



# Viking Alert

The Newsletter of  
The North Canton  
Alumni Association

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The feature in this edition is Twins Ralph & Robert Schwitzgebel, born 3-21-1934. Father Harry was a self-employed public accountant and tax consultant. The family moved to North Canton in 1950 and resided at 209 Everhard Rd. SW (that address later changed to 208 Orchard Hill St.). Both brothers attended NOCA High and graduated in the Class of 1952. (A younger brother Paul graduated from Hoover High in 1960).

By all accounts the twins were popular and exceptional students, excelling in speech, debate and scholarship activities. They were both members of the National Honor Society and the National Forensic League and participated in drama productions and the school newspaper. Ralph Seeman, a classmate remembers them as biology classmates. "They were really smart. Not at all stuck up. Just down to earth. Bob was a bit more social as I recall." Yvone Streby Schworm echoes Seeman's comments, "They were typical high school students. Very smart, always friendly and outgoing. I don't think they ever came back to any reunions."

Following high school, the brothers continued a close personal & professional relationship, obtaining master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard University. Their post doctorate field of study was behavioral psychology. They studied under B. F. Skinner & Timothy Leary and did extensive research on behavior modification of juvenile delinquents and Boston street gangs. The Switzgebel's primary emphasis was on positive rewards (money, gifts, favored treatment, etc.) rather than punishment as a means of encouraging more socially acceptable behavior. Their collaborative efforts drew criticism from law enforcement and social welfare officials who argued they were too "soft" on delinquents.

The brothers continued to insist their work had benign effects and in the long run would produce beneficial results to society. In the early 60's they began experiments with primitive tracking devices to better monitor their subjects' movements. Their 1st efforts proved ineffective as the belts could be disabled or discarded altogether. And, critics argued it was an invasion of privacy and violated 4th Amendment rights.

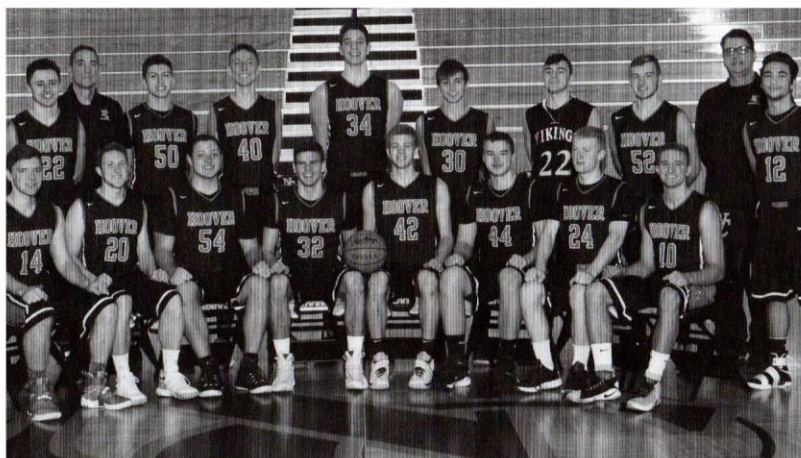
The brothers distanced themselves from Skinner (harsh punishment) and Leary (mind altering drugs). By the mid- 60's, they had enough and relocated to California. They changed their names to Gable with Ralph (now R. Kirkland Gable) becoming a psychology professor at California Lutheran University. He downplayed A to F grading and introduced novel ways to recognize achievement. He passed in 2015. Brother Robert continued teaching and research in behavioral psychology at UCLA and later at Claremont Graduate University. His work led the development of GPS (Global Positioning System) & GIS (Global Information System).

The Schwitzgebel (Gable) brothers have been among the most successful (yet not widely recognized) former North Canton students.

Info from James Philip Holl.

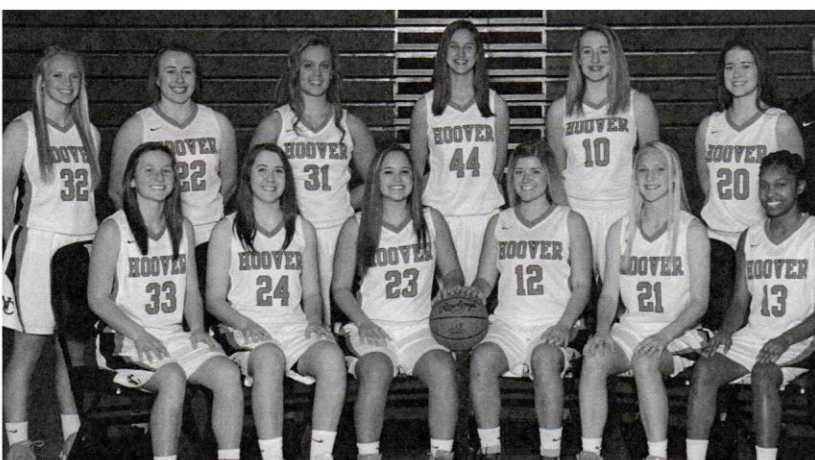


# 2016-17 Hoover Winter Sports Teams



**Varsity Boys Basketball-  
ranked in the state top 10.**

**Varsity Girls Basketball-  
Over 18 wins.**



**Below- Boys Swim, 2nd in  
the Federal League.**

**Girls Swim- undefeated  
Federal League Champs.**



**Two Girls Swim  
Relays teams  
set national  
records.**



This article is the 20th by local sports historian Jim Holl.

**Frederick Andrew Huth (Fred)**- Born: April 15, 1907, Bolivar, OH.

Died: Sept. 15, 1996, Parma, OH.

Nobody knows exactly when it started. That's part of the nature of baseball. Sometime around World War II, the Community Building began to sponsor a summer league for boys based on the playgrounds in each end of town. The CB staff drew up a schedule and recruited high school boys for umpires. It was pretty haphazard with no uniforms and games played on dusty, rock strewn fields. Kids showed up when they felt like playing. Sometimes a parent had to step in and umpire a game.

But Fred Huth changed all that. He started out modestly enough. When the Little League was formed in 1948, he helped coach his son Bernie's West Team. They played their games at the old Harmon Street field near the present Witwer Park. Three years later, Huth succeeded Lester Rinehart as president and headed up a group of dedicated volunteers who carved the new 7th Street fields out of swamp and woods.

Under Huth's 30 year tenure, the North Canton Little League expanded from four teams and 60 boys to a multi-division format with 16 major and minor league teams and more than 300 players ranging from 8 to 12 years in age. Huth, with a full-time job at the Hoover Company, spent almost all of his spare time overseeing the maintenance of the ball fields, securing volunteer coaches and umpires, raising funds and organizing league functions. He was largely responsible for bringing state and regional Little League tournaments to North Canton and was recognized by the Hoover Company and the community for his work.

Perhaps his biggest moment came on May 6, 1972 when the City of North Canton proclaimed "Fred Huth Day" and renamed the 7th Street ball fields, the "Fred Huth Fields". In 1983, he turned presidential duties over to Jake DeBenedictis after 30 years of leadership. After his retirement, in 1990 he moved to Parma to live near his only daughter.

Today the North Canton Little League has more than 30 teams and more than 700 players in four age divisions. Their home base is a sparkling new eight field complex with state-of-the-art facilities on East Maple Street. If Fred Huth were to return he would not be at all surprised. Just as it was on his watch, the North Canton Little League just keeps getting bigger and bigger.



*The North Canton Alumni Association*

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**Recent Deaths**– Corrine (Renner) Allan (47), Donna (Harrison) Bennett (63), Mike Bergin (80), Jeannene (Hiltbrand) Blate (57), George–Ann (Bozeka) Brown (77), Walter Brown (49), Mark Campbell (82), Steve Carr (81), Louella Clay (54), Stephen Collins Jr. ((07), Mary Craven (34), Ernie Davenport, Myron Draper (59), Patricia (Marrell) Floom (69), Jennifer Gladieux (87), David Hill (77), Bobbie Lucille (Warthen) Howard (60), Jim Jester (40), Elsie Koontz (98), Devin Milliken (16), Donald Wm. "Bill" Pilcher II (77), Dean Odell Smith (47), Thomas Spring (69) Thelma (Earl) Uber (34), Robert L. Wise (33). We're also sorry to report the passing of Eric Hirt (74), he passed in 2008.

**Upcoming Reunions**– Sat., Aug. 12 is the 40th Reunion of the Class of 1977. At Arrowhead. Contact Cindy (Spotleson) Malcuit (330) 575–0413 or Tara (Maragas) Hill (214) 681–8200.

The Class of 1967 will hold its 50th reunion at Arrowhead Country Club on Aug. 11–12, 2017. Contact Rita Palmer: [rjpalmer@neo.rr.com](mailto:rjpalmer@neo.rr.com).