



Vol. XLI, No. 1
Winter 2020

C of E NEWS

RED, WHITE & YOU

The 2020 reunion in Emporia is set to take place October 9, 10 and 11. Plans for this event are coming together.

There will be golf on Friday morning. **Paul James, A61, FF**, will be organizing this outing in the beautiful, crisp Kansas fall weather. Registration opportunities and information about fees will appear on the registration form in the next newsletter issue.

The largest memorabilia exhibit ever is being planned. It will include items never before exhibited at a reunion. In addition, there will be an opportunity for attendees to bid in an auction of selected memorabilia items.

The memorabilia exhibit and reunion registration will open on Friday afternoon. The first event of the weekend will be a dinner that will take place that evening at the Granada Theater. Planning for this evening is still taking place. Watch future newsletters or visit the reunion website at cofereunion.wixsite.com/reunion2020 for more information.

Planning is also underway for alumni tours of completely renovated Kenyon Heights (the former Kenyon Hall). This building is now a 100% occupied senior living apartment building. In the past, some residents have been kind enough to invite us into their apartments to get a look at the interesting living areas. Each apartment is unique as

cont. on pg. 6

Class Events at Reunion

Class representatives for the Emporia reunion have been named for every class year from 1952 through 1974. Alumni will soon be hearing from their class reps about their class lunch at the reunion. These class events proved to be extremely popular at the last Emporia reunion.

They provided a group of manageable size for relaxed conversation. Campus events could be relived, and post-C of E life stories could be caught up.

Check the reunion website at www.cofereunion.wixsite.com/reunion2020. A list of class representatives with their contact information will soon be posted there. You are encouraged to get

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President's Letter; By Mary Jayne Gamble, A70

Back in the day East coast DJ Harry Harrison was known to say:

"Every day should be unwrapped as a gift."

It's funny how some things just stick with you for years. I heard the quote when I was in middle school and high school on the radio. I am sure I heard Harry Harrison say that line a hundred times and every time it was as though whatever came before or after was silence. It was and still is, more so now perhaps, one of my mantras in life. Not Khalil Gibran, Eleanor Roosevelt, Oscar Wilde, or Steven Hawkins but DJ Harry Harrison. On one of those many days during my senior year in High School I opened a new gift box and found the College of Emporia.

My life experiences, while living and growing as an "adult" at C of E, changed me and prepared me for so very many of my future life experiences.

2020 is the year my class is celebrating 50 years since our graduation in Kenyon Hall. It was a perfect day for us on Saturday, May 23, 1970, our C of E education completed. There are many others of you who passed through her halls 60 years ago this year, some more, some less. We have been proud to say we are alumni of the College of Emporia, even though her doors were closed 46 years ago.

Since 1882 C of E was that daily gift opened by thousands of students from nearly every state and from countries across the globe.

We have an Alumni Association formed over the years by a collection of people from a variety of backgrounds who have had unexpected futures ahead of them with one thing in common. We are proud to say we all attended The College of Emporia where our futures were seeded with memories growing in our hearts.

One of the gifts we all received over the years some of you have chosen to use while others have left it unopened and unused up on a shelf. We all had the opportunity over the years to join with other alumni and become a member of the Alumni Association by just paying our dues or joining the C of E Board of Directors. We have been gifted with our praiseworthy Alumni newsletter. The C of E newsletter shares our college's history, trivia, news of friends, and shares the news of the passing of far too many of our friends. We also have a scholarship fund available to relatives of mine and yours for their college education given every year. It's been wonderful to witness how our reunions have grown over the years to include locations suitable for alumni in a variety of regions.

Looking ahead, the opportunities we have to share our most cherished memories are not as numerous as they were while attending college. Nonetheless, we have an invitation in 2020 to attend our next reunion.

In 2016 our reunion was in Emporia after having many of our celebrations over the years outside of town. Our 2018 Reunion was held in Pennsylvania where there were many discussions expressing regret for not having been

able to return to Emporia in 2016. Many requests were made that weekend to have our next reunion in Emporia again.

Sonic is still here. Renfro's, Blaylock's and the train station are now but memories. Our athletic fields are now the beautiful C of E Park with Lake Mergandahl as a beautiful point of interest as well. Circle Drive is now C of E Drive and goes in two directions! There are new homes on "new" streets where ball fields once stood, filled with athletes and spectators cheering them on. One of these streets is named "Presby Drive". Our campus is now home to beautifully repurposed buildings. Some serve as apartments, senior living, offices or schools. A beautiful and historic library is waiting for new owners. The Anderson Library is on the market and hopefully will still be available in October for Reunion 2020 registration, memorabilia and a climb up into the dome searching for your name.

The Fox Theater on Commercial is now the beautiful Emporia Grenada Theatre. The theatre is located next-door to the Emporia Art Center, and down the street finds the Lyon County History Center. Both of these venues will house events during our reunion weekend.

Since helping plan the 2012 reunion as a volunteer I have reconnected with many friends and connected with "new" ones at reunions and while being a new member on the Board of Directors.

At that time, I would never have dreamed my husband and I would one day relocate to Emporia from New Jersey. That being said, 2017 found us moving into our "new" home on the corner of 12th Avenue and Rural Street.

I am not suggesting everyone relocate to Emporia. I am suggesting you volunteer for the reunion planning with classmates to meet during the weekend for a class lunch or play golf on Friday with a friendly foursome. Help your class representatives make contacts and reconnect with classmates. The Internet lends us a helping hand with conference calls during reunion planning meetings. Get nominated for a position of the Alumni Board. Help set up our Friday and Saturday events at the reunion. Volunteer to assist with reunion registration. Send photos from our college days and be an addition to our reunion slide/PPT presentation.

Join me in 2020 as I begin unwrapping my latest gift as President of the College of Emporia Alumni Association Board of Directors and help "C of E Our C of E" carry on its mission a bit farther into the future.

Looking forward to seeing you during our Reunion 2020 weekend!

Respectfully yours, **Mary Jayne Gamble, A70**

"Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I've stored away, just for this time in my life."

C of E Online

There are a variety of connections online to C of E and to your alumni association. There is, of course, our website www.c-of-e.org. If you haven't visited the website and thoroughly browsed its contents, a visit will be rewarding. If you want to connect with fellow alumni, there is a Facebook page for this at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1265288483495417>.

We also have a website for this October's Emporia Reunion at www.cofereunion.wixsite.com/reunion2020. There is also a reunion e-mail at

CoffEreunion@outlook.com. You are urged to keep an eye on your e-mail as you will receive "Shout Outs" about the reunion and opportunities to vote on-line for the future officers of your association from "Presby Pete". If we don't have your current e-mail address, please send it to Les Palmer, VP/Membership at lepalmer@aol.com. Finally, if you have information that might be included in this newsletter, please e-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor at jacomb2@mac.com.



Sign erected in C of E campus area in 2018

Laura May (Lunsford) Schlobohm, A41, recently celebrated her 100th birthday at Golden Oaks Village in Stillwater, OK. She is the daughter of C of E icon, longtime C of E Food Services manager **Janie Mae Lunsford, FS**. At C of E, Laura served two years as College Life Editor. She was the first female to hold this position. At the same time, she worked part-time at the Emporia Gazette under famed editor **William Allen White, X1886**. After college she went on to a distinguished career as a high school speech teacher in Osage City, KS. During her tenure, her debate teams qualified for the state tournament ten times. She has been inducted into the Kansas State High School Activities Hall of Fame.

Ruth (Addleman) Ingold, A56, followed up the story in our previous issue of the Life Magazine photo shoot of a post-game "funeral". Apparently, the magazine chose not to run the feature on C of E because, "President Eisenhower had visited Abilene

that same week and the editors would not print two stories from the same state in the same issue." Ruth was president of the Pep Club at the time and was one of the college's liaisons with the editors at Life. She asked if the school could purchase the photos from the unused story, but her request was turned down.

David Peebler, A65, was recently honored with the Derby, KS, 2019 Mayor's Award of Excellence. The award recognizes individuals who have "contributed significantly to the Derby community." David, a professional photographer, has filmed 30 years of Derby High School football. Over the years, he has regularly shot and edited video of the freshman, junior varsity and varsity games. Peebler has also been involved in the community, serving on Derby's Park and Urban forestry Board as well as on the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center's Board of Directors.

Philip E. Swift, A38, of La Quinta, CA passed away November 22, 2019 at age 102. After graduating from C of E, where he was Editor-In-Chief of College Life, Phil taught for a couple of years and then purchased the weekly newspaper in Clarence, MO. Shortly thereafter World War II intervened, and he served his country as a US Navy aviator. Subsequently, he purchased additional weeklies, sold them and joined Scripps newspapers. In 1975 he formed his own company, Swift Newspapers, Inc. (currently Swift Communications, Inc.). The company, owner of daily and weekly newspapers in Western US continues under the ownership and management of Swift's two daughters.

Emogene (Williams) Thorne, A44, of Hutchinson, KS died April 12, 2019 at age 96. She was a TWA stewardess before marrying and settling into a role as a full-time housewife. She was active in her community. She drove for Meals on Wheels for 38 years and volunteered at the Hutchinson Public Library. A daughter and her husband predeceased her. Two daughters, nine grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren survive her.

Phyllis "Peggy" (Grimes) Wilson, X44, of Ulysses, KS died September 26, 2019 at age 97. She worked in law offices, sang in the Presbyterian Church choir and traveled the world. Her husband predeceased her.

Deborah (Cunningham) Foster, X45, of Arroyo Grande, CA died August 9, 2019 at age 96.

Wilma Delia (Locke) Watkins, A49, of Prescott, AZ died September 9, 2018 at age 96. She was a private piano teacher, church organist and professional seamstress. Her husband, **Rev. Donald W. Watkins, A49**, predeceased her. She enjoyed working with her husband in the ministry. She said her great honor was to be privileged to serve her Lord, and she felt called. Two children and a grandson survive her.

Suzanne (Carpenter) Webb, A50, of Leawood, KS passed away November 19, 2019 at age 91. Her older brother **Garrett R. Carpenter, A50**, and her husband predeceased her. Two children and four grandchildren survive her.

Helen L. (Fry) Wiens, X50, of San Luis Obispo, CA passed away March 5, 2018 at age 87. After leaving C of E, she got her degree at Kansas University. She married in California, where she remained for the rest of her life. She taught elementary school for thirty years. She was a gifted musician who taught private piano lessons and served as a church organist. Her husband, two daughters and two grandsons survive her.

Paula (Fankhauser) Painter, A52, of Evergreen, CO died June 27, 2018 at age 87. Paula and her late husband **Earl Painter, A51**, began their teaching careers in Kansas before moving to Evergreen where both taught for many years. Paula was both a high school English teacher and an elementary school teacher during her career. A grandson survives her.

Virginia "Gidge" (Wolf) Baker-Greer, A53, of

Hiawatha, KS passed away April 11, 2018 at age 86. At C of E she met her late husband of 54 years **Jack Baker, X56**, who died in 2007. Subsequently, Virginia married Dennis Greer, who survives her. Four children and three stepchildren along with their various children and grandchildren survive her.

Doris Jean (Crosby) Headley, N53, A54, of Blue Springs, MO passed away December 26, 2019 at age 88. After C of E, Doris, a RN, earned a Master's of Education degree from Central Missouri State. She taught Pediatric Nursing at two Kansas City area hospitals. Her husband, **Dr. Marvin Headley, A54**, three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive her.

Doxie (Hoover) Keller, A54, of Hutchinson, KS died November 1, 2019 at age 87. She spent many years teaching and was also a business owner. In addition, she served as the director of the Hutchinson Recreation Commission's Leisure Arts Center. Her husband and four children predeceased her. Two children survive her.

Dr. Lloyd M. "Chief" Elm, PhD, X57, of West Falls, NY passed away October 3, 2019 at age 84. He grew up on the Onondaga Reservation in New York. He went to high school at the Haskell Indian Institute in Lawrence, KS where he graduated in the top 10% of his class and distinguished himself in track, becoming the Kansas State High School Champion in the mile run. At C of E, "Chief," a member of C of E's Athletic Hall of Fame, excelled in football, basketball and track. He was co-captain of both the football and basketball teams and in track set school records in the half-mile, mile and two-mile runs. After C of E, he served in the US Marine Corps. He received his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and his master's degree and doctorate from Penn State University. He then went on to a distinguished career in education. He served at different times on the board of the National Education Association, a member of the New York Board of Regents, as a supervisor in the Office of Indian Education in the US Department of Education and as a college professor at Cornell and SUNY Buffalo State. He also served his community as Chief of the Onondaga Nation. He is survived by his wife, 7 children, 25 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren.

Virginia (Fox) Abbott, A58, of Agra, KS passed away September 27, 2018 at age 82. At C of E she was inducted into the Athena Society. After graduation she taught math. After marriage, she settled into the Abbott family farm, where she spent the rest of her life. She enjoyed being a full participant in working on the farm she shared with her late husband and family. A son, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild survive her.

Verla Jean (Hoke) Howland, A58, of Emporia passed away December 14, 2019 at age 83. An exceptional student, Verla was valedictorian of her class at C of E and

COVER: Class Events at Reunion

in touch with your class rep to assist in planning for the lunch and in finding hard-to-locate classmates. Keep in mind also that your class rep will be getting in touch with you.

Give some thought to bringing any C of E photos that you might have to your class lunch.

You might even want to bring your Alla Rah to obtain autographs and notes from those who you missed when you attended C of E. For some classes this reunion will mark a special milestone. This will be the 50th for the Class of 1970. Other special numbers include the Classes of 1955, 1960 and 1965 celebrating their 65th, 60th and 55th respectively.

Scholarship Changes

Jim Brooks, A72, Scholarship Committee Chair, indicates that the program for 2020 has changed slightly. As always, scholarships will be for one year, and each recipient shall be awarded \$2,000. However, this year there shall be four scholarships awarded.

The application process will remain unchanged. The application form and related information can be found on our website, c-of-e.org. Applicants are

urged to print out the application now in order to have accumulated all of the required information prior to the April 1, 2020 submission deadline.

Alumni association members should remember that descendants of C of E students, faculty and staff are eligible. If you have grandchildren or great-grandchildren who are high school seniors, urge them to apply for one of these scholarships.

Liberal Arts

Margaret Lindsay, A17, came to C of E in the fall of 1930 to teach Home Economics. She had an MA from the University of Chicago and experience teaching at Sterling College. Her tenure at C of E extended to 1941. During part of her time at C of E, she served as Dean of Women.

The editors of the 1933 Alla Rah had an inspired idea and asked the College President and the school's two deans to share their views on the value of a liberal arts education. Here is what Dean of Women Margaret Lindsay wrote.

"The development of a well-balanced personality and the personal and social problems of the student are as much within the scope of a Liberal Arts College as are the intellectual problems. Social education has been defined as 'that aspect of education, planned or not, in which people learn to live together.' The rooming house, the dormitory, the committee meeting, the club, the dining hall, the athletic contest

and the classroom all contribute in this process of social development. It is in such situations that an understanding of human nature is acquired and that habits of tolerance for the views of others, habits of being at ease with friends and strangers and habits of taking and sharing responsibility are cultivated.

A part of everyday living and thinking is being able to get along with people, to be useful, to lead, to follow, to dream, to dare, to imagine and invent, to love beauty, truth and goodness, to seek satisfactions which are lasting, to develop ideals which consciously make an effort to direct our lives for the best good.

A well-balanced program of activities – social, religious, recreational, athletic, musical, forensic – provide opportunities of self-expression in a desirable manner. Participation in a varied, worthwhile program is an exceedingly important factor in education and one which tends to develop poise, broaden interests and make life richer and more effective."

COVER: Red, White & You

the builders adapted to Kenyon's configuration.

Emporia bus tours are currently under discussion as possibilities for either Friday or Saturday. Options include "Scandalous Emporia" and/or "Haunted Emporia". If you favor one of these tours, you are encouraged to weigh in with your choice on the reunion e-mail CofEreunion@outlook.com. Also planned for either Friday or Saturday is an E Club meeting with some special guests and recognitions.

Alumni are also encouraged to use this e-mail address to volunteer to help out with this exciting event. Even if you don't live in or near Emporia, you can still volunteer to work in registration or the memorabilia room. Additionally, there are opportunities to pack "goodie bags" for attendees

or to set up dinner venues with decorations and treats.

Saturday will be the day for class luncheons. For many these gatherings are the highlight of the weekend. There is an article on class representatives and these class luncheons elsewhere in this issue.

Saturday evening dinner will be at the new Lyon County History Center. The large room on the third floor of this exciting new venue is elevator accessible and will feature a special museum exhibit dedicated to C of E. Here will be cocktail hour and a great dinner followed by dancing.

Plans for Sunday are still coming together, but a church service and a farewell brunch are being discussed. These will cap off what promises to be an extraordinary and memorable weekend. Plan now to attend.

Marvelous Evening

On March 29, 1968 the Student Activities Committee at C of E brought the Motown group, The Marvelettes, to Emporia's Civic Auditorium for a "standing room only" concert. For a number of C of E students in attendance, this was their first live stage show.

The Marvelettes were a pioneering group. Their 1961 release, "Please Mr. Postman", went to the top of the Top 40 charts. This song was one of the first number-one single records recorded by an all-female vocal group and the first chart-topper by a Motown recording act. The group would go on to place 10 songs in the Top 40 before disbanding.



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 or Les Palmer at lepalmer@aol.com. If you prefer, please write us at P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405.



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 _____

Sponsor's Initial _____ Sponsor'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 alumnae, or "X" for former student or non graduate. "O" here means did not attend.

Membership dues (\$15 per year per member) Number of memberships _____ Per Year _____

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

Mail to:

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

was inducted into the Athena Society. She then received a Master of Science in Education degree emphasizing music from Emporia State. Most of her 46-year teaching career was in private instruction of piano and voice. She also taught vocal music at both the elementary and high school levels. In addition, she served her church for 32 years as Music Coordinator/Choir Director. Her husband, **Clarence "Clancy" Howland, A59**, predeceased her. Two sons and five grandchildren survive her.

Dr. Gerald L. "Jerry" Karr, PhD, X58, of Emporia died December 8, 2019 at age 83. After C of E Jerry obtained his Bachelor's degree from Kansas State and both his Master's degree and his PhD from Southern Illinois University. All of his degrees were in Agricultural Economics. He taught at Central Missouri State College, University of Illinois-Urbana, Njala University College in Sierra Leone, Africa and Wilmington College, Ohio. In 1976 he returned to Kansas and farming and began a hog farm in rural Emporia. From 1981-1998, he served as a state senator, representing constituents in Lyon, Chase, Marion, Morris, Geary, Wabaunsee and Osage counties. Jerry was very active in his community, serving on numerous boards, including the C of E Alumni Association. His wife **Dr. Sharon (Studer) Karr, PhD, X59**, and one brother predeceased him. Two sisters, four brothers, including **Robert Karr, A59**, and **Mickey Karr, X61**, and two children, nine grandchildren and a great granddaughter survive him.

Duane Irwin Pickett, A58, of Fremont, CA died November 27, 2019 at age 84. He is survived by his brother **Harold Pickett, A59**, and his sister **Karen (Pickett) Short, X61**.

Shanna (Blees) Soukup, X61, of Hutchinson, KS died November 14, 2019 at age 79. Her husband, **Herbert "Herb" Soukup, A59**, same address, died December 22, 2019 at age 83. They had been married for over 60 years. Shanna worked in administrative roles at both the local high school and at Hutchinson Community College. After C of E, Herb obtained a Master's Degree from Emporia State. Most of Herb's career was with the Hutchinson school district as an educator and then in the district's business office. Herb's brother, **Allen Joe Soukup, A57**, and his sister, **Lucy (Soukup) Winberg, X52**, preceded him in death. The Soukups are survived by three children and three grandchildren.

Joseph T. Kiley, A66, of Leesburg, FL passed away December 23, 2019 at age 77. Joe was an outstanding football player at C of E. He was named All-Conference as center for all four years of his C of E career. He is in the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. Joe's career teaching English and coaching football included both high school and college. He won championships and coached future NFL star Doug Flutie. His wife, four children and four grandchildren survive him.

Luna H. Ricker, A70, of Wilder, VT died September 21, 2019 at age 71. Her 48-year career was as a high school physical education teacher and athletic trainer. She was dedicated to the school and its students, attending countless athletic events, plays, concerts and graduations. As a trainer, she cared for many students and beyond this dedication, she was active in her community, serving as an on-call EMT for the local fire department.

OBITS CONT.



College of Emporia Alumni Association
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Officers Elected

Officers have been chosen to lead our alumni association through 2020. **Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**, is our new President. Other officers are: **Roger Klein, A72**, President-Elect, **Allen Gill, A69**, Past President, **Les Palmer, A63**, Vice President for Membership, **Sue (Roberts) Nispel, A59**, Secretary and **Cecil Lane, A71**, Treasurer.

Board members elected by the association's membership to terms ending in 2022 are: **Neil Crane, A62**; **Roberta (Johnson) Crane, A67**; **Megan (Isaac) Evans, A70**; **Barbara (Brenner) Mathis, X63** and **Earl McGinn, A71**.

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