

**Robert E. "Bob" Bullerdick**, son of Elmer O. (1898-1955) and Doris Martha (Dodson) (1905-1988) Bullerdick, was born 27 February 1931, Melrose Park, Cook County, Illinois. He was raised in Hesperia, Oceana County, Michigan. He was one of 4 sons born in the Bullerdick household.

Bob's father, Elmer, was a World War I veteran having served in France with Company D, Fifth Ammunition Train, 5th Division, US Army as a Bugler. He and Doris Dodson were married in Illinois, 19 Jun 1926. They were divorced in 1949, Oceana County.

A US Navy veteran of the Korean Conflict, Bob went on to further his education at Northern Michigan University and Michigan State University where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees. As a student at Michigan State Bob eloped with Darlene Nina Medlham. They celebrated 52 years and 3 children together.

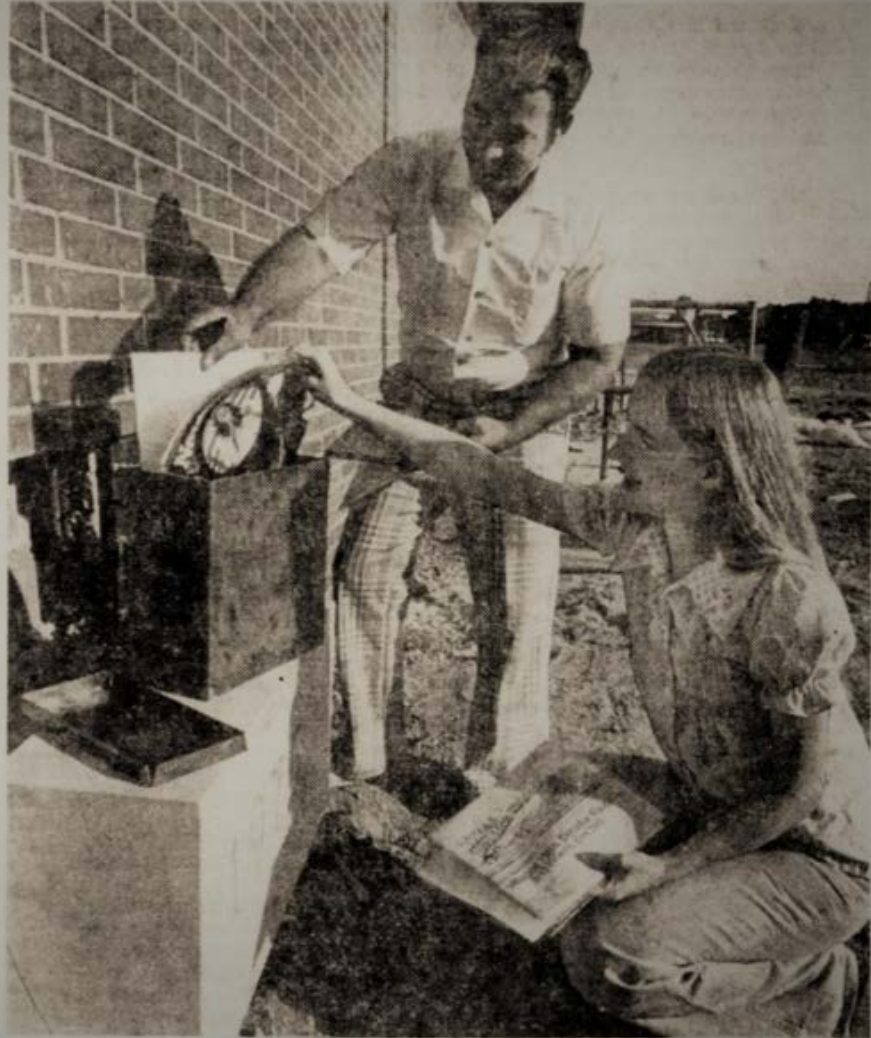
Bob taught biology and general science at Okemos High School in 1959-1960. He was then employed by Bath Community Schools, Bath, Clinton County, Michigan to teach science courses in the high school. He remained at Bath High School for the remainder of his teaching career, retiring after over 30 years. Bob was a beloved teacher.

He died 6 September 2010, Bath, Clinton County, Michigan.



### **Cornerstone Placed**

Bath Community School District residents and officials laid the official cornerstone of the district's new high school, which opens next year. At right, Principal Robert Bullerdick and senior Anne Ross, who will be a member of the first graduating class at the new school, place a variety of items inside the cornerstone's "time capsule," including a copy of last year's yearbook, and a recording of the school band.



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### **Robert E. "Bob" Bullerdick**

Bob, 79, of Bath, MI. passed away Monday. A native of Hesperia, Michigan, he attended a one room country school where his love of nature and adventure began. During the Korean Conflict, he served as postmaster for four years aboard the USS

Jupiter in the Pacific theatre. He always said that was a job where "everyone was happy to see you." While on board the USS Jupiter, he and his shipmates set the US naval record for most continuous days at sea. After his honorable discharge, he went on to earn bachelors and master's degrees in wildlife biology from Michigan State University. He taught biology at Okemos and Bath High Schools for a total of 31 years where his sense of humor and engaging personality made him a favorite among students. Bob's dedication to teaching went beyond the classroom, encouraging students to set and achieve higher goals.

After retirement, Bob volunteered for 10 years as a docent at the Michigan Historical Museum. He was an active member of his church where he served as head usher for 10 years. Bob also liked dancing. He and his wife, Darlene greatly enjoyed their participation in Les Danseurs.

An avid traveler and outdoorsman, Bob was also a life-long bird watcher with over 800 species sighted on five continents. He is survived by his equally adventurous wife of 52 years, Darlene and his three children, Ted Bullerdick, Nancy Kupina, and Valerie Barth, and seven grandchildren. With kindness, humor, love of learning and teaching, and reverence for nature, Bob was a man of integrity and faith and a friend to all. His ability to connect with people was his special gift.

A memorial service was held Saturday, September 11 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, East Lansing.

Arrangements by Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, East Lansing.

In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Eastminster Presbyterian Church in memory of Bob, or the charity of one's choice.

*Lansing State Journal, July 6, 1975*

### **BIRD WALK PLANS TOLD**

Robert Bullerdick, president of Lansing Audubon society, will be guest leader of Saturday's bird walk in Arboretum park.



Robert Bullerdick, Mel Comeau and Tom Cooley Load Bus for Field Trip

## Michigan Highways Claim 15 Lives Over Weekend

By The Associated Press Nancy Noe, 22, of Grand Glen Bockstanz of Dearborn

## Detailed Look Bath Students Research Pollution Problems

Story and Photos  
By NORRIS INGELLS  
State Journal Staff Writer

BATH—Seventeen Bath High School students this summer got a detailed look at some of Michigan's water pollution problems by carrying out research on a variety of rivers, streams and ponds.

Under the direction of biology teacher Robert Bullerdick and chemistry teacher Mel Comeau, they converted a school bus into a mobile laboratory and tested over a dozen bodies of water, both in Northern Michigan and near their own community.

They collected and cataloged samples of the plant and animal life in the water, tested for the presence of pollutants, studied chemical and physical factors and brought the data together in a booklet that includes evaluations of conditions in each of the areas examined.

### FIVE WEEKS

Bullerdick views the five-week summer project as an ideal way to "make the environment more meaningful to the students," and teach them about the interrelationship between the physical and biological sciences.

The program was supported in part with a federal grant. But equipment for aquatic research can be expensive, so the youngsters made some items themselves.

The investigations included everything from cold, fast-flowing trout streams like the Au Sable, to sluggish drainage ditches. Some of the worst pollution they found was in a mill pond at the Isabella County community of Blanchard. Bullerdick said the students determined the water had a high phosphate content, contained detergents and "even a trace of cyanide." In contrast, Higgins Lake—up North—had no

phosphates, detergents or cyanide.

They also found the South Branch of the AuSable free of these pollutants, but another upstate body of water—Tank Creek in Roscommon—contained phosphates and detergents, and was choked with weeds.

The students tested the Grand and Red Cedar, both above and below Lansing and East Lansing, and found that while the phosphate and detergent levels were not exceedingly high, they did increase as they passed through the population centers.

### 'NOT BAD'

The Looking Glass River in the area they investigated had higher detergent and phosphate content than did the Grand or Red Cedar but the levels were "not bad for this area of the state," Bullerdick said.

The students last week were putting the finishing touches on their research, compiling it into book form. This is the second summer Bath has had this type project, and Bullerdick said another is planned next year. By comparing data taken at the same locations in different years "we should find some trends developing by the third year," he declared.

Bullerdick said that interest in the summer program was high. Students from Lansing—and as far away as Grand Haven—asked if they could join, he noted.

He predicted that as a result of increasing nationwide concern about ecological problems, the government may soon require environmental education programs for all students.

"I think all young people are interested in water quality today. Where else can you better teach them about their environment than with water resources?" he said.

"One day on the way to school, Mr. Bullerdick picked up a road-killed skunk which had not been splattered too badly. In fact, the gland that contained the odiferous compound for which skunks are renowned had not been broken - yet! As he or someone else was dissecting the skunk, the scalpel slipped, and the stench was released in the classroom. That skunk was "flown" for a while on an old beat-up flagpole at the northeast corner of the building while it aired out."

"On another occasion, a mischievous student had pulled some nefarious stunt and then gotten into one of the science room storage closets in an effort to avoid reprisals. In my memory it seems like the school was pretty new at the time and the door lock was backward, so he locked himself in. Anyway, Mr. Bullerdick and Mr. Comeau put their heads together, then put a couple of drops of butyric acid on a piece of paper and slid it under the door. It wasn't long before the smell of rancid butter drove the miscreant out. Of course, the smell didn't stop there!" *Ken Black (Bath High School Class of 1968)*

### Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes obituary

Born February 27, 1931; Robert "Bob" E. Bullerdick died September 6, 2010 at the age of 79. Bob is survived by his wife, Darlene Bullerdick; daughters, Nancy (Robert) Kupina, and Valerie (Fritz) Barth; son Ted (Gina) Bullerdick; 7 grandchildren; and 2 brothers, James Bullerdick, and Elmer Bullerdick, Jr. A memorial service will be held Saturday, September 11, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abott Road, East Lansing with the Rev. Margie L. Osborn officiating. The family will receive friends Friday, September 10, from 2:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:00 pm at Gorsline Runciman Funeral Homes, 1730 E. Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, MI. Contributions may be made to Eastminster Presbyterian Fund, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

Bob married Darlene. They celebrated 52 years of marriage and 3 children before Bob's death 6 September 2010, Clinton County, Michigan.

[Lansing State Journal, March 9, 1994](#)

■ Retired Bath High School biology teacher Bob Bullerdick has been keeping track of Michigan's changing seasons for many years — month by month. He's come up with some signs of spring.

In March, there's the spring call of the black-capped chickadee. "It's a very thin (two note) whistle that goes 'pee-wee,'" said Bullerdick. (I admit this is mean, but I can't resist answering calling chickadees.)

When the weather warms in the day, but goes below freezing at night, you'll often find "sapicles" on trees. Sometimes these sap icicles are caused by winter damage to the tree.

"Or fox squirrels eat off the bark to get to the sweet cambium layer which has a high sugar content," said Bullerdick.

Kindly submitted  
by 1963 alumni  
Al Hopkins