

Homecoming At Cove Creek High Brings Fond Memories From Grad

By DOTT W. GRYSER

Alumni shared the spotlight with present day students on Friday when the 38th annual homecoming was observed at Cove Creek High School.

Beginning at 8 p. m. a reception was held in the school cafeteria, with graduates of many years present to pay tribute to their alma mater. In an atmosphere of poignant memories old school mates met to reminisce and renew friendships of other days.

Following the reception the Cove Creek girls' basketball team downed a strong Lansing team with a 25-22 margin. Linda Henson was top scorer, collecting 14 points for her team.

The nets were allowed to cool while the cheerleaders, Maxie Johnson, (Chief), Kathleen Johnson, Carolyn Poch, Carolyn Townsend, Betty Church, Jeannie Banner and Sarah Lou Mast, with the help of Bobby Shipley and Johnny Adams presented a hilarious skit.

A special program followed with Mr. E. B. Fox, a 1945 graduate, now principal of Valle Crucis High School, acting as master of ceremonies. Past graduates were introduced and feminine pulchritude shared the spotlight with handsome young men as the Homecoming Court was presented.

Tommy Sutherland and Janet Oliver, resplendent in evening attire, were elected Homecoming King and Queen, with Linda Church, Larry Cook, Lois Greene, David Thomas, Joy Byers, Jim Love, Nancy Hatley and Clyde Perry serving as attendants.

Following the homecoming court ceremonies the Cove Creek boys' basketball team met the Lansing boys in an exciting skirmish which ended in a 66-57 score in favor of Cove Creek. Tony Isaacs burned the nets with a 27 point score while Bob Greene ran a close second with 25 points. Outstanding scorer for Lansing was Bradley McNeill with 25 points.

It was pointed out by Mr. Fox that Cove Creek High School was established in 1923, with the first class graduating in 1924. It is interesting to note that during its 38 years of existence a total of 3,863 students have attended Cove Creek High School with less than half that number—1,623 graduating. During these years only five men have served as principal.

The first principal, Greer Glenn went to Smithfield as principal of the city school after leaving Cove Creek. Sam Horton, who devoted many years to being principal, is now retired and still making Cove Creek his home. Paul Bingham, a former graduate of Cove Creek High School who served as principal during the war years, is presently principal of Beaver Creek

High School in Ashe County. John Bingham is attending Wake Forest where he is scheduled to receive a law degree next year.

The present principal, Carl Fidler, is a Mackenbun native who received his B. S. and M. A. degrees at Appalachian State Teachers College. He married a local girl, Miss Marbeth Winkler, and they have four children, three of whom attend Boone elementary school.

Mr. Fidler is vitally interested in sports, having participated actively while at A&TC and coached in 1947 and 1948 at Cove Creek. He was principal of the Cove Creek elementary school for nine and a half years before becoming high school principal.

"Coming Home" after one has been away for many years can prove to be a rather shocking experience. Most amazing is how one's contemporaries have aged!

The children of schoolmates, appearing so juvenile and dewy-fresh, makes one wonder if we were ever that young and starry-eyed with spirits so exuberant.

A sidelight which might prove of interest to many readers is the story of five students, alumni of Cove Creek, who spent eleven years as classmates. The five boys and girls began studying their three R's at Ivy Ridge, the typical "little red schoolhouse"—only in this case the one-room structure was a weather-beaten gray.

In 1926 it was necessary for some students in places as remote as five miles, who desired a higher education to "board" near the school of their choice. When the five students who comprised the entire seventh grade finished grammar school they each attended Cove Creek High School, graduating there in 1930.

One of the five was Jennie Love, who has for many years been a valued English teacher and librarian at Cove Creek High School. Ned and Joy Glenn, brother and sister, each married classmates. Ned, who is now a prosperous farmer in the Cove Creek area, married Mary Lee Bingham, a teacher of 22 years standing at Mabel School. Joy, now employed by Boone Drug Co. married Doughton Greene, who is a teacher of mathematics and social studies at Cove Creek. Dwight Cable, who is in the mercantile business at Cove Creek, married Annie Lou Edmisten. The other member of the quintet, ye scribe, Dottie (Alvertie) Ward married Dwight Gryder (for better or worse—and it got worse and worse, so we called it quits). Dwight is employed by the Seaboard Airline Railway in Hamlet, while Dott or "Vertie" finally realized her lifelong ambition to be a member of the Democrat staff.

In 1929 the first school bus was provided for the "River Road" and the lower Cove Creek area. The so-called school bus was nothing more than a trusty old Ford truck with a white sheet drawn covered-wagon-fashion over bows to keep out the worst of the elements. Rough plank seats which caused many a darn (no pun intended) flanked the sides of the "bus" while one seat ran down the middle. Mr. Hard Hagaman was driver of the bus and all riders of that famous "covered wagon" will remember how he used to unload shivering students in the icy temperatures of a winter morning to carry the truck over a particularly hazardous spot, and then all and sundry would pile in helter skelter as the vehicle continued the journey. Sometimes it took two hours to traverse a distance of six

miles... Later Ned Glenn took on the job of "bus driver" but he never saw the day when he could match Mr. Hagaman's picturesque language when the truck mired axle deep in mud!

Each graduate of Cove Creek High School has a different set of memories—some happy, some sad—but it is certain that everyone who has ever attended the school has one thing in common—a sense of loyalty to their alma mater that will never dim.

Road Work Is Reported

Morganton — Highway Commissioner Jack Kirksey reports the completion of 17 road improvement projects in Avery, Caswell and Watauga Counties during the month of November.

State forces in Avery County stabilized these roads: 1.0 miles Vale Road; 1.0 miles Old Toe River Road; 0.4 mile Fork Mountain; 1.0 miles Old Cow Camp; and 0.5 mile Staps Johnson Road.

These Caldwell County roads were graded, drained and stabilized: 0.2 mile Bumgarner Road; 0.2 mile Marcus Road; 0.3 mile Lake-wood Road; 0.3 mile Boughman Road; 0.2 mile Maple Grove Road; 0.35 mile Clay Road; and 0.35 mile Harpertown Road; 2.0 miles Bow-man Rd.; and 1.3 miles Looper Rd. from 1751 to 1002.

In Watauga county these roads were graded, drained and stabilized: 0.6 mile Ruben Walker Road; 1.4 miles Watson Road from SR 1130, west; and 1.2 miles East Camp Road from 1335 to 1300.

Many U. S. firms are now doing "exit interviews" with people who leave their employment—to find out what they think of the company.

Aged care bill attacked by A. M. A. head.

Mrs. Triplett Dies Thursday

Mr. Opal Hodges Triplett, 42, died December 7. Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p. m. in Liberty Methodist Church at Matney with burial in the church cemetery. The Rev. Roby Painter and Rev. Alvin Wilson were in charge of the services.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Hodges of Banner Elk; the husband, Ernie C. Triplett, Sr. of Banner Elk; one son Ernie C. Triplett, Jr. of the navy in Oak Harbor, Washington; three daughters, Paula of Raleigh and Sheila M. and Elizabeth E. of the home; two brothers, Rom Hodges, of Baltimore, Maryland and Jack R. Hodges of Hickory; five sisters, Mrs. Ollie Woods, Bluff City, Tenn., Mrs. Mabel Smith, Baltimore, Mrs. Betty Colbert, Pineola, and Mrs. Audrey Pender of Riverside, N. J.; the grandmother, Mrs. Dick Balliff of Banner Elk and two grandchildren.

Snow Lodge To Install New Slate Officers

The Masonic Snow Lodge will hold a public installation of the new officers for the year 1962 Friday night, December 15, at 8:00 p. m.

The lodge will open at its usual time, 7:30 p. m.

The public is invited to the installation services which will begin about thirty minutes after the regular opening hour of the lodge.

The officers for 1962 will be: Worshipful Master, D. T. Brown, Jr.; Senior Warden, William E. Fulmer; Junior Warden, J. C. Greene, Jr.; Treasurer, B. W. Stallings; Secretary, Hoyle Davis; Senior Deacon, R. W. Watkins; Junior Deacon, Eddie Paul Norris; Senior Steward, Richard W. Winkler; Junior Steward, Jay Teems; Chaplain, Lewis Lentz; Tyler, Melvin Norris.

ON DRAFTEE CALLS

Draft calls likely stay at a relatively high level—and may go even higher—if the Army is increased by two regular divisions.

Pentagon sources said the White House informally has agreed with Secretary of Defense McNamara's recommendation that the regular Army be increased from fourteen to sixteen divisions.

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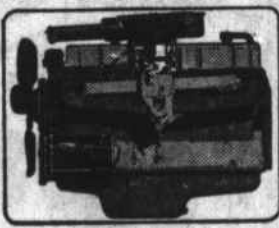
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STRIKING NEW STYLING. Any way you look at it, the Chevy II Nova is a neat, nifty fashion plate. The lines are so crisp and clean we're tempted to call them "elegant" (except that sounds downright expensive and, as your dealer will happily show you, Chevy II is anything but!).



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