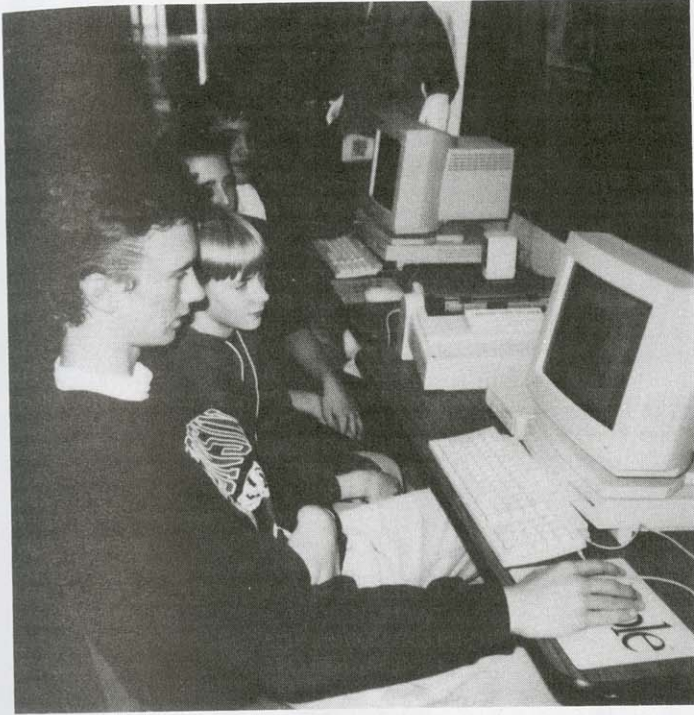


provided with special education or other programs to better prepare them for success in first grade.



SCS Middle school students are seen completing their school work on computers.

The district has grown by over 5% per year over the past five years. Yet the tax rate has remained one of the lowest in the county.

Despite the enrollment growth, the schools remain firmly in touch with the communities that they serve. Many new residents mention the school system as a major reason why they have relocated here. The schools still boast of providing a quality educational program at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer. Recent standardized testing at all levels, regular DPI and SEC audit results, positive parent surveys, and successful extra-curricular activities all verify the continuing success of the Slinger Schools.



SCS But as much as things seem to expand and change, the children of the 1990's pictured at the right still come to school much as they did 125 years ago to grow and learn intellectually, athletically, and socially.

# ENTERTAINMENT

By: Michael Schuetz

Dancing was the primary source of enjoyment for most people in our village years ago. The ten-member Schleisingerville Cornet Band performed for many years in this area. Between 1929 and 1934 the Schaefer Orchestra played in Slinger and Hartford. The Roth and Schaefer families dominated the music scene in Slinger from about 1880 to 1935. We must give the award for the most longevity to Skipper Leone and Her Deck Hands. She started in Slinger in the summer of 1934 and continued into the 1970's.

All the local bands played at Roth's dance hall which was built in 1862. Food was served in the room above the dance hall. The dancers kept their horses in the basement. Basketball was played there and movies were shown regularly.

Two of Wisconsin's most famous resorts were located in Slinger's own back yard:

In 1919 Jake Gonring built a 100 ft. circular dance hall at his resort. Along with his two hotels, free Sunday afternoon concerts, and a bathing beach complete with a large waterslide, Jake was sure to show you a good time.

In 1893 the Rosenheimer family purchased the Cedar Lake Park Resort from the Wisconsin Central Railroad. They built a special depot, north of Arthur Road, to serve their resort. The

Kletti brothers livery met the 1:00 p.m. train to take the passengers to the lake. On the other end of town, the Urban livery met the Milwaukee Road at the Slinger Station.



1.0A LRR Schleisingerville Cornet Band in 1889. Back row: John Schaefer, Lehman Rosenheimer, John Zihlsdorf, John Merten, Bill Rosche, Charles Schaefer, Frank Schaefer, Ed Bauman. Front row: Curtis, Charles F. Roth, Fred Uber, Anton Schaefer.



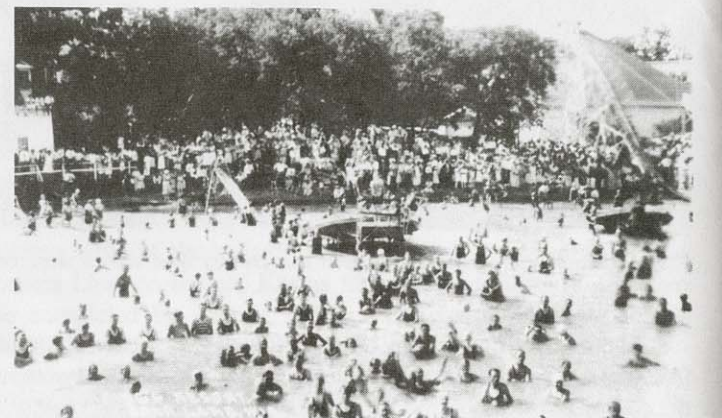
6.18 RK Schleisingerville Band, successor to the Coronet Band. Early 1900's. Anton Schaefer, director. Band members included Adolph Schaefer, Ed Dopp, Della Dopp, Frank Kachelmeier, Frank Schaefer, Charles Roth, William Tolzman, Louis Uber, Andrew Katzfey, Joseph Seidl, John Kleffi, Herman Uber, John Frey, Louis Frey and Albert Rosche. We don't know who's who on this picture.



12.1A JS Jacob Goring spent over \$50,000 in 1920 to erect this hotel and make other improvements to his resort.



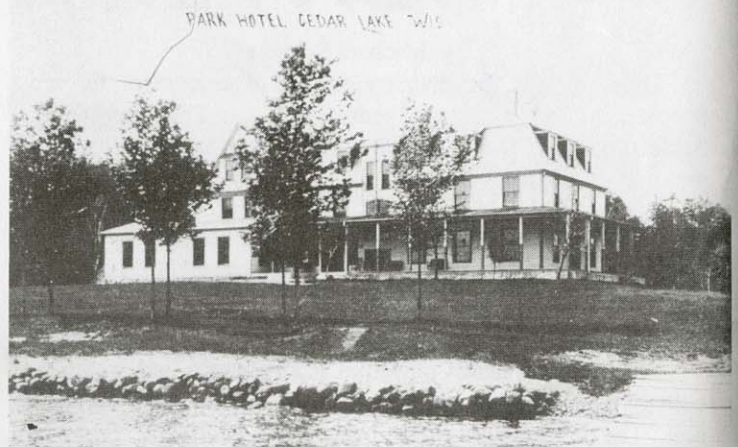
15.12 RR Skipper Leone and Her Deck Hands. Slinger's famous sailor band played from 1934 into the 1970's. In the 1930's they played every Sunday on Poyette Radio Station WIBV between 12:30-1:30 in the afternoon. In this pre-TV era, it was said that all the radios in Slinger were tuned in to listen. Band members from left to right: John Duehning, Victor Pusch, LeMoyné 'Red' Mayer, Laddie Kachelmeier, Richard Rosenheimer, and 'Skipper' Leone Duehning.



5.7 JS The beach at Gonring's Resort was packed with swimmers around 1920. Note the large water slide on the right side of this picture. Both Gonring's and Rosenheimers had a large slide to attract visitors.

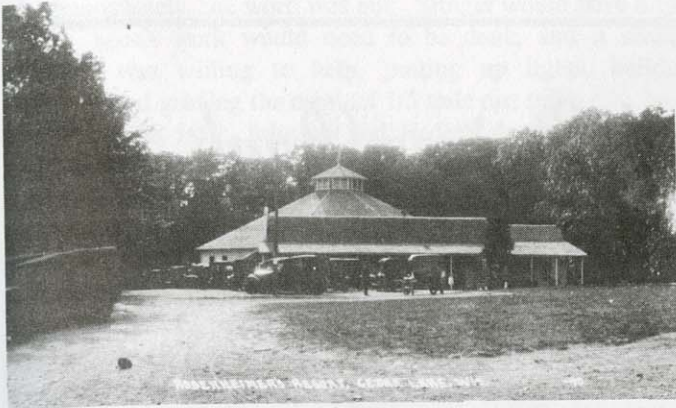


9.10 BS Bernie Schaefer and his orchestra around 1931. Left to right: (Back row) Paul Rudei, Bernie Schaefer, Les Sterr, Paul Wagner and Ed Kramer. (Front row) Bob Sorenson, Paul Bartelt, Charles Kauth, Leo Gruenhagen and Art Strobel.



6.19 JS John Rosenheimer Sr.'s Cedar Lake Park Hotel. Purchased by the Rosenheimer family in 1893. John ran this hotel until his death in 1923. At that time his sons John Jr. and Meyer took over the hotel. The hotel burned to the ground in 1931.

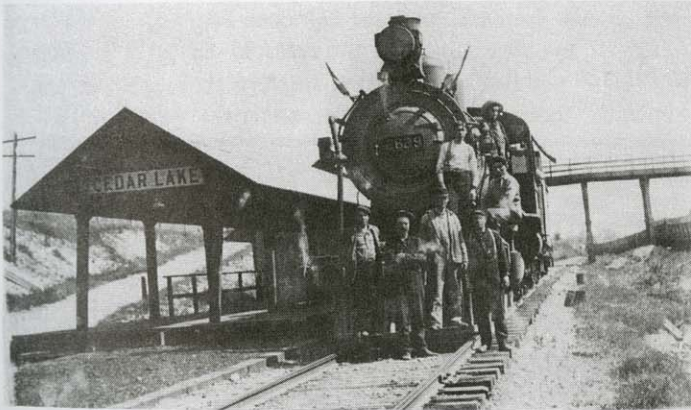
John and Meyer Rosenheimer built a 110 ft. dance pavilion in 1920. There was a lot of competition between the two resorts for many years. Three nights a week, public dances were held in the summer months with large crowds. Big-name orchestras



12.3A JS John Rosenheimer Sr. spent \$20,000 in 1920 to erect this new dance hall which was attached to the tavern in front. It was located next to the Cedar Lake Park Hotel.

such as Tiny Hill and Jimmy Dorsey entertained over 2,000 people a night.

The era of the resorts was coming to an end by the 1950's. Roller skating kept them alive at the end. There were two moving picture theaters in town years ago. The Majestic was in operation before 1916 on the floor above Kohl's Saloon. The Strand opened across the street in October of 1917 in the building presently owned by Zurn's Floor Covering. It stayed open until the mid 1930's.



11.19A DJB The construction of the Cedar Lake Depot around 1890. Note the Arthur Road bridge in the background and the road leading down to the station. This was a drop-off point for the people visiting the Cedar Lake resorts.



10.32 NK Klett's Livery Wagon was used to bring people from the railroad depots to the Cedar Lake Resorts.

Skiing was part of Slinger's past for 53 years. Ed Herte purchased Winter's hill and had his grand opening on December 7, 1941. For some years before that it was used for motorcycle hill climbs. One rider was killed during that time when straying off the path.



17.9 MS Slinger's South Park. Slinger's primary recreation and picnic area prior to 1950. This area is located on what is now the 600 block of Kettle Moraine Dr. S. It was owned by the Storck Brewing Co. until around 1920 when it was leased to and later acquired by the Slinger Fire Department. The Fire Department developed the property in 1953 and sold lots. In the late 1960's the remaining land was donated to the Village and was developed into what is now called Fireman's Park.

## SLINGER SPEEDWAY THE SUNDAY NIGHT TRADITION!!

By: Mark Gundrum

Although Slinger Speedway was first built in 1948, it was in the works for a full eight years prior to the time the first "official" competition was held.

In fact, it all began in the mid 1930's, when a Washington County Sheriff's Deputy named Bill Johnson Sr. became interested in the speed of racing. He bought his first midget car in 1938; and the next year, when his son, Bill Jr. began to race, they graded an impromptu track in their back yard, on the south end of Slinger.

In 1948, the Senior Johnson approached Rollie Heder about building a real track in Slinger; and one hour later, they stood on a hill overlooking a natural amphitheater located on the village's north side.



13.13A MT Slinger Speedway in its initial year of operation in 1948.



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Immediately, the word was out: Slinger would have a race track. Much work would need to be done; and it seemed everyone was willing to help, putting up lights, building bleachers and grading the original 1/5 mile dirt track.

Six weeks later, Johnson and Heder's dream was reality; and on July 10th, 1948, an estimated crowd of 5,000 paid \$1.00 each to watch 35 cars compete in a seven-event program.

Midget cars raced during most of the Speedway's first two years, and "stock cars" first appeared on the scene in 1949. The first two years also had the shows scheduled on Saturday nights.

"The Sunday Night Tradition" began on July 27th, 1950, and with the exception of one year, has been the norm for forty-five years.

In 1952, the track was leased to Cyclone Speedways, and 1953 saw the Central Stock Sanctioning Body operate the track as a non-profit organization, which turned out to be so non-profitable that Heder regained sole ownership of the Speedway in 1954.

1958 and 1959 saw the cars change in appearance, from large sedans to open-wheeled modified. 1958 also saw a new pair of drivers begin to race at Slinger, Don and Wayne Erickson.

The legendary Miles "The Mouse" Melius dominated much of the action during the track's first 20 years, winning 7 track championships. Bill Johnson Jr., one of the original owner's sons, also won 5 titles in the first 20 years.

Wayne Erickson recorded his first "feature" win in 1965; and although he would never win a championship at Slinger, he would become a major player in the track's history.

After a trip to Daytona in the early 1970's, Heder decided to build his own "Little Daytona" in Slinger. The last dirt race was held in 1973, and in the summer of 1974, the track reopened as a high-banked 1/4 mile paved oval.

Late model stock cars, similar to those in competition today, debuted on July 22nd, 1974. Joe Shear and Dick Trickle split the twin 99 lap feature events, and a new era in racing was born in Slinger.

Erickson would lease the track from Heder in 1975 and take over as owner in 1976.

On September 16th, 1978, the late Pat Schauer turned a lap in 11.929 seconds, officially citing Slinger Speedway as "THE WORLD'S FASTEST 1/4 MILE OVAL." Schauer's record has been broken several times, all at Slinger, the latest being former Winston Cup Driver Butch Miller, who today holds the world's record at 11.376 seconds.

Many, many big name drivers either got their starts at or have passed through Slinger Speedway. Some of the more recognizable include:

- \* The late Alan Kulwicki, a two-time Slinger track champion

- \* Dick Trickle, a four-time Slinger Nationals champion

- \* Mark Martin, the 1984 Slinger Nationals champion

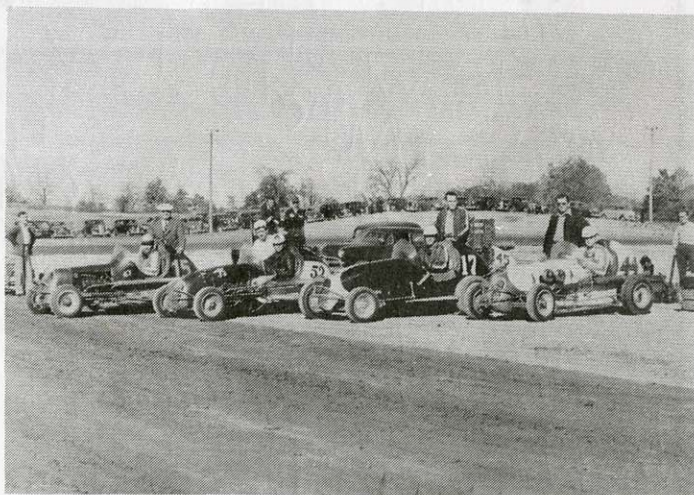
- \* Richie Bickle, a two-time track champion

- \* Bobby Allison--who won his last race EVER at Slinger just days before a career ending accident at Pocono in 1988

- \* The late Davey Allison, who at one time held the world record at Slinger

- \* Plus current NASCAR WINSTON CUP DRIVERS Kyle Petty, Harry Gant, Kenny Schrader, Ernie Irvan, Dale Earnhardt, Sterling Marlin, Ted Musgrave, Rusty Wallace, Michael Waltrip, Darryl Waltrip, and the late Neil Bonnett.

## SLINGER SUPER SPEEDWAY TRACK CHAMPIONS



13.0A WJ Slinger Speedway in its first year of operation in 1948. The drivers pictured, left to right, are as follows: #15 Miles Melius, #52 Carl Hunter, #17 Landy Scott, #44 Billy Johnson Jr. Billy Johnson Jr. won the track championship in 1948 and Miles Melius won the track championship in 1949.

### MIDGETS

1948 ..... BILL JOHNSON JR

1949 ..... MILES MELIUS

### STOCKS

1954 ..... ETCHE BIERTZER

1955 ..... MILES MELIUS

1956 ..... CARL KULOW

1957 ..... KENT LOUGAN



MG Slinger Speedway during the 1993 Slinger Nationals.

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## MODIFIEDS

1958	.....	MILES MELIUS
1959	.....	ETCHIE BIERTZER
1960	.....	MILES MELIUS
1961	.....	MILES MELIUS
1962	.....	FUZZY FASSBENDER
1963	.....	BILL JOHNSON JR
1964	.....	MILES MELIUS
1965	.....	BILL JOHNSON JR
1966	.....	BILL JOHNSON JR
1967	.....	MILES MELIUS
1968	.....	BILL JOHNSON JR
1969	.....	NEIL SEDERBERG
1970	.....	AARON SOLSRUD
1971	.....	AARON SOLSRUD
1972	.....	AARON SOLSRUD
1973	.....	AARON SOLSRUD

## LATE MODELS

1974	.....	JOE SHEAR
1975	.....	DAVE WATSON
1976	.....	TONY STRUPP
1977	.....	ALAN KULWICKI
1978	.....	ALAN KULWICKI
1979	.....	TONY STRUPP
1980	.....	TONY STRUPP
1981	.....	JOHN ZIEGLER
1982	.....	WILLIE GOEDEN
1983	.....	RICH BICKLE JR
1984	.....	AL SCHILL SR
1985	.....	AL SCHILL SR
1986	.....	AL SCHILL SR
1987	.....	AL SCHILL SR
1988	.....	AL SCHILL SR
1989	.....	RICH BICKLE JR
1990	.....	CONRAD MORGAN
1991	.....	ROBBIE REISER
1992	.....	ROBBIE REISER
1993	.....	ROBBIE REISER

## LITTLE SWITZERLAND

By: Larry Gundrum



JH Little Switzerland

What better place to open a ski hill than Slinger, the "city of the seven hills." And what better hill to select than Winter's Hill.

Ed Herte opened Little Switzerland on December 7, 1941. The business received its name from the local priest, Fr. George Jentges who looked up at the wooded hill and said "this place is just like a little Switzerland."

In the early 1930's the hill was used for motorcycle hill climb events. Ed Herte leased the hill from the Winter family from 1941 until he purchased it in 1954. He made constant improvements over the years and Little Switzerland was the second hill in the Midwest to install a snowmaking system. It utilizes ponds on each side of the hill for this purpose. While the rest of the community is without snow at various times during the winter, the hill at Little Switzerland is always white with snow from early December until mid-March.

Ed Herte was always an innovative owner. Little Switzerland boasted a ski jump in 1961 and currently has a 100 foot high ranger tower on top of the hill. The tower is used for little more than a flag pole, but is certainly eye catching.

Little Switzerland has 3 ski grooming machines from Germany to smooth out and pack the snow. They have 5 chair lifts and 3 rope tows to get skiers to the top and 14 different runs down both sides of the hill.

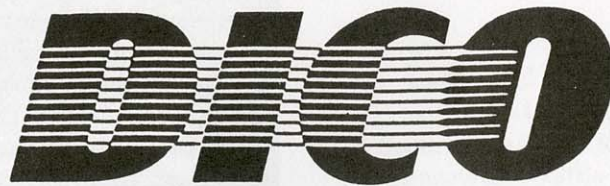
The chalet features a Bavarian Bar with a terrific view of the hill. It also includes crystal chandeliers from the old Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago and a round copper fireplace made out of what once was a vat from the old Storck Brewery. The business has over 100 employees during the winter and only a few during the summer including long time employee George Kuhaupt who has a nice view of the hill from his home across the street.

Ed Herte ran this business until he passed away on December 31, 1985. His business is now run by his daughter, Jane Herte, and her son, Jay, who each live next to the hill.

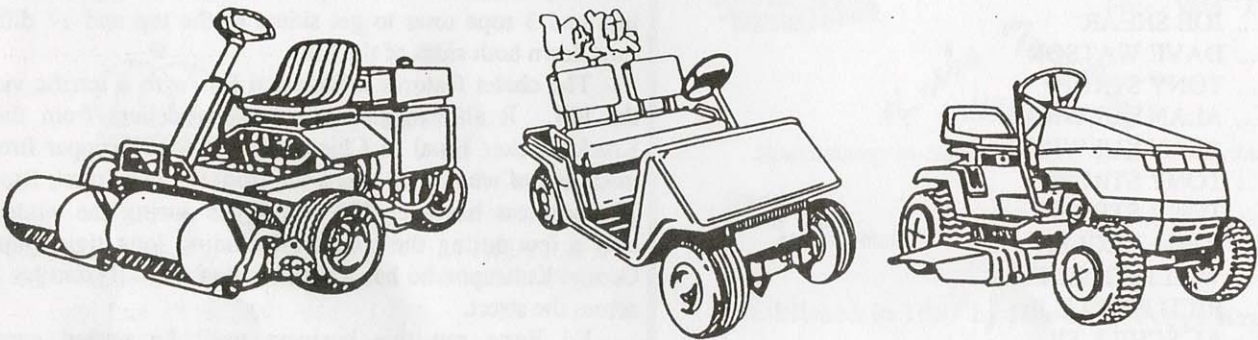


8.24 TR Ski Jump at Little Switzerland. It was only used a few times. It later deteriorated and was tore down in the 1960's.

Little Switzerland along with the Slinger Super Speedway, is one of two well known Slinger attractions that draw people from all over Southeastern Wisconsin.



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# WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

By: Larry Gundrum

The Washington County Fair came to Slinger in 1938. It is held at the County Grounds on the north side of the village on the last full weekend of July. It is one of a few free fairs held in Wisconsin and is thought to attract up to 50,000 visitors each year.

Washington County held a large parade in conjunction with the fair in 1986 to help celebrate its 150th anniversary. The highlight of the parade was a sky diving exhibition where several sky divers eluded electrical wires to land on a semi trailer in front of the businesses at 109 and 111 Kettle Moraine Drive South.

The Washington County Fair along with the Slinger Super Speedway and Little Switzerland have helped make Slinger the Entertainment Capital of Washington County.

# SPORTS

By Henry Karius

## SLINGER HIGH SCHOOL

While the Slinger High School sports teams have experienced moderate success over the years in various sports, the boys and girls cross country and track teams have enjoyed enormous success dominating the Parkland Conference and enjoying regular success at the state level.

The boys track team coached by Terry Krall captured Parkland Conference titles in 1983, 1984, and 1992. They captured conference relay championships in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1992, and 1993. They also captured conference indoor championships in 1993 and 1994. Several athletes have excelled to compete at the state level with two individuals capturing state titles in their respective events. In 1983, Jim Bednar became the first male athlete in Slinger High School history to capture a state championship when he won the 300 meter Low Hurdles. In 1989, Marc Ruesch captured the state championship in the Pole Vault.

championships in 1982 and 1993. Although several individuals have advanced to the state tournament, Slinger has never had a male state champion in cross country.

While the boys teams have captured their fair share of championships, the girls teams have been a dominant force since the late 1970s.

The girls track team coached by Steve Bingen (a former SHS graduate) captured Scenic Moraine track championships in 1977 through 1980. After moving to the Parkland Conference, they captured an incredible ten straight track championships from 1983 through 1992. They captured indoor conference championships in 1980 (Scenic Moraine), and have a current string of eleven straight Parkland Conference Indoor championships from 1983 through 1993, with the 1994 event not held as of the time of this article. While their success in these events seems remarkable, they have been even more dominating in the Conference Relay meets. They captured Scenic Moraine Conference Relay championships in 1976 and 1979. Immediately upon moving to the Parkland Conference, they began a string of thirteen consecutive Parkland Conference Relay championships in 1981. Their streak was broken in 1994.

Although the Slinger girls have never captured a team state championship, they have had several individuals recognized as state champions in their respective events. The first state champions in Slinger High School history was the 1976 relay team of Denise Borchardt, Darlene Beine, Jody Phelan, and Darlene Kratz. This foursome captured the 4x800 Relay championship. In 1979, Cathy Branta began a remarkable string of domination. She captured the state championships in 1979 in both the one mile and two mile events as a sophomore. In 1980 and 1981, she continued her streak by winning both the 1600 meter (formerly the one mile) and the 3200 meter (formerly the two mile) events setting record times. In 1986, Patti Boehlen captured state championships in two events winning both the Triple Jump and the 100 meter dash.

The girls cross country team also coached by Bingen captured Parkland Conference titles eight consecutive years starting in 1981 and capturing their last championship in 1988. Several individuals have advanced to participate in the state tournament with two female runners capturing state championships. Diane Breuer captured the state championship



TW Marc Ruesch accepting first place ribbon at the state track meet.

The boys cross country team (also coached by Krall) has also enjoyed success capturing Parkland Conference