



Richard Inman Class of 1962

By Mark Knutson

I recently had the pleasure of communicating with Rick Inman and did an email interview with him. Rick is a 1962 graduate of Newfalden High School who now resides in the Twin Cities area. I look forward to meeting Rick when he visits up north in the future. The following is the result of our communication.

Tell us a little bit about growing up in the Holt community.

I grew up on a farm in Holt, MN. My parents are Alonzo (Lon) and Lida Inman. They had 6 children: Larry, Rick (myself), David, Christie, Lana, and Joy. All of us are graduates of Newfalden High School (NHS). Thanks to being raised on a farm, I developed a strong work ethic that has served me well my entire life. Some of the best memories I have of my childhood are: Family activities - family birthday parties, family trips to visit relatives, snowmobile parties, horseback riding, basketball games, ice skating, softball games on Sunday afternoons in Holt, and dances in the Community Center in Holt, 4-H Club. Church activities - Our family was/is members of Nazareth Lutheran Church in Holt and participated in the many programs offered by the church, such as Sunday School and Luther League.

I assume you attended elementary and junior high school in Holt before moving onto high school in Newfalden. What are some things that stand out to you when you think of those years?

I attended Holt Elementary School, grades 1 thru 8, and Newfolden High School, grades 9 thru 12. Ardelle (Tangquist) Anderson was my favorite elementary teacher. I graduated in the "Class of 1962", in a class of 33 students. I really enjoyed high school, not only the social aspects, but the great opportunity to learn from the high quality teachers at NHS. I took a lot of Math classes. Business Math being my favorite class and Ethel Torgerson (Torgy) was my favorite teacher.

At NHS, I participated in basketball and chorus. I played basketball for 4 years. My senior year on the "Nordic" basketball team was especially enjoyable. My friend, Ron Shern, and I had the honor of being named co-captains. The team was made up of 3 seniors, 3 juniors and 6 sophomores. Frank Kohoutek was the head coach. Thanks to his coaching and patience, we became a very competitive team, even though we lacked experience. We had a 9-6 record during the season. We upset Middle River and Greenbush to win the Sub-District and earn a #1 seed in the District tournament. We had to play Kennedy in the District semifinal. We had a 1 point lead with a few seconds left in the game. Kennedy made a basket with a little time on the clock and won the game to knock us out of the tournament. My senior year was a "fun ride". Fifty some years later, I still have fond memories of my senior year and those teammates.

After graduating from high school, did you go on to any post secondary education or military service?

After graduation, in July 1962, Rudy Borg, Leonard Gutterud and I went into the Army National Guard for 6 months to complete our basic and advanced training, which was completed in January 1963.

In February 1963, I started my post high school education at the Area Vocational and Technical School (VOTEC) in Thief River Falls, MN In November 1963, I completed my course work and was awarded a Certificate of Accounting Principles.

In October 1963, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Fargo, ND had a recruitment visit at the VOTEC. I didn't have any job prospects, so I decided to apply. To my surprise, I was offered a job in Washington DC.

It must have been quite an experience to go from rural Holt to the Washington DC area, especially at that time in US History.

It was a dramatic chain of events moving from Holt, population of about 100, to DC and surrounding suburban area, population of several hundred thousand. DC was an exciting place to live as a young person. There was a lot of historical places to visit, such as President monuments, the Capital, White House, Arlington National Cemetery, museums and parks. Bus was my main mode of transportation. Traffic was always bad because of all the visitors trying to find their way, especially in the summer time. It was fairly tumultuous time in DC, President Kennedy was assassinated in November 1963 and concern about the US involvement in the Vietnam War was starting to escalate.

On February 3, 1964, I reported to my clerk job at the FBI in DC.

From February 1964 to July 1969, I worked for the FBI in the computer/IT field. I was fortunate to be selected for a computer programmer training class. The training served as a base for my working in the computer/IT field my entire career. The most interesting project I worked on was an application to track and catch criminals, and maintain a database of known criminals.

In August 1969 to July 1971, I worked for the Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). I worked as a computer systems analyst on the redesign of the computer application used to collect interest of FHA Home loans.

In August 1971 to July 2005, I moved from DC to the Twin Cities area and continued my computer/IT career working for the Veterans Administration. I spent my entire career in the computer/IT field working in both technical and management jobs. I retired from the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center, with 40+ years of service, on July 1, 2005.

Could you tell us about your family and any hobbies or activities that you enjoy?

My hobbies are playing golf, riding motorcycle and watching sports. When my children, Andrea and Brent, were young, I coached them in softball, baseball and basketball. I also coached Wesley, my grandson, in baseball. I played slow pitch softball.

Do you keep in touch with any of your fellow NHS alumni?

We have informal luncheons, with no fixed schedule, for NHS/MCC alumni that live in the Twin Cities area.

Thank you to Rick Inman, Class of 1962, for taking part in this interview.