

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Name: Mary Margaret Connolly Mensch

Year of Graduation: 1964

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

After graduation I went to Olean Business Institute (OBI) - Olean NY for secretarial study (Class '65) and immediately started working for Dresser Industries in Olean, NY for the test department.

After a few years I got the opportunity to come back to Port Allegany and went to work at the elementary school for the elementary supervisor.



Between Dresser Industries and the school I met my life partner David Mensch and we were married in January of 1969. After staying home for a while with our daughter, I went back to work part time at Pierce Glass doing office work/switchboard, was a bank teller, sold insurance for several years and even worked at Wending Creek Farms selling Christmas trees. I then went to work at the IU9 and I am currently working for both the school district and the IU9 as a substitute aide when needed.

I am involved with many organizations in our community, I am secretary for our Ambulance Board, a member of the Port Allegany Women's Club, a member of our Catholic Women's Club of St. Gabriel's Church, member of our Economic Development Board and a member of our High School Music Boosters and continue to keep active with their activities.

Where do you currently live?

Port Allegany, Pennsylvania.

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

Dr. Frank Rackish would never say that I was a scholar in his English class but I must say that what I learned in his class, I use almost every day. I learned so much from this educator and respect him so much to this day. He is a great humanitarian, an excellent educator and such an important member of our community.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

My fondest memories were gatherings with classmates and being able to attend music festivals. I feel that the Class of '64 was a very close knit group of teenagers to the adults they are today.