

December 7, 2023
HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

Class News

TODAY is the anniversary of
The Day that Lives in Infamy.

God Bless those that helped, and
continue, to preserve our freedom.

Continuing with last week's theme of the artists within our
merry little group...

It's interesting to note that three of our 4 NHS classmates that we chose
as our commencement speakers have pursued their love of music WAY
beyond the halls of HHS.

- **Devon Hughes Betz** played trumpet in our Marching Band and was the band's Vice President. She also played in our orchestra and concert bands. When the leader of her local New Cumberland Town Band (NCTB) learned this factoid about her he filed it away and used that info many years later to recruit her into the band once she had retired.

Click [here](#) to see a pic of Devon with her instrument of choice after a NCTB concert. Click [here](#) to see/hear her and the NCTB playing at a 4th of July event. The videographer's (Bruce Diefenderfer) hand was a little shaky put you can see Devon pretty clearly at the 1:47 minute mark. She is also seen at the end of the video with her hubby, Gary Betz - HHS'69 and Bruce. BTW the lady rocking the piccolo in the video is 80 years young ;-).

December 7, 2023

HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

On top of that Devon also plays in ANOTHER band called the Singer Band who's origin pre-dates the Civil War! Click [here](#) to see more information on this interesting troupe of musicians.

- Like Devon, **Ron Marenchin** also was very active in the music scene during our HHS days. He was the President of the Marching Band where he also played the trumpet. Ron was in HHS's orchestra and concert bands as well as the school's choir and choral groups. Since then Ron has served as the **Coordinator of Music Ministries** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, OH for many decades. One of his mottos is
"One who sings prays twice".

Amongst his many and varied duties at the church he has found time to organize and mentor the church's youth Bell Choir. Click [here](#) to get a glimpse of him in action with the kids. He helped oversee the most recent renovation of the church's 1908 pipe organ which has 2,780 pipes in it. (Click [here](#) to see a detailed article on the renovation).

Ron currently serves as the President of the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs. He also serves as the chair for the Adult Composers Contest for the **National** Federation of Music Clubs.

But we're sure that the highlight of his career was leading all of us that gathered for our 45th and 50th reunion in song ;-). At our 45th he split us into several groups and then arranged this ad hoc choral group to come up with a rousing rendition of 3 Dog Night's 1971 #1 hit song "Joy to the World". It was a hoot! He reprised his role as choral director once again at our 50th and led us in a wonderful arrangement of "Hang on Sloopy".
Thanks Ron!

December 7, 2023

HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

- Penny Rice Kraynak's life long love for music was fueled largely by her church but also by her participation in HHS's choir and choral group. All that coupled with her music degree from Westminster College led her to served in some capacity in the music ministry at Sharon's Covenant Church for over 40 years where she is the "Director of Music".

Penny and the church have been working hard to prepare for this coming **Sunday's (Dec. 10) presentation of the church's Christmas Cantata. The event is free to the public.** If you're in the Sharon area and your schedule permits please come, sit back and enjoy Penny's handiwork.

*The service incorporates music to present the biblical story of Jesus' birth. It transports us back to that first Christmas night and the dawn of God's grace to mankind through our Lord's birth. The songs flow from one to another with beautiful arrangements and orchestral accompaniments.

- After attending the Ezra F. Bowman Technical School of Watchmaking, Jewelry Repair and Stone setting in Lancaster, PA and completing an apprenticeship, **Larry Bruno** earned his craftsmanship status. Larry opened his first jewelry store 1981 in Hermitage. He used many forms of advertising to promote his business but in the end he found that his customer's word of mouth recommendation served, and continues to serve, him well.

In 2014 Larry opened a beautiful landmark "destination store" (click [here](#) and [here](#) to view an in-depth article and video on Larry and the store). In 2019 he decided it was time to retire and sold the store. After a couple of years of R&R though he decided to get back in the game and recently opened another store that is located at 1553 Perry Hwy, Mercer, PA. If you're in the area stop by for any of your jewelry needs or just to say Hi.

December 7, 2023

HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

- Click [here](#) to see Dave Mudrinich's latest completed work, a pastel drawing that is entitled "Bee House".

Click [here](#) to see one of his "works in progress". That is, Dave has started working on a 5'x5' mural commission for the local Farm Credit Services in Russellville, AK.

He had to build an easel to support the 5' X 5' canvas and began drawing it out on Thanksgiving eve. It has removable pegs at 30 inch intervals so that he can lower it to reach the upper areas of the canvas as needed.

It's been awhile since he has worked on such a large piece of work and is enjoying the process. He's got the composition sketched out and will plan the color scheme next. The large canvas gives him more space to do more things however his arm does tire-out a little quicker. Hard to go more than about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours without a break.

- We're sure that we missed highlighting some of the class's artists but you can help remedy that if you send us a lead. We'll run with it from there.

December 7, 2023
HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

Which one is it?

Which one of these is the Class of 71's official motto:

"Faster if you can stand it"

"In all things be yourself"

Due to some controversy it seems that all depends on who you ask. While the "official" written record shows that it was the latter it appears that we have unofficially adopted the Class of '70's motto as our own. Which BTW appears in all our Reunion Programs from the 15th on. It should be noted though that the Class of '70 has taken some umbrage. That is, the Class of '70 went to GREAT lengths to get their chosen "Faster if you can stand it" motto approved by the school board. When pressed for a little more background on the issue one '70er noted that:

"They were not going to let us put it in the yearbook (i.e. Faster if you can stand it)". Class officers Randy Powell and Carol Chuba had to go before the School Board and plead the case. They explained it something like "If in your lifetime if you can push a little harder when the going gets tough, go that little bit faster when you think you can't. Never give up and you will get there". They emphasize that the phrase was NOT a joke. In the end the school board approved the motto by a large margin.

As far as our class motto there is no known written record of our class's "official" motto UNTIL THREE DAYS before our graduation (re: May 28, 1971 Hickory Leaf). In the Dec. 19, 1969 Hickory Leaf it was noted that some members of the class were upset with the motto that was chosen and wanted a class assembly to discuss the issue. In the meantime and left to

December 7, 2023
HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

our own devices it appeared that our underground movement adopted '70's motto as our own. We leave it to the reader to decide which one to subscribe to.

- Have news/updates/events that some/all of us might be interested in? Let us know @ hickoryhs71@gmail.com. In fact if you want, just write the item or article and send it to us for inclusion in one of the upcoming updates.

December 7, 2023
HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

Football

The combination of some costly penalties, bad luck and a very strong Belle Vernon Leopards football team led to us to our first loss (42-16) in the last 9 games that we played. The semifinal game played last Friday night for the PA Class 3A state championship title was the closest that Hickory had come to the PA state championship since the 1989 team brought home the title. Congratulations to the Leopards. Excellent chance that we lost to this year's state championship team. The Hornets could have given up and said that it wasn't meant to be but they never gave up and battled the whole way.

Click [here](#) to read the Herald's extensive write up of the game.

Click [here](#) to see Bob Greenberg's 2 minute video of the Coach Dungee's speech to the team after the game.

Great leader, role model and coach.

And click [here](#) if want to see Bob Greenberg's interview of Coach Dungee after the game.

Hickory has some great talent returning next year! Hornets had a good year and future looks bright. Young players definitely improved all year and will be hungry to go further next year.

All signs of good coaching.

Go Hornets!

December 7, 2023
HHS'71 Class/Sports Update

Misc Links that might be of interest

[HSD Athletics](#)

[Joanow Broadcast of HHS games](#)

[Hickory Hornet Football](#)

[Bob Greenberg](#)
[Professor Briggs](#)
[Coach Bill Dungee](#)

[Hornet Roster](#)
[21 WFMJ Sports](#)
[D10 Wrestling FB page](#)