



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 10, Number 2

April, 2021

BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic is Saturday, October 2

The BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic will be held at the Hobart VFW, 540 S. Indiana Street, on Saturday, October 2, from 12 noon to 3 pm. All Hobart High School alumni and their families are invited. Hot dogs and brats, chips, and bottled water will be served courtesy of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, and you are welcome (but not required) to bring salads, snacks, and desserts. Come and join us!

This summer marks the 10th anniversary of the original BrickieFest. Many of you may remember that it was held on July 30, which turned out to be one of the hottest days of the year, with temperatures in the mid-90s. **This is from the first edition of the *Brick & Mortar Board*, in 2011:**

BrickieFest 2011 Launches the Hobart High School Alumni Association

***BLAST FROM THE PAST* →**



*Left: Over 1600 people attended BrickieFest 2011 on July 30 at Brickie Bowl.
Right: Hobart High School Alumni from as far back as the 1940s showed up for BrickieFest 2011.*

Alumni Spotlight



Karen Boruff, Historian, Former Miss Hobart, and Air Force Veteran

Our Alumni Spotlight this month is on Karen Boruff, Class of 1965. Karen shares information about North American history on Facebook, and is a veteran working to help other veterans. Our interview with Karen begins on page 2.

Karen Boruff, Class of 1965

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

What are you up to these days? How do you spend your time?

I was medically discharged from the Air Force. I have MS, this has limited what I can do. I inherited the house my dad built and I grew up in. I am housebound most of the time. I am on my crutches or in my wheelchair. I read...continue to research and investigate history.

Can you describe the path that led you from Hobart High School to where you are now?

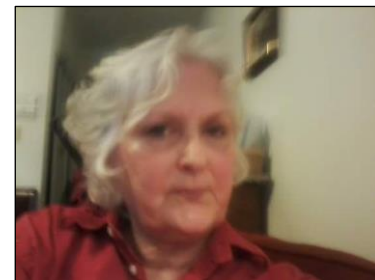
Right after graduation I took care of my kid sister, who had leukemia and helped with my paternal grandmother, who had cancer. I got a late start at university. I was ALWAYS interested in people, foreign cultures, seeing things for myself. I went to Portland, Oregon, attended PSU for a year. My dorm roommate was Yakima Indian. I went on a visit to the Rez [reservation] with her and got my eyes opened as to how very BAD things still were for Native Americans. I tutored a group of Kuwaiti students, mainly in grammar. I got to know them as people. I liked them a lot. I think my need to see the world ignited then.

When I got back to Indiana and went to the IU Bloomington campus, I continued to be drawn to people from different cultures. I dated my dance instructor, who was German, My roommate was Asian Indian, etc. When I joined the USAF, I loved the fact we all came from different areas. My best friend was Native Hawaiian, some were Mexican earning citizenship, etc. I met and fell in love with a Chippewa Indian from the Upper P[eninsula], in Michigan. He was a combat pilot, killed in Nam. I got stationed in Germany for 2 years. I could have lived on base, but felt I would learn more living off base. I was the ONLY American in my tiny German town and I did get to know the people. When I returned, I was put in charge of an AF museum at Fairchild AFB in Washington State...loved that job. I was already experiencing early MS, but was not diagnosed yet. My next assignment was Myrtle Beach AFB, SC. I was asked to join the Combat Pilot training section. While in SC, I visited all the history spots I could. I made trips into NC to see where some of the Revolutionary War battles

were fought. I had family at Kings Mountain and Cowpens...one rode with Francis Marion "the Swamp Fox". My MS was finally diagnosed and I was forced to medically retire. I came back to Bloomington, intending to get my teaching degree...FINALLY. But my condition worsened. I moved back to the Hobart area at my mother's insistence. Eventually, I ended up being my parents' sole caregiver till they both passed away at 91.

How did the military affect your outlook on life?

I think I was always very patriotic, maybe more so than the average person. I grew up hearing the family stores of my 19 multi-great grandfathers who served in the American Revolution. I was aware



the USA would not exist without the people who fought to create it. I had family in every conflict after the revolution. I was irritated by all of the draft dodgers during Nam and hated the demonstrations against the stand-up guys who served. I was at IU when a group of USAF recruiters came to campus looking for people with high IQ's. One of my history professors suggested they talk with me. I listened, took the test, and got recruited right off campus.

The military gave me a sense of purpose and got my priorities straight. So much of civilian life is petty and self-centered. I earned my right to be an American. I was always bored with "shallow" things and goals. I had various jobs in the Air Force; several were in training. By doing my job well I helped save lives, people were not injured doing dangerous jobs. The most important job was helping train combat pilots...making sure they had the skills to complete their mission and get back to base alive.

How did you decide to start the Facebook posts on North American history?

I was lucky to have a father and grandfather (both teachers), who loved history. They often took me along when researching or investigating historical

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

sites, in Indiana. One of my earliest memories is of asking them to tell me about the "olden times." The history I learned from them was so much more interesting than the boring material supplied in school. And much more accurate...not altered to enhance a white view. My first French ancestor arrived 1530 in what became Canada.

My family history started in the USA so very early, and the early population was so small, my ancestors were involved in most the historic events that made this country. But for me it isn't dates; it's family stories.

I am attracted to posts on FB about history, but often the info was very skimpy or inaccurate. I also posted some things about Hobart, my Hatfield ancestors, etc. People would contact wanting more information or telling me how much they'd enjoyed what I had posted. Finally in one group, I just asked who would like me to start a group on North American History. I got a lot of affirmative and some requests for specific periods of time.

So many have no real knowledge of Indiana's history and/or the New World. I felt it could be good for them to understand. Plus with the pandemic, people were eager for something interesting to distract and concentrate on.

Tell us about winning the Miss Hobart Contest:



I'd call this part "VERY Reluctant Beauty Queen".

Way back in the dark ages, I was asked to participate in the Miss Hobart Contest. I was

really not interested. I was always the more serious type...outward beauty is simply a result of genetics...actually, who your ancestors were attracted to. It is only the inside that really matters.

I was attending IU Bloomington Campus with every intention of becoming a history professor. I

have always loved it and can trace my first "white" ancestors' arrival in the New World to 1532.

My little sister Valeria (11 years younger) was a different story...into princess thinking, dress-up, etc., and loved beauty pageants. She had leukemia...the disease that eventually took her life. When she heard I had been asked, she begged and begged me to do it. I could see it meant a great deal to her, so I reluctantly accepted. Val tagged along to rehearsals, tried on my clothing, and fully enjoyed the circumstances. The ones giving me migraines, LOL.

The night of the Hobart competition, I went through things...sure it would all be over by end of show. After the performances and interviews were completed, the judges had to decide, so there was a break. I was so SURE I was NOT going to even be a finalist, I went out the side door of Hobart High School's gym. I was relaxing and breathing in the warm night air. When the announcer read off the finalist names, damn if I wasn't one of them. I had to run to get back inside, LOL.

Then to my sister's delight, and my horror, I was crowned Miss Hobart. I was standing there smiling while they took pictures, but cursing inside. I knew I had to go to Michigan City and compete in the State Miss America competition. Val was at the edge of the stage jumping up and down, very excited.

I spent 2 weeks in Michigan City, learning routines, eating all 3 meals with different groups: church, 4-H, Jaycees, etc. Mom drove Val over many times, to just hang out with the girls, watch practice, etc. She got treated like a mascot.

I didn't win (thank God), but I am glad I put up with it for Val's sake. She really enjoyed it. I even gave her my Hobart trophy and crown.

For anyone curious, I made my dress. I loved sewing. It was a soft American Beauty Red. The fabric was Luminare from France, sheer with an inner glow. It had an under slip.

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

What are your plans for using your house to help veterans?

I thought, since mentioning the house, this article might be a good place post about it. As a disabled, elderly veteran, I know many of us end up alone. My intention with the house is to get moved back in, and to share it with other disabled vets. Once I get moved home, the VA will make it handicapped-friendly. Plus, I can get a desperately needed VA caregiver/helper. It is on an acre of land, so room to enjoy the yard and NOT be in a nursing home. We could share expenses. I think it would be much better for us, than struggling alone. There may be some alumni who would like to share. The house is solid.



My dad had Alzheimer's and before he got bad, we talked about my sharing the house and helping other less fortunate veterans. Dad was a radar Tech in New Caledonia during WW2. His nickname, given by fellow soldiers, was "Booby Trap". If I can get a communal home going, I would like to call it "Booby Trap Boruff's Place". I want to help fellow vets if I can. So many end up homeless or completely alone at the end. The Veterans Homeless Shelter in Gary isn't equipped to handle handicapped vets. There are 2 extra bedrooms upstairs and 3 in the basement.

Once the heating and water meet Hobart's standards, I can go home. I would like to share the house with other older, disabled veterans. No rent,

just share expenses. Military understand each other, understand PTSD, and we could help each other. There would be people available that would understand.

Were there any teachers or other people in the Hobart school system who had a particular influence on your life and career?

Mr. Bigler was my favorite teacher. He was a good biology teacher, but I enjoyed talking to him too. He soon found out I loved history and tolerated my questions about his life. I found out about his being shot down in WW2, his escape through enemy lines, etc. Since both my parents taught in Hobart and Grandpa Mundell had been Superintendent of Schools, education was always important in my life. I think my father had the biggest influence on me. From the time I could walk, he took me on educational adventures in southern Indiana. He grew up there and my grandparents still lived there. We picked up buckets full of fossils from Indian Creek, Dad telling me the names, and later showing me pictures of what the creatures looked like in life. We scoured the woods for arrowheads. Collected geo...again Dad explaining what they actually were, sort of bubbles from ancient magma flows. Dad and I had many, many intellectual discussions.

Do you have any advice for high school students today who are interested in history?

Read books other than the skimpy textbooks. Find out the history of the area you live in and visit the sites there. People lived that history, so the story is much broader than what textbooks give. History gives you the REASON you are living where you are. It tells you where you came from.

Save The Date!

2021 BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic
Saturday, October 2, 2021 from 12 noon to 3 pm
Hobart VFW, 540 S. Indiana Street, Hobart



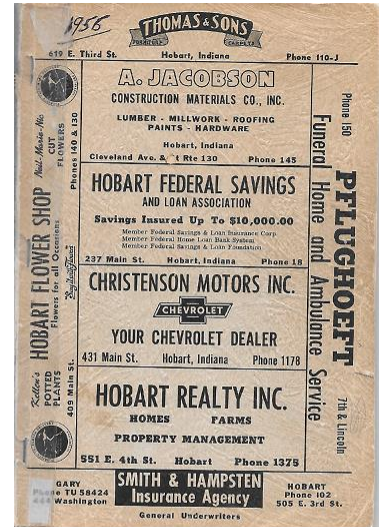
All Hobart High School alumni and their families are invited
Hot dogs, brats, chips, and bottled water courtesy of the HHSAA
You are welcome (but not required) to bring salads, snacks and desserts

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

We want to hear your stories about your time at Hobart High School. If you remember any of these things, or if you have your own stories to share, send them to me (Paul Addison) at paul@hobartalumni.org, and we'll add your story to the conversation!

DO YOU REMEMBER? 1956 Hobart City Directory

At the right is the cover and first page of the 1956 Hobart City Directory. If you zoom in on the first page, you'll see that it lists the name and address of the head of household, the phone number (ours was 353R), the occupation and often the employer of the head of household, the spouse's name, and the names and ages of all the children. People are reluctant to share that much personal information these days (except maybe on social media). I (Paul Addison) donated my copy to the Hobart Historical Museum. Does anyone remember this directory, or their first phone number? Email paul@hobartalumni.org if you do.



DO YOU REMEMBER? Hobart High School Band

The high school band at one time played with lights or their hats, under director Richard Worthington. Does anyone remember that or when they stopped doing that?

Also, who remembers the cake walks downtown, sponsored by the Band Mothers? They had two circles going simultaneously, and people sometimes danced to the music. Did any of you attend or play in those?

Email paul@hobartalumni.org with any band stories you have.

DO YOU REMEMBER? Roller Rinks

Many people remember the Oak Ridge Roller Dome on Hwy 6 by the Black Cat Restaurant, and then moved after Interstate 65 came through around 1963, to Hwy 130 south of Cleveland Avenue. What are your roller rink stories? Email me at paul@hobartalumni.org.

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors (as of July 1, 2020) are:

OFFICERS

- Paul Addison, Class of 1970*President*
- Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966*Vice-President*
- Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970*Treasurer*
- Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978..... *Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

- Craig Osika, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
- Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970
- Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971

STUDENT MEMBERS

- Adam Barney, Class of 2021

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

OUR GOALS

- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

Our Supporters

LIFETIME MEMBERS (since our December newsletter):

David Matsey (1962)
Peggy Neier Schammert (1971)

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Linda Jackson Bakos (1967)
Guy Barney (1995)
Kevin Barney (2001)
Josie Berkes (1967)
Allen Blanchard (1954)
Patricia O'Hara Cieskiewicz (1954)
Bill Clingan (1963)
Lynn Eikenbary (1963)
Jacob Ellenberger (2003)
Karen Barney Ellenberger (2001)
Terry Fasel (1965)
Kellie Salisbury Goodwin (1993)
Alan Govert (2019)
Elizabeth Govert (2017)
Richard Govert (1987)
John Thomas Hartin (1954)
Mary Ellen "Midge" Routes Hutnick (1966)
Dylan Jaskulski (2020)
MaryAnn Brush Kerr (1957)
Tom Kerr (1957)
Ashley McCullough Koble (2002)

Lynn Sheets Kostbade (1966)
Bob Kostbade (1966)
Angela McCullough Manolas (2012)
Robert Mattix (1967)
Aaron McCullough (2011)
Adam McCullough (2004)
Andrew McCullough (2009)
Eulene (Lane) Vannest McKenzie (1955)
Sarah Parker (1999)
Sherry Oswald Peterson (1965)
Sam Preissler (1953)
Wilma Hasse Preissler (1953)
Debbie Reynolds (1971)
Kimberly Berry Rujevcan (1979)
William Rujevcan (1979)
Margaret Scott Salisbury (1971)
Henry Sanak (1953)
John Scott (1969)
Ronald Smith (1961)
Joni Salisbury Troy (1989)
Debbie Scharbach Vega (1971)



*The Brick & Mortar Board is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org. The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.*

Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions, listed in order of occurrence. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter! More information can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#).

CLASS OF 1965 55th REUNION (August 6-7, 2021)

Barb Phillips Rowley of the HHS Class of 1965 has informed us that their reunion has been rescheduled for August 6-7, 2021. This is a change from the previous announcement.. Contact Barb at mnbrowley@msn.com.

CLASS OF 1970 50th REUNION (September 25, 2021)

Beth Scott Barney of the HHS Class of 1970 has informed us that their reunion has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 25, 2021, at St. Mary Orthodox Center, 8600 Grand Blvd., Merrillville, IN 46410. Ticket cost is \$45 per person, \$80 per couple. Contact Beth Barney at: bethbarney1103@gmail.com for more information.

CLASS OF 1971 50th REUNION (October 9, 2021)

The Hobart High School class of 1971 will host our 50-year reunion on October 9, 2021 at Gino's Banquets, 1967 E. 37th Ave., Hobart, IN. Registration begins at 5 p.m., social hour at 5:30 and a family style dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$40 for single or \$75/couple. Make check payable to HHS Class of 1971 and mail to: Sheila Ellis 2694 Walnut St., Portage, IN, 46368.

From Debbie Vega, Class of 1971: As a member of the Hobart High School class reunion committee, we need your help in locating 19 members of our class prior to our 50th reunion party scheduled for October 9, 2021. Please look over the list of names – if you recognize anyone – reach out and ask them to respond to the "Hobart Senior High Class of 1971" web page or p.m. Debbie Vega (Facebook): Marcia Barker, Rich Barringer, Terri Coberly, Sharon Dant, Judy Elea, Debra Ewigleben, Steve Frailey, Don Glasford, Melody Howell, Cynthia Jones, Arlene Long, Kevin Moore, Valerie Morris, Barbara Nowak-Smith, Sherry Shrock, Howard Shults, Sherry Wiederhold, Patricia Wray, Luc Windy. PLEASE SHARE THIS POST TO YOUR FB FRIENDS AND FAMILIES--THE MORE THAT THIS IS SHARED--THE MORE PEOPLE WILL SEE IT!!!! And – Thank-you!!!!

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

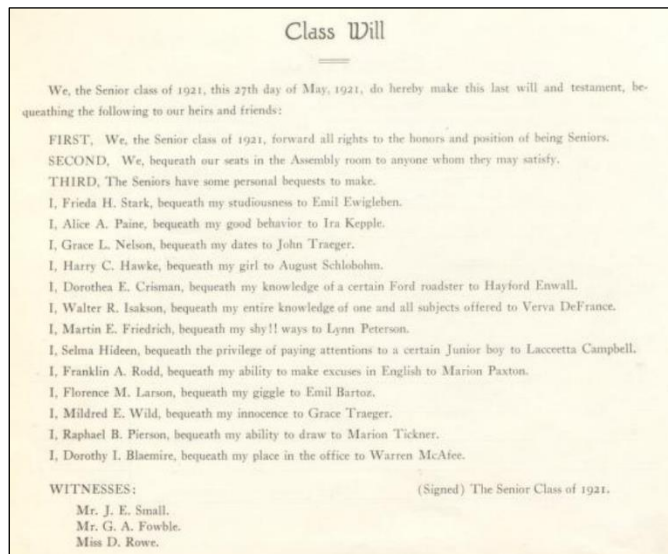
If your class is meeting regularly these days, please email info@hobartalumni.org with the details.

100 Years Ago

The Class Will: A Lost Tradition

From the "Aurora" yearbook in 1921, the Senior Class published its Class Will. It was a tradition in the early 1900s, when classes were small. (There are 13 seniors listed in the yearbook, and they all left a line in the will.) The Class Will seems to be a lost tradition.

Most (but not all) of the Hobart High School yearbooks from 1908 through 2015 are available online, thanks to the Lake County Public Library and the Internet Archive. [Click on this link to see the list, with direct links to the yearbook.](#)



Recent Obituaries

(since our December 2020 newsletter;
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

APRIL 2021:

[Donald \(Don\) Fedorchak, Class of 1950](#)
[Timothy \(Tim\) Gray, Class of 1986](#)
[Chyeann Canter, Class of 2019](#)
[Loretta "Rhett" Bellinger Hamilton, Class of 1958](#)

MARCH 2021:

[Roger Tosch, Class of 1957](#)
[Jerry James \(Teacher\)](#)
[Rachel Julian Kristophel, Class of 1948](#)
[Marsha Howell Hansen, Class of 1969](#)
[Mark Hanson, Class of 1973](#)
[James \(Jim\) Ludwig, Class of 1964](#)
[Joanne Eckstrom Svetich, Class of 1960](#)

FEBRUARY 2021:

[June Boswell Norman, Class of 1958](#)
[Michael \(Mike\) Miscko, Class of 1960](#)
[Bobbie Lee Beckett, Class of 1953](#)
[Dorothy "Dolly" Pavlakovic, Class of 1951](#)
[Frank Gresser, Class of 1953](#)
[Albert \(Al\) Bliss, Class of 1979](#)
[Polly "Jane" Neff Lewis, Class of 1952](#)
[Marlene Howell Kopach, Class of 1954](#)
[Maryann Bobrik Lewis, Class of 1957](#)

JANUARY 2021:

[Donald \(Don\) Fife, Class of 1966](#)
[Timothy \(Tim\) VanBlaircom, Class of 1970](#)
[John Gianotti \(Teacher\)](#)
[Thomas \(Tom\) Campbell, Class of 1975](#)

[Carole Stolp Heuring, Class of 1954](#)
[Joyce Baxter Miracle, Class of 1959](#)
[Richard Jordan, Class of 1953](#)
[Richard "Mike" Norman, Class of 1989](#)
[Charmaine Ness, Class of 1982](#)
[Donald \(Don\) Williams, Class of 1965](#)

[Arnold Henig, Class of 1952](#)

DECEMBER 2020:

[Thomas \(Tom\) Homan, Class of 1965](#)
[Thais Stewart Shelley, Class of 1947](#)
[Cheryl Jones Boggs, Class of 1976](#)
[Larry Schrader \(Teacher\)](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED

NOVEMBER 2020:

[Maryanne Reha, Class of 1966](#)

JULY 2020:

[Rosemary Bowman Miko, Class of 1975](#)
[Rachel Neier Piunti, Class of 1998](#)

JUNE 2020:

[Loren Fisher II, Class of 1986](#)

FEBRUARY 2020:

[Robert \(Bob\) Hughes, Class of 1968](#)

OCTOBER 2019:

[Karen Lee Stephens Love, Class of 1969](#)

MARCH 2018:

[Charles \(Chuck\) Reha, Class of 1974](#)

NOVEMBER 2012:

[Dorothy Ahlgrim Snodgrass, Class of 1960](#)



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Membership is \$10 per year per person, or \$100 per person for a Life Membership
(proceeds go towards student scholarships and teacher grants)

Check one: New member ___ Renewal ___

Check one: 1-year membership (\$10) ___ Lifetime membership (\$100) ___

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything has changed)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"
Thank you for your support!

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org