

Alumni of the Month

Name: Bob Stromberg

Year of Graduation: 1970

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

I graduated from North Park College (now university) in Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts in Art. I married my wife Judy and headed off to Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of Congo. There I served as Youth Director at The International Protestant Church of Kinshasa. It was quite a year. And it was the year I realized I wanted to try a career in public performance.

Returning to the U.S. I studied physical comedy at a theater arts school in Maine, followed by a dozen years entertaining in schools. These were the years I put in my 10,000 hours. Eventually, I co-authored a play called "Triple Espresso (a highly caffeinated comedy)" which opened in eighty North American and European cities. With this show and others I experienced what I couldn't imagine as a boy.

The rewards from my career are second only to those provided by my family. Judy and I have now been married for forty-six years. We have two grown sons and six grandchildren. I couldn't be more grateful.

Where do you currently live?

I live in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota called Hugo.

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

My English teacher Mr. Gribbin was my favorite. Great teacher, great guy. Several years ago, I performed at Liberty University where Mr. Gribbin was a beloved professor. I really enjoyed seeing him again.

There's another teacher I should thank everyday and that's Mrs. Kanally. She was my next-door neighbor on Katherine Street and was my typing teacher. I've always written everything that I perform. In fact, I still spend most days typing away on various projects. I can fly on the keyboard and that's because Mrs. Kanally taught me well.



What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

I played varsity football for three years. Both my sophomore and Junior seasons we were undefeated (18-0). That hadn't happened since my dad played in '45 and '46. So, that's a pretty fond memory. I remember riding the bus into town after our final victory, a night game in Smethport. It seemed like the whole town came out to greet us and celebrate. We got off the bus at the bank and walked to the school, right up the middle of Arnold Avenue. Sweet memory. But, even sweeter are the many smokey October memories of walking home from school and the sound made by shuffling through shin-deep fallen leaves. Ahhhh!

I will always be grateful for the years I had in Port Allegany. The town and school hold a very special place in my heart.