

VILLAGE FOCUS

BY CAROL KLEM

Former Ridgeman & local sports reporter now author

Of interest to members of the old Webster High School Alumnae, in particular basketball players and their fans from the 1950s, is news from a former Ridgeman, Barry Martin. Remember him? He is the son of the late Stuart and Dorothea Martin of Webster Road.

Back in the 1955 yearbook, the Rev-eille, the caption under this particular basketball player from the late Coach Bill O'Rourke's team read:

*"On the basketball court, he's a dead-eye dick,
For such a good historian that's quite a trick."*

These are all good memories for Barry Martin. During the 1954 high school football season, Martin started his writing career as a *Webster Herald* cub sports reporter. (Sadly, the *Herald* does not have these anymore).

"My compensation was free admission to the game, a ride on the school bus to 'away' games, and ten cents a column inch," recalls Martin. "That was pretty good pay when you figure a dollar for a story covered a movie ticket, a milk shake, a sundae, a small coke and an ice-cream cone with ten cents to spare."

The 1955 WHS grad went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from the College of William and Mary and earned a master's degree in American History from the University of Washington, Seattle.

Now Martin has written *Bob Davies: A Basketball Legend* (RIT Press). The book is a biography of the great NBA Rochester Royals superstar of the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Martin recalls how he loved watching Bob Davies and Bob Wanzer swish long two-hand set shots in the old Edgerton Park Sports Arena. "I had no idea at that time that the Royals were one of the best two teams in the world."

Pre-eminent NBA historian Leonard Koppett, who reported on the league for NYC newspapers, described the Royals as "the most perfect team" of their era.

Bob Davies' Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame plaque in Springfield, MA recognized him as the "first Superstar of Modern Professional Basketball."

And Davies was both a genuine sports hero and a role model. He was the prototype for the sports hero role



Veterans Day at Veterans Memorial Park in the Village of Webster.

model character Chip Hilton in 23 juvenile fiction books by Clair Bee.

Regretfully we missed alerting our readers to a talk Martin gave at the Rochester Central Library on Sunday, Oct. 1, on "The Most Perfect Team: Rochester Royals 1945-52." He also held a book-signing on Oct. 2 at the Webster Towne Center Barnes & Noble.

Hopefully he will give us another chance to hear his story on his next trip home.

Veterans Day in the Village

A cool, cloudy Friday morning brought a larger than usual crowd to Veterans Memorial Park to salute those veterans that served our country honorably throughout various wars and conflicts.

Solemn and meaningful the honor guard marched in, encircling the memorial erected to remember our servicemen. Taps played, prayers were said, and a short speech was given by Webster's American Legion Post Commander Greg Cody. The veterans then proceeded to the Village Community Room where they enjoyed a luncheon, catered by Greg Cody's Brimont Bistro and served by the village staff.

I think about how fortunate we are to live in this particular small town in upstate New York where we care enough to honor those men and women who fought – and are still fighting – to keep us free. What happens here does not happen everywhere.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

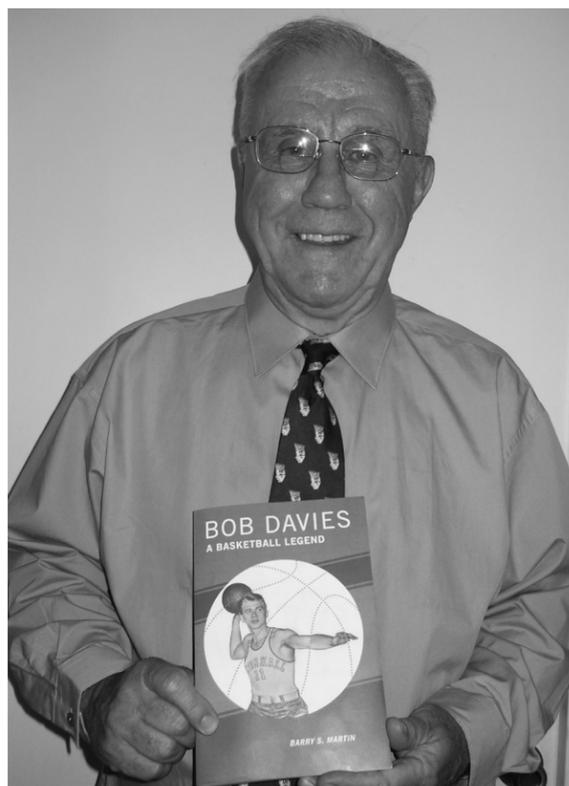
I am lucky. Almost daily I meet amazing people of all ages who are unique for one thing or another. I find that they share terrific philosophies of life; they are fun, kind, caring and doing a good job with their time on earth.

Robyn Whittaker told me about two sisters – unique because of their age but also because of their ability to remember the good times in their lives with humor and caring. They are truly different flowers from the same garden.

The former Elmer sisters, Carolyn Mason, 95, and her sister Ruth Schumske, who will turn 97 on Nov. 20, have



Following the Veterans Day ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park in the village, veterans enjoyed a luncheon and cake.



Barry Martin and his new book, *Bob Davies: A Basketball Legend*.



To the former Elmer sisters, Carolyn Mason, 95, and her sister Ruth Schumske, turning 97 this month, keeping up appearances is very important, proving you are never too old to look nice. The two trendsetters are favored Friday clients of Robyn Whittaker's salon, Beyond Cuts on West Main Street.

been going to Robyn's hair salon, Beyond Cuts, every Friday morning for a long time. They grew up in the city, and one of their favorite memories is that of the first original Goodie Shoppe on the corner of Clifford Avenue and Goodman Street. That confectionary delight was owned by Mike Broikou's grandfather and uncle. (Mike currently owns today's Goodie Shoppe on North Avenue.) One of the sisters' best memories was

filling up on one of their specialties, a delicious pineapple split, Ruth recalled.

Raised in Rochester, Ruth said the city was like the country back then. "Our streets were mud," she said. "I remember when they paved them."

They were youngsters during the Great Depression and at the time they were unaware that anything was wrong. They only remember the good times, which included a lot of singing – their

VILLAGE FOCUS

mom sang too, they said - and they sang in choruses and choirs. Caroline continued her aspiration for singing by joining the Webster Baptist Church choir later on, which she enjoyed doing for years. For entertainment, they read - they recall reading good books such as *Gone with the Wind*. "We had only one copy and when one of us put it down, the other picked it up." They remember Home Bureau and Carolyn remembered learning to make chocolate pudding at school. "She made so much, we ate chocolate pudding for a week," Ruth laughed.

Speaking of laughter, there was plenty of that going on as we spoke. But most importantly, they wanted to set the record straight... "We were no angels," they laughed, hinting that they have wonderful secrets.

When their husbands were serving in World War II, they moved in with their mom and pooled their resources, and those resources included Ruth's children.

Ruth worked at Xerox for 20 years; Carolyn worked for Speedy's Dry Cleaners.

Most of their lives are behind them now. They no longer drive and one of Ruth's two sons drives them to their hair appointment. Ruth quit driving at 95, Carolyn at 93, due to macular degeneration.

What is really cool: they care about their appearance and in particular, their hair. They have lived long enough to remember styles from the many decades in which they have lived - Buster Brown hair cuts, pin curls and Bobbi pins, rollers, Toni home perms, waves, and swirls and curls, up dos and bangs, wearing beehive hair dos of the 1960s...



At Kittelberger's *Ladies Night Out*, Crystal Brown and Sarah Horeth "ooh" and "ah" over Molly the dog that is up for adoption. Last I heard, the little girl dog is still available.

"We went with the style," said Ruth. "I remember always fussing with my hair."

My guess is they would agree with Joan Crawford, who said, "I think that the most important thing a woman can have - next to talent, of course - is her hairdresser." And that hairdresser is Robyn, who gives them perms and weekly refreshes their style.

"Win or lose, we go shopping after the election" **- Imelda Marcos**

You too would realize that truer words were seldom spoken if you were

one of the many women who were at Kittelberger's event to benefit Pancreatic Cancer on Thursday evening, Nov. 10.

"Ladies Night Out" has become an annual social shopping spree put on by our favorite florist and gift shop to raise money for charity and to give everyone an early peek at what's in store for Christmas shoppers and for decorating your home for the holidays.

It works. Appetizers from Pub 235 were delicious and cocktails and wine hit the spot after election night stress. The Horaths chose the Pancreatic Cancer Association of Western NY to benefit from the event. Meg Horath Benedict's

mother-in-law, Sandy Benedict, passed away earlier this year from pancreatic cancer. Her father-in-law, Don Benedict, passed away 14 years ago from the same cancer, Jeanette Horath Guenther explained.

"Ladies Night Out" raised \$1560 to benefit the cause.

Congratulations!

Breakfast with Santa?

Oh yes, save the date. The Chorus of the Genesee invites you and your kids and grandkids, the neighbor kids... to enjoy a great breakfast with Santa Claus on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Harmony House, 58 East Main Street. Capture the moment and have your kids' pictures taken with Santa - use it for your Christmas card.

The cost is \$5 per person, \$20 max per family (2 adults).

Additionally, The Chorus's annual "Soup & Carol" evening is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 6:30 p.m. This is a family event and is open to the public. It is said that the kids have more fun than the grownups.

If you love Christmas and if you love to sing carols, this is the moment to get in the mood...

Everyone, including The Chorus, strolls around the Village streets for an hour or so, singing songs of the season to all who open their doors for them. When sufficiently chilled, they return to Harmony House for hot soup, warm fellowship, and more singing.

It is truly a wonderful day in the neighborhood. For tickets for the breakfast or for the Soup & Carol night, call 265-9540 or visit chorusofthegenesee.org.