



Taylor
Center High



John F.
Kennedy High



Harry S.
Truman High

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Join the Alumni Association
Become a lifetime member!

Membership is \$25 per person for a lifetime membership. Part of the proceeds will go to the "Taylor Schools Foundation of Excellence" Scholarship Fund. Your payment may be tax deductible.

Send your check payable to "Taylor School District Alumni Association" to:

Taylor Alumni Association
22770 Northline
Taylor, MI 48180

Or visit the website at:
www.tayloralumni.org and use the online application feature

Taylor Schools Alumni Association

Volume 3, Issue 1

April, 2007
Taylor, Michigan

President's Column.....by Caroline (Craddock) Patts, TC '73

Do you ever wonder what happened to those students and staff who walked the halls with you? I do. I wonder sometimes if I ever made a difference in someones life, too. When you get older, you hope that someone, somewhere thought of you as a nice person. At least I do. Since I've been out of school for almost 34 years I have forgotten a lot of people who shared a class with me. Until someone jogs my memory, I have to look in my yearbook to compare a name with a face. The Taylor Center class of 1973 is trying to get a 35th year reunion together for 2008. I received a call from a classmate whose face and name had slipped my mind. I had to go to my yearbook to check out this person's face. He said he thought we had had a class together. I couldn't remember. The Alumni Association wants to help those of you who want to remember the students and staff of your school. This is why we ask for your e-mail addresses, home addresses and other information. This is so classmates can connect with you about reunions or just to catch up on old times and to keep you informed of what is going on.

I know there are some of you who don't want to be reminded of the old times or some who don't care about their past school life. And that is alright. The Alumni Association's mission is to keep information, help with reunions and communicate with alumni. Also, we want to provide scholarship monies to the

Taylor School District graduates. Please keep our records updated with any new information you might have.

There has been some confusion about the \$25 lifetime membership fee for the Taylor Schools Alumni Association. The \$25 lifetime fee to the Alumni Association goes toward scholarships, printing, postage and any activities that the Alumni Association puts on. Alumni Research Company, the company that maintains our website charges an annual fee to individuals to access information on the website other than names, no different than *classmates.com* or *reunions.com*. Alumni Research is diligent about security of the information on the website. Your own information can be accessed by you free of charge.

Thank you to everyone who attends the monthly meetings. With more ideas and help we can make this the best alumni group around. (Someone suggested having our minutes from the meetings put on the website and we are considering that). We can always use your help with something.

By the way, when and where is our next Taylor Schools Alumni get together? We need your ideas and suggestions. Can't wait!

Your President,

Caroline (Craddock) Patts, TC '73

Upcoming Events in Taylor

May 5—Downriver Kidney Walk at Heritage Park

May 19—City's annual tribute to past and current members of the Military

May 28—Unveiling of the *Lest They be Forgotten Memorial* (tribute to fallen Army Spc. Holly McGeogh, Truman '02 and others in Michigan)

June 2-3—Taylor Relay for Life at Heritage Park

June 9-10—Art in the Park (outdoor art fair, classic car show on the 9th, student art gallery, entertainment)

June 30—Taylor Garden Walk

July 12-15—Summer Festival

The above events are just a selection of the events scheduled. Visit the City of Taylor website at www.cityoftaylor.com for detailed information on upcoming events and all the great things available in your "old home town". (Petting Farm, golf courses, parks, Senior Center activities, Library activities, Sportsplex and much more!)

Where Are They Now? Info on Retired Faculty.....by John Pantalone

"The Big D".....Many have asked what has happened to **Charlie Dickelman**. The Big D is one of the most liked teachers in the history of Taylor Schools.

D started in Taylor the same year as the first graduating class of Taylor Center and what a coincidence, he retired the same year as the last Taylor Center graduating class of 1997.

What a fabulous career he had—he taught at Taylor Center Elementary, Taylor Junior High, Taylor Center High, Kennedy High and back to Taylor Center High. I was going to say when he retired, but Charlie has not and most likely will not ever retire from his ties with the Taylor School District. He is still assisting with the tennis teams at Truman.

In addition to his classroom teaching, he was Assistant Coach in baseball and tennis and was the yearbook advisor at both Kennedy and Taylor Center.

Charlie is still active in class reunions and Alumni Association activities. It seems he can tell you something about every student he ever had. Charlie, keep up the good work for years to come!

Several alumni have inquired about **Leo Goetz**. Leo was a business education instructor at both Taylor Center and Kennedy. He left the classroom to become a counselor at Kennedy. He retired and moved to Sun City, Arizona. He and his wife Lois are very active in the Sun City volunteer police department.

Both Leo and Charlie were teaching when the 1957 class of Taylor graduated.

We will feature more of the class of '57 faculty in the next newsletter

In the News

Joan Gebhardt, retired Taylor elementary school principal, was appointed to the Schoolcraft College Board of Trustees. Congratulations. We know you will be an excellent addition to the Schoolcraft Board!

JFK Basketball Coach Retires - Mike Baum, who has coached the Eagles since 1981, has decided to give up his basketball coaching career. Mike was only the second basketball coach at JFK. Van Kostegian started the basketball program at Kennedy and then Mike took over for the next 25 years. Mike will continue to coach girls softball at Kennedy. Congratulations on a terrific run as Kennedy's basketball coach. You will be missed!

Christie Clipper, Kennedy '86 recently received another award as Entrepreneur of the month. Christie has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Masters degree from Wayne State. Both degrees are in the health research field. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer of Kulick Enterprises. Kulick Enterprises specializes in prototype design, research and development, product enhancement and system analysis in a number of areas including the automotive aircraft, medical and military fields. She currently helps in the speciality vehicles for

the military that will be used in several areas, including border patrol and White House security. In addition to the current award she has been awarded the Dale Carnegie Leadership Award. Congratulations!

Brittney Phillips, Truman '05 is now playing volleyball for Schoolcraft College. Brittney has been playing volleyball since the 6th grade. As a senior at Truman she led the team to its first division championship in the Mega Conference. At last report the Schoolcraft team had an outstanding 34 wins and 5 losses.

Charles Bonner, Kennedy '67 has been named Chaplain at the Yakima Training Center—an Army base in Yakima, Washington. He has been Chaplain since September, 2006. Congratulations!

Lanny Mills, Kennedy '67 was recently in the Detroit News. He owns a gymnastic training gym in Southgate and has a student that he thinks is a once in a lifetime student. Lanny himself was quite a gymnast at JFK winning many medals at the State level. He then went on to Eastern Michigan University and became an All-American gymnast. He taught school in Trenton for 28 years and opened Mills Gymnastic USA in 1994. Congratulations Lanny on a great career!

MEMORIAM

The Taylor Alumni Association would like to extend our condolences to the families of alumni that passed away recently:

Tom Zambeck, Taylor Center, 1958

Harry Kegley, Taylor Center, 1958

Henry "Hank" Vervisch, husband of Peggy Maki (JFK 1967) and brother of Douglas Vervisch (TC 1966)

Selma Boughner Wilson, Kennedy, 1985

Deborah Boik, Kennedy, 1971

MEMORIAM (cont'd)

Virginia Elaine Rottger (Nelson), Taylor Center, 1964

Paul Aleshire, Taylor Center 1984

Retirements

Truman Assistant Principal Retires - **Tom Poole**, Assistant Principal at Truman High School retired January 31, 2007. Tom joined the Taylor School District as a math teacher in 1973 and served in various roles throughout that time. Congratulations and best wishes for a happy healthy future.

Reunions Page

This poem was posted to the class notes portion of the Alumni website. Enjoy!

Class Reunion Poem

Every ten years, as summertime nears, An announcement arrives in the mail. A reunion is planned; it'll really be grand; Make plans to attend without fail.

I'll never forget the first time we met; we tried so hard to impress. We drove fancy cars, smoked big cigars, and wore our most elegant dress.

It was quite an affair; the whole class was there. It was held at a fancy hotel. We wined, and we dined, and we acted refined, and everyone thought it was swell.

The men all conversed about who had been first to achieve great fortune and fame. Meanwhile, their spouses described their fine houses and how beautiful their children became.

The homecoming queen, who once had been lean, now weighed in at 196. The jocks who were there had all lost their hair, and the cheerleaders could no longer do kicks.

No one had heard about the class nerd who'd

guided a spacecraft to the moon; or poor little Jane, who's always been plain; she married a shipping tycoon.

The boy we'd decreed "most apt to succeed" was serving ten years in the pen. While the one voted "least" now was a priest, just shows you can be wrong now and then.

They awarded a prize to one of the guys who seemed to have aged the least. Another was given to the grad who had driven the farthest to attend the feast.

They took a class picture, a curious mixture of beehives, crew cuts and wide ties. Tall, short, or skinny, the style was the mini; you never saw so many thighs..

At our next get together, no one cared whether they impressed their classmates or not. The mood was informal, a whole lot more normal; by this time we'd all gone to pot.

It was held out of doors at the lake shores; we ate hamburgers, coleslaw and beans. Then

most of us lay around in the shade in our comfortable t-shirts and jeans.

By the fortieth year, it was abundantly clear, we definitely were over the hill. Those who weren't dead had to crawl out of bed, and be home in time for their pills.

And now I can't wait; they've set the date: Our fiftieth is coming I'm told. It should be a ball, they've rented a hall at the Shady Rest Home for the old.

Repairs have been made on my hearing aid; My pacemaker's been turned up on high. My wheelchair is oiled, and my teeth have been boiled; and I've bought a new wig and glass eye.

I'm feeling quite hearty, and I'm ready to party; I'm gonna dance 'til dawn's early light. It'll be lots of fun; but I just hope that there's one other person who can make it that night!

—Author Unknown

Reunions Planned

Taylor Center Class of '57 is planning a mid-summer reunion. 10 tee times are reserved at the Gateway Golf Course for 10-11am on Wednesday, August 22. Senior rates of \$27 for golf and cart can be paid that day. The outing is for any grads from the classes of '57-'60, their spouses, guests and faculty. Grads may enter individually or as a foursome (coed foursomes too). Following the golf outing there will be a reunion party from 6pm—? At Pia's Ristorante. There is a planned pizza buffet with pizza, salad, garlic rolls, pop, coffee and tea. The cost is \$12/person, gratuity included. Alumni may choose to participate in either event or both. Contact Ken Avery at kmsj62@comcast.net or Pat Patterson at ppatterson155@comcast.net. For registration and further info regarding these events contact the above so registration forms can be sent. Include your postal address. Hoping to see a large number of classmates to rehash the "good old days"

Taylor Center Class of '62 is planning a reunion for Friday, August 3, 2007 at Plas, Saturday, August 4, at Lakes of Taylor North Ballroom, \$40/person, Sunday, August 5 at Heritage Park picnic. \$40 check made out to Karen Boyer Drogos, 3527 Grindley Park,

Dearborn, MI 48124. Memo on check: TCHS class of '62.

Taylor Center Class of '73 is looking for classmates for a 35-year reunion in 2008. Contact Caroline (Craddock) Patts at cpatts@yahoo.com or (313) 383-9271 with any information.

Taylor Center Class of '97 is planning a 10 year reunion for September 22, 6pm—Midnight at the Ramada in Taylor. An estimated headcount is needed by the end of April (no tickets/money at this time). Please contact either Elaina Vickstrom (via classmates.com ormyspace) or Shannon Floyd (shannonfloyd@hotmail.com) to let them know if you are interested in attending.

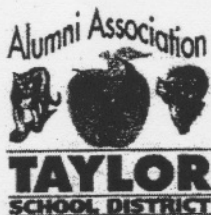
John F. Kennedy Classes of '66—'69 are holding a combined reunion for August 4, 2007 at Crystal Gardens in Southgate, Michigan. More info coming soon.

Kennedy & Truman Class of '98 is planning a joint reunion. Please send your current contact info to Jill at JillKoro80@yahoo.com

Truman High Classes of '87 and '88 are planning a 20-year combined class reunion for Saturday, Au-

gust 4, 2007 from 6 pm—1 am at Holiday Inn Southgate. Contact Tammy (Stein) Snyder at (313) 292-4691 or snyder239@comcast.net; Lorie (loeber) Szabo at lorieszabo@truman1987.com; Tracy(Junkin)Heiler at tracyheiler@comcast.net; Michelle (Masters) Tocco at tocco44@yahoo.com

Truman High Class of '97 is planning a 10 year reunion for Friday, August 10, 2007 from 6-Midnight at Holiday Inn Southgate. Ticket prices: early bird special \$60/single/\$110 couple before May 1. After May 1 \$70 single/\$130 couple. Call Christa at 313-279-1616 or e-mail christahardin@yahoo.com; Rebecca marie777@aol.com or e-mail al-rocke@hotmail.com. Contact info is needed



Organizing Committee

Nancy (Vauris) Myers	JFK 1968
Nancy Mascaro-Miller	JFK 1967
Linda Pilous	JFK 1967
Barbara (Weigel) Schultz	TCH 1958
Mickey Turchek	TCH 1960
Gloria (Villet) Blommer	JFK 1967
Claudia (Michael) Boyda	JFK 1967
Mary (Swartout) Rusnak	JFK 1972
Lora Coats	HST 1983
Sharon (Campau) Barnett	TCH 1964
Clair (Wasil) Conway	JFK 1967
Bea (Leonards)	
Holland-Benjamin	JFK 1985

Advisory Members

Charles Dickleman	Faculty (Retired)
Robert Haarela	Faculty (Retired)
John Pantalone	Faculty (Retired)
Amy Skehan	Executive Director, Taylor Foundation For Education Excellence

Taylor Alumni Association

22770 Northline

Taylor, MI 48180

Web: www.tayloralumni.orgE-mail: tayloralumniassociation@yahoo.com

Taylor Schools Alumni Association's purpose.

To enhance the educational atmosphere of the Taylor School District by developing an active alumni association for the common good of both the graduates and the school district.

Alumni Directories We still have some 2003 directories for \$5 each. The new 2008 will be coming soon

Alumni Mugs \$5 gray with all 3 mascots on them

Window Clings \$1 Alumni Association has Ram, Cougar & Eagle on it.

Alumni Association Membership Benefits...

The Alumni Association is often asked "what benefits do I get for joining the Taylor Schools Alumni Association"? The first and perhaps most important benefit is being able to stay in touch with people like you, Taylor Schools Graduates. Our website has great connections with the high schools and city so even if you no longer live in the area you can keep up to date with what is happening in your old hometown and high school. There are news items posted, class reunion information, a chat room and bul-

letin board. There is even a yellow pages section where alumni with businesses can post their information. Visit the website at: www.tayloralumni.org. Receive free admittance to sporting events at the high schools for active members. We have lots of other ideas but need everyone we can get to provide input and help. Remember, any association is as good as its members. Please consider joining today!

School News.....by Beatrice Leonards Benjamin, JFK '85

The changes are here! It is official; two elementary buildings are closing; Wareing and Racho. Johnson Elementary will house only pre-school. Brake Junior High will become a 6th Grade Academy, where all the district's 6th graders will attend. All 7th and 8th graders will attend West or Hoover. Enrollment has dropped district wide for many years. Most buildings have several empty classrooms, are very old and require high maintenance. This is the solution the district feels it needs. Many citizens are not happy about neighborhood schools closing however there is little anyone can do about population drops. Take a look at the history of the district on the following website, <http://www.taylorschools.net/history.htm>. You will see how over the past 50 years Taylor, just as other suburbs did, built subdivisions with local schools. Times have changed and unfortunately the ideal situation isn't possible anymore. Watch the Taylor School District website for farewell events at the schools that are closing. Maybe you can be a part of saying good bye!

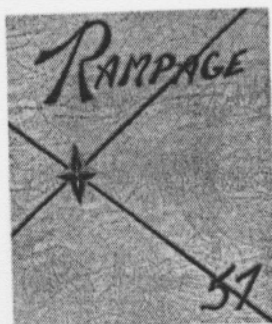
2007 MARKS THE 50TH YEAR SINCE THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN TAYLOR HISTORY

Taylor opened its first high school, Taylor Center High School in September of 1953, starting with 9th graders only and then progressing with that grade until its first graduating class in June of 1957. In June of 1957, 299 students graduated from Taylor Center High School. The class of '57 was led by the following class officers:

Bob Brodie-President
Dorothy Wisz-Vice President
Mary Maxwell-Secretary
Dorothy Giraud-Treasurer



The Class of '57 led the way for another 16,414 graduates that followed.



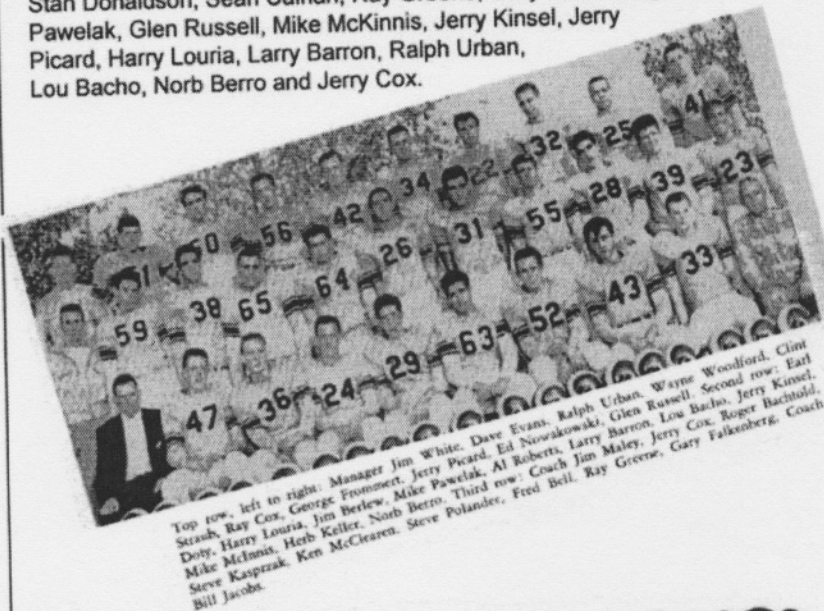
The following was taken from the 1957 "Rampage"
 - Author Unknown:

We pause at the crossroads,
 Which Road shall we take?
 The path we know is the one we forsake,
 The trail we have traveled is full of sun,
 As we look back at the way we have come.
 Freshman days have an aura of light,
 Sophomore year seems shiny bright,
 Junior days were filled with song,
 Senior year is too soon gone.
 Can the years to come
 Be as happy as these?
 Dear God, we hope so, if you please.

The Taylor Schools Alumni Association sincerely wishes you have indeed experienced happiness in your life since Taylor Center High School

The first football team in Taylor Center history with seniors on the squad played 9 games. The team lost 3 of their first 4 games and then had a five-game winning streak ending with a 50 to 6 victory over Detroit Wilbur Wright.

What a remarkable season. The Rams were coached by Jim Maley and Bill Jacobs. Some of the seniors that played on that great team were: Clint Straub, Ed Nowakowski, Steve Polander, Ken McClearen, Stan Donaldson, Sean Calnan, Ray Greene, Gary Falkenberg, Mike Pawelak, Glen Russell, Mike McKinnis, Jerry Kinsel, Jerry Picard, Harry Louria, Larry Barron, Ralph Urban, Lou Bacho, Norb Berro and Jerry Cox.



1956 FOOTBALL RECORD

Rams	0	Highland Park	18
Rams	7	Lowery	14
Rams	19	Detroit Mumford	7
Rams	12	Wayne	41
Rams	12	Romulus	6
Rams	13	Tecumseh	0
Rams	9	Melvindale	0
Rams	37	Dearborn Roosevelt	7
Rams	50	Detroit Wilbur Wright	6

2007 MARKS THE 50TH YEAR SINCE THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN TAYLOR HISTORY

As we celebrate the 50th year since the first graduating class in Taylor history, John Pantalone has started a "Walk Down Memory Lane" series of e-mails which are sent out to all classes of Taylor Center. This will continue throughout 2007. We will provide these articles in each of our newsletters. Thanks to John for doing this. Remember, even though the school is closed the memories live on forever!



"Walk Down Memory Lane"by John Pantalone

I started teaching in Taylor in September of 1955 and that meant the class of '57 was starting their Junior year.

I remember split days—the Senior High starting school at 7 am and going until 12 and then the 7th and 8th grades coming in to TC at 12:30 and staying until 5:30.

I remember how amazed I was to see the many buses lined up in the circle drive to take students home (we had one bus at Mackinaw City) it seemed almost everyone rode the bus.

I remember that there was no traffic light at the intersection of Telegraph and Wick—a teacher was killed in an

accident and parents demonstrated to get a light. They held hands and blocked traffic.

Our first baby sitter was Maryann Calabrese of the class of '57.

What a great restaurant at the Colonial House run by the Koths family.

I recall an establishment at the Northwest corner of Telegraph and Goddard, called the Homestead...stopped their on occasion to have a cool one and play shuffle board.

What an imposing figure Mr. Anthony Matulis, Principal was.

The Superintendent's office was at the far northwest corner of the first floor hall—right across from my first class-

room (talk about pressure). The Superintendent at that time was Orville Jones. His son Bill was in the class of '60.

What a great lady Azalee Pauloski was. She was Assistant Principal and in charge of the counselors.

I recall how much fun it was to go to work. Did not like to have school called off.

Do you remember that a machine shop class was taught out by the bus garage? The instructor was Don Graham.

Your whole class must have belonged to one club or another as I count 20 different clubs in the yearbook.

A few quotes from the many responses received about the "Memory Walk"...

Jim Hoover, class of '57 sent in some of his memories:

Skipper's Drive in on Ecorse Road

Corky's Drive in on Telegraph

Great memories Ecorse theater as Jolly Roger

How about Pia's Pizza (it is still going strong—as a matter of fact we have had a couple of alumni



of the Drive In well as the



gatherings there)

Drag Racing on Pardee between Northline and Ecorse Road. Jim concluded with this....a time that my children have said they wish they had witnessed—the world that was a much better place to live in.

Karen Clement Shonta of the class of '57 wanted me to know that she thought Azalee Pauloski was a wonderful person (this was expressed by many of you). She went on to say that she would like to hear from you on what has happened since graduation. As far as Karen, she worked as a secretary in the Taylor School District until 1963. when she moved to Boston with her husband, Chuck



Shonta. Chuck was playing professional football with the New England Patriots. He played for 8 years then they moved back to this area and are currently living in New Boston. They have two daughters and 3 grandchildren. She would like to hear from you at cshonta@charter.net.

Jim Skura, class of '60 remembers the half days and watching Soupy Sales on TV before catching the bus for the afternoon session. He adds "wow" you just brought me back to a great time of my life".

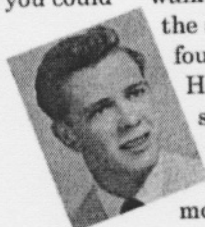
Caroline (Craddock) Patts, class of '73 is working on a memorabilia room in the wing that is left of the original high school. She could use pictures, etc. to add to the collection. The Alumni Association collected bricks when they were dismantling TC. Let any one of the Board members know if you would be interested in purchasing one.



2007 MARKS THE 50TH YEAR SINCE THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS IN TAYLOR HISTORY

"Walk Down Memory Lane".....by John Pantalone

Another "midnight confession" from Jim Hoover—Pat Patterson, George Frommert and Jim found out that by going down in the boiler room you could walk under the building along the steam pipe lines. They found their way to the Home Ec room. They ran a string to a mannequin and the morning when the girls arrived, pulled the string making the mannequin move...the class was in an uproar



Gail Fisher Vespa, class of '66 recalls having Chuck Shonta as a sub teacher and how cool it was to have a NFL player as a teacher. She recalls drag racing—her territory was on Ecorse Road between the I-94 bridges, a stretch of exactly a quarter mile.

Gary Villet class of '60 tells me that they are working on a reunion for the classes of '57, 58, 59 and 60. Looking at 2008.

Jim Skura class of '60 is looking for information on the following classmates—Dennis Dobbblestein, Keith Kleinhenn and Dick DeLisle...also news about Art Jones who was the Band Director at that time—last I heard was that he had gone to Adrian College.



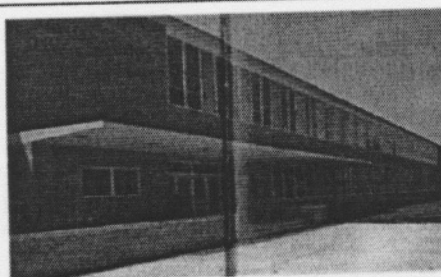
Garry Shopshear class of '72 added these hang outs to the list: Bob's Big Boy and A&W on Telegraph and the Burger King on Ecorse. A big hello from him to the class of '72.

Judy White Warner class of '58 sends this: GAA played a very important part in my life as I had a good sports background when I began teaching physical education in 1962. Miss Duffy was not only the gym teacher, but the Director of our Athletic Association. We could earn a school letter. There were no competitive sports for females at that time. JV cheerleaders Sue Phail, Virginia Malewsky, Janet Fedorinchik and I enjoyed doing the "Rams Train" cheer. Mr. Furbush (deceased) was an excellent drama director and teacher. When I began teaching in Taylor he became my colleague.

Mike Kowal class of '65 remembers his tennis coach (why not??? It was me) Mike is now rated number 2 in all of southeastern Michigan in the over 55 classification...not sure if I can claim any part of that success.

Joyce Tatom Uhlik adds Happy's Drive into the hang out spots. She also has fond memories of Miss Wilber and the musicals, especially "The King and I". She also recalls the Wig Wam, right across from TC.

Taylor Center



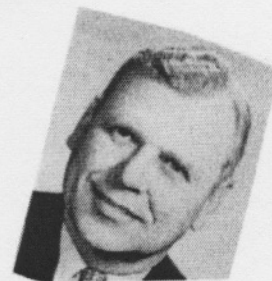
50th Anniversary



MRS. AZALEE PAULOSKI
Director of Guidance



MR. JIM MALEY
Director of Athletics



MR. ANTHONY MATULIS
Principal