

Vol. XXXVII, No. 1  
Winter 2017

# C of E NEWS

## MISSED THE REUNION?

For various reasons, some alumni who would have liked to attend last summer's successful reunion were unable to make the trip to Emporia. Some alumni haven't returned to Emporia since their college days.

While the bus tour of Emporia to see what changes have taken place, and what familiar landmarks remain and the interior of the beautiful restored Granada Theatre cannot be viewed on the internet, campus scenes and information about changes in the former college landscape are available to interested alumni.

The alumni association website [www.c-of-e.org](http://www.c-of-e.org) has a virtual tour, originally put together in 2006 by the late **Dr. John Spencer, A70**. The site's webmasters have updated the tour since.

Included are historic photos that predate our time on campus, such as an aerial view of the campus from around 1920 and a photo of the first building on the campus, Stuart Hall. Photos of remembered buildings from an active campus are coupled with pictures of the same buildings as they appear today. Included are Kenyon Hall, Anderson Memorial Library, Mabee Science Hall, Vollmer Hall Men's Dorm, the Devore Campus Center and the Laughlin-Lewis Library. Other buildings, which no longer exist, are shown along with their sites as they are today. These include Mason Gymnasium, Emporia Hall and Dunlap Hall. Even early and current views of Lake Mergendahl are included.

Attendees at the reunion were privileged to be able to visit the dome in the Anderson Memorial Library and search for their names that they had written upon the occasion of their graduation. Unfortunately, not all names remain, as some were painted over by the Way College. Alumni can search for their names virtually, thanks to a significant project done by the Emporia State University Archives. Most of the remaining names have been photographed and the signatures can be found at [www.emporia.edu/libsv/archives/the-people-of-the-dome](http://www.emporia.edu/libsv/archives/the-people-of-the-dome).



Stained Glass Window in Anderson Memorial Library

## President's Letter: By Roger Klein, A72

I suppose that I never thought in 1972, as President of the Senior Class at the College of Emporia, about someday being President of the College of Emporia Alumni Association, but here I am at the end of my term in this office. What a year it's been!

Not only did we enjoy a wonderful "Homecoming" reunion last July, but also the success of this event certainly confirmed why we need to continue to have reunions for as long as we can. The friendships renewed as well as those newly established are just two of the many reasons to continue. I was also privileged to attend the East Coast Reunion on the Jersey Shore in October 2015. I clearly realize how important these events, held in Eastern United States, are to our organization's future.

Although I would like to take this space to thank all of the many people who make this association tick, I know that I would inevitably leave some people out. I do want to say that every single committee does its job and does it well. I do think that it is important to single out a few people such as **Clancy Howland, A58** and his scholarship committee, **Sue (Roberts) Nispel, A59**, and our wonderful reunion committee, **John Acomb, X64**, who puts together this informative newsletter and the combination of **Linda (Sadler) Myers, X62**, **Chip**

**Barger, A74** and **Belle (Gates) Grimsley, X59**, who do a tremendous job with our memorabilia. We now have a permanent display in Kenyon Heights (formerly Kenyon Hall), the Lyon County Historical Society and in the C of E Room in the Emporia State Alumni Association Building (the Sauder Center).

It is important to note here that your alumni association has approved a new ongoing agreement with the Emporia State Alumni Association that should provide benefits for us from now on. We now plan to have some of our future board meetings in the C of E Room at the Sauder Center.

The association itself is now in the hands of my long-time good friend, **Jim Brooks, A72**. Jim will be supported by an outstanding group of officers, board members and committee chairs. We are, however, always looking for "new blood." So if anyone reading this letter would be interested in being a board or committee member and/or an officer or committee chair, your participation would be welcome.

Finally, I want to thank everyone ever associated with the College of Emporia, including its founders, administration, trustees, faculty, staff and students for making all of our collective experiences and memories possible. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President.

## Gratitude, By: Jean (Johnson) Gilmore, A59

People like **Carolyn (Cruikshank) Day, A60**, leave a smile on the faces of many. At the recent reunion, when I saw fans with the letters "ZAZZ", I was intrigued. What did that mean? Then I opened the favor bag and realized that Carolyn was once again sharing with her fellow followers of Presby Pete and, in her way, demonstrating her gratitude for what she received at C of E. Many attendees went home with some very nice prizes as winners in the raffle – prizes donated by Carolyn. It should also be noted that Carolyn has contributed in many ways to previous reunions.

There are many reasons for gratitude such as hers. Those

include a caring faculty and staff, family atmosphere, friendships made, opportunities for an education, skills for success and oh so much more. Gratitude for C of E is being demonstrated in many ways, including serving in positions of leadership within the alumni association, volunteering to plan and carry out reunions, attending reunions, continuing correspondence and connection with friends and faculty, sharing memories, contributing to the scholarship fund and many more not mentioned. To me, the letters "ZAZZ" were uplifting and a way to inspire. THANK YOU, CAROLYN!

## Reunion Directory

A 2016 "Homecoming" Reunion Directory was completed and sent out to attendees in late November. It contained 160 photos of individuals who attended the reunion. Contact information was provided with each photo in order to enable and encourage attendees to keep in touch after the reunion.

The photos are clear and in color. A professional photographer at the reunion registration took them. Binding, addressing and mailing the booklets were the result of a dedicated effort led by Reunion Chair **Sue (Roberts) Nispel, A59** and Reunion Committee member **Norm Tice, X61**.

A limited number of extra copies of this directory remain. Alumni association members who were unable to attend the reunion or attendees who wish an extra copy of the directory

may send a check made out to the C of E Scholarship Fund, using the scholarship form found elsewhere in this issue, along with a note requesting a copy of the directory. Requests accompanied by a donation will be honored as long as inventory remains.

## Keep Us Informed

Please send us news about yourself. We want to hear from you. E-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor, at [jacomb2@mac.com](mailto:jacomb2@mac.com) or Les Palmer at [lepalmer@aol.com](mailto:lepalmer@aol.com). If you prefer, please write us at P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405.



## Air War in the Pacific

The Emporia Gazette, as part of a special 2016 Veterans Day supplement, wrote an article about the wartime experience of **George Crocker, A49, FF**. After about a year and a half at C of E, he entered the US Navy. He served in the Pacific in the latter stages of WWII as a gunner aboard a PB4-Y-2 aircraft. This plane was a somewhat enlarged version of the B-24 bomber.

Crocker's squadron was based in the Mariana Islands. His plane was a part of the invasion of Iwo Jima. The plane made a landing on the first airstrip captured by the allies, even though the Japanese still controlled the end of the strip and were firing mortars at them. In the heat of battle and without any form of air traffic control, planes on the ground struggled to avoid other planes, some disabled, that were coming in for emergency landings.

Crocker survived numerous engagements with enemy ships and planes. He believes that the reason that he is still alive today is that his training was superior to what the Japanese were giving to their recruits near the end of the war.

Nevertheless, the time came when Crocker's squadron had lost so many planes and personnel that they were transferred

to Palawan in the Philippines, which was supposed to be easier duty. However, it was during this period that Crocker's plane found itself under attack by three planes and a cruiser. In a tense encounter the PB4-Y-2 shot down two of the planes, chased off the third enemy fighter and eluded the "ack-ack" fire from the cruiser. At the end of the war, only three planes remained of the original fifteen planes in Crocker's squadron.

After returning home, Crocker attended the graduation of his class at C of E. He was surprised when those present greeted his appearance with emotion and hugs. He learned that his name was on a plaque listing those who had been killed in the war. The student who had died was **George Crawford, X43**. The mix-up was quickly corrected.

Subsequently, Crocker completed his education at C of E, earned an MA in dramatic arts from the University of Denver and eventually returned to C of E where he chaired the Art and Drama Department from 1958 through 1961. More recently, as has been reported previously in this newsletter, he created seven luminous paintings that are a vital part of the restoration of Emporia's Granada Theatre.

## The First Veterans Day

Emporia is the founding city of Veterans Day. The first-ever Veterans Day parade was held in Emporia on November 11, 1953. A trio of C of E graduates chaired this event's Program Committee. They were **Ernest Cipra, A35, Deloy Heath, A35** and **Dr. John C. Patton, A37**. Heath also served as the treasurer of the event's organizing committee.

The Program Committee put together a full slate of activities for the day. A parade kicked off the day's events. Attendance and participation was outstanding as schools and about ninety percent of Emporia's stores closed for the day.

At 11:00 a.m. civil-defense sirens, church bells and power plant whistles all sounded. This acknowledged the signing of the armistice that ended World War I at 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Following the whistles

and bells, the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps played "Taps." This was then echoed by the Kansas City AmVets Drum and Bugle Corps.

Afterwards, free hot dogs, beans and coffee were served in the basement of the Civic Auditorium. A wheelchair basketball game was played between the Rolling Pioneers of Kansas City and a team of locals, including **Leslie Hayes, A52**. The day ended with a free dance and a free movie at the drive-in movie theater.

After the successful celebration, Emporia Congressman Ed Rees introduced a bill making Emporia's innovation a national holiday. It passed the House and the Senate and was signed into law by President Eisenhower. The nation then held its first Veterans Day on November 11, 1954.



Four former C of E basketball players got together for a mini-reunion in August. Pictured left to right are: **Dave Peebler, A65, Chuck Schneider, A65, Rick Edmiston, A67** and **Dale Haug, A66**.

## Community Service

**Ruth Anne (McDonald) Trowbridge, X61**, was honored in November with the Girl Scout Woman of Distinction Award.

Ruth Anne's ties to Girl Scouts began when she became a Brownie at age 8. She moved through Girl Scouts to attain a First Class Pin. Then, while at C of E, she spent a summer in primitive conditions working as a scout camp counselor.

In 1974, as a mother, she returned to scouting as a Brownie leader. She led her Brownie troop for two years and then led her Junior troop for three years. Every summer during this time she worked at a Girl Scout Day Camp. Working as an advisor and song leader, she also taught children crafts and entertained them with games. As her daughters moved to adulthood, Ruth Anne's commitment to Girl Scouts continued. She put on

programs for various troops and took leadership positions as needed in various Brownie and Girl Scout troops. She also served the Mile Hi (Greater Denver area) council as delegate and then as Council Chair. She was honored for her service with the Council's Bronze Award and with a national award of an Appreciation Pin from the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Ruth Anne lived in various places in Colorado. After teaching second grade for four years, Ruth resigned to raise her family. Subsequently she served for thirty-nine years as a substitute teacher. She also taught Sunday School for thirty-one years. Throughout this entire period she remained active in Girl Scouts and an example of community service that characterizes many C of E alumni.

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## C of E Room

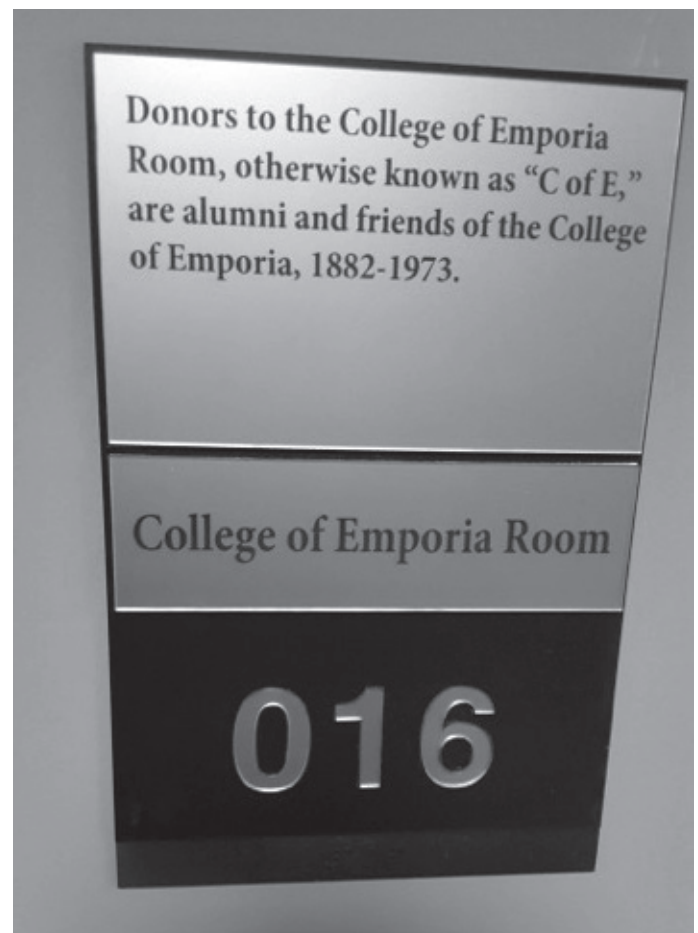
C of E Alumni Association President **Roger Klein, A72** was a guest at the October 15, 2016, celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Sauder Alumni Center on the campus to Emporia State University. The financial assistance of our alumni association in the establishment of the center was recognized when Roger was introduced. Room 16 in this building is the College of Emporia Room, as can be seen in the photo accompanying this article.

Inside of the room is a plaque headlined, "College of Emporia Room." The text on the marker reads, "Donors to the College of Emporia Room, otherwise known as 'C of E,' are alumni and friends of the College of Emporia, 1882-1973. The College of Emporia was a four-year Liberal Arts institution founded by the Presbyterian Church. C of E produced graduates who went on to become doctors, lawyers, business leaders, educators, ministers, missionaries, and thoughtful citizens of their communities. Those who taught and studied there are forever touched by the "Fighting Presby" spirit of the College of Emporia."

Another large plaque in the room recognizes individual contributors to the alumni association's gift. Over 100 names of C of E alumni appear on individual plaques placed below the big marker. C of E is well remembered on the Emporia State campus.

At its January meeting, the C of E Alumni Association Board approved a "Memorandum of Agreement" with the Emporia State University Foundation and the Emporia State University Alumni Association recognizing C of E naming rights. The C of E room will feature a memorabilia

display case. Use of the room will be available to your alumni association at no charge.



## 2017 Leadership

In its regular January meeting, your alumni association's board elected officers for 2017. President will be **Jim Brooks, A72**. Other officers will be **Les Palmer, A63**, Vice-President Membership, **Sue (Roberts) Nispel, A59**, Secretary and **Cecil Lane, A71**, Treasurer.

Board members elected to a three-year term beginning in January 2017 are: **Neal Crane, A62**, **Roberta (Johnson) Crane, A67**, **Megan (Isaac) Evans, A70**, **Jerry Karr, X58**, **Barbara (Brenner) Mathis, X63**, **Maxine (White) Mitchell, A54** and **David Peebler, A65**.

## Jump Start 2017

You will find in this issue of your newsletter a form headlined "C of E SCHOLARSHIP FUND." We ask that you jump start your 2017 charitable giving by utilizing this form to make a strong contribution to your alumni association's scholarship fund. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, which means that your gifts are fully

tax deductible. Every cent contributed to the scholarship fund goes toward paying tuition for descendants of C of E students, faculty and staff.

This scholarship fund is our legacy. Please help to pay forward our Presby Spirit to deserving college students.

## C of E SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*I am pleased to continue the legacy of the College of Emporia with my pledge to grow and continue the C of E Scholarship Fund. This fund has already paid partial college education expenses for many descendants of C of E Alumni, former C of E students and staff. The goal of this fund drive is to sufficiently grow the fund*

*to last many years into the future and my contribution will assist a future student to receive funds from the Alumni of the College of Emporia.*

*The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association thanks you for your contribution.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ALUMNI: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL GIFT PLEDGED PAYMENT ENCLOSED BALANCE

BALANCE TO BE PAID AS FOLLOWS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "C OF E SCHOLARSHIP FUND"  
MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 405, EMPORIA, KS 66801-0405

## Correction

The obituary, which appeared in the previous issue of this newsletter, for **Robert “Bob” Ingold, A56**, listed Bob’s home as Olathe, KS. Bob lived in Lenexa, KS. The same obituary

indicated that Bob’s sister, **Marjorie (Ingold) Denniston, A47**, had predeceased him. This is not true. Marjorie is alive. The editor apologizes for these errors.

**Elwood George Lodle, A40**, of Las Vegas, NV, passed away August 24, 2016 at age 96. He served during WWII, seeing extensive action on the Anzio beachhead. For his service he received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and the French Croix de Guerre. He went on as a career US Army officer. His varied career took him from Berlin to Korea. It included serving as a military advisor to Chiang Kai-shek’s Taiwan army. His wife, brother **Robert Lodle, A48**, and two sisters predeceased him. Two children, four grandchildren, a sister and brother **George Lodle, X61**, survive him.

**Daniel Allen “Kitch” Kitchen, X43**, of Tulsa, OK, passed away June 1, 2016 at age 95. A Lieutenant in the US Navy, he fought in the Pacific in WWII. After the war, he earned BS and MS degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Kansas State University. After five years on the faculty of the University of Nebraska, he moved to the private sector creating advertising for International Harvester and Ford. His wife predeceased him. His sister, two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive him.

**Myron Martin Apel, A51**, of Overland Park, KS, passed away August 29, 2016 at age 86. At C of E Myron played football and participated in both choir and Science Club. After graduation he was drafted into the US Army and served in Japan as a part of a medical team. He was a microbiologist who, after additional studies at Kansas University, went to work for the Kansas State Board of Health. From there he went on to work for Seymour Foods and Hills Pet Products. His wife, brother **Adrian Apel, A50**, two children and six grandchildren survive him.

**Nydia (Maciques) Roque, X54**, of Wooster, OH, passed away June 12, 2015 at age 83. After leaving C of E, Nydia returned to her native Cuba to complete her bachelor’s degree at Havana University. She then went to Kent State University for a master’s degree, which allowed her to enter her lifelong career as a Spanish teacher. Her husband predeceased her. Two sons, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren survive her.

**Webster Gaylord, A57**, of Kansas City, KS, passed away December 6, 2016 at age 81. Webster’s passion

at C of E was basketball. He was the leading scorer on the 1956 – 1957 Presby team. After graduation he entered a lifelong career in education as a teacher, coach and counselor, most recently at Wyandotte High School in Kansas City.

**Lela Mae “Fuzz” Watkins, X62**, of Vacaville, CA, passed away October 6, 2016 at age 76. Lela spent 34 years working for Social Security in the Bay Area, and, while working, she finished her degree at California State University at San Francisco. She retired in 1995 to move to Vacaville to help take care of her parents. After her parents passed away, she volunteered with the Vacaville Police Department and was voted Volunteer of the Year in 2015, having accumulated 6500 volunteer hours. Her sister and several nieces survive her. “She always had a smile on her face and, if you were around her, she put a smile on your face.”

**Marvin R. “Marv” Williamson, A64**, of Oklahoma City, OK, passed away January 5, 2017 at age 74. At C of E Williamson was an outstanding football player. A receiver with school records in total catches and total yards, Marv, nicknamed “Poison Ivy,” was inducted into the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. He went on to a career in education in Oklahoma City. He worked as an administrator in the local school district and then went on to serve as Education Administrator with the Oklahoma Department of Education. His wife and four children survive him.

**Dorothy Ann “Dottie” (Gibbens) Johannes, X66**, of Olathe, KS, passed away January 2, 2017 at age 72. Dottie worked her entire career for the Johnson County (KS) Parks and Recreation District. She is survived by her sister, **Carol (Gibbens) Anderson, A57**. Her husband, daughter two grandchildren and a brother also survive her.

**David Terry Shields, A68**, of Mt. Lebanon, PA, died November 3, 2016 at age 72. He spent his entire career at the family-owned McCann-Shields Paint Company. A pitcher for the C of E baseball team, his lifetime hobby was playing and coaching baseball. His wife, **Patricia (O’Rourke) Shields, A69**, three children and three grandchildren survive him.

## Grandchildren

Will one of your grandchildren be going off to college this fall? Do you have grandchildren currently enrolled in college? If the answer to one or both of these questions is yes, consider applying for an alumni association scholarship. Please note that these scholarships are not just for incoming freshmen. They can be used for continuing

a college education or even for graduate studies.

Application forms are available on your alumni association's website [www.c-of-e.org](http://www.c-of-e.org). Those interested are urged to download applications now in order to comfortably gather needed information by the April 1 deadline.

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## No Band

**Murray Brown, FF**, became C of E football coach in 1947. His initial team was dismal. In early October Coach Brown's team had a record stretching back to the previous season of only a tie to go with nine losses in the past ten games.

However, at that time all of C of E's games were played on Friday nights. High schools had need of their own bands at that time as high school games were also scheduled for Friday nights.

Coach Brown wanted to build attendance and team spirit. He intended to accomplish this through the use of a band. Unfortunately, although C of E had a longtime reputation as an outstanding music school, there was no school band.

The frustrated coach turned to the Emporia Gazette where a plea, written by **Ed Shupe, FF**, asked for any "band (that can be found)" to step forward to assist the Fighting Presbies. Shupe proclaimed, "A football game without a band isn't a football game." Unhappily, a band was never found.

Undeterred, the coach contacted local high schools.

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## Webmaster

Your alumni association has a wonderful website [www.c-of-e.org](http://www.c-of-e.org). In order for it to continue to flourish, a new webmaster is needed. The current webmasters, **Megan (Isaac) Evans, A70**, and **Chuck Ireland, A67**, have served their alumni association long and very well. Megan assisted when the late **Dr. John Spencer, A70**, initially set up the

website. When John passed away eight years ago, Chuck came on board to work with Megan.

Now they are ready to pass the torch. If you are computer savvy and interested in making a significant contribution to your alumni association, let us know. Please e-mail President Jim Brooks at [jkb Brooks2006@gmail.com](mailto:jkb Brooks2006@gmail.com).

## Membership Information for the College of Emporia Alumni Association, Inc.

Please write legibly. Make checks payable to the C. of E. Alumni Association.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class
Spouse's Info	Spouse's First Name	Middle Initial	Maiden Name	*C. of E. Class
Street/Mailing Address	City		State	ZIP + 4
Phone #	E-mail			

\*C. of E. Class is the graduation year of the class with which students were associated, whether or not they graduated. Please use prefix "A" for alumnus, or "X" for former student or non graduate. "O" here means did not attend.

Membership dues (\$15 per year per member): Number of memberships: \_\_\_\_\_ For Years \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund (Voluntary) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

C of E Alumni Association, P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405



College of Emporia Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 405  
Emporia, KS 66801-0405

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## Summer meeting

The next C of E Alumni Association Board meeting will be held on Saturday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the new C of E Room at the Sauder Alumni Center. As is the case with all board meetings, all alumni association members are invited to attend. The board meeting is followed by a potluck at noon. Please bring a dish to pass. There is certain to be plenty of good food and fellowship with former classmates.

The Sauder Alumni Center is located on the eastern edge of the Emporia State campus at 1500 Highland Street.

**c-of-e.org**

