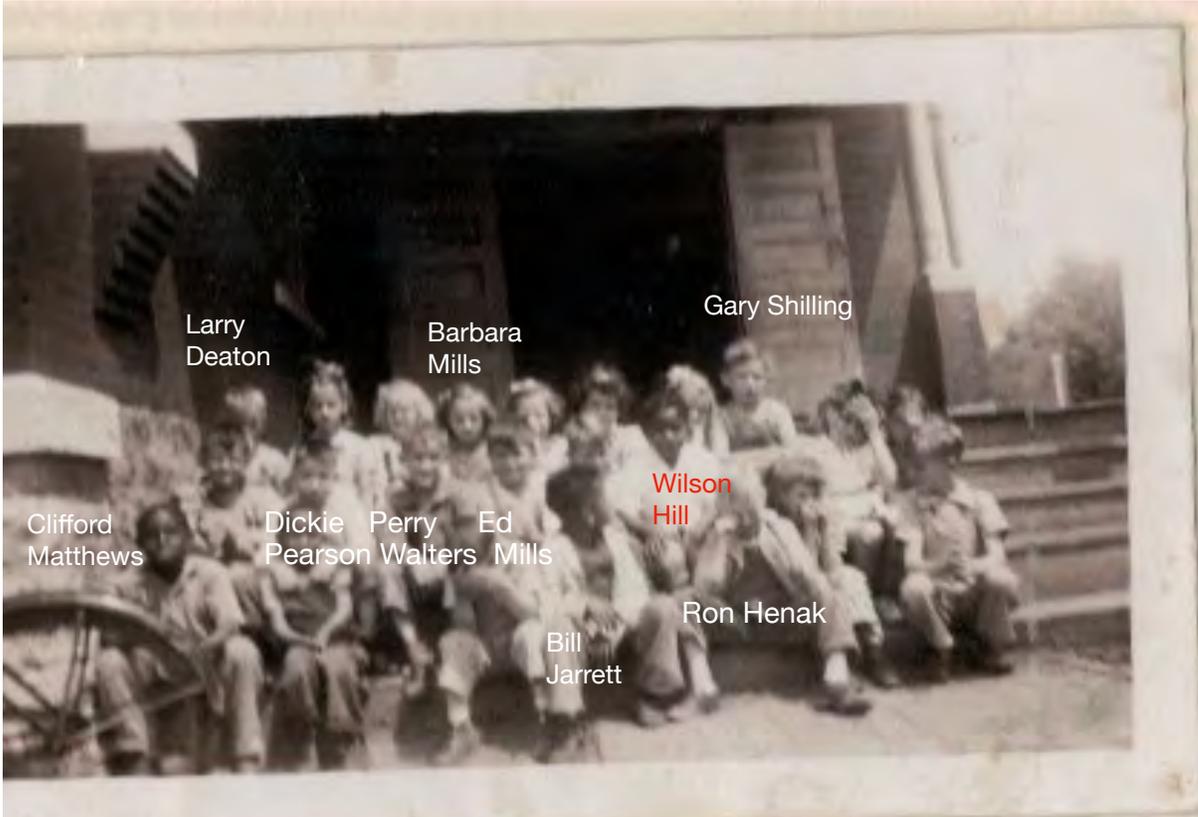


SPECIAL EDITION July 25th 2022 CLASS OF 1957



Larry Deaton

Barbara Mills

Gary Shilling

Clifford Matthews

Dickie Pearson
Perry Walters

Ed Mills

Wilson Hill

Ron Henak

Bill Jarrett

aton Donna Bigelow, _____, Barbara Mills,
Beth Cline, Lorraine Earls, Gary Shilling
Dickie Pearson, Perry Walters, Ed Mills,
Wilson Hill, Judith Langston, _____
Lewis Floyd, _____, Ronnie Henak, John Charles Woodson,

The first year of school was a good experience. School for all 8 years of grade school began at 8:10 AM. All of the kids in all 8 grades either brought their lunch or went home to eat. The lunch time was from 12 noon to 1 PM. Most kids were through eating by 12:30 which left 30 minutes of play time. There was no separation of age groups when it came time for recess and play time. All ages were on the playground at the same time.

Grades 1 through 6 were given 15 minutes recess in the mid morning and 15 minutes of recess in the afternoon. Grades 7 and 8 did not have afternoon recess because they had a course in the afternoon that was related to physical activities.

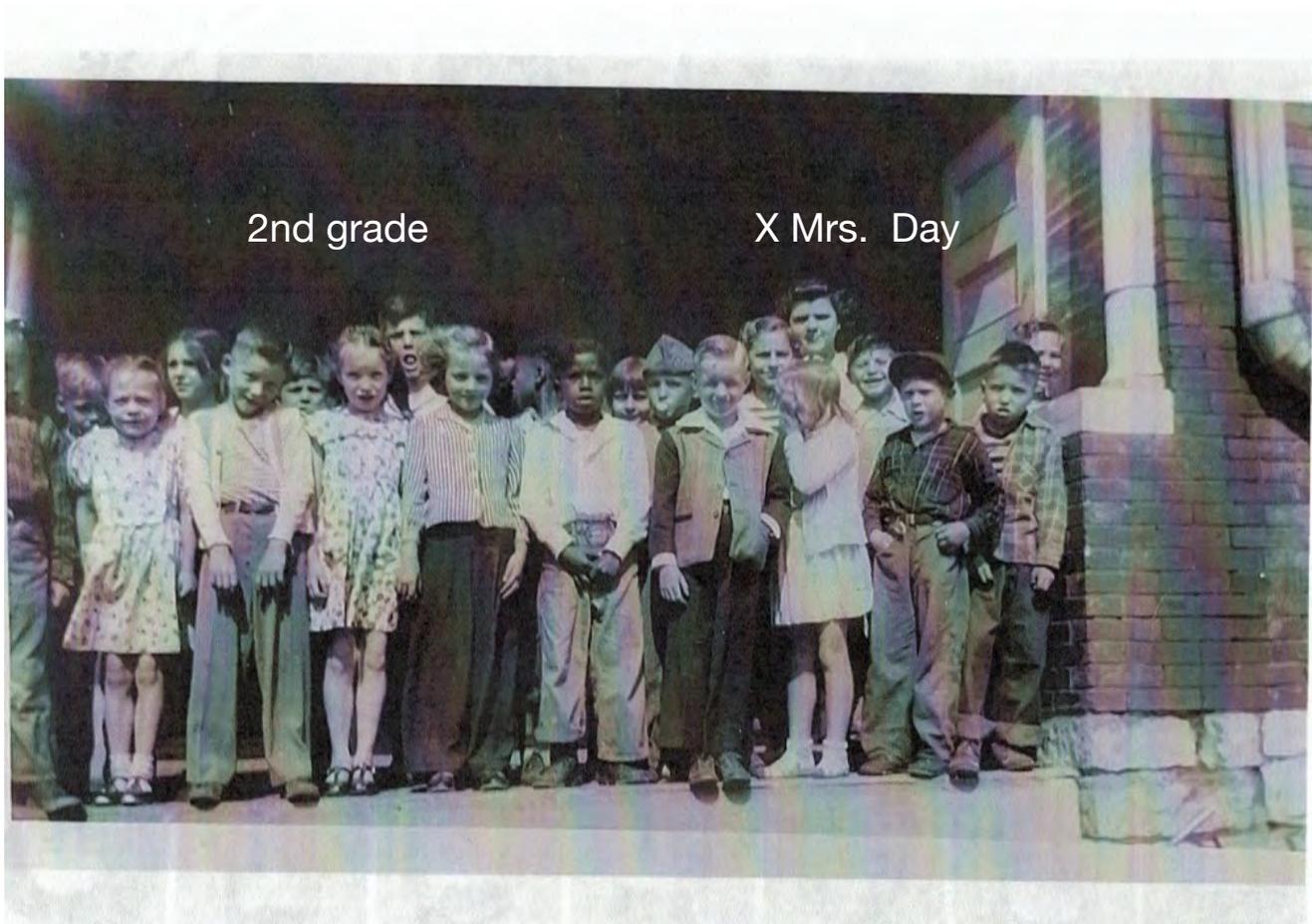
Mrs. Lappin was the first grade teacher and she was great. She read to us



each day at 1 PM. This allowed the students time to adjust from play time to school time, and allow time to get back into the educational mode.

I don't remember too much about our first year except there were birthday parties and an exchange of gifts for Christmas. What stands out in my mind is the last day of school picnic. One of the boys suggested an exploratory trip to a place just east of Frank Hoey's home. It was a large area of trees and woods. There were no cattle on the place. It was a rugged place. It seemed like the perfect place for an exploratory outing. All of the kids thought it would be great fun. One of the boys could see that Mrs Lappin did not know what to do, but probably the idea had some problems. He suggested that they consider snakes and where they might be. Suddenly, the kids

thought that might not be the place to picnic. Mrs Lappin had a great smile and the group did something else. When we graduated from the 8th grade, Mrs. Lappin had a little party celebrating those kids who had been in school at Tonganoxie for all 8 years.



The second grade was quite different when compared to the first year. First, **Mrs. Day** was a large person who scared some of the students. Most of the kids adjusted to her. We had a spelling test every Friday. The words, about 10, were passed out on Monday. We also had some spelling contests in which two or three groups of kids would try to win by spelling more words than the other group.

One of the significant changes were the seating arrangements. The desks were typical, but they were large enough to allow two students per desk. I shared my desk with a girl and I didn't like it. First, all my dad's cohorts would tease me about girls. I couldn't get away from the teasing. They knew the girl who shared my desk. Later in high school I did have a girl friend. Almost over night the teasing stopped.

Mrs Day taught several years. I was not aware of any serious problems with the students in my class having problems with Mrs Day. However, a few students in some of the later classes were so traumatized that they couldn't stand to be around her 45 years later.

One of the strange things that happened with Mrs Day was every time she bent over to pick up something from the floor, the back of her dress rose above her knees to about 1/2 the distance between her knees and hips.

In the romance department I can only remember Larry Deaton and Ed Mills having girl friends. They had girl friends throughout all 12 years of school. It wasn't until about the 6th grade that I became aware of girls, but the fear of rejection kept me from outwardly seeking a girl friend. Most of the boys were in the same boat as I.

During that school year, Mrs. Day had an operation. It must have been serious because she missed a considerable amount of school. During the time she was recovering, one of the substitute school teachers was Mrs. Cline, Beth Cline's mother.

Carolyn Leavitt, now Martin, had a tough 2nd year. She had completed her 1st year of school and was in her second year when her family had a terrible year. They lost Allen who was 5 years old, I believe. He had diphtheria and did not survive. I played with him and we enjoyed each other. Carolyn had diphtheria also, but she had other issues which kept her out of school for most of a year. She repeated the second year (she missed most of that school year and it was believed she needed to repeat that class) and that is when she joined our class as a second grader. I don't believe anyone in our class cared that Carolyn was one year older than most of us.

The Third Grade Class

Photos Left to Right:



Top row. Mrs Jensen, teacher, Kenny Oakson, Judy Taggart, Bruce David, Marion Sparks, Charles Sturges, Beth Cline.

second row: Dickie Pearson, Loraine Earls, Barbara Mills, Gary Shilling

Third Row: Joanne Freeman, Larry Deaton, Jacqueline Lenahan, Perry Walters,

Caroline Leavitt, Ron Henak, Bob Day.

Bottom row: Ed Mills, Larry Pickens. Bill Jarrett, Clifford Matthews, Wilson Hill

Mrs. Jensen was the third grade teacher and she was terrible. She had no control over the students. There was lots of talking between kids. Mrs. Jensen would have kids read out loud, but when it became time to have someone else read, several kids would begin reading and the whole reading experience became a shouting game. Sometimes, actually many times, she would have Bruce David read to us. Many times Bruce was a problem, but he could read

better than many of the teachers. Therefore, instead of the teacher reading to us as a class, Mrs Jensen would have Bruce read to us. He was a mature reader with voice inflection and etc. It was probably the only time all the students were quiet.

According to Beth Cline, Mrs. Jensen broke her of being left handed. Mrs Jensen used a metal lined ruler to whack her across the knuckles. Beth said it didn't take long for her to convert to being right handed because the treatment was so painful.

Tap dancing was popular with some of the younger girls in Tonganoxie. Two girls, Jackie Lenahan and Judy Taggart, demonstrated tap dancing to our class. They both were quite good with their tap dancing. It was a nice program done in the class room. Jackie went on to give tap dancing lessons while she was in high school. I don't think Judy gave any dancing lessons.

The Fourth Grade



Mrs. Edna
McKone
Teacher

L-R Front Row:
Barbara Mills, Judy Taggart. Charles Sturges. Beth Cline, Loraine Earls,

Second Row: Mrs. McKone, Joanne Freeman, Nancy Taylor, Jacqueline Lenahan, Caroline Leavitt, Karen Carter

Third Row: _____, Gary Shilling, Perry Walters, _____, Bill Jarrett

Standing:
_____, _____,
_____, _____,
Clifford Matthews _____
_____, _____

Mrs. McKone was an excellent school teacher, and she was avid about reading. She was very hard on the students, but she was consistent and fair. I have never talked to one of her students who didn't like her as a teacher. She gave prizes for good work. She liked to give out coin books and stamp books for those who had done a good job, especially in reading.

She also had an interesting set up for policing the students. There were 5 chairs lined up to make a row. The person sitting at the end of the row policed the 4 students in front of him/her. Mrs. McKone policed the students sitting on the last desk in each row. When one received 5 tickets that person was in trouble and most likely they would have to stay after school and memorize some poetry. The poem she liked to have the culprit learn was "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat". I learned that poem plus several others. My problem was I liked to put my foot underneath me and sit on my foot which was resting on the chair seat. She didn't like furniture being used that way.

She also had restroom policies. You didn't have to ask to go the restroom, but if someone was already using the restroom, you would have to wait until that person came back. That policy backfired. Instead of changing the entire rule, she allowed a few people to use the restrooms even if one was already using it.

She had good discipline in her room and there was very little talking without her knowing what was going on in the room.

Nancy Taylor left the country school, which was Mound School, I believe, and came to Tonganoxie.

Dickie Pearson succumbed to Leukemia this school year. He had suffered from this disease since the fall of his 3rd grade. I am not sure, but it seems to me that he died in October of his 4th grade. Before he died many people did what they could to help the Pearson family. Carolyn Leavitt visited with Dickie in his home for 10-15 minutes each day. The Pearson family appreciated this.

I played with him almost every day. When we played football I noticed that he was somewhat faster than I was. He would have been a good athlete.

The 4th grade kids were allowed to attend the funeral and they sat within 3 feet of the open casket. Looking back on this I think it was a mistake to put the 4th grade kids on the first and second row where they were in direct view of the body.

This particular funeral had a long acting effect upon all of our class. Even today when we have a reunion someone brings up the name Dickie Pearson and a short discussion results.

Fifth Grade-Miss Voste, teacher

The fifth grade was a tough year for most of the kids. **Miss Voste** was in her first year of classroom teaching, and she had a difficult time with the students.

One of the boys ripped off a loud release of some internal gas. Miss Voste called him out and got him to apologize. He said, "excuse me". I felt quite sorry for the person. I thought nothing should have been noted about that situation.



I don't remember putting on a play in the fifth grade, but some of the students

remember having a play to do at the school. One

student remembers singing a song called, "The Four Leaf Clover".

teacher. She taught for a few years and then moved on.

Miss Voste was a terrible

Eddie Slawson began attending Tonganoxie grade school in the 5th grade. Since we already had one Ed, Mrs Voste recommended that we refer to Ed Slawson as ES and Ed Mills as EM. This provided some separation of identify, but not for long.

Eventually all the country schools were closed and the country kids came to town for education. Ed Slawson moved to the town school several years before the law mandated consolidated schools.

When the country schools were functioning their school year was 8 months. The city schools were all 9 months. Now with consolidation, all the school would be 9 months. Many of the parents involved with the country schools objected to this consolidation because they wanted their children to be close to where they lived so they could work them on the farm. With consolidation came one more month of schooling, plus the time it took to haul the kids back and forth to school.

6th Grade, Francis Myers was the teacher.

Francis Myers was an enthusiastic teacher who could do many things to keep students on task. She could play the piano and she could play any song that you knew. If the piece was not in the right key, she could transpose the song into the correct key. She could do this as she played the song. She also would do little things to keep us interested in the subject at hand. One time she played a farmer carrying milk with bib-like overalls. She was fun and she was good at getting a student to keep on task and get the work done.

She only taught about 2 months when it became known that her boy, Bey Myers, had been killed near Okinawa when his jet collided with another jet. She took a long period of absence to grieve. I have learned that Mrs. Morey taught the 6th graders most of the year in Mrs. Myer's absence.

An operetta, *Streamlined Cinderella*, was given with Ed Slawson being a young Prince Dean and Rosemary Gray was Cindy Lou. Ed had to sing a song in this presentation.

Jim Sanders, was the basketball coach for the grade school. Normally, grade school programs involve 7th and 8th graders. Tom Beatty, the high school coach, picked 4 boys out of the 6th grade class to practice with the grade school basketball program. I don't remember who two of the kids were, but what I know was Doug Guinn and Perry Walters were two of the four kids selected.



The grade school basketball team went undefeated when we were in the 8th grade. It might have been the first time for a Tonganoxie basketball team to be undefeated.

top row l-r: Coach Beatty, Larry Deaton, Charles Sturges* Ed Slawson, Bob Kissinger, Larry Leonard,

Bottom row: Cliff Matthews, Ron Henak, Perry Walters, Ed Mills, Doug Guinn.

t*Charles Sturges had a habit, when he shot the ball, he moved one foot back behind him and most of the time that made him out of bounds.

The 7 & 8th Grade, Miss Carol Mann was the home room teacher for the 7th grade.

In the 7th grade we actually had two teachers. Miss Mann was the home room teacher and Mrs. Garrison was the other teacher. Miss Mann taught English, reading and literature items. Mrs Garrison was in the business of teaching science.

We had these two teachers for two years. They were both outstanding teachers. I think these two teachers began developing me and other kids as "A" students. For the first time I thought school was interesting and fun. If you look at my grade cards you will see a remarkable number of "A"s on my grade cards, when compared to grade cards in previous years.

In addition to teaching us formal classes, these two teachers got the school board to allow two social dances which took place in the second story hallway (a very large place).

I was one of the 80% of the boys who didn't know how to dance. The two teachers taught some of the boys the two-step. Two steps forward and one step back. It was easy to learn and then to show the teachers how glad we were to learn to dance, some of us developed the 27-step dance.

In the 8th grade Jerry Clinkenberg was able to borrow the family car to come to one of the grade school dances. I believe the car was a Kaiser. It had a hydraulic transmission. Jerry decided to test the transmission by putting the car in reverse while the car was going forward 60 Mph. He said rocks flew all over the place. It didn't seem to hurt the transmission. Jerry was the only person to drive a car to this function without adult supervision. I know several other classmates tried to borrow the family car. Only Jerry had a car.

Mrs Garrison actually demonstrated several science projects.

When the Garrison's were married they camped out in the woods while on their honeymoon.. She liked the outdoors. Her husband was bitten by a rattlesnake. She took care of the snake by killing it. She took care of the snake bite by cutting two small areas of the snake bite so she could suck out the venom and some blood. The treatment was successful.

8th Grade Of all the different school teachers we had, I think Mrs. Farrell was the worst. She had no clue as to what was really going on. Mrs. Farrell was our 8th grade home room teacher. She was quite old and set in her ways. She was hired at the last minute. It was probably difficult to hire someone for a large group of kids. Our class consisted of 35 kids. I'm not sure but I think most teachers don't want over 20 kid per class.

I have no idea who performed this prank, but someone put a thumb tack in Mrs. Farrell's chair. I don't think she ever felt the tack, because she went around all afternoon with the thumbtack stuck in her behind. The tack was probably stuck in her girdle.

Bruce David would get in trouble and have to stay after school. Shortly after the bell rang that school was out, he would just leave the school and go home.





Mrs Farrell was so bad that the school board dismissed her about March. That got Miss Reichart into the picture because she was the principal. She took over teaching what Ms Farrell taught.

The 8th grade basketball team was undefeated for the season.

I don't remember taking any test to show that we learned something. Others have remarked about taking a one day test to show our academic accomplishments.

top row l-r: Miss Reichart, Mrs. Farrell, Larry Leonard, Mary Smith, Ed Slawson, Judy Taggart, Doug Guinn, Beth Cline, Gary Shilling. **Next row** Clifford Matthews, Mary Agnes Kissinger, Ron Henak, Karen Carter, Larry Dickenson, Lorene Earls. **3rd row from top:** Bruce David, Mary del Vollintine, Delmar Jackson, Jackie Lenahan, Bob Day, Marian Sparks. **4th row from Top:** —Shoemaker, ??, Bob Kissinger, Joanne Freman, Ed Mills, Jane Grem, Larry Deaton, Marilyn Holmberg, Louis Seufert. **Bottom Row:** Nancy Taylor, Darrel Roberts, Barbara Mills, Jerry Clinkenberg, Kenny Oakson, Charles Sturgis, Perry Walters.

In the boy/girl department, I think more of the boys were getting enough courage to get a girl friend. I wasn't one of those, but I now had my eye on one girl. It took another two and 1/2 years before we had a so-called date. And if it hadn't been for Barbara McGee I probably would still be single. She sort of negotiated, without my knowledge, that first date for me.

In the 8th grade Ms. Farrell was gazing over Ed Slawson's shoulder and eating an apple. She spit all over his book. He tore out all the damaged pages and threw the pages in the trash can-right in front of her.

I am not sure when this activity was done, but it was in the upper grades. I think it was before the 8th grade. It was winter and the ice had frozen over on a small farm pond. The ice had been checked and it was deemed safe for skating. Judy Taggart's family organized a class skating party to be done one evening after school. The party seemed to me to be most of the kids in our class. It was a cold day, but most kids skated over one hour. There was a large metal barrel providing some heat. After skating, we went back to the Taggart home for some hot chocolate and some socialization. As I remember it was daylight when we began skating, but it was dark when we stopped skating.

During the 7th and 8th grade years there were several students who came and went. I don't remember their names. There was one set of twins, Claude and Claudine, who were in our grade school not quite one year. They left school without anyone knowing about it—at least

students-, and no one knew where they went. The twins were very tall and thin. Bruce David left us after graduation from grade school. I don't think anyone knew where he finally went.

There was a female who came to our school for a short period of time. She suffered from seizures, but no one knew this until she had one in music class. It was scary for me because I sat directly behind her. When she had her seizure she slowly stood up and turned around and looked at me. She was showing some saliva/froth from her mouth, and then she slowly dropped to the floor. After that she was helped up and she went upstairs. She never came back to our school. Soon after that, I believe her family moved away from Tonganoxie.

High School

It is impossible to discuss the high school years using Freshmen, Sophomore and so on. Students had a certain number of teaching hours with a certain number of necessary classes to take before they could graduate. The classes (and to graduate you didn't need all of these classes) were: 4 years of English, 4 years of math, 2 years of Spanish (the Spanish was poor), 2 years of history (World, and American), Typing and book keeping courses, Band and Chorus, Biology I and II and it seems like there was something like a general science course, and one year in Chemistry and 1/2 year "Boy's Life Adjustment". Many of the girls took home economics and for one or two years many of the boys took one of the courses especially developed for boys on how to cook. The boys enjoyed Jill Dunn, a very attractive school teacher, recently married.

There were also agriculture classes which many of the farm boys took. Many of the boys who worked in farming took shop class. A class that taught such things as welding, maintenance of equipment, mechanical work, engine repair, etc. was needed for agricultural people.

Ed Slawson was in FFA class and the class was judging milk cows. The Tonganoxie FFA club tied for second in the nation. Ed was featured in Hoards Dairyman. They took a test which was multiple choice and Ed said he picked cows with larger udders.

What we didn't have available was Calculus and Physics,

Initiation: Soon after school began the word "initiation" began to come into the



conversation. For most people it met a parade through the town and ending at the high school where the party began. For the boys out for football, it was a different issue. The older boys always taunted the freshman out for football. The word was the injection—"the square

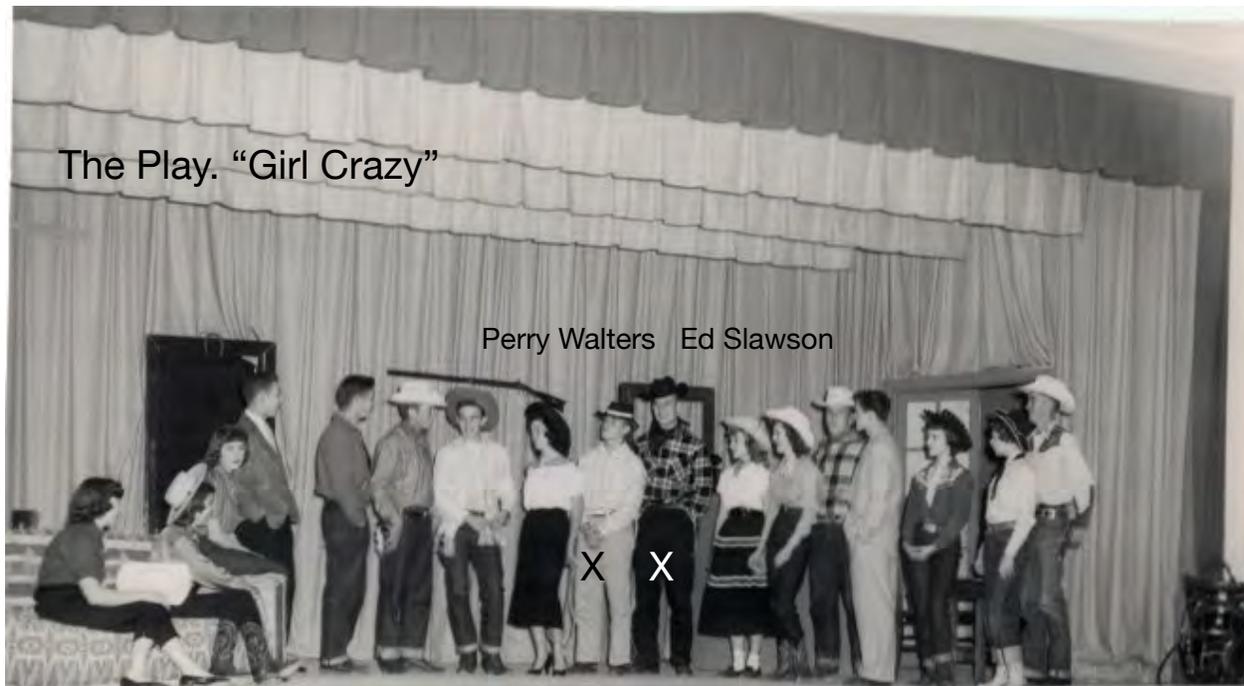
needle” -- which had to be given directly into the testicles to protect ones testicles so if a person got hit in the testicle area, they wouldn't be sterile. After one week of this, it seemed to me that if they had to do it in the past, I could do it too.

After several days of this I began to doubt such things as the Square Needle existed. These two photos above are of the freshman and their initiation our senior year when we ran the initiation

School Plays: Junior play and Senior play

I remember that we had two plays presented to the public. There was a Junior play and a Senior Play. I don't remember much about the Junior play but the senior play I do remember quite well.

The Junior play was called “**Father knows Best**”, and the name of the senior play was “**Girl**



Crazy”. Above is the photo of the cast of the senior play. Ed Slawson was one of the stars of this play and I was his sidekick.

The play was to have Ed enter onto the stage from a door that had a hat hook. I was to follow. The hat was to miss the hat hook and fall on the floor. That didn't happen. Ed hit the hat hook and the hat stayed hooked to the hat hook and to the door. No one knew what to do so Ed mumbled something and we walked out. When they got the show started again several lines of the play were skipped.

Larry Rose was in dramatics class when he ruined his ACTING career. As he recalled it, Kenny Oakson and he, along with others in the class, were to put on a play. They had practiced several times, and things usually went O.K. When the big day arrived, they were to give this play to the entire high school in the gym. Well, all of a sudden, what was supposed to be a 30 minute play was quickly shortened to 10 minutes play because Larry messed up his lines. He jumped far forward in the play. Needless to say, the kids were uptight because they all had to

go back to class. AND, the teacher was not pleased. So, according to Larry, that ended his movie career....

Science Class- Bill Arnold, teacher.

There was always a considerable amount of work going on in Bill's science class. The first thing I remember was someone had picked up a large amount of various grasses growing over the county. They put water in the jar and covered it with a lid. We watched what happened. I can tell you I ceased to want to drink pond water. There were so many different kind of bugs and after a few days there was a noticeable smell. This mix was studied over a few weeks.

Gary Shilling always had some sort of experiment going. He tried to break a "window" through the egg shell of a fertilized chicken egg. He placed a clean glass slide over the window and sealed it with paraffin. He got everything done, but all the little chickens died a few days after the glass was placed over the egg.

The funniest experiment was the effect of coffee on one's heart rate. He used as his test specimens students in study hall. He had all the students come down, one at a time, and get the reading of their heart beat. He then had them drink a cup of coffee. He waited several minutes at which time he took another heart rate reading. Ed Slawson got tested and Gary couldn't believe the reading. There was no change in his heart rate. Later we discovered that Ed drank coffee every morning. Many of the female students in the test were a little worried about how Gary would gather the heart rates information. Now remember most of the kids involved with this test were 15. One female was tested and a few minutes after she had her coffee, Gary tested her heart rate and it was 150. This didn't last long after Gary removed the stethoscope.

One day **Bill Arnold** decided that we needed to take a field trip to an anatomy lab at K.U. We were sophomores and at that time we all wanted to see what a cadaver looked like. I believed that I was destined to be a physician because several people that I knew and respected were physicians. I looked at those cadavers and one of them was a female who resembled my grandmother. I began to understand that I might not want to work in a speciality that could work with death. I didn't want to be responsible for causing any physical or medical problems. Before I made it back to Tonganoxie, I had decided that I would not be a physician. About half way through my college I decided to be Dentist.

I'm not sure about Bill Arnold and how he left Tonganoxie. A few years after we left I think he died. Anyway a **Mr. Leezie SP??** became the science teacher for our high school. He had some quirky methods about him. There were no screens on the windows and one day around 1 PM Mr. Leezie swallowed a fly. He knew that he was going to be sick so he took the afternoon off and went home.

High School Dances. I don't think these were very well attended, There were always a few more women than men. Most of the girls knew how to dance quite well, but with the boys, that was a different story. Only 4-5 boys would I consider good dancers. One was Larry Deaton and the other was Charles Sturges. The girls would try to help us poor dancers learn the art, but after few minutes they would encourage us to keep trying as they walked away.

Tom Beatty was against using any dance wax on the floor because it would remain very slippery and basketball was played on this court every day. Therefore, if you wanted a slick floor you had to remove your shoes and slip and slide with socks.

There was no money for a live band, so someone brought a phonograph with records and that worked very well.

Sadie Hawkins day was practiced at Tonganoxie. Carol Wiley (later Carol Slawson) asked Ed Slawson to go to the Sadie Hawkins dance with her. This would be their first date. It appears that this was a successful date engineered by Carol.

HOME COMING --To me this was a very good event and it was well managed. I don't know how it is today, but in my day homecoming began with a selection of one candidate from each class. Friday evening at half time of the football game, the drivers of the convertible cars would drive the candidates around on the football field. When that was accomplished the candidates would be introduced to the crowd and a little biography of each candidate was given.



Marilyn
Holmberg,
Queen Soph yr



Nancy Taylor,
Junior Home
Coming Queen



Mary Agnes Kissinger
Queen. senior year

Saturday was the homecoming dance which started ca 8 PM. Not sure about the time the dance started, but at the intermission of the dance, the homecoming queen would be announced. The co-captains of the football team would be involved at this stage. The co-captains would give some flowers to the homecoming queen and after a few congratulations it was over.

Our class was the last class in which the homecoming queen could be selected from any of the high school classes. After our class graduated, the next homecoming queen was selected only from the senior class. I am told that this is still true.

Junior/Senior Prom -- This was supposed to be a party given by the Junior class for the Senior class which was soon going to graduate. Our Junior year brought about a change in how all this worked. Many parents did not like their kids driving to Kansas City, Kansas or Missouri for a party -- a party that might ultimately have some alcohol. The alcohol would not be seen at the formal party, but it would be used after that formal party. This change was very disappointing to many of the parents and especially to the high school students.

The idea of busing the students to the party and then home was appealing to many parents and unappealing to others. It was a polarizing situation.

The parents who wanted the buses to take the students to Kansas City and back to Tonganoxie won the battle, and the students rode a bus to Kansas City, Missouri to the Pickwick Hotel where we ate dinner and danced a little and then came back to Tonganoxie.

The next year it was the same battle, but this time it wasn't so loud. The students rode a bus to the Cody Hotel in Leavenworth for a dinner and dancing. Probably the dancing wasn't much fun.

However, in both years the real prom did not start until the students had been delivered back to Tonganoxie. The students got into their cars and in the case of our senior prom the real party was at Bob Kissinger's home. I don't actually know how this prom situation ended, but several years after I was out of dental school, I became a member of the McLouth School board. That year the students had their prom in the gymnasium at the school. So, in that case the transportation problem was solved. However, the real prom began about one hour later. This allowed many student time to dress into jeans and T-Shirts for the REAL PROM. So in this case the prom consisted of a dinner at the high school gym followed by a break to change clothes and then travel to somebody's home for prom continuation.

High School Vocal Music We had a good band and a fairly good vocal music department. However, one thing that was usually missing each year were male voices. It was difficult to get those baritone and bass sounds without boys. My Jr. year Mr. Conway, the math teacher, allowed 5 boys to skip his math class and go to the vocal music department to help out on the vocal music program which was given at Kansas University this year.

We were only allowed to do this for two weeks, but it seemed to be enough because we usually got a rating of 1 or 2.

Cheer Leaders and Pep Club I am told that one year, I think our junior year, the cheer leaders went to a summer program for high school cheer leaders. Some time after that they were asked to put on a program. At this time Carol Wiley-now Slawson, ran across the stage wearing a grass skirt. Ed Slawson was chasing her with a push lawn mower. I am sure this activity was a hit with the on-lookers.

Marilyn Holmberg Gallagher reports, "loved my high school days. Especially enjoyed English w/Miss Feeback. Cheering was my favorite activity! The practices were almost as much fun as the games. We would get together in the street in front of Judy Jones house to practice our "moves" and learn new cheers! It was always after dark and there'd be a bit of Fall chill in the air."

SPORTS—Football, Basketball and Baseball

Football—There were 4 freshman that lettered in football their freshman year. They were Doug Guin, Gary Shilling, Perry Walters and Ed Mills. Most of the time they played defense.

Kent Quarles walked into the room one day and stated, "Boys! If you mess with me you are messing with dynamite". Sometimes on Thursday before a Friday game, Coach Beatty would let us drive a car to practice. Kent Quarles was always one to drive us. He enjoyed scaring us by driving close to parked cars and ringing a bell he had in the floor of his car. He always got close enough to scare some of us, but he never hit a car.

It was the first football game of the year and Bonner Springs was to kick off. The ball came towards me and landed in play on about the 25 yard line. I thought on a kick-off the football was just like a punt. The ball was dead when it stopped moving. Not so. Bonner Springs landed on the ball and soon scored. This year we had some trouble with the first part of the season, but I think we won five games and lost 4 games. One team we never beat during my four years of football was Effingham. They were big and tough. The team that really made us look bad our freshman year was McLouth. The score in that game was 84 to 0 with McLouth the winner.

The second year was better in that we tied Bonner Springs and beat McLouth 25-6. We lost 2 games and won 6 games and tied one game.

Our senior year we won 8 games and lost one-yes it was Effingham who beat us. In our senior year (1956) we won 7 games where our opponents did not score a point. We beat



Osawatomie 39-0. We beat Valley Falls 94 to 0. Almost every person on our team scored at least one point in that game. There was one fellow on our team who scored the extra point 3 times but each time he was penalized 5 yards for "Backfield in Motion". Now the ball was 18 yards from the end zone He took it 17 yards but failed to cross the goal line.

Several years later we learned that the coach of Vally Falls had kicked all the juniors and seniors off the team. The freshman and sophomores couldn't give our seniors any

trouble.

Our football team was relatively little in size. The largest boy on our team weighted ca. 165-170 lbs. The thing was we were in very good condition. We ran to practice and ran to the shower when practice was over. Many times during a practice we would do wind sprints. As proof we were in condition many of the halftime scores were 6-7 or 7-13. It was in the second half that we would score the points to let us win by a long way.

Although we were in good condition, injuries did occur. BA Skeet had his leg broken in practice. I am not sure of the year, but what I remember is how fast he could go up and down the stairs and how fast he could move across a flat area using two crutches. It was something to see.

Larry Deaton had a Phd from the University of Missouri. Towards the end of his classroom teaching he began providing motivational lectures to groups of school teachers as part of their continuing education. In fact one of his students was Mrs. Garrison who had been one of our grade school teachers. In these lectures he stressed and downplayed his athletic ability. His uniform was always outdated compared to the rest of the players. NOTE: Larry Deaton was the only person on our football team to achieve from the state the award of honorable mention in football.

Clifford Matthews was really a very good football player. In fact I think he had a scholarship to one of the small colleges in Kansas. I'm not sure but I don't think he lasted in that situation. I don't know how many touchdowns he made his senior year, but he averaged 9.6 yard a carry. He also scored 6 touchdowns against Valley Falls, the last game of his high school career.

BASKETBALL In many ways basketball was like football. We were a short team (three starters were ca 5' 7"). Our tallest player was close to 6'. He was a good offensive player and he dropped off a little on defense. But we were quick and fast.

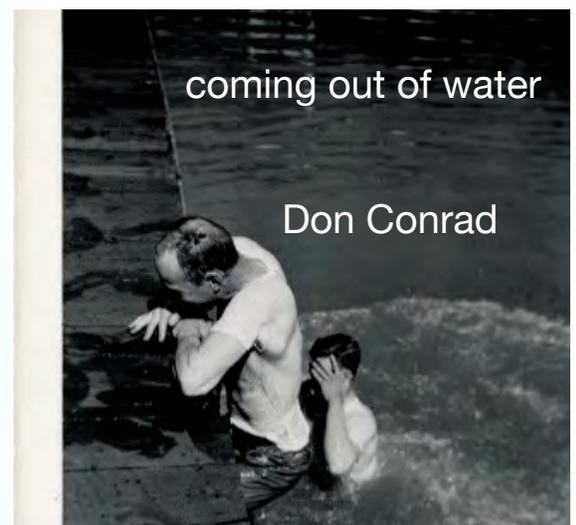
The Freshman year in basketball was different than football. I think only two people won letters as freshmen— Doug Guinn and Perry Walters. Neither of us got to play on the varsity very much. In the District Tournament John Zoellner was not able to play. I think he may have broken a bone in his hand or leg. I don't remember. Anyway, I got to start and scored 12 points that game. I don't think we went far in the tournament.

Our Junior year we won 20 games and lost 3. We lost to Eudora by one point and we lost to Washburn Rural by 6 points. These 2 regular season losses didn't hurt us, but a loss to Wathena in the regional tournament gave us a chance for 3rd place. Elwood and Tonganoxie played for third place in the regional tournament. It was a close game. In the closing seconds of the game an Elwood guard who was very fast stole the ball and drove the whole length of the court and attempted to score what would be the winning score. Tonganoxie was one point ahead. The Elwood boy was ca. 5' 8" and he was all alone for an easy layup and Elwood would win the game by one point if the Elwood boy could score. What happened was he tried to stuff the ball through the goal and he hit the back of the rim and the ball bounced high and away from the goal. We won by one point.

The senior year we won 14 games and lost one. We also won the district tournament. The regular season game with Easton was somewhat unusual in that we won that game by one point. However, Easton was ahead in the last few seconds of the game. We had the ball with about 5 seconds to play. Somehow the ball got out of bounds and the ball went to Easton. Easton had the ball out of bounds and an Easton player was attempting to get the ball in bounds. Something happened and a person from Tonganoxie pushed the ball out of the Easton hands and the referee ruled the ball was out of bounds. Tonganoxie got the ball and scored a very long 1/2 court basket. Tonganoxie won that game by one point.

It was not unusual for one of the high school boys to drive the school bus to athletic games. Ed Slawson and Bob Kissinger did this during their senior year. I also remember Jim Morey doing this during basketball season.

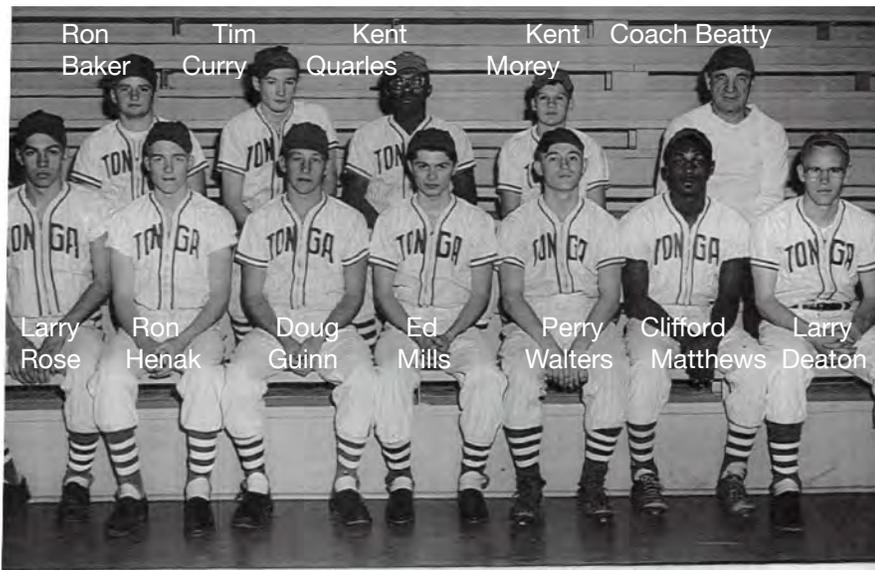
THE "T"-CLUB The "T"-Club was a club that involved any male who had lettered in any



sport. That entitled him to go on the annual trip to Lake Taneycomo. During Christmas break, the "T" Club members would sponsor a grade school basketball tournament. This would help pay the club's expenses to go to Lake Taneycomo for three days of enjoying the area around

the lake. During our Junior or Senior year someone came up with the idea that those who were making their first trip should be initiated by throwing them in the lake. Don Conrad was loved by everyone at the school. He was the first one to be initiated. At this time of year-early spring- the water was not too cold.

When we went to Lake Taneycomo it was early March. Then Taneycomo was a warm water lake. The water temperature was warm enough for swimming. With the newer hydroelectric dam, lake water from Lake Taneycomo, was now coming from the bottom of the lake. The water temperature now is always around 40 degrees F.



BASEBALL Baseball was not nearly as popular as Football and Basketball. It was played in the afternoon which made it difficult for adults to attend. The school didn't allow the school kids to go because of school. There were no cheerleaders. The School's baseball season was March until school was out for the summer (Mid May). The season was about 2 months long.

We had a good baseball team but there were two schools who had great pitchers that we could never hit. Berryton had a small pitcher who was left handed. He could really control the game by his

clever placement of the ball. Plus he had a good slow curve.

The other pitcher was from Silver Lake. He was much larger than Berryton's pitcher. He also had a great curve ball, plus he had a great fast ball. Anyway, we could not beat these two pitchers. I think the pitcher from Silver Lake was named Golden, and I believe he went to the "Pros", but I never heard about him after high school.

We started school with a normal sized population of school kids. We had around 21-25 kids in our classes. In the 7th grade we had 34 kids and in the 8th grade we had 35 kids. I'm not sure how accurate the school class pictures were, because someone might have missed school when the photos were taken.

I am not sure how many class of 57 students started high school, but when we graduated there were 33 students graduating. There were 23 boys and 10 girls. Graduating girls were Beth Cline, Jane Grems, Marilyn Holmberg, Mary Agnes Kissinger, Carolyn Leavitt, Jaquelin Lenahan, Mary Smith, Marian Sparks, Nancy Taylor and Mary Del Volintine. (Since graduation we have had no contact with Mary Volintine) Two girls attended college, but I think Jaquelin Lenahan was the only girl with a college degree.

The boys who graduated from high school were Bob Day, Larry Deaton, Verlin Dunker, Doug Guinn, Ron Henak, Neal Higginbotham, Delmar Jackson, Allen Jones, Robert Kissinger, Larry Leonard, Clifford Matthews, Ed Mills, Dean Mitchell, James Mountjoy, Kenny Oakson, Kent Quarles, Daryl Roberts, Larry Rose, Louis Seufert, Gary Shilling, B. A. Skeet, Ed Slawson, & Perry Walters. From this group of boys, 9 attended college. 6 boys graduated with a college degree. Three went to college but did not graduate. Three boys went on for graduate degrees

—Larry Deaton achieved a Phd from the University of Mo., Gary Shilling got a masters degree in engineering from KU, and Perry Walters graduated from KU and then he worked his way through dental school as a lab tech in Bethany Hospital in Kansas City, Kansas. Bethany Hospital provided income to support his dental school. After graduating from dental school, he served with the Marines as a dentist. After a few years in general practice, he went back to dental school and achieved a masters degree in Periodontics. He was on active duty for two years and then stayed in the Navy Reserves for over 20 years for a military retirement.

Today, 11 boys in our class are still living. We do not have any contact with two boys (Verlin Dunker and Larry Leonard). We don't know if they are still living. Of the girls 6 are still living. One, Mary Vollintine, is unknown (no contact since graduation). At one time she lived in Tuscon, AZ.

I believe that Jackie Lenahan was the first to get married. This marriage didn't last, but it did produce, I think 4 children (two boys and two girls). Later she became associated with the education of American children in Belgium. I believe she married a man from Belgium. Patsy Faulkender was the second to get married. Although she did not graduate with us—graduating a year before us—she was in our class for most of her high school time.

I believe that Perry Walters was the last in our class to get married, and the first to retire.



We have had several reunions over the years, and it seems to me that we enjoyed these reunions much better than we enjoyed each other in high school. I don't quite understand this, but that's the way it seems to me.

The first reunion that I remember was our 25th. It was held at Ed Slawson's place in the afternoon and after the banquet. Since I was most likely the last to be married, I couldn't stay long because Laurie and I had young babies to care for, so we didn't really spend much time socializing. We had a good time, but we left about 9 PM for home. Most of our classmates stayed much later. We had the 45th reunion at our place. We had a little celebration at our house on the Friday before the main party

which was Saturday. At the 45th reunion we invited several of our teachers. It seemed to me that Mrs. Garrison and Ms. Mann were unavailable, probably because we didn't know how to contact them. Mrs. Dunn was contacted, but couldn't attend. All the boys were sad because a good many boys took one of her Home Ec. cooking classes. They all liked her and were disappointed.

Although most of these reunions were scheduled on the same day as the high school's big reunion. Several of our classmates attended the school's banquet, but in the future class reunions fewer and fewer of our class of 57 graduates attended the banquet. They would rather talk to each other.

Gary Shilling asked most of the class about their computer/internet usage. A good number of our class had these items, but it was surprising how many didn't. When he got to Bill Skeet,

Bill's answer was quite quick. Bill's computer was a Big Chief Tablet and a #2 pencil. Everyone laughed.

The teachers who attended this 45th reunion had a few things to say. Mr. Conway didn't say much, but he was to the point. Mrs. Day said very little and most of our class was pleased. However, Viola Reichart had a lot to say and she said it. She talked about the school and some things about building the new grade school. She talked for a long time about her family history near Valley Falls. She even had a hard bound book made about her family tree. She left it to be distributed to some library of our choosing. Most libraries did not want the book because it was not involving their area. Daryl Roberts was especially glad when she quit talking. Evidently, he experienced Miss R's use of a paddle.



The 50th reunion was held at Nancy Taylor Pearce's home. She had a great big open upstairs which was a great place to have a reunion. She also had another class of 57 reunion near her lake, which also was a good place for a reunion. I don't remember which number this reunion was. At the 50th reunion we were entertained by a DVD of us. About two months before this reunion, someone, I think it was Nancy Pearce's suggestion/ORDERED a DVD of our class with pictures of each person and their families. Most of our class had a favorable response and provided good photos. A few waited and provided photos after they had seen the DVD at our reunion. The

Bottom Line==Those who did not have photo presented in time for the reunion provided pictures after the fact. Therefore, except for 1 or 2 people, all of our class was on the DVD, and I think everyone who saw the DVD appreciated it.

It seems to me that reunions have certain characteristics which are common. The early reunions parties lasted well into the evening/night. As we get older, the reunions don't last as long. They begin breaking up around 10 PM. Later the meals and celebrations start in the afternoon and are over before 6 PM. This last reunion started ca. 11 AM with a catered great meal of Chicken Marsala.

Larry Deaton presented a slide show of early pictures and older pictures of us at various times during our development. Then Perry Walters-



all had been warned- had each person who wanted to be in the hunt for a wooden bowl, tell something about them that was funny and had to happen during our school years. Everyone participated. By participation



you got to put your name in a hat. Then two names would be drawn from the hat, and that would provide two winners for two wooden bowls.

Louis Seufert and Ron Henak were the winners. These bowls were from Honey Locust trees (the trees with the long thorns) They were about the same in size being near 12-14 inches in diameter and 4-6 inches deep. They were inlaid with real

turquoise and small pieces of deer antlers or ribs.

I don't remember what Ron talked about for his story, but Louis in my mind had the funniest story. It was at a basketball game at Easton. They were ahead with 5 seconds left in the game. Louie was setting on the Easton side in the first row. We lost the ball out of bounds. Easton was getting ready to throw the ball in play when Louis pushed the ball out of the Easton player's hand. The referee didn't see what happened and ruled the ball out of bounds, giving the ball to us. We threw the ball in play and the person was able to shoot the ball and it went through the goal allowing Tonganoxie win by one point.

This reunion was one of the shortest in our history, However, I think it was one of the most enjoyable because everyone participated. It was generally over by 4:30 P. M.