



O N O N D A G A

J O Y F U L

Echoes

ISSUE 6

FALL 2018

Welcome!

Joyful Echoes is an Alumni Newsletter published by the Onondaga Central School Education Foundation for the purpose of keeping alumni and friends of OCS engaged with the Onondaga community and informed of current activities happening at OCS.

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CAN YOU LOSE A “TIE” GAME?



by Jim Molloy, Class of 1968

One of the strangest games in the history of Onondaga Central athletics occurred on February 12, 1965. That Friday night the OCS Tigers basketball squad rode the team bus to Skaneateles to take on the first-place Lakers, who with ten wins and only a single loss were leading the County Southern Division. OCS was in fourth place at 7-4, but with a win could have ended the night just two games out with two to play.

OCS coach Earl Fletcher used only six players, including three sophomores who two years later would form the core of OCS’ 1967 division champions: Larry Behm, Mark Clark, and Jerry Hourigan.

The Tigers’ Don “Mort” Luchsinger led all scorers that night with 19 points while Behm, who many years later would become an OCS coach, poured in 17 more. The Tigers took a 31-29 lead into the locker room at half time and were ahead by eight points early in the third period. It looked as if an upset could be in the making.

Behm’s fourth foul with 3:06 left in the third quarter, however, prompted Fletcher to pull him from the game. Behm’s “forced idleness,” according to T. C. George, who covered the game for the Syracuse *Herald-Journal*, swung the momentum over to the Lakers.

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About the OCSEF The Onondaga Central School Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, all-volunteer 501(c) charitable corporation whose purpose is to provide support to students, staff and academic programs at Onondaga Central through charitable donations. The OCSEF was founded in 1984 with a vision of growing an endowment over the years. Please visit our web page: <http://www.ocsef.org/community.cfm?subpage=40046>

HAPPENING NOW

‘18 VALEDICTORIAN



JULIA CORRENTE

MY CAREER PLANS: ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

Town: South Onondaga

Parents: Daniel and Jennifer Corrente

My plans in the next few years: I will be attending college at SUNY ESF.

What I've enjoyed the most about my high school experience: I have enjoyed learning. I have also enjoyed cross country and track with my teammates and friends.

Who has inspired me the most: My parents and my siblings, especially Prudence.

My advice to my graduating class: Work hard for what you want and remember not to take life too seriously.

What I do to relax and unwind: I like to be active, read, and watch TV. I also like photography.

Word or phrase that best describes me: Focused

How I want my classmates to remember me at our 25-year reunion: My accomplishments in and out of the classroom.

One thing I would like to accomplish in my lifetime: Travel around the world with my sister Prudence.

‘18 SALUTATORIAN



TAYLOR FEATHERSTONE

MY CAREER PLANS: ATTORNEY

Town: Nedrow

Parents: Robert & Mary Beth Featherstone

My plans in the next few years: Study political science at Colgate University followed by Law School.

What I've enjoyed the most about my high school experience: Being an active leader and participant in Varsity Tennis and several clubs.

My favorite quote or saying: "Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another stepping stone to greatness."
- Oprah Winfrey

Who has inspired me the most: My parents

My advice to my graduating class: Don't take any moments for granted.

What I do to relax and unwind: When I have time to relax, I enjoy swimming, reading, and watching movies.

Word or phrase that best describes me: Take charge.

How I want my classmates to remember me at our 25-year reunion: For being an intelligent and hard-working person.

One thing I would like to accomplish in my lifetime: I hope to make a positive impact on the world.

One more thing about me I'd like to include: I'm a Third Degree Black Belt in karate and am also an Altar Server Prefect at Our Lady of Hope Church.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

MARIE MILLER

by John Miller, Class of 1985

This edition of *Joyful Echoes* features Marie Miller, who was best known for being a substitute teacher at Rockwell, Wheeler, and especially the high school. I spoke with Marie over a series of mornings to try to spark some memories of her tenure at Onondaga.

When did you first start subbing?

I think it was 1975. I'm pretty sure my oldest daughter Mary was a senior. At that time Rockwell was Kindergarten through fourth, Wheeler was fifth through eighth and the high school was ninth through twelfth. I did most of my subbing at Wheeler when I started.

You were a certified English teacher, correct?
Yes - all teachers have to earn their Master's degree as well.

What years did you teach full time?

I'm remembering the graduating classes of 1987 and 1988. That would mean 1983 and 1984. I taught seventh and eighth grade English.

When did you finally retire?

It was 1992. Right around that time I was walking out of Wheeler and a student ran me over with his bike, shattering my ankle.

What was your favorite part of teaching?

Study halls... no, not really. I guess relationships with young people. It was fun to try to figure out

what relatives the students had. Since I grew up on West Conklin on the top of Nedrow, I knew many of the families in the school. My father went to Rockwell too!

How are you enjoying retirement?

I miss being involved in school activities, but am enjoying having my family around. I still am fortunate enough to still have lunch with other retirees once in a while. I won't list them all because I'll probably forget someone.

How is your family doing?

They are all doing quite well. Mary lives in Tully and has her own consulting business. Sally teaches fifth grade at Wheeler. Julia is a retired



teacher who lives in North Carolina. Thom is in Massachusetts with his family and is a financial advisor. Tim teaches at LaFayette High School and lives in Navarino. John teaches chemistry down at our alma mater. I have ten grandchildren who range in age from 26 to 15.

If you were to make an overall statement about your time at OCS, what would it be?

I'd say that I was proud to be a faculty member at our school. I know many former students who have become quite successful. I think it's the fact that we are so small that we have the opportunity to make very close relationships. I made lifelong friends while working there and don't have any regrets at all.



Continued from page 1

TIME OUT												SCORE BY QUARTERS				OVERTIME PERIOD		DATE		
1ST Q.	2ND Q.	3RD Q.	4TH Q.	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIRST	SECOND	FINAL SCORE		DATE			DATE					
1	11	11	14	29	50	66				66		2-12-65			2-12-65					
POS.	NAME OF PLAYER	N O	QUARTERS PLAYED	FIRST HALF SCORING			SECOND HALF SCORING				SUMMARY			SUMMARY						
R	Shumway	10	V V V					X X X P.P.	P.P.	2	2	4								
F	Michel	20	V V V V V X					P	XX	XXX	P.P.	6	4 12							
L	Fisher	25	V V V V V X					P.P.	XXXXO	X		6	2 3 14							
F	Quigley	24	V V V V X					XX	P	XX	P.	5	3 113							
C	Heintz	23	V V V	XX X X	X X X P.P.		X X X P.P.	P.P.	Q X Q			5	6 3 16							
	MAUBER	13	V V V		X X X		P.P.	P.	XX			P.P.P.	3 1 5 7							
	Flannigan	21	V																	
R	Toughy	11																		
G	Hooper	14																		
L	Brock	12																		
G	Johnson	15	V		(14)	(15)		(11)	(16)											
SCORER	Hengerson			TIMEKEEPER	Hempill			FINAL CHECK		20	MADE	12	PERCENT	60%						
NAME OF TEAM	Skaneateles			F. T. ATTEMPTED																

Game awarded to Skaneateles
because mistake was not found
until after officials left floor.

RUNNING SCORE		ONONDAGA				SKANEATELES													
		Skaneateles				Skaneateles													
TIME OUT				SCORE BY QUARTERS				OVERTIME PERIOD				WHERE PLAYED							
1ST Q.	2ND Q.	3RD Q.	4TH Q.	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIRST	SECOND	FINAL SCORE									
				1	18	31	47	65		66									
POS.	NAME OF PLAYER	N O	QUARTERS PLAYED	FIRST HALF SCORING			SECOND HALF SCORING				SUMMARY								
R	Tarbell, A.	21	V V V V	XX X X				X	OX	P	4	1	1	9					
F	Kilcoyne, J.	10																	
L	Walters, C. (c)	13	V V V V X	0 0 0 0	P.P.			XXX	XX	P.P.	6	3	4	15					
F	Stilwell, D.	11																	
C	Behm, L.	23	V V V V V OX	XXXX	P.P.P.			XX	OX	P	8	1	4	17					
	Idegaard, D.	24																	
R	Luchsinger, D.	12	V V V V V OX	XXX X	P	X		O X	P	P	5	9	2	19					
G	Bench																		
L	Clark, M.	20	V V V V OX	X				O	O X	P	2	2	1	6					
G	Houigan, J.	22	V V V	(13)	(13)			(16)	(18)	P	1								
REFEREE	A. Szech			UMPIRE	Kelsey			FINAL CHECK		24	MADE	16	PERCENT	67%					
NAME OF TEAM	ONONDAGA			F. T. ATTEMPTED															

But OCS fought back and took a 61-60 lead with 1:44 left in the game. The teams traded baskets before Skaneateles' substitute Phil Shumway scored two and his teammate Tom Michel stole the ball and scored two more. Down 66-63, the Tigers were still not done. According to the Herald-Journal, Luchsinger "... stepped to the line and calmly sank two foul shots to put the Tigers one point behind."

George reported, "The Tigers were trying frantically to get a shot off as the horn sounded." Unfortunately for the Tigers, though, that's how the game would end: close but no victory, a 66-65 loss. Officials Al Sczech and Francis Kelsey checked with the scorers at the end of the game and were informed that the scoreboard clock, which read Skaneateles 66, Visitors 65, was correct. But hold everything ...

When the scorers checked the point totals, they discovered a discrepancy. OCS had 66.

According to George, "Fletcher, who ordered his team to stand by ready to come back on the floor ... notified the game officials that he [planned] to lodge a protest." Laker coach Charlie Wilson—one couldn't blame him—asserted that the game was over.

George's account of the game the next day said, "It was schoolboy basketball at its finest as the tenacious Tigers came within a whisker of whipping—to say nothing of tying—the mighty Lakers."

Joyful Echoes asked some of the Tiger players to dust off their memories of the "tie-loss" game after 53 years. Mark Clark, OCS' point guard, remembered that the players kept their uniforms on. "Fletcher told the team not to get dressed," he recalled. Jerry Hourigan agreed: "We were told that we might have to go back out and play in overtime."

When contacted by *Joyful Echoes*, Larry Behm even remembered the exact score. According to Behm, "I remember the gym was packed. Earl [Fletcher] was in his prime. After the game Fletcher was hot, really hot. Earl was burned," Behm emphasized. "As I remember it, the officials had left the floor and refused to re-start the game."

The Syracuse *Post-Standard* reported that Fletcher filed an official protest with County League secretary Royce Newell on Monday morning. The league's "rules interpreter," Al Distaola, said he saw "no grounds for official protest after hearing only the referee's version." Though there is no published record of the County League's protest resolution, the seven-member "Executive Committee" apparently rejected the protest. The Tiger loss was never reversed, and the game was not re-played.

What is probably lost in OCS history is any definitive explanation for how the discrepancy between the scoreboard and the scorebook occurred. The *Post-Standard* reported, "Fletcher feels that an error in bookkeeping was made in the first quarter." None of the players contacted, however, could recall any occasion when the score clock failed to register an OCS point.

What's certain is that OCS' 66-66 loss was extraordinary. Behm, who played on the OCS varsity for three years, went on to college ball, coached at OCS, and is still coaching today, said, "It was an anomaly. As long as I've been in basketball, I've NEVER seen anything like that happen again."

SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

by Jim Molloy, Class of 1968

I had some fun writing this article for *Joyful Echoes*, but the experience has certainly illustrated how memories dim over time—and fables emerge. I was an OCS freshman in 1965 and a member of the JV team. (T. C. George's account of the game in the *Herald Journal* humorously concluded, "In a game they're certain about the Skaneateles JV's downed the OCS junior varsity 41-35.") I was not a "starter" and I don't remember whether I even got in the JV game. And though I certainly watched the final three quarters of the varsity game, I don't remember anything about it, either. I do recall, however, that as we were waiting inside Skaneateles HS for the varsity to get dressed and board the bus back to school, Jim Joyce, one

"...BUT THE OFFICIALS RULED THAT THE HORN SOUNDED FIRST AND THE BASKET WAS WAIVED OFF."

of my teammates, came running down the hallway yelling to us that the game wasn't over and that Fletcher was going to send the team back out on the floor. I also thought I remembered the next day's *Herald-Journal* headline verbatim, but in my memory it was "Tigers Growl . . ." not "OCS Growls. . ." ("Tigers Growl" would have made a better headline.)

Larry Behm recalled that he made a basket in the frantic scrum at the end of the game that would have given OCS the win, 67 (or 68) to 66, but the officials ruled that the horn sounded first and the basket was waved off.

Two OCS cheerleaders whom I interviewed, Linda (Six) Molloy and Jonna (Parsons) Lewandowski, both had fond memories of Friday night basketball games, both were sure they would have been in Skaneateles that night, but neither specifically remembered the 66-66 loss.

As in many old mysteries, one can hear whispers of conspiracy. Several people had theories about how the discrepancy occurred. One OCS alum "remembered" that OCS got only one point on the clock after two successful free throws "right before half time." Another theory relied on third-hand hearsay: an OCS alum told me that the late Francis Kelsey, one of the two officials, confided to the alum that Kelsey suspected Fred Dew, an OCS social studies teacher who often kept score, somehow altered the books to "help" the Tigers. Jerry Hourigan, however, said, "I don't think Fred Dew kept the book that night." I was similarly skeptical: Dew would have had to alter the Skaneateles home book as well as the OCS book.

When Behm left OCS, a trove of old scorebooks stored in the coach's office was about to be discarded. Behm, who currently coaches at Pasco-Hernando State College in New Port Richey,

Florida, rescued the OCS history, and after I called him for this article, mailed me the actual score sheets from that 1965 game. It turned out that Hourigan remembered correctly: the OCS book indicated the scorekeeper for the "tie" game was Bill Hergonson (OCS '66), a student who often worked the games. Fred Dew is officially off the hook.

The original score sheets also back Fletcher's contention that a mistake occurred at some point in the first quarter. One can count 19 points in the first-quarter column for OCS—not 18. Sometimes the simplest answer is the correct one; history may have turned on an honest mistake.

My questions about the Skaneateles game triggered other memories for the players whom I contacted. Mark Clark recalled a game at Jordan-Elbridge where a hostile crowd gathered to jump Mort Luchsinger. ("I stayed close to Mitch Tarbell," Clark said whimsically, confident of Tarbell's abilities in a potential fight.) "Mort's dad had his jacket torn when we ran to the buses," Clark added.

Behm remembered a varsity game two years earlier at Tully. Earl Fletcher thought the officiating was hopelessly one-sided and that his players were getting no breaks

on calls. "He pulled the team right off the floor," Behm remembered. "I was an eighth-grader working as team manager. I couldn't believe it. But Earl had enough." One of the officials that night in Tully in 1963 was Al Sczech, who, coincidentally, also worked the Skaneateles "tie" game.

Hourigan scored 998 points in his three-year varsity career at OCS, just missing entry into the county's 1,000-point "club." Because he played before the advent of the 3-point shot, one can only guess how many more points he would have had in the modern era. Hourigan recalled, "When Clark passed the ball to the right side, Mort would shoot, and when he worked the ball to the left side, I would shoot it. And almost everything we shot was outside the [current] 3-point line." I personally watched most of the games Mort played for OCS, and I played with Hourigan and Behm during my junior year, 1966-67. I can verify Jerry's memory of his shooting almost from the out-of-bounds line, and I personally recall at least one occasion when he was called for having his heel on the line setting up. He and Mort were both deadly shooters.

Joyful Echoes thanks OCS library aide Mary Ann Babinger for her assistance. Mary Ann catalogs and protects decades-old scrapbooks stored in the high school library. The irreplaceable documents providing the backbone of this story are safely archived there. Mary Ann has also tirelessly compiled a database of all the names appearing in every OCS yearbook published since the first one in 1936.

Thanks also to Larry Behm for sending *Joyful Echoes* the primary sources documenting the

ONONDAGA CENTRAL			SKANEATELES			
	B	F	T	B	F	
Walters	6	3	15	Fisher	6	2
Luchsinger	5	9	19	Heintz	5	6
Tarbell	4	1	9	Maurer	3	1
Hourigan	0	0	0	Michel	6	0
Clark	2	2	6	Quigley	5	3
Behm	8	1	17	Shumway	2	0
TOTALS:			TOTALS:			
Score by periods:			Score by periods:			
Onondaga Central			Skaneateles			
..... 18		 50			
..... 31		 66			
..... 47		 65			
..... 66		 66			

"tie-loss." And OCS alumni will be pleased to know that Larry has been nominated to enter the New York State Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, Class of 2019.

MEET THE OCSEF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President

GLENN LEWANDOWSKI

Glenn has been a member of the OCSEF board since 5/1995 and President since 6/2009. He has lived in the district since 2/1977. He is a past member of Anglers Association and the Pattern Makers Association. Glenn has been a Pattern Maker for die cast parts since 1972, and is employed as a design engineer with Consolidated Precision Products.

Recording Secretary

JONNA LEWANDOWSKI

Jonna has been a member of the OCSEF board since 5/1995 and Recording Secretary since 6/1998. She graduated from OCS in 1967, and has been a district resident since 2/1977. Both of Jonna and Glen's children graduated from OCS, and they have a granddaughter who will graduate in 2021. Jonna is a Retired CSR/secretary for an insurance company.

Corresponding Secretary

LISA LATHROP WHITWELL

Lisa joined the OCSEF in 2006 and has been the corresponding secretary for the last 10 years. Lisa is a lifetime resident of the district and a 1976 OCS graduate. Lisa retired from Carrier Corporation after 21 years as a designer, and has served as the treasurer of the Asa Danforth Chapter of the DAR for the last seven years.

JIM MOLLOY

Jim joined the OCSEF in 1988; served as its president from 1990-92; and was treasurer from 1997 to 2017. He is a lifetime resident of the OCS District and graduated from OCS in 1968. Jim was president of the South Onondaga Apple League for two years in the early 90's and Chairman of the Property and Building Committee at Corpus Christi Church from 1988-92. Jim is a retired teacher from the North Syracuse C. S. D. (1973-2005) and a retired independent financial advisor (1985-2018). Jim is the editor of the OCS alumni newsletter *Joyful Echoes*.

Vice-President

BOB WHITELL

Bob has been on the OCSEF board of trustees since 2006 and a district resident since 1983. Bob is a retired Engineering Manager of Carrier Corporation after 40 years of service. Both of his and Lisa's children graduated from OCS.

Treasurer

TIM PIERCE

Tim joined the OCSEF board in 2017. He is a lifetime resident of the OCS district and a 1986 OCS graduate. All three of his children graduated from OCS. He served on the OCS school board, and spent the last 20+ years volunteering with the South Onondaga Apple League and Toolon Tigers Pop Warner Football. Tim has been employed as an engineer at Pall Corporation since 1991. He maintains the OCS Alumni Database for the OCSEF and coordinates the Annual Fund Drive.

JOHN PIERCE

John has been an OCSEF Board of Trustees member since 2009. He is a lifetime district resident and a 1961 graduate. His nine children graduated from OCS as well as 3 of his grandchildren. Six of his grandchildren currently attend OCS. John's Community service includes OCS school board, South Onondaga Apple League, St. Michaels Parish Council, OCS volunteer Jr. High baseball coach, OCS PTA, and sports booster clubs. John is a retired teacher from North Syracuse High School and a retired financial adviser after 25 years. John coordinates the annual OCSEF Golf Tournament.

RICK BRUNELLE

Rick joined the OCSEF board in 2009. Rick is a 52-year resident of the district and a 1974 OCS graduate. Both of his children graduated from OCS. For 10 years Rick volunteered with the South Onondaga Apple League and the Onondaga Mat Club. Rick is a retired Syracuse Police Officer after 20 years of service and is now the owner of R.E. Brunelle Builders. Rick coordinates the OCSEF "Tile by Tile" fundraising program.

BILL GUPTILL

Bill has been a long-time OCSEF board of trustees member. He is a lifetime district resident and a 1982 graduate of OCS. All three of his children graduated from OCS. Bill has spent his life farming the fields of South Onondaga and taking care of the children of the OCS district by being involved with multiple building committees, community advisory groups, and youth athletic programs.

MARILYN DOMINICK

Marilyn joined the board in 2012. She is a former OCS teacher at the high school from 1977 through 1988. While a teacher at OCS, she served as a class advisor and an advisor to various student clubs and activities. Marilyn is retired from school administration after 34 years, and currently serves as an Administrative Consultant to the Science Academies of NY Charter Schools in Syracuse and Utica.

GARY GARDNER

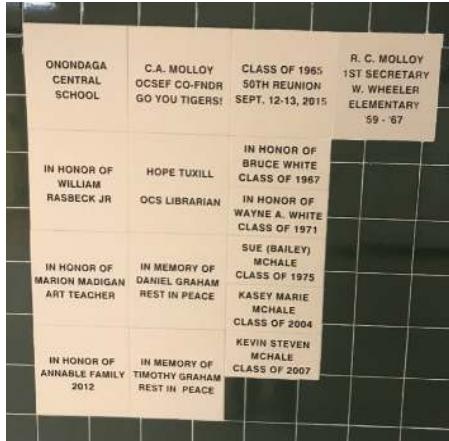
Gary has served with the OCSEF since 2015. He's a lifetime district resident and 1965 graduate. All three of his children are OCS graduates. Gary's community involvement includes Navarino Fire Dept, 50 years; Pine Ridge Cemetery Association, 15 years; South Onondaga Apple league, 10 years. Gary retired in 2015 after 50 years in the agricultural sales field.

MARGARET DENEVE

Margaret is a new (1 year) member of the OCSEF Board. She is a lifetime district resident and a 1985 OCS graduate. Her children are the 4-legged variety rescued from area shelters. Margaret is a 10-year volunteer for the American Cancer Society and is chairperson for the Relay For Life event in Lafayette. She is employed with Hematology/Oncology Associates of CNY. Margaret coordinates the publishing of *Joyful Echoes*, the OCSEF-sponsored alumni newsletter.



OCSEF UPDATE



TILE-BY-TILE PROGRAM

The OCSEF Tile-by-Tile program is a wonderful way to recognize individuals and groups in the OCS community by commemorating them on the walls of OCS. The program was established as a way to provide funds for scholarships while recognizing outstanding contributors to OCS. Please see the order form on the OCSEF page on www.ocs.cnyric.org. For questions, contact Rick Brunelle at rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com.

RECAP OF GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual OCSEF Golf Tournament was held on June 29 at Orchard Vali Golf Club. The full field of alumni, community members and supporters of the OCSEF enjoyed a beautiful day and helped raise over \$4500 for the OCSEF. Thanks to all the golfers, sponsors and donors for supporting the children of OCS!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROCKWELL!

Rockwell school is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2018. There will be activities and celebrations planned in the fall which we will announce to those in the alumni database. When in town, please stop in for a visit! Photo courtesy of the Town of Onondaga Historical Society.



CLASS of 1968 *Reunion*

Members of the Class of 1968 celebrated at a 50th Reunion in July. Some traveled many miles to be back together after many years. An evening at Kelley's Restaurant, a tour of the high school and a reception at Tanner Valley Golf Course provided plenty of opportunities to reconnect and reminisce about fun times at OCS. They are more than excited to gather again in 2023!



CLASS of 1973 *Reunion*



Onondaga Central's Class of 1973 had it's 45th Reunion at Orchard Vali Golf Course on Saturday evening July 14th 2018. It brought back fond memories of our high school years at Onondaga Central. Everyone had a goodtime and look forward to getting together again.

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS & INFO

This newsletter is a product resulting from submissions made by our alumni. Please send us your stories and news! Do you have a favorite memory? An interesting story idea? Or an alumni announcement - wedding, birth, obituary - you would like to share?

For submissions of news, ideas and/or stories, please contact us at ocsalum34@gmail.com or send to:

**OCSEF Alumni Coordinator
2598 Kamm Road
Marietta, New York 13110**

The OCSEF has established an Alumni Database. It contains contact information of OCS alumni, community members and current and former staff members. If you know of someone who would like to receive future issues of Joyful Echoes and other alumni-related

communications, please forward the Alumni Data Form to him or her. You can find it on the OCSEF Web Page: [http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/
community.cfm?subpage=40046](http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/community.cfm?subpage=40046)

