

## SPECIAL INVITATION

Congratulations to the Class of 1984. Each of you are receiving a copy of the Alumni News and are invited to the program to be held Saturday, August 4th, 1984, at the St. Anthony's Parish Center. You may wish to complete the invitation form found in this newspaper and attend the banquet also.

Steve Batenhorst  
Brenda Bishop  
Kevin Bloom  
Ann Boden  
George Boesch  
Scott Bourn  
Leo Braun  
Bill Buettnr  
Diane Choat  
Tom Drawl  
Julie Foland  
Kathleen Karman  
Kandi Kiser

Kerstin Karmena  
Tom Kraus  
Joel Langan  
Michele McIntyre  
Kris Martinsen  
Jane Miller  
Michele Nebel  
David Roan  
Cindy Ruma  
Shelly VanDeWalle  
Jean West  
Sandra Wheeler  
Arlene Zoucha

## SEE YOU AT THE ALUMNI ON AUGUST 4, 1984

Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. Saturday at the St. Anthony Parish Center and will continue until 6:00 p.m. when the dinner banquet will be served. The program is held immediately after the dinner, followed by a dance at the open-air park pavilion. The music this year is provided by OVERTIME and will start at 10:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. (In case of rain, the dance will be held at the Rural Fire Hall.)

Any person who has completed an authorized correspondence course and has received their high school diploma in this manner, is also considered to be a CRHS alumnus. We welcome these people to attend the banquet and the program.

## PROGRAM

Registration ..... 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Parish Center  
Banquet ..... 6:00 p.m. at Parish Center  
Program ..... Following Banquet at Parish Center  
Dance ..... At City Park (in case of rain, at Fire Hall)  
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
The high school will be open for touring between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m.

## ALUMNI BANQUET MENU

This year's menu will feature roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, buttered corn, rolls, salad bar, homemade pies, and iced tea or coffee. St. Anthony's Altar Society has graciously accepted to serve the meals for us once again. Reservations are \$5.50 per plate plus your dues of \$1.50 if you are an alumni member.

## CLASSES TO BE HONORED AT THE 1984 ALUMNI ARE: 1924, 1934, 1944, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1974, and 1984

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE JULY 21, 1984

Please fill out the form below and mail to:

Cedar Rapids Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 4  
Cedar Rapids, NE 68627

Please send \$5.50 and the \$1.50 dues if you are a graduate of Cedar Rapids High School and \$5.50 for your spouse (if he is not a graduate of CRHS.)

An extra charge of \$1.00 will be made for those attending the banquet without reservations, if any extra meals are available.

### CHECK AND CIRCLE ACCORDINGLY:

- ( ) Yes, I/we plan to come and attend the Alumni Banquet.  
( ) The dinner reservation money is enclosed: \$5.50 per plate (\$5.50) (\$11.00)  
( ) Dues enclosed: (\$1.50) (\$3.00)  
( ) My address is correct as you have it.  
( ) My Address has changed. Please note the change below.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include maiden name)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 1983-84 ALUMNI OFFICERS

President ..... Dan Dobson '72  
Vice President ..... Bill Robinson '76  
Secretary ..... Cathy Sausser '73  
Treasurer ..... Ray Gordon '33  
Publicity ..... Bev Schuele '77

Alumni Officers for 1983-84 will be elected by ballot during the registration. Offices to be filled include vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and publicity chairperson. The vice-president automatically becomes president for the following year.

# NEWS

## Cedar Rapids Alumni

Cedar Rapids, Nebraska August 4, 1984

### Oldest Alumni Members Attending



Left to Right: Anna Walla Mahoney, Cedar Rapids, NE. - Class of 1920; Thelma Gifford, Omaha, Ne. - Class of 1922; Fred Cornwell, Cedar Rapids, NE. - Class of 1924; Blanche Green Cornwell, Cedar Rapids, NE. - Class of 1919; Bruce Slevers, Roca, NE. - Class of 1918.

## 1983 Alumni Reunion

A hot, muggy, typical August day in Nebraska didn't dampen the spirits of over 300 alumni members and their spouses/guests who attended the annual Cedar Rapids Alumni Banquet and Program, held on Saturday, August 6th, at the Parish Center in Cedar Rapids.

Alumni President, Ed Braun, welcomed the alumni members and guests, and introduced Fr. John Starostka, who gave the blessing before the meal.

A bountiful meal prepared and served by the ladies of the St. Anthony's Altar Society featured baked steak, baked potatoes, green beans, hot rolls and butter, a mini salad bar and a dessert of rainbow cake, along with coffee and iced tea, was enjoyed by all. Napkins, placemats and paper cups were donated by Loup Power, 4x4 Feeds and Cedar Valley Co-op. The alumni association thanks these companies for their donations.

After the dinner, the program began by President Ed Braun introducing the 1983 alumni officers: Peg Langan Reeder '37 Publicity Officer; Janice Vanderloop Pugh '57 Secretary; Jim Cox '61, Treasurer; and Vice-President Dan Dobson, '72. President Braun then introduced four Cedar Rapids Public School teachers of long standing, who were made honorary Alumni members. They were Eleanor Schuele, Amber Orsnek, Marcella Jackson and Bernice Hunt recognized for their many years of successful teaching in the Cedar Rapids Public School System. An open invitation to any former Cedar Rapids Public School faculty members who wish to become honorary members may do so by notifying the Alumni Association. A free copy of the Alumni News will be sent them the first year.

Ed then turned the program over to Vice-President Dan Dobson. Dan introduced Mr. Bruce Slevers from the class of 1918 who now resides in Roca, NE. Mr. Slevers gave a short talk on the history of Cedar Rapids High School's early years, and presented the Alumni Association with two banners. One, a green banner with the letters CRHS in pink was the original school colors. The other, a blue and orange pennant, was the class colors for the class of 1918.

Oldest alumni present were Bruce Slevers, class of 1918, Blanche Green Cornwell, class of 1919, Anna Walla Mahoney, class

of 1920, Fred Cornwell, class of 1921, and Thelma Gifford, class of 1922.

There were no members present from the 60-year honor class of 1923.

Those traveling farthest were: Sr. Fran (Margie) Reeder from New York, N. Y., Cleo June Ward Russell from Apple Valley, Calif., Richard Smith of Waterford, Conn., and Tony Reeder, who is in the U.S. Navy and had just flown in from Subic Bay, The Philippines.

The class of 1928, although not an honor class this year, was recognized with 13 members present.

The honor class of 1933's response was given by Ray Gordon. Also attending were: Leona Schmid Gordon, Helen Homan Wiaschin, Cleo June Ward Russell, Richard Smith, Warren Reynoldson and Carolyn Bokelman Neemeyer.

Three brothers, Richard Smith of Waterford, Conn., Charles Smith of Minn., and Alfred Smith of Grand Island, who had not seen each other in 30 years, were recognized and photographed.

The class of 1943 was represented with 15 members present. The thirtieth anniversary of the class of 1963 had 13 members present.

Spokesman for the 25th anniversary of the class of 1958 was class member Ron Whitt. Ron gave a short history of the class of '58, including their class motto and class colors. There were 15 members present.

The class of '63 was represented with 6 members attending.

The 10th anniversary of the class of 1973 had the largest representation with 21 members present.

The newest alumni members, the class of '83 had only 10 members present out of their class of 28.

After all the honor classes had been recognized, Vice-president Dobson read the results of the votes cast for the officers for the 1984 Alumni Association. Officers for the 1984 year will be Bill Robinson, '76, Vice President; Ray Gordon, '33, Treasurer; Cathy Sausser, '73, Secretary; and Bev Schuele, '77, Publicity Officer.

The program ended with Fr. Starostka giving the closing prayer.

A large group were in attendance at the City Park, renewing old acquaintances and enjoying dancing to the music of "Country Image."

## Athletic Field Progress Made

One year ago in May the voters of District 6 elected to float a bond to build an athletic fields/outdoor classroom facility north of the existing high school. Progress has been made so that football games can be held in the fall of 1984 and track can be held in the spring of 1985. A double curbed cinder track will surround the football field. The concrete curbs are in place, but rainy weather has held up the installation of track drainage and application of cinders.

The softball field will be functional as soon as fencing is in place. The home run fence will be bordered with colorful bushes, already planted by CRHS students.

The concession stand and restroom facility is constructed and functional. Bleachers await good weather to be finished by students. An underground sprinkler system is in place inside the track area and will water the football field with a push of a button.

The school has applied to the state to be recognized as a Statewide Arboretum Site. Officials from the state are to visit the site soon. Over 100 different kinds of trees and bushes are in the landscaping plans. Almost half of the plantings have been established by CRHS students, and they are actively growing. The rest of the plantings await favorable weather. The arboretum will be used by the science classes for identification and projects in horticulture.

The lookout tower and bridges will be built in the summer. The bridges will span the ditch that separates the school from the field site. Sidewalks will also be installed this summer.

## Class of 1963 Get Together

The class of 1963 met at the Cedar Cafe Saturday afternoon. A very pleasant time was spent visiting and reminiscing, and lunch was served.

Attending were Kathy Swerzek Longacre, Omaha, Bonnie Ylik Niemeyer, Omaha, Ed Rutten, Norfolk, Nancy Greek Clements, Schuyler, Susan VanDeWalle Kovar, Wakefield, and Marilyn Loeffler Earhart, Elk Creek, Neb.

## Honor Class of 1983



Front row, left to right: Patty Schalk, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Kim Gilroy, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Lisa Vandewalle, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Leslie Cornwell, Belgrade, NE.

Back row: Charles Braun, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Barb McBride, Belgrade, NE.; Micki Miller, Primrose, NE.; Stephanie McIntyre, Primrose, NE.; Mary Lee Drawl, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Jayne Jackson, Cedar Rapids, NE.

## Honor Class of 1973 - 10 Years



Front row, left to right: Mike Langan, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Ben Rutten, Loup City, NE.; Lois Todd Kennedy, Primrose, NE.; Angela Batenhorst Wright, Ord, NE.; Patty Moore Heiser, Columbus, NE.; Sue West Barnes, Omaha, NE.; Joan Wise Novacek, Primrose, NE.; Connie Fenne Dobson, Cedar Rapids, NE.

Second row, Allen Kennedy, Primrose, NE.; Judy Sturgill, Omaha, NE.; Barb Loeffler, Columbus, NE.; Mary McGuffe Kilcoin, Bethany, Okla.; Connie McPhillips Whelstone, York, NE.; Cathy Sausser, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Renee Hutchison Marquardt, Julesburg, Colo.; Jerry Braun, Cedar Rapids, NE.

Third row, Mike Novacek, Primrose, NE.; Kenny Schmelts, Primrose, NE.; Gregg Ahlers, Grand Island, NE.; Rocky Bridgers, Belgrade, NE.; Tim Towey, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Ed Braun, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Keith Mogensen, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Mark Zentner, Cedar Rapids, NE.

## Honor Class of 1963 - 20 Years



Front row, left to right: Bonnie Yilk Niemeyer, Omaha, NE.; Marilyn Loeffler Earhart, Elk Creek, NE.; Nancy Greek Clements, Schuyler, NE.

Back row: Ed Rutten, Norfolk, NE.; John Rapprecht, Omaha, NE.; Susan Vandewalle Kovar, Wakefield, NE.

## 50 Year Class Reunion Held

A get together party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gordon on Saturday afternoon, Aug. 6, 1983 from 2 to 6 p.m. for the class members of Cedar Rapids High School and also the members of St. Anthony's High School. Helen Homan Wiaschin and Leona Schmid Gordon were co-hosts.

Class members from Cedar High attending were Warren Reynolds of Albion, Neb., Mrs. Caroline Bokelman Neemeyer of Fullerton, Neb., Dick Smith of Waterford, Connecticut, Cleo June Ward of Apple Valley, Calif., and Ray Gordon.

Class members from St. Anthony's High School attending were Helen Homan Wiaschin and Leona Schmid Gordon, both of Cedar Rapids.

Other guests attending were spouses James Gordon class of 1931, Ambrose Wiaschin 1933 Albion High School and Betty Ryan Gordon 1938, Homer McPheeters 1938 of Santa Clara, Utah, Connie Bokelman Reimers 1972 of Belgrade, Neb., Charles Smith 1935 and wife Lucille of Grand Island, Neb., Alfred Smith 1932 and wife Doris of Frazees, Minn., Clarence and Viola Smith Walker of Brule, Neb. It had been 30 years since the Smiths had seen each other. Dave Foreman 1935 of Dodge City, Kansas, Dave Buettner 1980 and Diane Greenburg Buettner 1982 were late callers.

The table was decorated in silver and blue which were the class colors for both schools. The class flowers of blue forget-me-nots and pink roses and baby breath centered the serving table, flanked with blue candles.

Hors-d'oeuvres and refreshments were served during the afternoon. Visiting, reminiscing and picture taking made the afternoon go much too quickly.

The class was saddened by the death of their classmate Lucille Thomas Stickney of Columbus, Neb., on July 8, 1983. She had planned to attend as she had sent in her reservation. The Cedar High class was very small (15) to begin with and only eight of us survive. The deceased are Gaylord Smith, Rex Mullens, Claude Cox, Viola Gibb Stickney, Lucille Thomas Stickney, Eunice Cain Bowers and Maxine Russell Bayley.

The ones that could not attend are Ruth Jennings Stuben of Lincoln, Neb., Lillian Johnson Morse of Albion, Neb. and Marcella Williams Bourn of Salem, Oregon.

Our motto was "The Door To Success Is Labeled Push," class colors blue and silver, flower for-get-me-not. Our sponsors were Edwin Swanson, principal C. J. Dubry and R. A. Emerson Supt.

The St. Anthony Class was very small (7). Deceased is Leonard Van Ackeren. Those unable to attend were Cecile Killeen Hoppee of Plattsmouth, Neb., Mary Anita Hughes Budler, Hebron, Neb., Evelyn Homan Kopecky, North Platte, Neb. and Arthur Sausser of St. Paul Minn. Class colors were blue and silver, class flower the pink rose.

This was the last class to graduate from St. Anthony's.

## 40th Year Class Meet At Legion

The class of 1943 met at the Legion Club rooms Saturday afternoon for their 40th class reunion.

Co-hosts for the gathering were Mr. and Mrs. Bob McGuffe, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Krings, and Mr. and Mrs. August Wetovick. Also present were Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Krings, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Molek, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jacob, Mr. and Mrs. Zdzmund Jarosz, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rundell,

Mr. and Mrs. Mac Hoffman, Gene Kunzman, Maurice Rutten, Rita (DeWulf) Echternacht, Mrs. Riya Zaruba, Betty Cox and Joe Conant.

Everyone enjoyed discussing old times and seeing one another again. Following the reunion everyone enjoyed the delicious banquet at the Parish Center.

## Class of 1928 Met at Cox's

The Class of 1928 met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Cox on Saturday afternoon.

Attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kelly of Grand Island, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Roerts of Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Zaruba of Columbus, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Scronce of Ogallala, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson (Frances Tate), Colorado, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Leslie, Primrose, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Gaddie, Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Scrack, Kearney, Mr. and Mrs. William Cox, Cedar Rapids, Alice Rossow, Cedar Rapids, and Walt Seibler, Albion.

A short business meeting was conducted and the following officers elected: President, Willis Scrack; Vice-president, Howard Kelly; Sec.-Treas., Dorothy Cox.

A light lunch was served by Mr. and Mrs. Cox.

## Class of 1958 Hold Reunion

The Class of 1958 held their 25 year reunion at the home of Margaret Homan with Paul and Rosie Homan of Reno, Nevada, as hosts.

Those in attendance were Ron Whitt of Wayne, Neb., Don and Dee Treptow of Castle Rock, Colo., Larry and Kay Sindelar of Columbus, Neb., Don and Mary Swerczek of Omaha, Neb., Frank and Mary Batenhorst Ballweg of Spalding, Karen Steffes Boyd of Omaha, Noreen Lowe Bourn of St. Louis, Mo., Tom and Peg Reeder of Cedar Rapids, Dave and Kathy Reeder Gaspers of Columbus, Sister Fran Reeder of New York City, N.Y., Fritz and JoAnn Langan Miller of Cedar Rapids, Randy Tomandl of Omaha, and Jon and Bev Krings Weil of Columbus.

## Reunion For The 30 Year Class

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Batenhorst hosted a reception Saturday afternoon at their home for the Class of 1953.

Tom was a member of this class and with his classmates enjoyed the afternoon visiting and reminiscing of their high school days. Those attending were Bill and Colleen Mahoney, Fritz and Pat Krings and Mary Ann Moseke Allen of Omaha; Noreen Langan Barker of Elkhorn; Shirley Gibb Sandstedt of Hastings; John Paul and Sandy Hontan of Meadow Grove; Alex and Mary Ann Swerczek Rosenthal, Francis and Marge Belster of Columbus; Colette Tomandl Duffek of Prairie Village, Kansas; Mary Theresa Miller Reeder of Barstow, Calif. They were joined later at the Parish Center by Don Moore of Columbus and Bev and Lorraine Langan Hoff of Norfolk.

Other afternoon guests were Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Swerczek of Florida; Peggy Greek Miller of Barstow, Calif.; JoAnn Miller Lemmers of Omaha and Lester Bourn, Jr. of Columbus.

**Make Plans Now To Attend The Alumni Banquet Aug. 4, 1984**

**IN MEMORY OF . . .**  
**The Alumni who have passed away**  
**in the last year.**  
**May they rest in peace.**

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

- a time to be born, and a time to die;
- a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- a time to kill, and a time to heal;
- a time to break down, and a time to build up;
- a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
- a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
- a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- a time to seek, and a time to lose;
- a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
- a time to rend, and a time to sew;
- a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- a time to love, and a time to hate;
- a time for war, and a time for peace.

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-9)

**Alumni Association Plans Scholarship Fund Drive**

With this issue of the Alumni News, announcement is being made of the Cedar Rapids High Schools Alumni Scholarship Trust Fund.

After a brief visit-meeting following the 1983 Alumni reunion, three members of the class of 1939 discussed the idea of a scholarship sponsored by the Alumni Association and departed with a "why not" try it. As presented and with some suggestions the Alumni Association officers endorsed the scholarship fund proposal and now it's in the "let's go" stage.

Members of the class of '39 attending last year's meeting were Mary Emily (Nebel) Batenhorst, Anita (Hurt) Carlson and Eugene Cline.

A goal of \$10,000 was set for the scholarship fund which will be handled like a trust. Contributions to the fund will be placed on deposit, with the interest from the trust being used to finance the scholarship.

Target date for presentation of the first Alumni Scholarship has been set for 1985. The value of the scholarship will depend on the success of the initial fund drive and how much money is derived from the trust investment.

Candidates for the scholarship must be a current year member of the graduating class of Cedar Rapids High School. Selection for the award will be at the discretion of the school administration and based on scholastic achievement and financial need of the applicants. The scholarship money will be paid to the university, college or technical school the recipient elects to attend.

Ray Gordon, alumni association treasurer, will handle the funds for the scholarship trust until his term of office expires. This obligation will be assumed by his successor unless a special treasurer for the trust is named at the August Alumni meeting.

Contributions to the trust are now being accepted. Why not make out a check today and get the Scholarship Fund rolling so a favorable report can be made at the August reunion. Ray asks please make the check payable to the "Cedar Rapids High Schools Alumni Scholarship Fund." Your donation will help a future alumni attain their educational goal.

**Cedar Rapids Schools' Alumni Association SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Presented In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to:  
 Cedar Rapids High Schools' (C.R.H.S.) Alumni Scholarship Fund  
 Mail to:  
 Ray Gordon, Alumni Treasurer  
 Cedar Rapids, Nebraska 68627

**Class of 1973 Get Together**

The class of 1973 met at the home of Mark Zentner on Saturday afternoon.

Attending were Ben Rutten, Lois and Allen Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Ahlers, Angela Batenhorst Wright, Ed and Linda Braun, Rocky and Janice Bridger, Jerry Braun, Renee and Jeff Marquardt, Mike and Kathy Langan, Barb Loeffler, Mary

McGuire, Don and Connie McPhillips Whetstone, Keith Mogensen, Patty Helser, Mike and Joan Novacek, Dan and Connie Dobson, Kathy Sausser, Ken Schmelts, Judy Sturgill, Tim and Nancy Towey, Don and Sue West Barnes and Mark Zentner. Refreshments were served and a great time was enjoyed by all.

**Honor Class of 1958 - 25 Years**



Front row, left to right: Noreen Lowe Bourn, St. Louis, MO.; Karen Steffes Boyd, Omaha, NE.; Larry Sindelair, Columbus, NE.; Don Treptow, Castle Rock, Colo.

Second row: Ron Whitl, Wayne, NE.; Bev Krings Well, Columbus, NE.; Kathleen Reeder Gaspers, Columbus, NE.; Sr. Fran Margie Reeder, N.Y., N.Y.; JoAnn Langan Miller, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Don Swerczek, Omaha, NE.

Third row: Carol Juracek Syslo, Columbus, NE.; Randy Tomandl, Omaha, NE.; Jerry Hellbusch, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Paul Homan, Omaha, NE.

**Honor Class of 1953 - 30 Years**



Front row, left to right: Mary Ann Moseke Allen, Omaha, NE.; Noreen Langan Barker, Elkhorn, NE.; Mary Miller Reeder, Barstow, CA.; Mary Ann Swerczek Rosenthal, Columbus, NE.; Lorraine Langan Hoff, Norfolk, NE.

Second row: Francis Belster, Columbus, NE.; Don Moore, Columbus, NE.; Colette Tomandl Duffek, Prairie Village, Kansas; Shirley Gibb Sandstedt, Hastings, NE.; John Homan, Meadow Grove, NE.

Third row: Tom Batenhorst, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Fritz Krings, Omaha, NE.; Bill Mahoney, Omaha, NE.

**Honor Class of 1943 - 40 Years**



Front row, left to right: Marge Vanderloop Rundell, Boulder, Colo.; Reva Jean Fitzsimmons Krings, Lexington, NE.; Romalene Hartman Krings, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Rita Wlaschin Zaruba, Fullerton, NE.; Betty Cox, Cedar Rapids, NE.

Second row: Zigmund Jarosz, Lakewood, Colo.; Ed Jacobi, Hastings, NE.; Peg Mahoney Hoffman, Evergreen, Colo.; Rita Dewulf Echternacht, Pierce, NE.

Third row: August Wetovick, Jr., Fullerton, NE.; Maurice Rutten, Grand Island, NE.; Bill Kolm, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Bob McGuire, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Ted Molek, Vallev, NE.

## Honor Class of 1928 - 55 Years



Front row, left to right: Francis Tate Nelson, Denver, Colo.; Dorothy Carlson Cox, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Alice Cain Jacobson, St. Paul, NE.; Alice Carlson Rossow, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Ralph Roberts, Lyons, Colo.

Back row: Chet Gaddie, Stanton, NE.; Howard N. Kelly, Grand Island, NE.; Ted Sronce, Ogallala, NE.; J. Willis Srack, Kearney, NE.

## Honor Class of 1933 — 50 Years



Front row, left to right: Leona Schmid Gordon, Cedar Rapids, NE., St. Anthony's; Helen Homan Wlaschla, Cedar Rapids, NE., St. Anthony's; Cleo J. Ward Russell, Apple Valley, CA.; Caroline Bokelman Neemeyer, Fullerton, NE.

Back row: Ray Gordon, Cedar Rapids, NE.; Richard Smith, Watertford, Conn.; Warren Reynoldson, Albion, NE.

## Alumni Members Traveling Furthest



Left to right: Tony Reeder, Subic Bay, Philippines; Sr. Fran Margie Reeder, New York, N.Y.; Cleo Ward Russell, Apple Valley, CA.; Richard Smith, Watertford, Conn.

## The Development of the Cedar Rapids Public School System

This article was prepared for Dr. W. J. Reeder to present at the Alumni gathering in 1966.

Due to intervening circumstances the paper was never presented.

In the year of 1924, when I chose to make Cedar Rapids, Nebr. by home, the Cedar Rapids Public School had been in existence for 51 years.

Before I go into the development of the local school system, I will give you a brief history on how the early schools of the state were organized.

When Nebraska became a territory in 1854, Free Schools came to Nebraska. There was an office of the Territorial Supt. of Schools, and counties were selected as subdivisions for school government. The County Superintendent was chosen by popular election, and one of his duties was to divide the county into school districts. Each county was to levy a tax of not less than three mills, and not more than five mills for the operation of schools. This revenue was distributed on the basis of the number of white children between the ages of five and 21 years in this District. As a comparison the mill levy for Dist. No. 6 was thirty-four mills. The bulk of control of the district schools, however rested in the local board which consisted of three members. Today the district is served by a six man board. School Dist. No. 6 was organized in January of 1873. The original district covering most of the west end of the county, but as early as July of 1873, the district was being subdivided for the organization of other districts.

The first County Superintendent was Samuel P. Bollman. Members of our first school board were John S. Robinson, E. Broadbent, and J. D. WINKLER.

The first school house in Dist. No. 6 was located at the town of Dayton. It was made of sod, and the first session of school was taught by Eulalia Robinson.

In order to receive a teachers certificate, no special training was necessary. Although the County Superintendent could certify the teachers as he saw fit, it was customary to have school teachers examined by the local board. These examinations were mostly oral, and covered all subjects. If the person seeking a teaching job could spell, and if he had a fluent hand, he made quite an impression on the board, and was almost certain of the job. Teachers were required to stay in the district in which they taught, and nearly all the young maiden teachers found a husband in the district, and thereby they earned their Social Security. Wages averaged \$30.00 per month for male teachers and \$28.00 per month for women teachers. Today the local teachers receive around \$3800 a year for grade school and \$4500 for high school teachers. The length of the school term as early as 1887 was 176 days, the same as today. When the present town of Cedar Rapids was platted in 1879, a one room school, made of lumber, was erected on the block where the present school buildings stand.

As the population of the district increased, the people of the community saw the need of a larger school. Money loaned by many, for the building of a new school, and almost the entire amount was loaned by S. S. Hadley, without security. He had faith in the people, and the town, and knew the value of an education. As a result of the generosity of the people a large brick building was erected in 1887. The bricks used were made in the local brick yard west of town, which began making bricks in the early 30's.

In the year 1890, the first class of three pupils was graduated from Cedar Rapids High School.

In 1906 the school was first accredited by the University. Normal training was introduced into the curriculum in 1910.

By 1914, the once thought large school was becoming crowded, and a north wing was added to the building. With the new addition this building housed both the grade school and high school in 1928.

As early as 1916 there was evident interest in football, in the community, and on October 28, the local team defeated Spalding College team 50 to 0. Basketball was also introduced into the school in the early teens.

My impression of the school, as it was in 1924, was that, for the size of the town, Cedar Rapids had a very adequate school system.

The school building, however, didn't have an adequate place for the presentation of plays, so these productions were given at the Opera House, which stood on the now vacant lot west of Clara's Cafe. The Junior-Senior banquets were held in the City Hall. The Music Dept. was headed by the Superintendent and he had a great band. He would take his band all over the country and give programs in the country schools. In the school term of 1925-26 the Commercial Dept. was added.

Ralph Brooks was elected Superintendent in 1926. He was chosen from the unbelievable number of 50 applicants. He served as Superintendent for three years, and during those years, he added Debating and Public Speaking to the curriculum. He was also instrumental in promoting the building of a new High School. This building was completed in 1928. No major changes have been made to the building itself since its construction.

The class of 1926 was the first to be graduated from the new school. This class had two distinctions. It was the largest class to be graduated up to that year, and they also put on their own Graduation Program.

Due to the depression and drought of the early 30's, St. Anthony's High School was forced to close down. Pupils transferred to the Public School and this increased enrollment meant much to the Public School. The school also became more competitive in Sports, Dramatics and Music.

It was about the year 1934, when it became a state school law, that girls could no longer take part in competitive sports and girls basketball was taken out of the schools. In 1949, however, the girls were again recognized as athletes and softball and volleyball teams were formed.

In 1950, flood lights had been installed at the City Park and night football became popular, and more people learned to enjoy the game.

I became a member of the school board in 1935, and President of the Board in 1938. Three years ago I resigned as President, and this year when my term expired, I withdrew my name as a candidate for another term.

In 1938, the grade school was in the need of repair as it was then 64 years old. The main near the base were in bad condition, and it was deemed necessary to run an 8-inch concrete footing, set four feet into the ground, to keep the building from buckling. This work was done under the auspices of the National Youth Administration, a Federal Program under the New Deal. Men between the ages of 18 and 25 years were eligible to apply for work on the project.

People of Cedar Rapids can be proud of their school, and can be assured that every effort will be made to retain our district school as long as possible.