

## Remembering Lea

Lea Duschinski died December 3, 2011, and that was a black day in the annals of dear old Portsmouth High.

Lea served many years as secretary to the principal at the high school, and retired in about 1985. For many years she walked to and from the school at the corner of Waller and Gallia from her home at 1606 3rd St.

Nobody knew the history of PHS better than Lea, for the period from 1945 until now. Even though Lea had been retired many years she tried to attend every home football and basketball game of PHS, and most of Portsmouth Notre Dame's games too. She was a true sports fan, and especially loved The Cincinnati Reds.

Another plus, and example of her high regard among acquaintances, was her annual invitation to numerous class reunions every summer. I described Lea as "The belle of a hundred class reunions," when I emailed a notice of her hospitalization to friends.

Lea lived on South Taylor Court, in Forrest Heights, Portsmouth, until May this year, when she had a bad fall while sweeping her sidewalk, and shattering her left elbow, and cracking her head. She was already pretty frail from a loss of appetite, and she was hospitalized for several weeks before being moved into Hill View Retirement Center's health care facility.

Her keen memory, devotion to her church and schools, and her extensive reading, made her an interesting and fun companion; she was a member of several groups of friends who ate together frequently. In recent years she complained that her lunch and dinner groups had fallen off, but you could see Lea and Vi Gantz at The Scioto Ribber or Damon's most every Thursday evening. She had a limit of two vodka drinks an evening, unless the "company or conversation got really exciting," she often said.

*Jim Kegley (PHS '57)*



**Library Assembly Committee featured in the Student Prints circa 1957-58. Hazel Riggs (PHS '57), Mary Grashel, Bud Stockham (PHS '59) and Jack Young (PHS '58).**



## Portsmouth Brewery Beer Now Available In Bottles

*By Ryan Scott Ottney PDT Staff Writer*

For the first time since Prohibition in the 1920s, Portsmouth Brewing Company on Second Street is bottling its house-brewed beers for regional retail markets.

According to local brewer Emily Eldridge, Portsmouth Brewing Company ("Brew Pub") is the oldest brewery in Ohio, dating from 1843. When the Women's Temperance Movement passed Rose Laws in 1908 to shut down local saloons, the Brew Pub closed its doors. The law was repealed in 1911 and the brewery opened again, only to shut down in 1920 when national Prohibition laws were passed.

The Portsmouth brewery sat largely abandoned for decades, until Steve and Ira Mault purchased the building and re-opened the restaurant and bar with a new, state-of-the-art brewery in 1997.

"The technology of brewing today, compared to what it was back then, is a lot different. We've got a lot more control over things like temperature. We also have a way to measure the density, which measures the sugar and alcohol content so we know when to stop fermentation. They just had to go by taste back then," Eldridge said. "Also we measure alpha acids, which determine the bittering units in the hops, so we can very precisely calculate

how much we need to put in the beer to get the flavor we want out of it. They didn't even know about alpha acids back then, let alone how to measure it and keep the beer consistent."

It can take up to two weeks to brew, ferment, age and bottle an ale, Eldridge said. Lagers take more than a week to ferment, and then age for four weeks. The Portsmouth Brewing Company has a selection of six seasonally brewed beers: Red Bird Ale (named for the 1940 Portsmouth minor league baseball team), Vulcan Dark Lager (named for the Vulcan Manufacturing Company, with a chocolate-coffee aftertaste), American Pale Ale, Belgian Orange Triple (A stronger drink using imported British grains, sold only in half-pints), Babe's Brown Porter (developed by Ira "Babe" Mault) and Portsmouth Pilsner.

The business might soon also begin brewing Crystal Gold Beer, which is a lighter homage to the original beers being brewed in the 1800s. "Portsmouth Pilsner is the flagship of our beers, and it is a lager that is German-style and definitely a more difficult type of beer to brew. When we started this up, (Steve Mault) talked to a lot of other brewers who told him he was crazy to attempt a lager. It's too difficult, there's too much that can go wrong, it takes too much time, and you can't make money off of it. But he was adamant that he wanted to brew lagers," Eldridge said.

After discussions with Kyle Smith, treasurer for the Portsmouth School System, and after discussions on his end and hearing from some of you, it seems the best way to honor Lea Duschinski is to purchase a plaque that will be placed on the wall in the Administration Building. I think this would be a fitting way to honor her. The exact info on the plaque has not been determined, but would include her years of service and other appropriate info that would be meaningful. If the money collected exceeds what is needed for the plaque, a bench would be purchased and used in the athletic building with a brass plate on it.

Please send your donations, and ask others to send their donations to: Portsmouth City School District Attn: Kyle Smith, Treasurer 724 Findlay Street Portsmouth, OH 45662

# PHS TROJAN Alumni PRINTS

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY THE CLASS OF 1955

WITH NEWS & VIEWS OF OTHER PORTSMOUTH OHIO CLASSES OF THE LATE 40's, 50's & EARLY 1960's

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## Remembering Joe Kegley

In my senior year at Portsmouth High School (1954-1955) I took the required semester Civics (American Government) course. My teacher that first semester was another of the veteran teachers that we were so fortunate to have during those "Golden Years" at PHS. Joe Kegley was able to give my Civics class the benefit of his 27 years of educational experience that semester. Since I had always enjoyed the social studies, I was motivated to do well in his class.

As I remember it, Mr. Kegley's teaching style was slow and easy-going. I remember that he rarely got too excited or got in a rush about things. Also, he was very thorough in explaining the subtle inner-workings of our governmental system.

Joe Kegley was born in 1902 in Wythe County, Virginia. He graduated from Milligan College in Tennessee in the mid-1920s. Right after college he worked as a bank teller in Roanoke, Virginia.

Mr. Kegley came to Portsmouth in about 1926 and took a job in the payroll department of the Selby Shoe Company. However, in the fall of 1927, with his

background in the business world, he was hired to teach commercial subjects at Portsmouth High School.

Joe Kegley had a long and distinguished career with the Portsmouth School System. He retired in 1966 with 38 years of service. During that time he taught a variety of subjects, served as an advisor to many school organizations (including the PHS "Happy Bachelor's Club" and the Boy Scouts), ran the concessions at the Municipal Stadium during the football season, was Principal of Lincoln Elementary School in the 1940s, was Principal of Massie Elementary in the early 1950s, and directed the PHS Summer School Program for many years. In addition to these activities, during the Second World War, Mr. Kegley served the community as an Air Raid Warden.

Mr. Kegley loved to travel. He visited Europe in the early 1930s and toured the U. S. during many of his summers and after retirement. He was active in a number of organizations in Portsmouth: Franklin Avenue Methodist Church,



## Jerry Lucas vs. PHS

*Portsmouth Times, January 13, 1957*

Portsmouth Area basketball fans have no quarrel with the experts who have selected Middletown High School as Ohio's No. 1 quintet.

And they also have no objection to Jerry Lucas' billing as the nation's outstanding high school cager.

Middletown High proved its right to be in the top spot in the A. P. scholastic poll by rolling to a routine 84-51 victory over an outmanned and outgunned Portsmouth High quintet Friday night at Grant Gym in a Greater Ohio League game.

Middletown showed some 2,000 fans who packed Grant Gym that it isn't a one-man team that must have its great pivot man hitting to win by opening with a great team effort that set up its 10th straight victory of the season and the 35th triumph over a two-year span.

Middletown coach Paul Walker saw that PHS coach George Heller was double-teaming Lucas so he had his outside man fire away and they must have hit almost 70 per cent of their shots.

Lucas wasn't needed by the blazing Middies but he took two Trojans out of the game by himself. Harlan Frazier was playing in front of Lucas with Bob

Second Presbyterian Church, Scioto County Retired Teachers Association, Ohio State Retired Teachers Association, Aurora Lodge of the F. & A. Masons, Eastern Star, and Kiwanis.

After he retired from PHS he taught elementary school in Kentucky for five years to supplement his retirement income. After his Kentucky retirement, he substituted at the Scioto County Joint Vocational School for a time.

Joe and Irene Kegley were married in 1933 and lived for years at 2535 Richie Street in Portsmouth. Later they moved to the Rosemount area. They raised three daughters: Chloetta (PHS '53), June (PHS '56), and Joyce (Clay HS '62). The Kegleys were charter members of the Hill View Retirement Center on 27th Street and moved there when it opened. Irene Kegley died in 1983, and Joe married Clover White Harold in 1984. Joe Kegley passed away on September 10, 2003, at Hill View, at the age of 100.

I wish to acknowledge, with gratitude, the assistance of Mrs. Chloetta Kegley Whitt (PHS '53) of Winter Haven, FL, in the preparation of this piece.

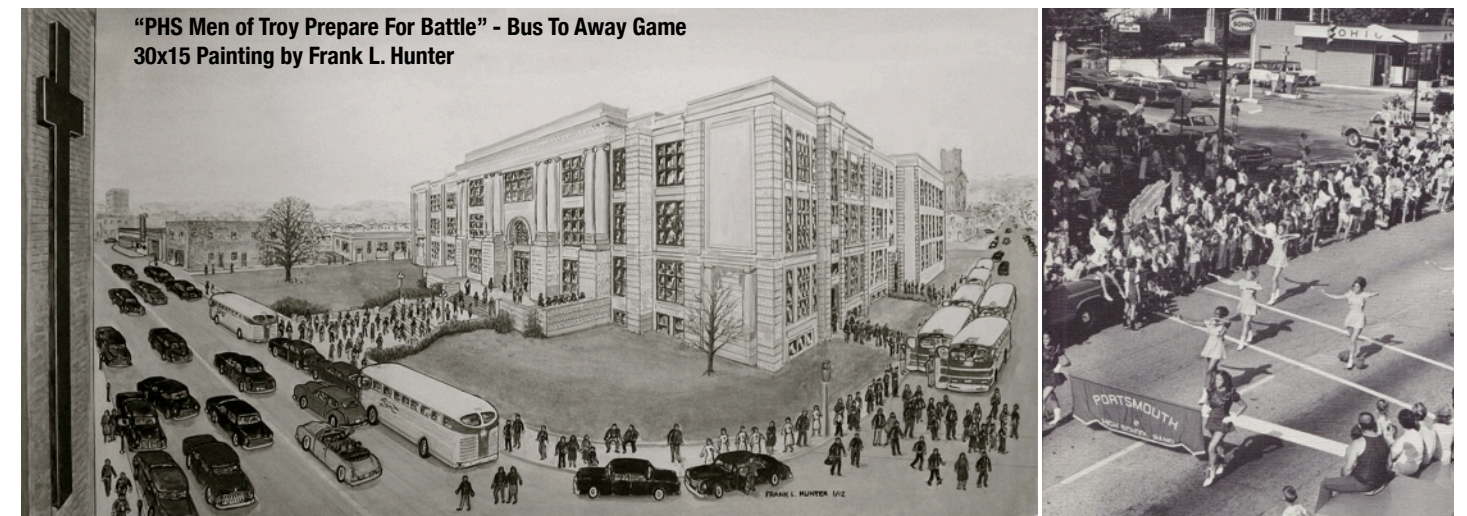
*Blaine Bierley (155)*

Copley behind the high-scoring center during the first quarter.

But Lucas soon broke loose to show fans why he is so highly publicized as he wound up with 31 points on 14 field goals and three free throws before Walker took him out with 6:30 left in the game.

PHS found out as have the other nine opponents that it's almost impossible to stop the 6-9 junior who is attracting the attention of the nation's college coaches.

Captain Tony Price and Ron Shumate carried the Trojans' offensive load with Price's 19 points on four field goals and 11 free throws and Shumate's three fielders and four charity tosses for 10 markers.



## Remembering the '37 Flood

January, 2012, marks the 75th anniversary of the disastrous 1937 Ohio River Flood in Portsmouth. A good number of our parents and their homes were affected by this terrible event. Many of the members of the PHS Class of 1955 were born during this momentous year, and although we may not directly remember the flood, we most likely grew up hearing stories about it and seeing pictures of its devastation to the Portsmouth area. Also, some of us lived in houses that were covered by the waters that came over the flood walls. To this very day, I can still remember the musty river smell of the dried mud left by the flood in the unfinished basement of the house in which I grew up on Charles Street down by the Municipal Stadium.

The Ohio River Flood of 1937 took place in late January and February. It caused damage that stretched from Pittsburgh to Cairo, Illinois, and left an estimated one million people homeless. Various newspaper reports counted some 400 people killed as a result of the flood and property losses were calculated at over \$500 million--in an era that was still reeling from the Great Depression.

Six to 12 inches of rain fell in Ohio during January 13-25, 1937, totals never before or since equaled over such a large area of Ohio. January, 1937, remains to this day as the wettest month ever recorded in Ohio.

By January 19 the Ohio River rose to 55 feet with a crest of near 60 feet forecast for the next day or two. With heavy rain continuing throughout the entire Ohio valley and its tributaries, the people of Portsmouth knew that a flood was inevitable. By 5 a.m. on January 22 the water began entering the city, backing up through the sewers whose valves had been deliberately opened by city officials to permit recession of the water after the flood. This allowed river water to flood the downtown Portsmouth business district to about ten feet deep.

The Portsmouth Times reported that there were 20,000 people homeless in the greater Portsmouth area and boats treacherously moved through the swift currents in the flooded areas picking up some 5,000 refugees for a mass evacuation by train to Columbus. Five hundred other refugees from New Boston were taken by buses to Jackson, 28 miles northeast of the city.

The Times also reported that a woman named Bessie Tomlin drowned as her rescue boat overturned in the raging waters. Heroically, she was able to hand her infant daughter up to rescuers before she went under the water. Tomlin is buried in Greenlawn cemetery and her tombstone has her picture and her story on it.

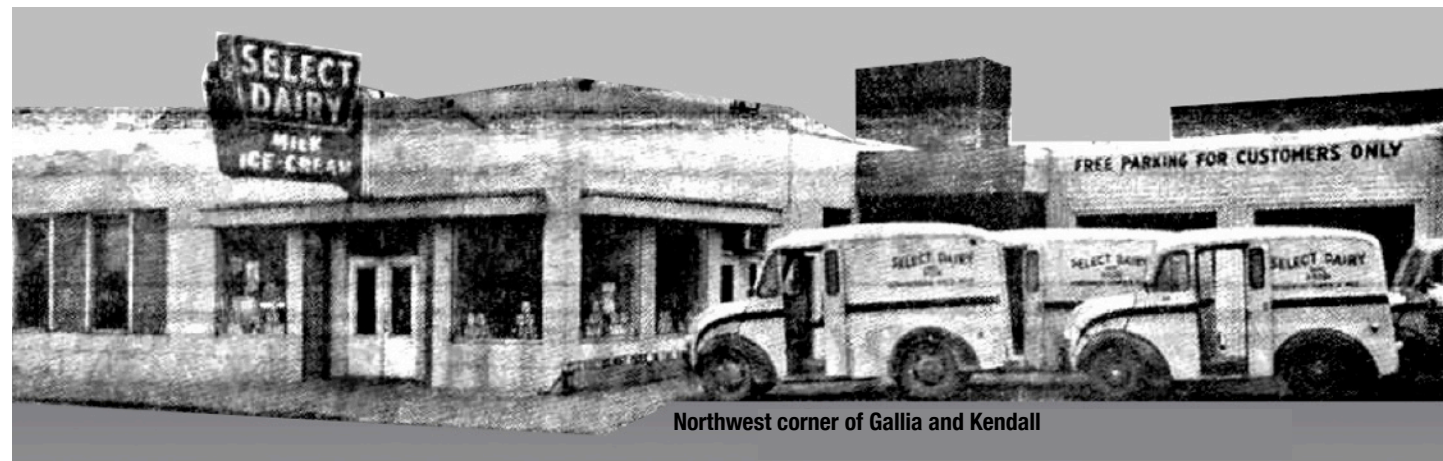
The Ohio River crested at 74 feet in Portsmouth in February of 1937, well above the flood wall erected after the disastrous 1913 flood. You can see a marker commemorating this historic high water mark on the side of a building (605 Second Street) in the historic Boneyfiddle District in downtown Portsmouth.

Dr. John Lorentz (PHS '58), Associate Provost for International Education and Professor of History Emeritus at Portsmouth's Shawnee State University has produced an award-winning documentary film on the 1937 flood entitled "River Voices."

John explained why he made the film, "It had a tremendous impact, but it also had a significant lesson for the city of Portsmouth, I think, because this was a great, tragic event with enormous devastation. But after the flood, people pulled together and rebuilt the city, and there was sort of this 'can-do' spirit of working together."

Lorentz began working on the hour-long documentary with his filmmaker son, Nathan, in 1999, and it premiered in October, 2002. Since its release, the film has been played internationally and is available for purchase at the Portsmouth Welcome Center on Second Street and the Shawnee State University Bookstore.

*Blaine Bierley (PHS '55)*



Northwest corner of Gallia and Kendall

## Superman vs. Capt. Marvel

When I was a kid growing up on Charles Street in Portsmouth, during the late 1940s, I collected and enjoyed comic books and traded them with my Wilson Elementary School buddies. My favorite comics in those bygone days were Superman and Captain Marvel. One of the favorite questions that always seemed to come up when we guys were discussing our comic book superheroes, was who would be victorious if by some means Superman got into a conflict with Captain Marvel.

Superman, who became an American icon, first appeared in Action Comics in 1938. He was a creation of Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. As we all know, he was born on the planet Krypton, sent to Earth by his parents just before his home planet was destroyed, and was adopted by the Kent family in Kansas. As an adult, Clark Kent worked for the Daily Planet newspaper in Metropolis

(as a mild-mannered reporter) with Lois Lane; and as Superman had a multitude of abilities including superhuman strength, flight, X-ray vision, the ability to leap tall buildings, and was more powerful than a locomotive.

On the other hand, Captain Marvel first appeared in Whiz Comics in 1940. He was pure adolescent fantasy--Captain Marvel was the alter ego of Billy Batson, a young newsboy, who was chosen to be a Champion of Good by the Wizard Shazam. Whenever Billy spoke the Wizard's name (an acronym for the six legendary figures who lent their gifts: the wisdom of Solomon, the strength of Hercules, the stamina of Atlas, the power of Zeus, the courage of Achilles, and the speed of Mercury) he was instantly struck by a magic lightning bolt that transformed him into "The World's Mightiest Mortal."

While we kids pondered the question of who might triumph if these two superheroes would somehow clash, ironically the two comic book publishers were involved in litigation in federal court. The issue was copyright infringement. The publisher of Superman sued the publisher of Captain Marvel alleging that the Captain Marvel character was, in fact, based upon their character of Superman. This litigation took several years to settle, and while it was in court, Captain Marvel's publisher was unable to promote or market its Captain Marvel character under that name.

So, unbeknownst to us schoolboys at that time, Superman was winning the contest that we were just dreaming of in our fantasy. Wouldn't it be fun to return to those long-gone days of fantasy for an hour or two?

*Blaine Bierley (PHS '55)*

## PASSINGS

### Lea Duschinski

Lea Rose Duschinski, 85, of Portsmouth, died Dec. 3, 201. She was born May 13, 1926, in Portsmouth. Lea was a retired secretary of Portsmouth High School having worked at PHS for 43 years. She was a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, James Dickey Post American Legion Auxiliary, and Knights of Columbus Auxiliary.

### You Know You Are From Portsmouth If?

When Barry Fultz started this site in August 2011 he was looking for a way that he and other former or townie residents could post things that would bring joy and good memories for all who grew up in Portsmouth. When he started this site he invited about 40 people that he knew from his class. Within two weeks it had grown to 400 people and from then it went like a wildfire to 600 then 800 then 1100. Now it has over 1800 members. This site has grown way beyond of what he was expecting, and now people are posting pictures from the early 1800's to the '37 flood to buildings that have been torn down to whatever. The Portsmouth Times will do a weekly article about the site and its posts. You are invited to join and make new friends, find old friends and enjoy our home town. **FIRST YOU MUST JOIN FACEBOOK. IT IS FREE AND EASY.** Facebook.com. Search the site "You know You Are From Portsmouth If" and request to join. Any administrator will add you...

*Barry Fultz (PHS '72)*



This is Early Town. Kendall bridged across Gallia and ran all the way to 7th. Roughly bounded by the viaduct and Harmon and the West... Kendall to the East... Charles to the South and Gallia to the North. Dirt from Wayne Hills construction area filled the area where the rr yard tracks are. That was Funks Gut which ran from Wayne Hills to the river under the tackage. Join us on Facebook and you will learn things you never knew. Some of our readers were born and raised here.

## Mound Park 1949 Ramblings

A crowd gathered at the concrete-enclosed, sand-bottomed 25 x 40 foot croquet court across Hutchins Street from Highland School. Jim Smallwood knuckled under his right hand, as he gripped his tay, or shooter, between his thumb and creases of his pointer finger, before strongly flipping the marble toward his chosen mib (target-marble). The game was "ringer", and was played in an eight foot diameter circle

Jim Smallwood, a noted mibster, was the crowd favorite to win the Portsmouth city-wide keepsies marbles shooting championship. And, he did it! L. T. Henderson, the legendary city recreation director was there, as were several dozen of us Mound Park urchins. Mound Park was a wonderful place to while away our summer days. There was always something to do, if only to take a seat on one of the sturdy concrete benches, and listen to the gathering of old codgers tell fascinating stories of the early days of the twenties and thirties, while they whittled away on a small stick. I remember one, still-limber man, claimed to be an old "soft-shoe" dancer in the days of Vaudeville, and he would get up and dance a slow jig, to prove his point.

Another man talked about the early days when the street fairs and circuses came to town, "They used to arrive on trains, and would park and unload their animals and tents along Tenth Street, by Tracy Park, then parade up Chillicothe Street to the field where the railroad passenger depot was eventually built, between 15th and 17th streets. It was a large flat field where they held baseball games back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries," the man claimed. That was fascinating to me, because in our days the circuses were always held on Harmon and Eighth Streets.

The one exception was the time the street-fair, with the hoochie-coochie-belly-dancers, had to set up at Raven Rock airport, because of the city ordinance against such displays.

I and another of the urchins, had to hitch-hike out to the fair, and sneak through the

mud under the tent to watch the action. We ended up right behind the dancers, and one of the ladies saw us, and kicked at us, so we had to scamper. I remember thinking, "What's so exciting about an old fat woman wiggling around barefooted?" But I only thought that after getting tossed! Before that it had been exciting, and a great story to tell our friends.

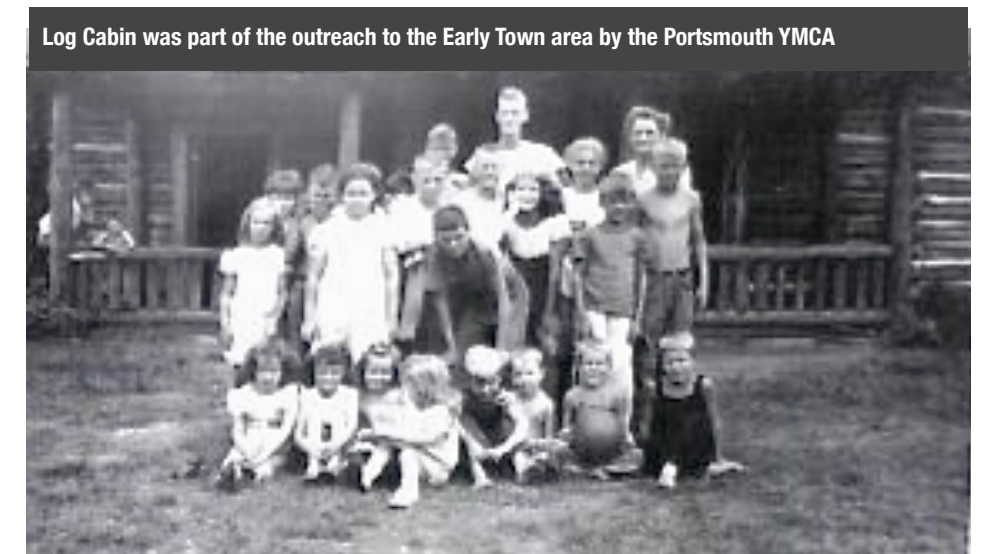
But, back to Mound Park...we also had many days when we would play mumbly-peg, or days when the park managers held horseshoe tossing tournaments, and days when we were lucky enough to be treated to watermelon feeds by the local Salvation Army.

One day I was standing on the concrete block stage upon which ceremonies were held. We had been trying to gig fish in the backwater of the Scioto River a couple of days before, and I had found a six-foot long horse-weed, with a pointed root clump, and had commandeered it as my spear. It was light and hollow, and I could throw the weed in a high arching path, and hit a target 40 to 60 feet away. One of Ray and Laura Chapman's twins, (I can't remember if it was Ronnie or Ray) was running across the park and I lofted a toss, and it (unfortunately) hit the twin in the face and just missed his eye, peeling the skin and causing it to bleed.

The Chapman's lived five houses down McConnell Avenue from the park, and I, who was about 11 at the time, picked up the six or seven-year-old-twin and ran to his house. The boy's crying got his mother's attention, and when she saw the blood, and I hysterically explained the accident, she dropped the twin on the porch glider, and chased me off the porch, and screamed at me as I scurried out of her path.

It took Laura a long time to forgive me that time! I think I learned a valuable lesson from the incident. I've never carried a bleeding twin home to a mother who watches wrestling on tv again. And, I never will!

*Jim Kegley (PHS '57)*



Log Cabin was part of the outreach to the Early Town area by the Portsmouth YMCA  
Dick Hopkins (PHS '45) is tall guy in back. Walt Ruark (PHS '57) in striped shirt standing 1st row. This cabin was where naval armory on Charles Street. in Early Town. From our facebook page.