

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2010, Issue 203

Share Session

Classic September weather greeted this share session's participants: Richard Ferrioli, Walter Ingalls, Phyllis Beechert, Christine Mickelsen, Bob and Marie Shaw, Bette Welter, Allyn & Mary Shaw, Dot Blenis, Stephanie Ingalls, and Don Teator.

Bette got us started. She donated a copy of the 1940 GCS Pioneer for the files, and I started leafing through, called out a name or two, which led to a few recollections of times past and notes about current status, if available. This led to a full blown reading of all the names of the Class of 1940, stories about most, connections to connections, of course, and 45 enjoyable minutes thinking of familiar names who would be / are celebrating their 70th class reunion. Just for the record, the graduates shown are:

Pres. Russell Karkheck
VP Betty Winn
Sec. Earl Walker
Treas. Shirley Hunt
Howard Adriance
Margaret Atwater
Gladys Barkman
Edmund Baron
Eleanor Bates
Florence Bates
Arthur Beatty

Genevieve Becker
Albert Bichteman
Thurman Bishop
Gerald Boomhower
Edward Boor
Mary Burgess
Elizabeth Brazee
Charles Brink
Dorothy Britton
Gerald Brown
Philip Carley
Esther Carley
Charles Cooke
Helen Davis
John DeWitt
Margaret Dingman
Robert Freeman
Martha Gardiner
Charlotte Gifford
Richard Hannay
Dorothy Hopkins
Dorothy Husted
Glendon Hulbert
Albert Hulick
George Hvizdak
Olga Hvizdak
Claribel Ingalls
Keith Ingalls
Russell Jennings
Eugene Kellam
Virginia Kelsy
Marcia Knowles
Anna Korobeckhine
Elizabeth Korobeckhine

Bernard Levinson
Mary Long
Franklin Loucks
June Olson
Robert Olson
Martha Palmer
Donald Powell
Janet Roe
John Roulet
Edward Roulet
Mary Rundell
Mildred Shook
Dean Simpson
Catherine Slingerland
Lola Tallman
Allan Winans
Frances Young
Frances Zabett
Helen Ziman

Class Flower – Red Carnation
Class Color – Red & Gold
Class Motto – *Esse non videri* (to be rather than to seem)
Principal – Scott Ellis
Faculty Advisor – Muriel Wooster
Board of Education – Herbert Whitbeck,
Reuben Waldron, Harry Long, James
Stevens, Merritt Elliot
Clerk – Ford Rundell

As always, yearbooks remain a special informal local history document. Even though changes in styles and content (and prices!) appear to be quite different, I think the purpose of the yearbook has actually remained similar over the years.

(Reminder: The Historian's files have all the yearbooks from 1939 to the present EXCEPT for the following years: 1952, 1984, 1992, 1993.)

And this was the starter!

Next was a continuation of the logger's feet-board measuring device shown last month by Stephanie, and this time Wal-

ter was present to explain. Adding to this was a letter from David Gumport who explained that when his father sold wood to GNH, the measuring device was, and still is, important. The device could be the Doyle scale (less board feet measured), the International scale (more board feet), or the Scribner scale (an in-between measurement); which device was used could make a hefty difference, something both the seller and buyer would be interested in. According to Walter, the difference was mostly in the kerf (the width of the cut made by the saw blades, with the local blades making a wider cut than international ones); the wider the tips, the more sawdust you got and the less board was created. Thanks, David and Walter, for a side of business most of us don't see and one I wasn't even aware of.

Phyllis brought in the Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary Booklet, another useful local history document. Phyllis also contributed the Greene County Firemen's Association 89th Annual Convention in 1977, hosted by East Durham. Of special significance was the dedication to Edwin Beechert, in memoriam (Ed having passed away in May, 1977). Thank you, Phyllis.

Somehow, the topic of Rensselaerville came up, especially the closing of the school. With former board members Ingalls and Ferrioli present, a discussion arose about when the school was closed, why it was closed, the public reactions, ... (another classic dissertation!). (Oh, yeah, I sort of remember how we got started. A few of the seniors in the Class of 1940 had the entry beside their photo, 'Transferred from Rensselaerville Union School to Greenville in Senior Year.')

Walter brought in a newspaper copy of the calendar photo showing his father's new truck, and about the model & make, and where bought from. A mention of Irving Hannay from Westerlo came up. Wal-

ter had brought in a copy of the Westerlo 2011 local history calendar, and one of the photos shows a truck similar to the Ingalls truck.

Then we started the major idea of the night: our five (or some other number) favorite memories of school, no matter which school we attended. Some of the memories will give a clue about a certain time period. Many have nothing to do with academics. I have listed the initials of the memory-writer, and my summary of the memory as best as I could recall.

cm- recess time playing in the large culverts at the town highway bldg

cm, dt- moving library books to the new high school

wi- wintry night, Hunter-Tannersville at GCS, HT bus slides off road and Walter is called by Scott to get help, so Walter helps get the bus out

si- first kindergarten class, in ag room at start

- missing the bus
- nap time, and misbehaving
- playground blacktopped for first time

rf- game at HT, landslide blocked road

wi- senior homeroom explosion, Scott's interrogation, perpetrator not revealed until recently

rf- Coach Mabee warning about touching Rundell apples

pb- coming to Greenville in 8th gr

- cheerleading
- Cooksburgh school
- Don Mabee's big paddle
- Prof leaving ag room, and a slight prank
- a student bringing unusual stuff into Tom Blaisdell's class and leaving it in desk

MS- Westerlo one room school, teacher Cyrus Ingalls

BS- Class of '54

- ruler across hand
- Prof - 'punch him in the arm'
- Prof throwing eraser, hitting someone

finally

rf- bus driver driving past student on purpose

- student wrapping legs around desk leg while being dragged out of room

cm- air raid drill

ms- Ravena school

- allowed to close school bus door for a while
- fastest runner in grade in elementary school
- milkweed pods episode
- square dance & knocking tempura paint over

• different buildings for different classes

bw- Durham building, no kindergarten

- grades 1&2 in one room

• NYC trip to Empire St Bldg

• combing Mrs. Dingman's hair

si- Crow Griffin sitting in driveway, waving, on his retirement first day

db- Staco school, stone building

- basketball team
- never passed spelling

rf- threat of polio frightening, stay out of water

The night was growing old at this point so we paused. I collected any sheets from people and have listed items (without names):

- only five minutes from school but bus ride took an hour
- in first class to graduate from new HS
- watching classmates in 'Little Red School House' quiz show
- dances after basketball games
- Grade 1 & 5 in Library building
- May Shaw, and doing corrections
- carrying books and the baritone horn over half mile to bus, and off bus

Of course, given the time, I could have written a book but. At evening's end, a warm glow of school memories past filled the room.

And, of course, if anyone wants to start recording your own memories on a fuller basis, feel free, and I would be glad to put a copy with the appropriate yearbook.

The next meeting is Columbus Day Monday, October 11, and the topic is **boarding houses / resorts**. I have invited **Carol Spohler**, a former owner of Spohler's Elm Grove on Red Mill Road, and she will talk very briefly on that resort's history and more on the everyday kind of stuff that happened.

So, whether you have resort experience or not, come on out, and if you do have experience, feel free to share your experiences along with Carol. I have already told her that this group shares a lot!

(To be remembered is the account that Jeannette and Linda wrote for our calendar.)

(I worked at Spohler's Elm Grove from 1970 to 1983 and, thus, have my own memories of this resort.)

A quick last note. The obituary for Joe Mangold appeared in Thursday's paper; Joe had been an active member of our group until his health precluded his attendance. Our sympathies go with his family.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Don'.