 25,000, but I don't know if that is correct or not ... the last guy that owned it seemed to think it was, but you never know about people changing instrument clusters and stuff along the way. It's pretty darn solid. The doors don't sag and door handles don't sag — stuff that's usually a pretty good indication. Maybe it is the right mileage, I don't really know ... Meadow Green is the original color, but this truck was painted at some point along the line. It's not exactly the same color. I found the old paint chips and matched it up. I found places like inside glove box where it wasn't painted and I could tell the paint was off." The 1948 model year marked the debut of Ford's "first generation" F-Series pickups. Ford trumpeted its "Bonus-Built" trucks as big improvements over the previous car-based haulers and gave its half-ton versions the F-1 label. There were also seven other weight ratings in the same F-Series lineup, with trucks coming as traditional

pickups, cab and chassis, panel trucks, cab-overs and schools buses.

The F-Series trucks were considered to be Ford's first legitimate new postwar vehicle, and the F-1 trucks were lauded for their "Million Dollar Cab" design that was wider, longer and taller than earlier models. A new cab suspension system was supposed to make the trucks quieter and smoother.

In front, a recessed horizontal pattern grille with five bars was stretched between the set-back headlights. Early production trucks had had a tan mounting plate around the headlights. Argent silver was used later in place of the tan and later production vehicles had Argent silver grille bars with red stripes. All had black wheels.

The half-ton pickups had 45 cubic feet of loading area in the beds, which were 6-1/2 feet long and made with all-steel bottoms and tailgates. Power was supplied by a base 226-cid flathead six-cylinder rated at 95 hp, although buyers could also get the flathead V-8 rated at 100 hp. A three-speed transmission with floor shifter was standard, with an optional four-speed also available. Inside, driver ergonomics were improved with an adjustable bench seat, a more horizontally mounted steering wheel and a simple dash cluster that showed a round speedometer on the left and four small rectangular gauges to the right.

Drenzek's truck carries the six-cylinder engine. He has resisted any temptation to upgrade to a V-8, or add any other non-stock items for that matter. "It's pretty much a bone stock truck out of the factory," he said. "It does have a rear bumper, which I believe was an option ... It does not have a radio, but at some point somebody drilled a hole for the antenna on the fender ... It does have a second wiper, which was an option, and it does have front center-mounted marker lights, which I believe was an option. That's pretty much it. Everything else is pretty stock. These trucks were pretty simple. It doesn't even have a heater."

There are no exact numbers showing how many F-1 half-tons were produced, but Ford cranked out about 143,000 of the Bonus Built trucks for the model year. It's doubtful too many of those had longer slumbers than Drenzek's truck after its early duty as a plumber's truck. He has tried to help the old Ford make up for those 40-some years of idle time by driving it frequently in recent years and using it as his "daily driver" hobby truck.

"I've had it three or four years now, and part of me says, 'Move along, it's time to move on to something else,' but it's like, gee, every time I get in this truck I think, 'I can't sell this truck!' It's like part of the family now. I'm going to keep it and enjoy it." 🐾



Jerry Drenzek's '75 1948 Ford F-1 Pick-up was Named Car of the Week.

Source: *Old Cars Weekly*

In Memoriam

Porta, Charlie Frank "Chucky" - Class of 1971

Age 59, of Detroit. Passed away peacefully on August 24, 2012. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Rose Porta. Although, an only child he had many self chosen brothers and sisters. Chucky was a kindhearted soul, sometimes maddening, and always lovable! He taught autistic children for 23 years, beginning in Garden City Schools, and was the first person hired by the Detroit Public School system when they started their autistic program. Working with autistic children, Chucky found joy in the smallest of steps taken by "his kids" and the many parents who said "Thank God for Mister Porta." Memorial Contributions may be made to the Autism Society. Please share memories at Fredwoodfuneralhome.com



Wancour, Paul Charles - Class of 1970

Age 60, of Scottsdale, Ariz. passed away on July 19, 2012 surrounded by his loving family after a battle with lung cancer. Paul grew up in Detroit, Michigan and attended the University of Michigan earning a Master's degree from the University of Detroit. He was an award winning architect for over 30 years. He will most be remembered for his kind, gentle soul and devotion to his family. Paul was a beloved husband of 24 years to Nancy, father to son Michael and daughter Tayler, and "pop" to his stepson Ryan. Paul was a devoted grandfather to Tyler and Dakota. He is survived by his father Marcel, brothers Chuck and Ron and preceded in death by mother Mary Louise.



O'Neil, Michael P. - Class of 1972

Age 58, of Michigan Center, MI passed away September 1, 2012. Preceded in death by parents, Harold and Mary O'Neil. Surviving are his son, Liam; two daughters, Erin and Rylee; five siblings, Judith (Bruce) Kefgen, James (Laura), Janet, and John O'Neil, Marie (William) Quinlan. Michael worked many years for St. John Hospital and Medical Center. Contributions in Michael's memory may be given to the American Cancer Society or Great Lakes Caring Hospice.

Extended Family

William Havrilla, grandfather of **Christopher Havrilla '97** passed away on 8-3-2012.

Roseann Studinger, mother of the late **Leopold Studinger '60** and **Walter Studinger '67** passed away on 8-6-2012.

Elia Forte, mother of **Joseph Forte '68** passed away on 8-9-2012.

Frank DeLodder, brother of **Scott DeLodder '75** and **Glenn DeLodder '58** passed away on 8-10-2012.

Elaine Moncrieff, mother of **James Moncrieff '76**, **Richard Moncrieff '77**, and **Thomas Moncrieff '68** passed away on 8-11-2012.

Fr. Armand Thibault, s.m., taught religion and French at ND in 1982-1983 passed away on 8-13-2012.

Lynn von Hatten, father of **Lynn von Hatten '63** and **James von Hatten '65** passed away on 8-14-2012.

Jean Merrelli, mother of **Richard Merrelli '67** passed away on 8-15-2012.

Helen Mileski, mother of **Darvin Mileski '77** and **David Mileski '77** passed away on 8-16-2012.

Sandy Havrilla, aunt of **Christopher Havrilla '97** passed away on 8-17-2012.

Vitina Grammatico, mother of **Frank Grammatico '58** passed away on 8-19-2012.

Rosalie Kaczmarek, mother-in-law of the late **Jay DiFranco '86** passed away on 8-24-2012.

Louis Marcetti, brother of **Thomas Marcetti '65** passed away on 8-30-2012.

Aurelia Dziwak, mother of **Jim Dziwak '75** passed away on 9-30-2012.

Mary Catherine Miko, mother of **George Miko '75**, **Joseph Miko '77**, and **John Miko '80**; Grandmother of **Christopher Miko '00** and **Nicholas Miko '06**.

Catherine Fisher, mother of **James Fisher '76** passed away on 9-29-2012.

Katherine Skurda, mother of **Raymond Skurda '61** passed away on 9-28-2012.

Josephine Kohut, mother of **Thomas Kohut '76** passed away on 9-24-2012..

Cheryl Rempinski, wife of **Daniel Rempinski '75** passed away on 9-20-2012.

Louis Shelide, father of **Raymond Shelide '64** and **Roger Shelide '69** passed away on 9-18-2012.

Walter Titus, father of **Scott Titus '89** passed away on 9-16-2012.

Delores Connell, mother of **John Connell '65** and **Kevin Connell '74** passed away on 9-15-2012.

Paul Marti, father of **Paul Marti '66** passed away on 9-8-2012.

Harry Mileski, father of **Darvin Mileski '77** and **David Mileski '77** passed away on 9-8-2012.

Vincent Colagiovanni, son of **Vincent Colagiovanni '70** and nephew of **Frank Colagiovanni '68** passed away on 9-7-2012.

Richard Kuzner, father of **Rich Kuzner '78**, **Dave Kuzner '79**, **John Kuzner '80**, and **Tom Kuzner '93** passed away on 9-6-2012.

Gloria Adamo, mother of **Rich Adamo '89** passed away on 9-6-2012.

Michael Oravec, father of **Michael Oravec '71**, **Joseph Oravec '78**, and **John Oravec '79** passed away on 9-4-2012.

Janice Bulgarelli (Regina '66), sister of **Terry Bulgarelli '69** passed away on 9-3-2012.

James Zagacki, brother of **David Zagacki '72** passed away on 9-2-2012.

James D. LeBeau, father of **Jim LeBeau '93** passed away on 9-1-2012.

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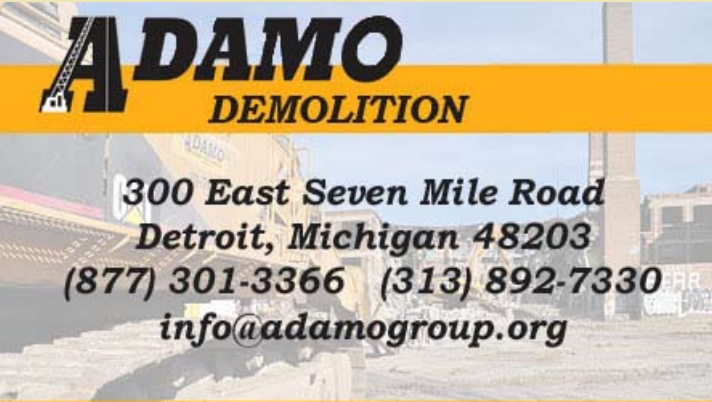
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