

Vol. 58

OTYC

May 2002

OTYC

No. 2

The SMITH Orchard - Rooted in Omena

The **Smith** family planted its roots in Omena long before there was a Yacht Club... in fact, long before there were cherry trees at the top of the hill. And, whether you're a relative newcomer to the area or your ties to the OTYC go back for a generation or two, your introduction to the Club probably closely coincided with an introduction to one of the **Smiths**.



Suzie & Stu Mulligan and Helen Jones
Apple Picking at the Smith Orchard
circa 2001

The **Smith** family origins in Omena can be traced back to 1922, when what is now known as the **Smith** property, was purchased by **Thomas S. Smith**. The Omena orchard was one of seven owned by the **Smiths** and was converted from apple to primarily cherry production in the 1940's. Eventually, the Omena property was inherited by **George** and **Helen Smith**. **George** and **Helen** raised a large family in Omena, including **Rat Renz** and **Bish Smith**, who are still living, and **Tom**, **Susan** (who died at the age of two weeks), **Smitty** and **Perc Smith** who are now deceased.

More than a few of you must wonder how **Rat** got her nickname. It really goes back to when **Carolyn** was lying in her basinet, shortly after her birth. Brother **Smitty** asked if he could take a peek at his new sister. After looking in the basinet, he exclaimed, "she looks just like a rat"... and the rest is history. **Smitty**, by the way, was the source for many of the **Smith** family nicknames.

In addition to raising a large progeny, **George Smith** also had a big hand in founding the OTYC back in 1948. At that time, some teenagers, including **Bish**, who later became a charter member, were looking for a place to race their sailboats. **George**, **Andy Renz**, **Stewart Ayars**, **Gus Rogers**, and **Mary Foltz**, convinced **Hector** and **Jessie Carmichael** to lease and subsequently donate the old 'Pavilion' (present OTYC clubhouse) and adjacent property to the community. Thus, the Yacht Club was born.

In the early years, **Helen Smith** was the 'official' social chairman. Many of the Club's social functions were

Please see *SMITH ORCHARD* page 4

The Omena-Traverse Yacht Club Breeze

Official organ of the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club, authorized by its Board of Directors in 1948, published twice yearly.

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* In addition \$15.00 Breeze subscription

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"...All this positive stuff
doesn't just happen by fairy
dust and good luck....."

The days lengthen and the spring bulbs emerge through the snowmelt, and other sure signs of spring are everywhere: increasing e-mail activity from committee chairmen, phone calls from Board members, checks in the mail (is yours?). Summer is coming to Omena, and just in the nick of time, as always.

What a summer it will be, as you will read elsewhere in the *BREEZE*. We will have a full slate of Yacht Club activities, from potlucks, sailing and tennis events, youth program, catered dinners and brunches, musical programs, bingos, and so much more! Add to that the extraordinary community celebration of Omena's Sesquicentennial, and we will have, truly, the sort of wonderful fun with family and friends which memory sustains us and makes us yearn for Summer in Omena.

The Club facilities withstood the winter in fine shape, I am pleased to report, and will sport a few improvements by the start of the season. We have an excellent slate of Board nominees standing for election, growing enthusiasm for sailing and tennis events, and a social calendar that includes events for every interest. All this positive stuff doesn't just happen by fairy dust and good luck, but by the dedication and hard work of the committees. A special, personal thanks to all. Please, help them out, and don't wait to be asked!

I have continuing interest in increasing participation in both the youth program and sailing events. We will be adding some racing afternoons and inviting other area sailing groups to participate, and an adult sailing clinic is being planned. If you are interested, please e-mail me (buehler@traverse.net) or **Bill Emmert** (emmert@traverse.net) so that we can schedule. Youth program parents and grandparents - - we need some help from you!

And now to name names: a monumental thanks to **Bill and Judy Knorp** for their effort and hard work in producing this fine issue of the *BREEZE*. **Tom** and I had the privilege of touring the western *BREEZE* headquarters. An impressive level of organization and energy is held in your hands - - - you should read it twice!

Marsha

IN PURSUIT OF TRIVIA: For whom was the tennis trophy named and in what year?

NICKNAMIA - "Rat" was "Rat" from the beginning. In the first grade when she wrote "Rat" for her name, her teacher challenged her, telling her she must use her real name. "Rat" told her, "Rat" is my real name." To help enforce her rule, the teacher called "Rat's" mother who said, "If 'Rat' says that 'Rat' is her real name, then it is!" And that was that and "Rat" has been and always will be "Rat".

Clues to the origin of the nickname and the history of the tennis trophy, *are blowing in the Breeze.*

CLUB NEWS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - Kathy Bosco, chairman of the nominating committee, is happy to announce that **Judy Balas**, **Millard Mack** and **Mary Loveless** will be nominated for your "Bored" of Directors for the term of 2002 - 2005. Of course, this is merely a recommendation and will have to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting in July. In the meantime, congratulations to **Judy**, **Millard** and **Mary**. Other members of the Nominating committee were **Mary Cone** and **Bill Mason**.

This means that long term "Bored" members **Ellie Stephenson** and **Gil Deibel** will be retiring. **Ellie** and **Gil** have given hours of their time to the OTYC and have been effective leaders for many years. Many thanks to both of you for all you have given to us.

BYLAW AMENDMENT - **Bill Sandt** has proposed the following bylaw amendment which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, July 14, 2002:

Article I Purpose - The purpose of the Omena Traverse Yacht Club is to promote the sport of sailing and boating in general. (Renumber all other Articles accordingly.)

In article V under Committees add 9. Sailing (In the alternative change Waterfront to Sailing)

Bill's purpose for submitting this amendment "...is that the club has veered from the purpose for which it was created." He would like to improve our sailing program and have weekly sunfish races, participate in races with other clubs, and send members to the Great Lakes Sailing Association meetings. To finance this, **Bill** is suggesting a \$1.00 surcharge for those attending potluck and catered dinners.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote against

adoption of the proposed amendment. The Articles of Incorporation already state ".....The purpose of this corporation is to further the interest of boating in Grand Traverse Bay and that the Board may create or discontinue a committee as appropriate for the operation of the club."

YOUTH PROGRAM will start on July 1st at ten in the morning. For details in general or specific information on how to sign up your child, grandchild, or neighbor's child, please contact Marsha "B".

SOCIAL EVENTS will be in full bloom this summer. The opening dinner will be held on June 29th. According to chairman **Caroline Oberndorf**, "there will be a tasty catered dinner featuring **Peggy's** barbecued chicken. As usual, we expect a sell out crowd. Therefore, we recommend getting your reservations in as soon as possible." **Bruce** and **Judy Balas** are in charge of the Catered Dinners and **Kathy Turner** will be organizing the Potluck Dinners. "The only change this year will be the advent of the Potluck Police to guarantee food for everyone at the larger dinners."

TRAILER MISSING - The trailer for the laser sailboat is missing. If anyone knows where it is, call **Tom Buehler**.

OFFSEASON ACTIVITIES - Many have sent letters asking what happens during the winter months in Omena. In addition to having catered dinners monthly, the following is a snapshot of some of the official and "unofficial" OTYC extended season activities. In the Fall, **Dave** and **Judy Pohlod** chaired the Labor Day Picnic; **Mary Smith** invited everyone to the Orchard for the annual apple picking and harvest celebration and there was a lively Halloween bash where everyone dressed in outrageous costumes. In the winter, New Year's Eve was celebrated at the **Pohlod** and **Balas** cottages and a number of the club members went to the Omena Winter Carnival in Bayview. Because of the lack of snow, only six brave souls took part in the annual cross country skiing outing, but fifty arrived at the **Deibel Chalet** for chili. The final event is the Memorial Day party on May 26th chaired by **JoAnn Bishop**.

There was one other event worth mentioning which involved the **Omena Herb Group**. **Judy Smart** suggested it would be fun to have an Annual Cookie Exchange. The idea was simple enough - each person was to bake cookies and put six in a bag to exchange with the other members of the club. Unfortunately, no one did the math prior to baking. Because of the number of people participating, each person had to bake 10 dozen cookies. One of the members was heard saying: "I am never going to bake another cookie in my life." Will this be the first and last Annual Cookie Exchange?

(SMITH ORCHARDcontinued from page 1)
hosted by the **Smiths** in their home, probably because liquor was forbidden in the clubhouse at that time. Happily, that's a tradition that died an easy death years ago.

Although not a sailor himself, **George** was an enthusiastic supporter of youth sailing. In the late 1950's, Club members owned and raced a small fleet of Lightning sailboats. At that time, there was a group of people in Traverse City trying to organize a yacht club, but didn't have the facilities. **George** strongly encouraged their efforts to find a home, and the Grand Traverse Yacht Club came into being. The newly formed GTYC was soon challenging OTYC members and their Lightning fleet in a series of annual races appropriately named the **George S. Smith Regatta** by GTYC members.

Gordon Cornwell of Traverse City, who is now 82, was an early participant in these races. He still fondly remembers the spirited competition and the wonderful dinners hosted by **George** and **Helen** at the **Smith Orchard** on the Saturday night of the race. Incidentally, **Gordon** is the grandfather of **Myles Cornwell** who served us so ably last summer as the youth program sailing instructor.

George Smith's strong ties to the Episcopal Church in Chicago led him to organize the St. Christopher's Episcopal mission during the summer months. Services were held in the home now occupied by **Les** and **Debby Disch**. **George** called on Episcopal ministers vacationing in what now is the **Austin Jones** house, to conduct the services. **Jack Bishop** was a participating minister in those days and probably has some interesting stories he could share with you. The 'mission' later became the Episcopal Church in Northport.

A new generation of **Smiths** soon started working their way toward Omena. **Tom Smith** married **Martha Rule** in 1944. They had five children - **Debby Disch**, **Rink Smith**, **Josephine Robertson**, **Stewart Smith** and **Marian Electa Powell**. Although the **Tom Smith** family grew up in Cincinnati, they spent many pleasant summers in Omena. After **Martha's** death, **Tom** married **Mary** and introduced her to Omena and the orchard.

Omena and the orchard were revelations for **Mary**. She was a 'city girl' working as a chemist at Proctor and

Gamble. Familiar with 50'x60' city lots, she had never seen an orchard before coming to Omena. **Mary** admits being flabbergasted by the beauty and wide-open spaces of the Omena area.

Mary quickly acclimated herself to country life, and soon she and **Tom** began a needed replanting of the orchard in the mid-70's...ultimately replacing 11,000 trees. She also began a love affair with the cherry business that

Primer of Who's Who in the Smith Family

Carolyn Smith Renz is more commonly known as "**Rat**" **Renz**. She is the sister of **George "Smitty" Smith**, **Tom "Tombo" Smith** and longtime OTYC members **Preston "Perc" Smith** and **Craig "Bish" Smith**.

"**Rat**" is the daughter of **George Smith, Sr.** and daughter-in-law of **Dr. Andy Renz**, both of whom were Commodores of OTYC and are now deceased.

"**Rat**" is married to **Bill Renz, Sr.**, who is not only a former OTYC Commodore, but was the Club's first and only Junior Commodore. They are the parents of **Cynn timer**, **Andy** and **Bill**.

Bill Renz, Sr., is the brother of **Holly Renz Smith Smith**, a former wife of "**Bish**" **Smith** and current wife of **Conrad Smith**, who is not related to the "**Omena Smiths**".

Debby Smith Disch is a daughter of "**Tombo**" and his first wife, **Martha Rule Smith**, who is deceased. **Martha** was a sister of **Jonnie Rule Hodgson**, who is therefore related, in one way or another, to just about everyone, including **Joel Fischer**, a relatively new member of OTYC.

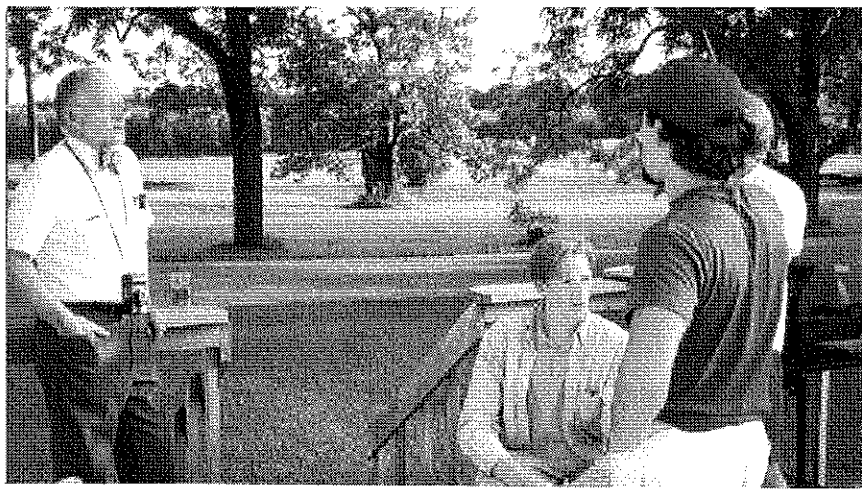
(Note, information for the Who's Who was obtained by **Suzie Mulligan** when she assisted "**Tombo**" **Smith** with his exercises during the winter of 2001.)

remains very much alive today.

After spending parts of many summers in Omena, **Tom** retired from his position as Research Director at Federated Department Stores in Cincinnati and moved to Omena full time in 1987. **Tom** and **Mary** saw a lot of changes take place in the cherry business. The seasonal workers, mostly from Alabama, who came up to pick cherries gave way to mechanical shakers in the early 70's. Interestingly, a number of those workers still remain in contact with friends they made in Omena during the 60's and early 70's. In fact, the son of the "straw boss" was up last summer and got to see

tradition which generally and not surprisingly ends up in a cocktail party at the Club.

Since their arrival full time in Omena, **Tom** and **Mary** have been active and enthusiastic goodwill ambassadors for Omena and the Yacht Club. **Glenn White** remembers his first walk through the Omena Woods property to the **Smith Orchard**. "I saw this man wearing a bow tie, standing on a tall ladder. I was a total stranger, but **Tom** welcomed me to his orchard and gave me a grand tour and an invitation to return any time." **Sunny Colling** remembers the **Smiths** as early volunteers to mind her store while she visited her husband in the hospital...and the remembrances go on.



Tom with his "California Migrants" at a 1994 Harvest Dinner

Sadly, **Tom** passed away last year on August 1. Ironically, it was the date he had picked years ago as the best date to begin the cherry harvest. It was also the exact date on which the "straw boss" died several years earlier. In the winter of 2001, a number of OTYC members took turns spending time with him, often helping him with his rehabilitation exercises and giving **Mary** a little respite. These will be remembered by many as special times, an opportunity to give back a little and share a few of **Tom's** favorite memories of the people and events that colored his life in Cincinnati

Tom the week before he died.

OTYC members always have been welcome to visit and explore the **Smith Orchard**. In August, they are treated to the sight and sound of the shakers at work. Many of the children who once looked at the shakers with fascination, returned to work in the orchard when they were older. Children of OTYC members who have worked in the orchard over the years include: **Ward Pratt, Dave Dickerson, Matt Bishop, Andy Knorp, Tony Sova** and fifth generation Smith family members...**Valerie** and **Craig Smith** and **Martha Levick**. All these workers were served special treats twice a day....a tradition which was greatly anticipated and appreciated.

Every October for the past several years, the **Smiths** have invited Yacht Club members to pick apples. The apple picking party has grown and turned into another OTYC

and Omena. A lucky few may even have persuaded him to divulge the origins of his signature bow ties.

Mary, the one-time Cincinnati city girl, continues to be active in her support of the Cherry Industry and the lot of today's cherry farmers. She is presently working on a patented new process for making tart cherry concentrate. The new process offers the opportunity to further enhance the potential benefits of the concentrate for people suffering from arthritis. Its medical benefits will be evaluated in the near future, and the results should be available within the year. If successful, the new process and the licensing agreements growing out of **Mary's** patent will improve the profitability of cherry growers across the country.

Today, **Debby** and **Les Disch** are managing the orchard, and a fifth generation of **Smiths** is experiencing the pleasures of Omena.

Boys and Girls at Work

Mary Helen Ray, Social Chairman, hosted the ladies of OTYC for coffee, tea, Finnish 'Omena' apple juice and tasty pastries. Social events for the season, responsibilities of Potluck hostesses, and **Peggy Donaghy's** duties were discussed and reviewed. The following suggestions were made: Hostesses prepare an appetizer for their potluck and whenever possible purchases of goods for potlucks and social events be made at the Omena Country Store.



Social Committee.... "there was a feeling of solidarity in the air."

It was reported that there have been a number of complaints about not having enough food at the "high season" potluck dinners attended by over one hundred and fifty people. Someone pointed out that the present rules for bringing food may have been a reason for the skimpy selections available for the last people to be called.

enjoyment of the OTYC membership. Following is their report:

Presently, it is suggested that you bring servings for the number of people in your party plus an additional ten portions. Therefore, if a couple attends they are obligated to bring enough food for twelve servings. On the other hand, a group of twenty is expected to bring portions for only thirty. Obviously, this formula is flawed.

"Potluck Police, the enforcement arm of the Social Committee, will debut this season. You'll recognize them by their chic hats and tasteful badges. They will also sport handsome holsters, customized to hold a ruler for measuring how high you have managed to stack your plate."

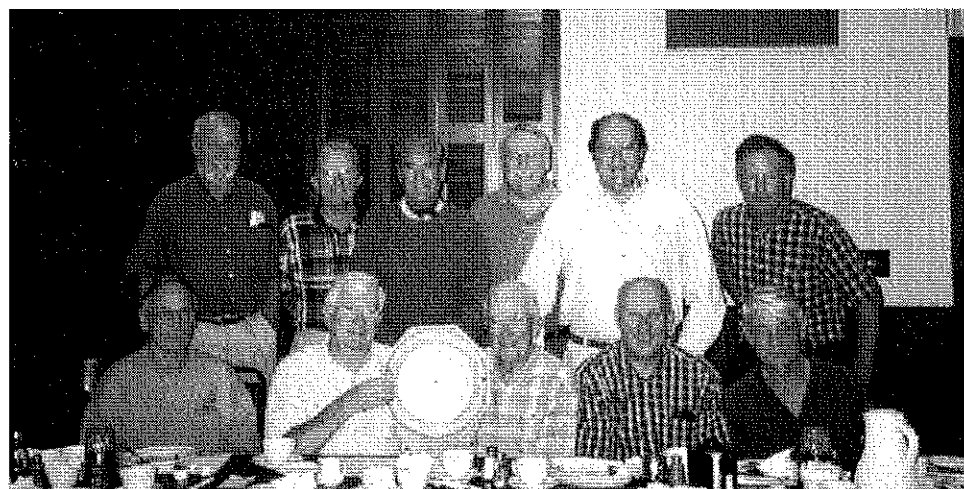
The suggestion that there be a Potluck Policing Committee aka Potluck Police resulted in **Marcia Biskupski, Jonnie Hodgson and Caroline Oberndorf** volunteering to review, clarify and restate Potluck Policy for the comfort and

Special sensors will sound an alarm if your potluck dish is insufficient to serve your group plus at least ten or more very hungry people.

It has been noted that some children are taking more food than they are able to eat. Heed this warning: Supervise your children. Offenders will be immediately taken to serve as Peggy's Kitchen Slaves.

We look forward to greeting you at Potluck this summer—especially you who may be called last. It is our pledge to you—you will have food."

Many thanks in advance to these brave and determined ladies for taking on this challenge!!!



Adjusting the clock, the boys "step back in time"!

Kathy Turner pointed out that for the first time in the club history women tended bar and men worked in the kitchen. When this was announced, all the ladies chanted "power to the women; keep the men in the kitchen". The meeting adjourned on a very high note. There was a feeling of solidarity in the air.

In the fall of 2000, "**Admiral**" **Dick Kennedy** organized a Friday breakfast club for the men of OTYC. At the first meeting, "**Admiral**" **Kennedy** was elected President for life and Sergeant at Arms. **Fred Holtz** was selected President in charge of Vice.

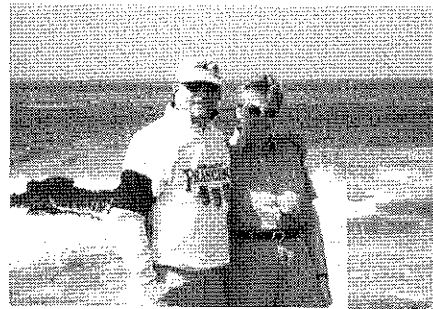
The "club" met at several restaurants including the Leelanau Sands Casino. Entrepreneur **Gary Silverman** explored the idea of having the group purchase a place to hold their meetings. The exact locations studied have been kept a secret even to the *Breeze* cub reporter. The boys closed this chapter finally settling on Eddies in Suttons Bay. The breakfast club starts every Friday at eight thirty sharp. One of the weekly features is a special gift provided by **Bob Grabowski** and the West Group to each person. For more information, it is suggested that you call the chairman of vice or the "Admiral".

It didn't take long for barrister **Gil Deibel** to suggest that a topic should be debated at each breakfast. In fact, he suggested everyone should study the recent energy crisis in California as it relates to future problems in Omena. At the next meeting, **Gil** became frustrated because no one followed through with the assignment. Because male bonding was the original purpose of having a breakfast club, it was almost unanimously decided to end any discussions of real importance.

Issues that were deliberated last summer include what will happen to the Gardner property, should an orchard be planted around a portion of Moughy Lake, how long **Bob Davie** will last as head coach of Notre Dame, and what will happen to the Harbor Bar.

These discussions came to a screeching halt when it was announced that the OTYC Social Committee was planning to put men in the kitchen at the potluck dinners.

A committee was formed immediately and a "magical" clock was located. Pictured on the previous page are the boys adjusting the hands on the clock so they can "step back in time" and remain safely behind the bar at the potlucks in the summer of 2002.



Bob and Jeanne
Grabowski

The Grabowskis, along with their 17 year old daughter Heather and Golden Retriever, came upon their "little piece of paradise", in August 2000. They had moved to the Suttons Bay area full time in September 1996 and built a new home in Bay Valley Estates. While out on one of their favorite drives in Leelanau County, they discovered the Brown property for sale. They promptly purchased the lot and subsequently built a fabulous new home, moving in on March 1, 2001.

Bob is employed by West Group and, each week, generously provides promotional gifts to the Friday morning breakfast boys.

When asked about the club, Jeanne responded: "Joining the OTYC was just icing on the cake adding to an already enviable lifestyle."

MODEL SAILBOAT REGATTAS

There were two fabulous model sailboat regattas last summer. The interest, as evidenced by the number of participants and spectators, is growing. Chairmen of this event were **Stu Mulligan** and **Gil Deibel**; **Suzie Mulligan** was the official recorder.

The first race was won by the "sly fox" **Stu Mulligan**; the second race victor was **Bill Emmert**; tied for second place were **Stu Mulligan** and **Jack Bosgraff**. Other OTYC members who participated included **Jay Grosmark** and **John Harris**.

Everything went without a hitch except that during the skippers' meeting, just prior to the start of the first race, **Judy Smart** was asked to leave because she was being disruptive.

More races are scheduled for 2002.

Hodgson Cup Results/Tennis News

In spite of several injuries, participation in the **Hodgson Cup** Tournament was higher than ever before.

Twenty one members or ten teams competed and for the first time in many years, the **Jack Bishop** "rope a dope" option was not featured since none of the players left Omena during the tournament. Because there were more men, two ladies drew two partners each. Fortunately, neither had to play themselves, avoiding another type of rope a dope switcheroo.

Scores of spectators cheered on the winners, **Cindy Standley** and **Georgie-Porgie** **Husted** and the runners-up, **Ed "Tiger" Oberndorf** and **Mary Tonneberger**.

A consolation bracket for those who lost in the first round provided lively competition. This tourney was won by **Judy Knorp** and **Ned Davis**. **Sally Chasanoff** and **John Ray** were the runners-up.

The **Hodgson Cup** is named in honor of **Henry Hoyle Hodgson**, husband of **Jonnie Hodgson**. Henry was an east coast boy who played his tennis on country club grass courts. He brought his enthusiasm to Omena and was very supportive of the OTYC youth tennis program. The trophy was given to the club shortly after Henry's death in 1962, and for a number of years, was awarded to the best tennis player in the youth program.

The trophy was retired until **Jack Bishop** started the highly successful adult mixed doubles format in 1995. Winners that year were **Drew Ehrhardt** and his partner



John, Cindy, Ned and Judy



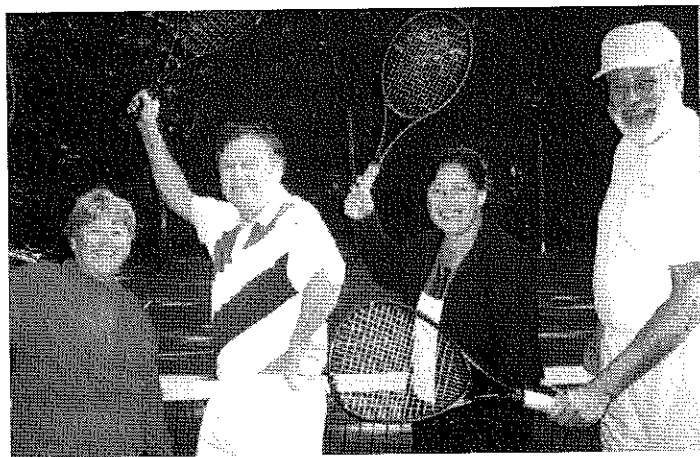
Ms Mike Biskupski who chose to dress in drag for the affair.

Kudos to **Jonnie Hodgson** who has provided all the prizes for both tournament brackets during the past seven years. **Jonnie's** interest and generosity have sparked continuing participation in this tournament.

Players in the 2001 Hodgson Cup were: **Alison Biskupski, Marcia Biskupski, Mike Biskupski, Chris Bishop, Jack Bishop, Sally Chasanoff, Nancy Cooper, Ned Davis, Roger Edgeley, Bob Gelakowski, George Husted, Bill Knorp, Judy Knorp, Ed Oberndorf, John Ray, Charlotte Read, Bill Sandt, Cindy Standley, Mary Tonneberger, Caroline Turner, and Janet Walker.**

John Smart, who recently was appointed chairman of the tennis committee, reports: "We will be resurfacing the court, and most likely extending the shoulders to the fencing. Plus, we intend to replace the fencing as well since it is looking rather shabby. I am currently looking into the purchase of a ball machine which would be a huge addition to our tennis program. This ball machine could also come in handy if we should decide to have private tennis lessons for the adult members."

When asked who would run the tournament this year, **John** stated: "We finally tracked **Jack Bishop** down in Asia and received confirmation that he will be in charge of the tournament this summer.



Mary, "Tiger", Cindy, and "Georgie-Porgie"

OMENA SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION by Kathy Turner

We'll all be wishing Omena a happy 150th birthday in mid-July.. Using grants of \$5000 from The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and \$4000 from the Leelanau Township Foundation, a dedicated planning committee of the Omena Historical Society has planned an event- filled three days. Here are the plans as of March first:



Annette hard at work!

On Sunday, July 14 at 4 P.M. **Annette Deibel** has planned the kick-off event; a music program at the Omena Presbyterian Church featuring **Patrick Kuhl** on the organ. An ice cream social out on the lawn will follow the music. If it's rainy, the ice cream social will move to OTYC.

On Monday, July 15 **Judy Balas** has scheduled a catered dinner at OTYC for both OTYC members and the greater Omena community. The premiere showing of the video of Omena/Ahgosatown history told by **Betty Craker Armstrong** will be featured. The price is estimated at \$20.00 per person.

On Tuesday, July 16, **Caroline Obendorf's** committee has planned an afternoon tour of Omena barns including an illustrated brochure. The tour will end with refreshments at **Gail Lang's** house.

At 7 P.M. on Tuesday the 16th **George Anderson** has planned the capstone event, a parade through Omena led by mounted police carrying the Omena flag. He is hoping the OTYC Youth Group and other interested groups will create a float or other entry, and that all of us will dress up in vintage clothing. The Northport Community Band will play, and the Manitou Questers will participate. Expect a sighting of the **Bensley** roadster and other historic vehicles.

Gail Lang is working on sesquicentennial banners for Omena that would be put on six light poles. They will say, "Historic Omena, established 1852.." so they can be used for other events in the future. The Township will buy and install the brackets for the flags. **David Viskochil** will buy more of the banners for businesses to display.

Bill Marbach has put together a map of historic Omena

sites. Greater Omena is actually quite a lot larger than many of us would have guessed. That double wide trailer that **Sam Cone** brags about is actually inside the boundaries! **Nina Collins**, a graphic artist, will do the finish work on the 9 x 16 maps.

The Omena Historical Society has sponsored the history of Omena book that many of you have ordered and financially supported. In addition, they are putting together a display of Omena history at the Fire Hall. The Omena /Ahgosatown video featuring **Betty Craker Armstrong** will also be shown.

Carolyn Faught will supply old fashioned flowers for the celebrations. The Omena Quilters have been busy stitching a sesquicentennial quilt. And **Janet Barth** will publicize the events in the Enterprise.

So, what can you do to help? Dust off those historic Omena documents and pictures in the attic for the Firehouse display. Air the mothball smell out of the vintage clothing at the back of the closet so you can wear those cool clothes to the festivities. **Mary**, bring all your hats! Plan an entry for the parade.

This is a big undertaking for little Omena. Please call one of the committee chairs listed above to volunteer your time. The committee members welcome your comments and suggestions.

P.S. of course there will be T-shirts to commemorate the event!

The Omena Historical Publications committee is thrilled to report that a total of 87 HISTORIAN donors contributed to the Omena Historical Society Sesquicentennial Publication Fund. In addition to the Historian Subscriptions, 50 families participated in advance orders bringing the total books preordered to 297.

The OHS is most appreciative for your interest and support of this most exciting project.

OMENA TELL TALES

Retired commodore **Mary Tonneberger** wrote that they spent a very pleasant January week in Puerto Vallarta and were delighted that **Roger, Karen** and family could join them. "**Alex** is now out driving his grandmother on the golf course, much to my chagrin. And he is even using my clubs! The roar of the younger generation!"

The **Grossmarks** wrote: "It has been a mild winter so far in New York. The snow blower has remained in the garage. **Barbara** spent two weeks in Traverse City and Omena in February, recuperating, from a broken wrist which was the result of a freak fall while playing tennis. The combination of family, friends and environment helped in the healing process. **Jay** has been working at the World Trade Family Assistance Center helping victims of the 9/11 tragedy. It's both sad and rewarding. Sad to hear the trials and tribulations people have endured but rewarding to help with financial and moral support."

In April, **Jay** and **Barbara** are spending two weeks in Patagonia among the penguins, glaciers, and the beauty of the environment.

On the mend are **Suzie Mulligan, Mary Helen Ray** and **John Ray**. All are doing very well and would love to hear from you.

Our cub reporter, **Judy Balas**, was interviewing **Judy Smart** for an article in the *Breeze*. **J. Balas**: "I understand you are flying to Los Angeles; are you going to get a tan and make us all jealous in Omena?" **J. Smart**: "I am going to L.A. to get screwed?" **J. Balas**: "Excuse me; you understand the *Breeze* is a family publication." **J. Smart**, "Well, ok ok. John and I are going to Los Angeles to meet with our attorney!!!!"

To follow through with her driving problems, **Kathy Bosco** wrote: "Let it be known that after Golf Cart Drivers Ed., I have been given the Highest Award of Excellence for sharp turns, quick starts and follow-me-if-you-can routines. This is nothing to scarf at since it is from the state of Arizona the golf center of the U.S. Not only did I receive this award but I also got my first HOLE IN ONE last week."

The **Oberndorfs** have written: "**Michael** and **Connie** are now residing in Denver where the family is enjoying the sunny days and the magnificent skiing weekends. **Mike** was transferred by Keycorp last June. **Rob** has been in Phonm Pehn Cambodia since last September working for the Kingdom of Cambodia drafting legislation for the National Park System. He returns this May to make preparation to lead 8 campers (14-18) and 14 burros into the remote backcountry of the Sierra Mountains in California for two months. He plans to return to Southeast Asia late fall. Charlie is in his final draft of a novel expected to be published in 2003. We know you would prefer more exciting news but I'm sorry to say Caroline gave up alligator wrestling."

From **Jack** and **JoAnn Bishop**: "Hope you are well. We are in pretty good shape, considering this is our 50th anniversary year which we will be celebrating this summer. We leave for Malaysia, catching a four masted schooner in Bangkok to go snorkeling around the islands, ending up in Singapore. Some worry about pirates in those waters, but I figure **JoAnn** will take care of them. See you at the *promised land*."

In a pensive moment, one of the long term members of the club stated that when he was commodore, there was a move to demolish the clubhouse and replace it with a modern, metal structure. "Look at the interest now in preserving the beautiful building. I am so delighted that the demolition movement failed."

WINTER AWARDS

WINTER AWARDS are hereby given for: **THE LONGEST PARTY** to **Bruce** and **Judy Balas**. Everyone was invited for the noon kickoff of the MSU/UM football game. Unbeknownst to the Balas', the game started at four and the party lasted almost eight hours. **THE BEST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** to **Mike** and **Marcia Biskupski** for decorating some huge trees in their yard. Mike must have rented a cherry picker. Gorgeous. **THE MOST FLEXIBILITY** to **Annette Deibel** who, because she was running late, forgot her bathing suit for water aerobics. She went to the hospital's lost and found department hoping to find something she could wear. What she discovered was HER suit left from a prior class just waiting for her.

TATTLE TALES

For an amusing story, ask **Bob Grabowski** about his adventure four wheeling in his brand new SUV in the quicksand of Moughy Lake! Or, you might want to ask **Marsha "B"** about her adventure driving through a car wash in her new silk suit with the sun roof open. "Well, I am glad we didn't pay for a wax job."

Did you know that **Woody Parker** and **Jack Stephenson** on many occasions shared the secret and mystical Pembroke Hill Prep School handshake together?

Last summer **Glenn White** reminisced about a trip he took to Moscow. At a high level Kremlin dinner meeting, a Russian diplomat gave a toast. He said, "I visited your country. I was in a small town outside of New York City. All the homes displayed your American flag not because the government told you to but because of the love of your country." A week later, the Soviet Union dissolved.

Finally, this is the perfect way to get out of having to pay for a speeding ticket: **Scrub** and **Joey Bensley** were driving to the Omena Winter Carnival in Bayview when **Scrub** was pulled over by the State Police. **Officer:** Do you realize you were speeding? **Scrub:** "Officer, I did not see any signs posting the speed limit and my wife didn't see one either. She always tells me about such things." **Officer:** "Sir, there was a sign a little way back and another one twenty feet in front of your car!!! However, because the little lady didn't tell you, I will just give you a warning this time." Moral of the story - when driving, always take your wife with you.

IN MEMORIAM:

Eli G. Alcorn III 1915-2001

Joe, as we knew him, was one of the early directors and commodores from Texas. He was easy to work with, and got things done at the Club. Many of the early directors dipped into their pockets to support events. Joe was no exception, and he supported the sailing and motor boating programs. He was a member of the American Bar Association, an avid student of the Civil War, and a bridge player. In his later years he was known for offering rides in the amphibious car that he kept in Northport.

Jean Mueller 1927-2001

Shortly after she and Guenther returned to Cincinnati in September, Jean was diagnosed with lung cancer. She passed away December 10. Guenther wrote that she was so happy to be able to stay in Omena for that one more summer. Jean was born in Akron, Ohio and moved to Cincinnati in 1940 where she met Guenther after he returned from the Navy. She attended Miami University and the University of Cincinnati, enjoyed belonging to many bridge and garden clubs and especially OTYC. She and Guenther were married for 53 wonderful years.

Blanche Rule Huss 1908-2002

The oldest of the seven Rule sisters, Blanche was born in Cincinnati, married Wesley and raised three children there. She loved Omena, spending many summers here with her children and grandchildren, and spring and fall entertaining friends. Her sister Jonnie Hodgson wrote "Blanche's last visit to Omena was in 2000 for the Rule family reunion. She organized the first reunion in 1979 soon after the loss of our Mother. The reunions have kept our family close, and for that we are grateful to her." Blanche remained a member of OTYC long after she came to the Club. She was always interested in its progress and believed in its value to Omena. She will be missed by her family and friends.

COTTAGES for RENT

Newport on Ingalls Bay; 4BR, sleeps 8, wonderful beach; avail to caring people; all amenities; call **Cathy Stephenson 773.975-9072**

Omena - 3 BR; 2BA; Bay View Furnished, beach/dock/shore station. **Jim or Nancy Gregory 760.918-0740; 386-5673/ 9232**

Omena Bay Rental Cottage and/or Guest House. Both fully equipped. Sleeps 6 - 15. Call **Jim Centner 231.883-6126**.

Omena Cut Flowers delivers gorgeous vase full of flowers weekly \$12.00/\$20.00. **Carolyn Faught 231.271-6432 faught3@aol.com**

For Sale - slightly used items - 6 in table saw 1/4 hp mtr; 'Gil', men's/women's golf clubs w/bag; ski poles; call Deibels 386-7560.

Real Estate - for assistance with your next transaction - buying - selling - investing - divesting - dreaming Call **Jim Centner 231.883-6126**

Attn. Grandparents Shady Trails Camp wants your grandchildren! Lunch served. For information, call **231.386-9880**.

WANTED my family, my extended family, and friends, to return to Omena to enjoy this God given spot. Aunt **Mary Woolford - P. S. Will bring new hat!**

WANTED - Junior instructors for the OTYC Youth Program, age 14 or older with some sailing/tennis experience to work for 1 to 2 weeks. Contact **Marsha "B" at buehler@traverse.net**.

MWPMRD (married white prof male refrigerator deliveryman) aka **T. Buehler** seeks men/women of all ages - objective: friendship & yard cleanup at OTYC on Sat, June 1st at 9:00 A.M.; if raining one day later. If you like weeding, etc. send photo to **Tom B. at P. O. Box 196, Omena** and come to the OTYC nine sharp, June first.

ADULTS HAVING FUN IN OMENA 2001

PHOTO CONTEST try to find:

1. **Jack Bosgraff and Bill Emmert** "at the controls" of their model sailboats.
2. **"Bozo"** getting illegal coaching from **Ace** during the Hodgson Tennis Tourney.
3. Fisherchics **Judy Smart, Suzie Mulligan, Judy Pohlod, and Judy Balas** – "proud as punch they skunked all the men."
4. The "accidents waiting to happen?"
5. The "odd couple".... Is it **Dale Blount and Judy Smart** or is it **Joan Blount and John Smart**?

