

IRON RIVER HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI BAND

As told by Bev.

In 1981, Iron River had not had a high school for 15 years. We asked our school district, Maple to just have even a small ensemble for the Blueberry Festival parade, but they declined because it was hard to get students together in the summer time.

The Iron River High School Alumni decided we would see what we could do to get a little band together.

Lo and behold people searched around and found a few instruments to get started. We held our first practice the Saturday of the Blueberry Festival in 1981 at our Gazebo. I climbed up with the rope, rang the bell and people came. We practiced two songs; the "Minnesota Rouser" and "When Iron River Boys Fell into Line" to the tune of the Washington and Lee Swing. After that first practice, Jane Farry invited us all to her house for home made strawberry shortcake. What a wonderful, generous lady was Jane!!

We won 1st place that year. Why not, we were the only band entered.

The next year Mary Ellen and Jo had made a banner and we had some tee shirts made. (Donna Callahan had a shirt shop). They were still hot from the press when we put them on.

Over the years we have purchased instruments, caps and Mary made sashes. Russ Willoughby obtained a drum from Ashland High School for \$25.00. Bev T. got an old cart from Mike Tuura-painted everything up and pushed the cart, holding her bass drum, for many years. It wasn't till the last few years that she consented to riding in a golf cart-due to heat and of course she wasn't getting any younger.

For twenty-eight years Mary Ellen and Josephine carried our banner. Josephine passed away in spring of 2010, so Marys other class mate, Clarice Hicks Totka is now taking her place-the class of 1950.

Dave Goldberg, class of 1953 still totes the big tuba. The year 2010 had Daves grandson playing the snare drum in the parade. Over the years many

grand children have marched and played with us while visiting Gramma and Grampa. It has been a blast.

We may not step quite as high as we once did, but we do so with pride-we are happy to get together once a year and are looking forward to 2011-our Alumni's 100th. Anniversary.

Alumni High School Band --(I can't remember everyone)

Verda Chantelois Thompson

Tami LaCrosse Gallegos

Bev Thivierge

Rosie Knapp Maki

Mervin Maki

Suzie Knapp Costello

Mervin Lindelof

Leila Morey Hoefling

Lynette Goldberg Smith

Geraldine Crase

Russell Willoughby

Gert Farry Forslund

Wayne "Buddy" Kosola

Jo Farry Demeria

David Goldberg

Tom Trautt (banner carrier)

Dave Goldbergs grandson (drums)

Majorettes

Jeanne Willoughby Joseph

Janelle Waters Armbruster

Carol Jean Riedl

Ginger Weyandt

Connie Kosola