

# Blossoms Forever

A Newsletter for Blooming Prairie School District Alumni & Friends • May, 2010



Receiving their awards at the BP Education Foundation Banquet  
Left to right are Chuck Halstenson, Don Morrison, Roger Johnson and Jan Lueth.

## 2010 DISTINCTIVE SERVICE AND ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME HONOREES

More than 120 Alumni and Friends gathered together on a cold January night to once again honor those who have distinguished themselves as Blossoms. We now have 12 women and men enrolled in the special "Blossoms Forever" club. They are listed below:

### DISTINCTIVE SERVICE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Millie and Bud Hansen '36  
Margaret Zwiener Hogan '34  
LeMar Nelson -50 year Blossom  
Dean Brudwick '57  
Marian Amundson Lehman '51  
Allan Wold '43  
Bill Underwood '49  
Jeanne Kruckeberg Ide '86  
Janis Ingvalson Lueth '74  
Don Morrison '47  
Chuck Halstenson '71  
Roger "Moose" Johnson '53



Honorees Speaking to BPHS Students

Janis, Chuck, Don, and Roger spent Friday, January 29 and Saturday, January 30 enjoying much deserved recognition "back home" in Blooming Prairie. Activities included speaking to current Junior and Senior BPHS students, a Friday evening reception at the high school, introductions and special gifts at half-time of the Boy's basketball game, and the recognition banquet at the Serviceman's Club Saturday evening. Their achievements are many and include Janis's dedication to creation of a positive clinic environment to assist low-income women and teens, Chuck's work as a researcher and as a business owner, Don's athletic career which includes starring membership on the BPHS '46 football team which was undefeated and had only one touchdown scored against them and Roger's amazing touch in basketball as he became the first Blossom to score 1,000 points during his high school years.

While many years have passed since graduation, or retirement for LeMar, each of the 12 honorees has expressed strong positive feelings about Blooming Prairie. Quoted in the February 2 issue of the "Blooming Prairie Times", Chuck Halstenson said, "I am honored and humbled by this award". Janis Lueth's words were "I am proud to be a Blossom; my work and efforts are so important to me. I am honored; this is truly



**Roger Johnson's Supportive Family Team Members**

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special." Thousand point scorer Roger Johnson, a good man of few words, said "I am so proud to be a Blossom." Don Morrison expressed what we hope all Alumni and Friends feel, "Blooming Prairie is home to me, it always will be."

Our belief is that all Blooming Prairie Alumni and Friends share in the achievements and recognition of those honored as Distinctive Servants and Hall of Fame athletes. Many people, including parents, close family members, teachers, coaches, school administrators, pastors, priests, Sunday School teachers, Girl and Boy Scout leaders, contributed to the successes of these fine people. Celebrate with them and honor yourself. Stay proud to be a Blossom.

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE/ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARDS**

Send us your nominations for the group to be honored in 2011 by AUGUST 1. Criteria for DISTINGUISHED SERVICE recognition are:

Graduating from Blooming Prairie Public School at least 10 years prior to the current date  
Candidates must have made a positive contribution for the benefit of mankind

Candidates must have achieved outstanding success in one or more of the following areas: A profession, business, the arts, humanitarian efforts, or community service.

Posthumous awards can be made.

Criteria for ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME are:

Accomplishments in athletics at BPHS which may include setting School, Conference, and State records. Recognition at School, Conference, or State levels. Unusual distinction in one sport for two or more seasons or consistent distinction in several sports for more than one season.

All accomplishments shall have been achieved in a manner which exemplifies the concept of student athlete.

Posthumous awards can be made.

Send the name, current address, telephone number, and e-mail address of nominees to Blooming Prairie School District Alumni and Friends, Box 512, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, 55917. Information to support the nomination is very important. **NOMINATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, 2010**

## **HONORED TEACHER/ADMINISTRATOR/STAFF MEMBER AWARD**

We now have honored 12 Blossoms for accomplishments in service to others and athletics. It is time now to remember and honor those who have served Blooming Prairie School District students as a teacher, administrator, or staff member. Send us your nominations per the criteria listed below:

Candidates must have been an employee of Blooming Prairie Public School District for at least ten years. Candidates must have served students in a manner that exceeded what is normally expected. Many students have gained positively from the service of this person. The person may have earned awards locally or at the state and national level. The life of this person away from school had a positive effect on Blooming Prairie Public School District students. Posthumous awards can be made.

While it is likely that most of us will remember a teacher, administrator or coach that especially influenced our life, it may be a secretary, custodian, teacher's aide, or some other person employed by the district that was the special one. Think carefully and nominate. Supporting information is very helpful as recipients are chosen.

Send the name, current address, telephone number, and e-mail address of nominees to Blooming Prairie School District Alumni and Friends, Box 512, Blooming Prairie, Minnesota, 55917. Information to support the nomination is very important. **NOMINATION DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1, 2010**

## 2010 Education Foundation Auction

Blossoms and Friends were everywhere in the buildings that used to house Betlach's Food Store and Jim Pompa's Pharmacy as they gathered together Saturday, March 27 for the now annual "Best Party in Blooming Prairie" Education Foundation Auction. "Blooming Prairie Times" reporter Per Kvalsten reported 215 bidding numbers sold to an estimated crowd of 300 to 400 people in attendance. All were there to support current and future Blooming Prairie School District students. Auction items included One Pizza Per Month for One Year, a Handmade Quilt, Autographed Joe Mauer Baseball, a Weekend of Dog Boarding, a Fireman Theme Birthday Party, an 8 X 10 Shed Built on Site, and on and on. A total of 371 items. Our favorite is always Bill Noble's contribution of one Gallon of Pickled Eggs. The result, more than \$55,000 raised. One more example of the spirit and generosity of Blooming Prairie residents.



**At the Auction Becky Trom Noble '74, Tamzen Johnson and Betti Hanson Johnson '74**

The Blooming Prairie Education Foundation was created in 1998 by a group of forward-thinking good people who strongly supported Blooming Prairie School District students. Since then, thousands of dollars have been granted via the Foundation Mission Statement which states "The Mission is to contribute to the development of innovative programs, fund special equipment needs and otherwise promote projects and programs to enhance learning opportunities for students". The Foundation is governed by a board of women and men who meet and work for students throughout each year. The current board includes President Sue Zweiner, Superintendent Barry Olson,



**Selling Bid Numbers Rodney Krell '88, Superintendent Barry Olson, and Mary Lofthus Wacek '82**

student members Jeffrey Doerhoefer and Rachel Klemmensen and members Becky Noble, Betti Johnson, Chris Staloch, Doug Myers, Jill Kubicek, John Bruns, Julie Peterson, Linda Kaplan, Mark Larkowski, Mary Kittleson, Mary Wacek, Tamzen Johnson, Teresa Sisler, Julie Noble, Chad Eischens, Kathy Peterson and Rodney Krell.

It has been and continues to be "Great to be a Blossom".

## 2010 BLOSSOM CLASS REUNIONS

**Class of '39** meets every year at noon on the first Friday in August at Jerry's Other Place in Austin. Contact Merten Hansen for further information.

**Class of '43** will celebrate a reunion at noon on August 30, 2010 at the Pizza Ranch in Owatonna. Contact is Gladys Pechacek at 507-451-3570 or email [pechacek@deskmedia.com](mailto:pechacek@deskmedia.com)

**Class of '44** meets every year at the Pizza Cellar on the first Friday in October. Esther Hansen is the class contact.

**Class of '47** meets annually at the Blooming Prairie Pizza Cellar on the second Saturday of August.

**Class of 1950** will meet to celebrate 60 years since graduation on Saturday, July 3rd, 2010. The group will gather at "Torey's", 685 Bridge St. in Owatonna at 11:15 a.m. Class members will be contacted. For more information, call Barbara Kading Wesely at 507-451-6355.

**Classes of '52** and '53 will meet annually on July 3rd, 5:00 p.m. at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. Class contacts are Lois and Ken Winzenburg

**Class of '54** will be together at the Pizza Cellar on the first Saturday of August each year. Contact Dick Miller at 507-437-1600 for more information.

**Class of '55** plans to meet at the Pizza Cellar on the third Saturday in September each year. Marilyn Robinson Tollefson will provide more information. 507-753-7553

**Class of '58's** yearly class reunion will be at the Pizza Cellar on Saturday, September 25, at 5:00 p.m. Doris Rasmussen (507-583-2280) and Judy Wencil (507-583-7570) are contacts for the class.

**Class of '60** will celebrate 50 years since graduation on Saturday, October 9, 2010. Included will be a gathering and meal at Blooming Prairie High School. Specific information has been sent to each member of the group and more details will soon follow. Haven't been contacted? Call Marlys Knutson Sutherland at 507-324-5471 or Judy Morton Myers at 507-433-6262.

We would like to advertise your class reunions. Contact Doug Myers at 507-433-6262 or e-mail dmyers3@charter.net

For information about the Blooming Prairie Education Foundation go to [blossoms.k12.mn.us](http://blossoms.k12.mn.us)

[www.bloomingprairie.com](http://www.bloomingprairie.com) contains current information about the City of Blooming Prairie.

## BLOSSOM ATHLETIC HISTORY

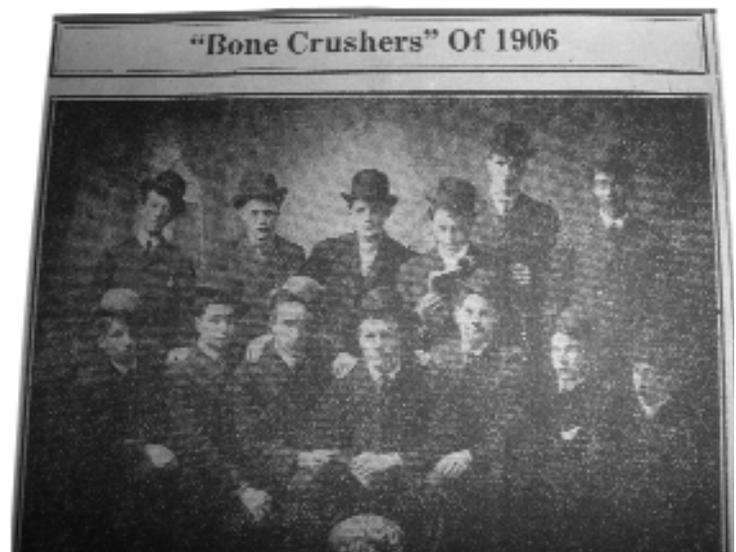
Could we have been the "Bone Crushers" instead of the "Awesome Blossoms"? A Fortieth Anniversary Issue of the Blooming Prairie Times pictures the 1906 "Bone Crushers", which the paper calls the first Blooming Prairie School District football team. One game was reported as the "Bone Crushers" defeated Claremont 7 to 0. Reported also was that after the 1906 season, football was not a part of school activities again until 1919. In that season, with some World War I soldiers returning to school, the men "took the Dodge Center Dodgers to the cleaners" by a score of 12-6. The lineup included names that are still well known in Blooming Prairie. Plotts and Miller at ends, McEathron and Bell at tackles, Burness

and Noble at guards, Jay C. Peterson at center, Brainerd at quarter, Srsen and Sauer at halves, and Captain Cole at fullback.

The Times Anniversary edition also reported that Blossom basketball was at first primarily a women's sport. The 1907 team, which included stars May Keenan and Amelia Ulland, defeated a town team 18-10. The men's team was formed in 1913 and played their games on the floor of Cooley's Opera House. This building still stands and is currently owned and occupied by Main Street Dental Clinic. The men's team included Captain Seymour Thimsen, James Malloy, John Flanagan, Clint Johnson, and Obed Ulland. This team lost all but one game. However, the 1919 team won five straight games, including two from Pillsbury and one from Austin.

Baseball must have been the Blossom's best sport in the early days as the Times reported "the baseballers were so good that they ran up as high scores as the football or basketball teams." Practicing in Srsen's pasture must have helped as they defeated Medford 18 to 6 and Dodge Center 38 to 4.

So, which do you prefer? "Bone Crushers" or "Awesome Blossoms"?



**TOP Row:** George H. Johnson, Eugene Malloy, Selmer Ulland, Professor Peter Skartvedt, Nordean Olson  
**BOTTOM ROW:** Clarence Johnson, George Meehan, Jim Dugan, Edward Ingvalson, Rrolf Veblen, Gilbert Johnson, Aslack Ostby

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## Blossoms and Friends Respond

Reaction to a November, 2009 request to send money to pay for the printing and mailing of the “Blossoms Forever” newsletter was outstanding and heartwarming. Enough money was received to pay for two issues per year. Several people sent \$100.00 contributions and many sent more than the \$15.00 requested. THANK YOU!

Perhaps even more appreciated than the money, were written responses of memory and encouragement from readers. Below are some of messages received:

“Please use this donation (\$100.00) for educational materials of your choice. I recall the Industrial Arts/Ag. Depts. And Library can always improve their supplies/tools/equip. Thank you for the great education programs and your continued efforts.”

### Mark Class of '74 and Cindy Sorensen

“I am very impressed with the BPHS Administration and the Community for the goals set and accomplished for classrooms, better teaching aids, and the general “up” of everything for future grads of BPHS- they are very lucky. I'll never forget the “tunnel” to the music room during my h.s. days- in a basement!

I appreciate the news bulletin- keeps me informed on not only B.P. and folk, but it also warms my heart- there is courage and fortitude for the future even though BP is a small Minnesota town. “

### Cynthia Farrington Colbert, Class of '53

“I appreciate being included in the awesome blossoms. I went to school with the Class of 1962; however, I had to move during my high school years. I still feel like it was my school and classmates invite me back for reunions.”

### Kerry Klempf Simpson

“Fun to receive the latest newsletter. As a former High School teacher, those \*second graders (most) were in my Math classes. The only reference I would have are the Annuals. Many of them I recall with special thoughts.”

### Lloyd and Ramona Swenson

\*Mr. Swenson is referring to members of the Class of '60 pictured as second grade students in the last newsletter.

“My sister sent me a copy of your publication and it is just great—loved the Harms article—they were neighbors of mine. What a remarkable family. Please find enclosed a year's fee plus some extra to help with your fine efforts.”

### A forever Blossom!! “Margie Nelson” '54

“Thanks for keeping us on your list to receive “Blossoms Forever” newsletter. We were 1956 graduates. Have enjoyed the newsletter—guess after 53 plus years, Blooming Prairie will always be our home town. Enclosed is check for \$15.00. Hope you can keep up the good work.”

### Harriet and Roger Fread Class of '56

“ Hey Alumni and Friends—Please keep up the great work. I enjoy the “Blossoms Forever” so very much!! Go Awesome Blossoms!! Love my hometown forever.”

### Sally Walsh Burns Class of '66

“As long as the November issue had a picture of my Cousin (The other Bob Ingvalson) and an article about Uncle Roger, I'm sending \$30.00 to help with the costs. I really enjoy the newsletter.”

### Bob Ingvalson '63

“Go Blossoms at the Dome!”

“What a great pleasure it was to read the history of BP schools in your recent newsletter. The story brought back memories of my parents going door-to-door when I was in grade school to get farm neighbors to sign the petition to consolidate. In sixth grade I moved to “town” school, and in eighth grade I stepped across the threshold to the new high school—What a feeling of pride that instilled.

After a rewarding career as a teacher myself, I realized that my inspiration came from my teachers and mentors in the BP school system, esp. LeMar Nelson.

Thanks again for the great article!”

### Paul Goodnature

“Thank you for the great newsletter! I love it!”

**Paula Klemmensen Richter Class of '87**

“Awhile back I received my first issue of “Blossoms Forever”. (It may have been the first issue.) What a pleasant surprise to see my name in it. With the long history of the school, I was truly honored.

Though I was only a resident of BP for about six years, I still consider it my hometown. Many times over the years I have suffered ridicule for having been a Blossom, I laugh and tell them I am still a Blossom. That is a title I'll proudly carry for life. Please accept this token of appreciation for what you are doing and keep up the good work.

Hello to everyone back home. God bless our troops, and may God Bless America.”

Your Fellow Blossom,

**Jeff Jensen- '75**

“Thanks to you for the interesting newsletter. We enjoy reading each issue.

I graduated from BP in 1946. We had 46 graduates that year. We had three servicemen come back from World War II and completed their high school senior year with us. They were Jack Shaw, Delbert Johnson, and Allan Madsen.

We have our annual class reunion at the Pizza Cellar in the fall.”

**Glenda Kubista Hanson '46**

“Keep the “newsletter” coming! Too bad the “Awesome Blossoms” lost to Minneota—see I still follow them—once a “Blossom” always “Blossom!”

**Doris Sunheim**

“It was, and is, nice to have a unique name. Many have asked if we as cheerleaders ever thought it strange to be cheering for a Blossom, but we didn't at all. They were nearly always conference champions, after all. Perhaps if the teams were not good, then someone would have wanted to change it. People get a big kick to hear that the B teams were the “BUDS” and that the jazz band was the “Petal Tones”. Is this still true?”

**Marian Amundson Lehman '51**

“I very much enjoy reading “Blossoms Forever”.”

**Joan Herron '62**

“Last issue was another interesting and informing one. Many thanks to those dedicated volunteers.”

**Beverly Robinson Allen '47**

“Just want to tell you how much I love receiving the Newsletter and catching up on everything the school is doing. Have nothing but fond memories of my school days in B.P. We had great teachers who really cared about their students.

My family has lived in Eugene, Ore. Since 1965. Our oldest son and family live in Anchorage, Alaska. Our son Jay and family, daughter Jill and family and Julie live in Eugene also which we enjoy ever so much.

Thank you for sending the newsletter, I really enjoy it.”

Sincerely,

**Delpha Seavey Marcott '50**

“Congratulations on the very well done newsletters, I enjoy the info and the updates they contain. I haven't been in the high school since I graduated in 1972; I'll have to stop in next year and see what it looks like now. My best regards to LeMar Nelson, one of my favorites who I remember fondly.”

**Jon Goodwin, '72**

“Do you have a flyer/catalog with pictures and prices of Blossom paraphernalia (i.e. jerseys, tees, caps, sweatshirts, etc.) especially those with a “Blossom” logo to send to me? I have a son-in-law who derives a great deal of pleasure/humor in our Awesome Blossom heritage and I would love to give him a “Blossom jersey or sweatshirt that would have a “flowery” logo!”

**Ardella Eaker Brenner Class of '49**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Contact Linda Klemmensen, Sportstitch, 341 E Main, Blooming Prairie, MN 55917 or 507-583-7001 if you would like to purchase Blossom paraphernalia.



**The City Park as it once was**

**Join us for a Tent Gathering of “Blossom Alumni & Friends” in the park during the 4th of July Celebration. Stories, photos and memories of the past will be shared.**

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**1940's Ardella Jensen Frank, Class of '43**, grew up in Bixby and had her first work experience there as she worked in her Father's Country Store. Her next work assignment was after graduation as she moved to the Twin Cities and was employed by Superior Separator Company and the later by the Frank Refrigerator Company. Ardell and husband Richard have a family that includes 3 sons, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. In retirement, Ardella has been able to travel a lot including trips to Europe. Her fond memories of Blooming Prairie include a good friend, Shirley Blockhus, 8 good years of country school, and four good years at BPHS.

**1950's Bruce Farrington, Class of '56**, has put his University of Minnesota Accounting Degree to good use as he is still working. Bruce was professionally employed by the firm of Price WaterhouseCoopers for 8 years. He has since served as Chief Financial Officer for two Nursing Homes. After losing interest in piano lessons at age 18, Bruce learned to play piano well at age 70. Travels include trips to Europe and Brazil. With wife of 46 years, Karen, the family includes three children and 6 grandchildren. Blooming Prairie is remembered as a positive experience and great place to grow up. Lloyd Swenson and Milo Hoel were favorite teachers.

EDITORS NOTE: Many of us well remember Bruce's parents, Reverend David and Effie Farrington. Pastor David served for many years as Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Blooming Prairie and Mrs. Farrington was a teacher in a Country School. In addition, both were active in other school and community activities with Pastor Farrington serving many years with Boy Scout groups. The Farrington family also included Cynthia, Class of '53, Adrian, Class of '60, and Dorothy, Class of '63.

**1960's Esther Pechacek Bunch, Class of '62** started college and a career as she enrolled at Austin Junior College while also employed as a bookkeeper for Stan Ankeny. After graduating from JC in 1967, Esther transferred to Winona State University and graduated there with a degree in

English Education in 1969. After one year of teaching English at the School of Agriculture in Waseca, she taught English to 8th and 9th grade students in Mountain Lake. A Group Fulbright grant allowed Esther to study for 6 weeks in Egypt which was followed by the completion of a Master's Degree at the University of Minnesota. Due to a recession, Esther was employed as a bookkeeper/accountant after earning the Master's Degree. Retirement includes time for travel and she and husband Arvie have been in all 50 states. Volunteer work for 17 years as Church Librarian takes up time as does gardening and other yard work. As a volunteer in the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association, Esther helped raise \$98,000 for the Association last year. Blooming Prairie School District teachers Robert Becker, LeMar Nelson, Cliff Jones, and Miss Rousseau were among her favorites. "Read and grow" was Esther's recommendation for all of us. Esther sadly reported to us that her brother Allen, Class of '65, passed away in 1997.

**1970's Greg Lea, Class of 1970**, said that "Blooming Prairie Schools prepared me well and learning never stops." Greg's learning has served him well as after graduating from Mankato State University with a degree in accounting he has been employed over the years by IBM, in Rochester, New York, as VP and General Manager for Jostens in the Twin Cities, as Chief Financial Officer for PemStar, and is currently serving as VP and Chief Financial Officer for EntroMedics. Greg's family includes wife Kathlyn and two daughters. Hunting, fishing, golf, and travel take place in any spare time in his busy life. Greg returned to BPHS two years ago as honorary speaker for the National Honor Society. He was a passionate High School Mathematics student and especially remembers teachers George Toshima and Cliff Narveson. John Whiting and Cliff Jones also made Greg's list of well-remembered teachers.

**1970's Kathlyn Trom Lea, Class of '72** has a husband and two daughters as she is married to Greg lea as above. Kathlyn enrolled at the University of Minnesota after graduation and there earned a degree in Home Economics.

Subsequently, she taught in Hayfield, Dodge Center and was Coordinator for Early Childhood Education in Kasson-Mantorville. She now is a professional volunteer for a non-profit Quilting group. Kathlyn recommends enjoying every moment of life and particularly has fun doing just that with friends. Mildred Fredrickson, Roger Sorenson, and LeMar Nelson made Kathlyn's "special" teacher list.

**1980's Dave Kubicek, Class of '84** was and is still interested in all types of sporting and athletic activities. The positive influence of teacher and Coach Dean Meshke encouraged Dave to become a teacher and coach himself. After attending Austin Junior College and then earning a teaching degree at Winona State University, Dave subbed as a teacher in the Winona area and then had jobs in La Crescent and Winona. Eventually, he became a teacher of Physical Education in La Crescent and currently teaches grade 5 there. Sports and athletics carried over into Dave's family as Wife Edie and all three children have been involved in State Competitions. Dave had many coaching assignments over the years in volleyball, golf and softball but now plays golf and spends time fishing on the

Mississippi River. His advice, "Enjoy people around you, but push yourself to excel".

**1990's Becky Miller Bishop, Class of '94** and her husband Eric are the proud parents of 5 year old twin boys and an 18 month old daughter. There can be no doubt that Becky has a busy and interesting life. After graduating from BPHS, Becky enrolled at St. Benedict's and then transferred to Mankato State University. An internship at the Omaha Zoo was a part of her degree in Biology which then led to employment at the Indianapolis Zoo. She now works part-time as a Zoo Keeper in Minnesota's Apple Valley Zoo. Amazingly, Becky still has time for other interests of photography, hiking, scrapbooking, and gardening.



Blooming Prairie Education Foundation  
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