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Fall 2009

CE NEWS of E

RODNEY AND THE BLAZERS

In 1960 a five-member rock and roll group out of Coffeyville, Kansas, known as Rodney and the Blazers began touring the country. This unique group, one of rock music's first truly biracial aggregates, featured **Robert W. Scott, Jr., X58**, on saxophone. Bob was known in those days as "Sir Robert." (The nickname stems from his distant relationship to famed Scottish novelist Sir Walter Scott.)

The group's unique style included their appearance. They were named for the blazers that they always wore when they performed. Moreover, they always wore sunglasses on stage and appeared with their hair dyed silver. In the band's early days, they toured in a hearse.

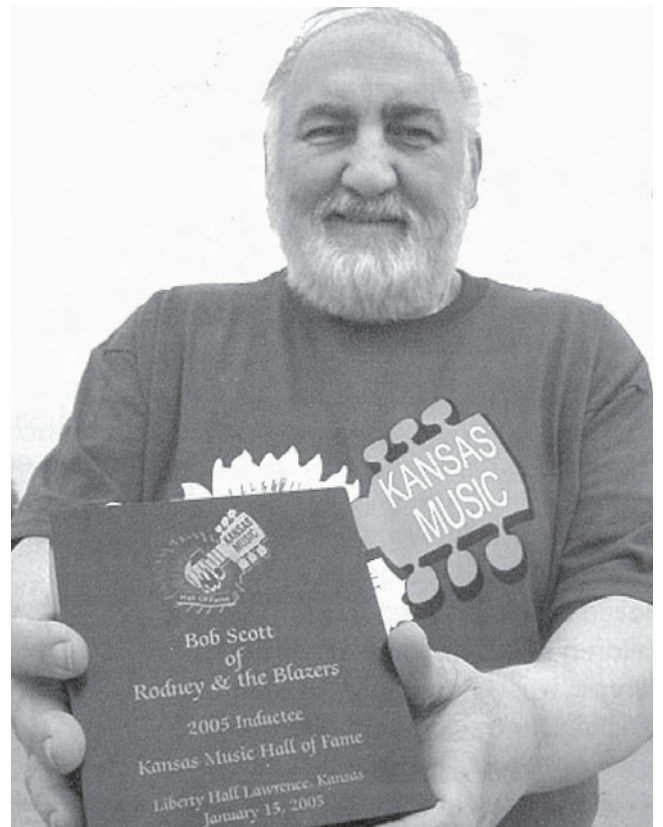
Scott's role as a saxophonist was unusual also. Typically rock and roll bands of that era did not have a saxophone.

They got their start performing at the El Rancho Opera House located between Coffeyville and Independence, KS, and in Coffeyville's Red Dog Inn. Soon they released their first single, "Teenage Cinderella." The song got a surprising amount of traction nationally despite its release on the band's own Kampus label. This tune actually reached #1 in several major markets including Phoenix, Syracuse, Fargo and Philadelphia. Unhappily, the tiny Kampus label lacked the marketing muscle to push this single into the nation's "Top Forty."

Although "Teenage Cinderella" would prove to be the group's best selling single, they had many other successes. They created and recorded an updated arrangement of the song "California Sun." Although marketing remained a challenge for the Blazers, their arrangement of this song was recorded by The Rivas, and in early 1964 it went to number 5 on the national charts.

The Blazers' heyday began in the late 1950's and ended in 1964 when the band broke up. They toured

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Bob Scott, X58,
with his Kansas Music Hall of Fame plaque.

Ramblings from President Ken Miller

Greetings College of Emporia Alumni and Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank the class of 2009 board members for their support, time and efforts over the past years. Those going off the board at the end of the current year are Sue (Roberts) Nispel, '59, Nancy (Thomson) Ebberts, '59, and Gracie (White Branstetter) Corrick, '60. Several members of the class have accepted another 3 year term; they are: Carol (Schreffler) Wilson, '63, Larry Thompson, '61, Ray Sager, '65, and Naomi (Crellin) Clifton, '51. Other newly elected board members are James White, '70, Don Schroeder, '59 and Bob Edmiston, '62. We welcome all these along with Chuck Ireland, '67 who will fill an open position in the class of 2010.

Cecil Lane, '71, treasurer, reports that our current assets are \$96,669.06 as of July 15, 2009. One year ago they were just over \$119,000. We continue to monitor the market as it pertains to our scholarship fund. Cecil is doing a great job in determining how to best manage our resources.

Roger Sager, '71, reported at our July board meeting on a study made by his task force regarding the scholarship program administered by the Alumni Association. His group determined there are three alternatives if we want to continue the scholarships beyond 2014. (1) We could fund a program that would last forever. This would require raising \$300,000 to \$500,000 to fund scholarships at the current level. (2) We could pick a future date and fund to that date. This second option might include an annuity that would fund the program until that date. (3) Combine the first two options. They recommend the first option and submitted an action plan to publicize and raise the necessary money. The board took no action but did receive the report.

I do hope all of you are making plans to attend the 2010 reunion in Kansas City. Les Palmer, '63, Nancy Ebberts and their committees are working to make this the best reunion ever.

Linda (Sadler) Myers, '62, president-elect, has been working with the Spencer family, ESU, and the Lyon County Historical Society to catalog and restore the memorabilia in those locations. Jack Mitchell, '59, is also helping with the project. We give a hearty thanks to Linda and Jack for the very time consuming task at hand.

It was with regret that the board accepted the resignation of Gwen (Kerr) Lorenz, '54, as our membership chair effective August 2010. Gwen has been a steady influence over the years for our association. She has kept meticulous records and has been responsible for editing and mailing the newsletter for many years. Gwen will be greatly missed. Thank you, Gwen; you have been our "Presby Pete"; our living symbol of the College of Emporia.

Keep Us Informed

Please send us news about yourself. We want to hear from you. You may e-mail either Gwen Lorenz, Vice-President for Membership, at cofeglorenz@hotmail.com or John Acomb, newsletter editor at jacomb2@mac.com. If you prefer, please write us at P.O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801.



50th Reunion in Colorado

By: Jean (Johnson) Gilmore, A59

Celebrating 50 years since college graduation were **Evie (Axelton) Hamrah** and **Maurine (Dolezal) Pruchnicki**, Flemington, NJ; **Jessamine (Ewert) Guislain**, Prairie Village, KS; **Ruth (Griffith) Timberlake**, Colorado Springs, CO; **Jean (Johnson) Gilmore**, Overbrook, KS; **Merna (Nagely) Roe**, Lansing, KS; **Marianne (Schertz) Stauffer**, Chipita Park, CO; **Dorothy (Switzer) Moak**, San Diego, CA; **Nancy (Thomson) Ebberts**, Kansas City, MO.

These 1959 C of E graduates met at Chipita Park, CO, June 22-26, 2009. Bob and Marianne Stauffer, along with Ruth Timberlake, hosted the group at the Stauffer's house, "Stauffer's in the Pines." They accommodated their visitors

in their home and in one of their two summer rental log cabins that they have named Pinewood Inn and Chipita Pines. (Information on "Stauffer's in the Pines" can be found at www.staufferpines.com.)

Reunion activities included: touring Air Force Academy Chapel, viewing Garden of the Gods, visiting the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center, picnicking and hiking in Mueller Park, riding the Pike's Peak Cog Railway to the top of Pike's Peak and dining at both Wines of Colorado and the Broadmoor Hotel. More importantly, there was lots of smiling, laughter, picture taking, reminiscing and "just plain fun." The group also had the opportunity to congratulate Bob and Marianne on their 49th anniversary on June 25.

Memorabilia

One of the most important functions of your alumni association is the collection and preservation of the rich history of the College of Emporia. A significant amount of this history is housed in the association's memorabilia collection.

Linda Myers and Jack Mitchell are currently taking an inventory of the hundreds of items in the collection. Plans are to preserve fragile items such as back issues of *College Life* in acid-free boxes. Trustee reports, minutes and correspondence along with various clippings, letters and files are all to be stored in acid-free page protectors, albums or boxes.

There is a wide variety of items in the collection. Yearbooks

from 1909 through 1973 are included. Eleven years are missing, however. Also in the collection are a very large number of photos. In addition, there are pennants, posters, chorale albums, books and miscellaneous college publications such as *Recuerdo*, a Quill Club publication. There are even some items produced after the college closed including a VHS cassette entitled, "C of E History from the Air" and a video of the choir's 2004 reunion performance.

There are, of course, duplicates of many items. Plans are being made to bring some of them to the 2010 Reunion to give

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Reunion To Be "Best Ever"

In the President's column elsewhere in this newsletter, Ken Miller refers to the efforts of the reunion planning committee as "working to make this the best reunion ever."

Scheduled for July 2-4, 2010, at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas, this year's event already has some unique touches planned. For example, every attendee will receive an 18-month calendar featuring pictures from the college archives and important historical dates at the college.

A highlight will be the inauguration of the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. All inductees will be recognized and honored. Special recognition of Athena Society members is also planned.

There will also be a special gathering at the event, as the Class of 1960 will gather for their 50th Reunion. Larry Taylor will be the contact person. His e-mail address is ltaylor81@kc.rr.com. Classmates are urged to send Larry their e-mail address immediately in order to be fully involved in the planning process and the search for missing classmates.

Another mini-reunion will be held for members of Mu Phi Epsilon. Ernestine (Largent) Brown will be coordinating

this event. Members planning to attend are encouraged to contact Ernestine at forbrown@teacher.com to share ideas and to volunteer to help out.

Smokestack BBQ will again cater the always-popular Friday evening Kansas City barbecue at Blue Valley West High School. Also, as always, there will be golf and tennis tournaments.

A live auction will again be a reunion highlight. Alumni association members are encouraged to consider donating items of value to be auctioned. There will also be some very interesting memorabilia items auctioned.

A memorabilia room will feature yearbooks, photos and more from every year represented by reunion attendees. Plan to spend some time in this fascinating room.

Plans are still being refined for the reunion. Those wishing to plan mini-reunions or other gatherings need to contact Les Palmer at lepalmer@aol.com to reserve space and to be included in pre-reunion publicity.

Registration forms will be available in the spring newsletter. **Please mark your calendar now for July 2, 3 and 4, 2010.**

Charles (Charlie) Severance Dodson, A38, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, died on May 11, 2009, at age 91. After his graduation from C of E, Charlie took over his family's grain elevator and lumberyard business in Kansas until joining the Army Air Force in World War II. After becoming a certified public accountant in 1955, he worked as an auditor for the IRS in Boise and Coeur d'Alene until his retirement in 1977. Children and stepchildren as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren survive him.

Donna (Haley) Richardson, X40, of Norfolk, VA, passed away August 5, 2009, at age 91. Two daughters, seven grandchildren and her brother survive her.

Charles R. Hopper, MD, A40, of Emporia, KS, died on July 16, 2009, at age 92. Dr. Hopper graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine with honors. He practiced medicine in Emporia for 35 years. During that time he delivered more than 3,000 babies. He served on the board of directors for the Lyon County Health Department and served for several years as county coroner. His time in Emporia was interrupted by service as first lieutenant and post physician for the U. S. Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. His wife of 69 years, **Wilma Nadine (Brown) Hopper, X41**, five children, one sister and seven grandchildren survive him.

Kenneth E. Briggs, X40, of Anthony, KS, passed away on June 10, 2007 at age 87. He was predeceased by two wives but is survived by 2 sons and 3 daughters.

Rev. Dr. Malcolm J. Martin, A42, of Cedar Hill, MO, passed away on December 28, 2008, at age 93. He was ordained in 1945 and served churches in Missouri during his more than 60 years of ministry. He served as moderator of his presbytery. He was a gifted musician who enjoyed singing as well as playing both guitar and harmonica. He also wrote songs. His wife, a daughter and a son survive him.

Maxine (Davidson) Booker, X44, of Overland Park, KS, passed away on August 23, 2009, at age 86. She earned a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Denver and a master's degree in English education from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She and her husband owned a home decorating business. Later in her career she also taught English literature courses through Kansas City's Metropolitan Community College System. Her husband, 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren survive her. Her twin sister, **Maurine (Davidson) Stone, A44**, died in 1984.

Ernestine (Dehlinger) Nibarger, X53, of Manhattan,

KS, died on August 15, 2009, at age 78. After receiving her degree from Kansas University, she taught physical education and coached in various school districts throughout Kansas including Wichita, Madison, Morrowville and Blue Valley. She retired in 1992 after 27 years of teaching. Her husband, Harold Nibarger, also a teacher and coach, 2 children, 4 grandchildren and a brother, **Charles Dehlinger, A56**, of Eureka, KS, survive her. A daughter, Melissa, and a sister, **Kathryn (Katy) (Dehlinger) Swedberg, A50**, preceded her in death.

Rev. Sarah (Shrewder) Tracy, A55, died at age 77 in Mishawaka, Indiana, on June 18, 2009. After graduating from C of E, Sarah did graduate work at Arizona State University and taught school in Kansas, Arizona and Idaho. After moving to Indiana, she earned a master's degree in theology from Notre Dame and was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church. She held many positions in the church. She was co-founder of St. Margaret's House, a center for women. Her husband, two sons and two grandchildren survive her.

Richard Lee DeForest, X56, of Wichita, KS, passed away at age 73 on May 28, 2009. After serving in the U. S. Coast Guard, Richard served as an officer of Intrust Bank. He then became an independent businessman owning Norgetown Laundry and Dry Cleaning. He had a beautiful singing voice and sang at many weddings and funerals for family and friends. A brother and three sisters survive him.

Hal M. Huff, X58, of West Plains, MO, passed away on January 21, 2009, at age 75. He served in the U. S. Army before completing his education and receiving a teaching degree from Emporia State. He then taught high school life sciences in Kansas and Missouri. Two daughters and five grandchildren survive him.

Lelona (Lee) Kay (Baker) Kelly, X67, of Topeka, KS, passed away at age 63 on July 29, 2009. Lee worked in Topeka as a secretary and administrative assistant as well as real estate salesperson and owner/director of Computertots of Kansas. She loved politics and served as a member of the Kansas State Democratic Committee, Democratic County Chairman of Ford County, KS, Executive Secretary of the Shawnee County Democratic Committee and as a delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention. Her husband **Michael Donald Kelly, A65**, two sons, two grandchildren and one step grandson survive her.

Randall C. Concello, A68, of Sarasota, FL, died on February 14, 2009, two days before his 64th birthday. No further information is available.

A Great Football Game

By: Jim Mathis, A61

The 1928 football season marked the first time that Kansas colleges split off into two different conferences. C of E joined the new Central Conference with Southwestern, Washburn, Ft. Hays State, Pittsburg, Wichita Univ. and Emporia KSTC. Under the leadership of Gwinn Henry and Harold Grant the Presbies had the greatest ten years in school history winning 65 games while losing only 8 with 5 ties. The 1928 team under coach Rosy Harr would add the frosting to the cake. He took the Presbies to an 8-0 season winning the new CC championship. The closest call the Presbies had that year was a 13-0 victory over Westminster (Mo.). All other games were won by at least a three-touchdown margin as the Presbies rolled up 175 points in winning the conference championship.

The last game of the season was one of the biggest ever in the history of C of E football. This game was against Emporia State and was played on Thanksgiving Day.

Emporia State was undefeated but had been tied by Southwestern. They had a 6-0-1 record and were playing for

the conference championship against the undefeated, untied and unscored upon College of Emporia team. The stage was set as both teams were undefeated, and C of E's goal line had not yet been crossed. The C of E front line was especially powerful. The team's strength was centered in the guards and tackles. Halfback Bud Selves was the leading scorer. The Hornets and Presbies the year before had played to a 0 to 0 tie before 10,000 people at E-State.

This year cold, rain and mud cut the Thanksgiving Day crowd down, but over 5,000 hardy fans were on hand to see the game. For the first time the radio gave a play-by-play description for those listening at home. The playing field was a quagmire. The slippery field afforded only poor traction and the players were covered from head to feet with mud. The C of E line play proved too much for the Hornets. The C of E team splashed and pushed to three touchdowns that clinched the victory and the conference championship.

No team ever crossed C of E's goal line the entire season and President D. C. Schaffner declared the 1928 team to be the greatest in the football history of the school. Later the C of E football field would be named for President Schaffner. The day and gate had been insured against bad weather. Each school received a check for \$4,055.56 for playing in this Thanksgiving game. At that time it was the greatest revenue ever realized for one game by either school. Eight of the 11 Presby starters won places on every all-conference team chosen in the state with Munday, Selves and McCartney winning berths on the all of the first teams.

The track at St. John High School in St. John, Kansas, is named for Keith Blide, A58. He taught and coached football and track there from 1960 to 1991. His 1975 track team won the Kansas Division 2A state championship. In 1995 he was inducted into the Kansas State High School Activities Association Sports Hall of Fame. Blide passed away in 2007.



Dr. Harry B. Herzer, III, A56, continued his education at Emporia State where he received a MS degree and his teaching certificate. He taught high school chemistry and math in Atchison and Shawnee Mission. He then went to Oklahoma State University where he taught and received his PhD. Subsequently, he moved to Washington, D. C. to work for NASA in their Educational Programs Division where he spent the rest of his career. He is now retired and living in Manteo, NC. He remains active in ChemEd, a biennial international conference for high school and college chemistry teachers. Earlier this year he made two presentations at the organization's conference at Radford University in Virginia. Harry's parents **Louise (Spencer) Herzer**

Currier, A26, and **Charles Morrison "Hoodoo" Herzer, A24**, are both C of E graduates.

Lorene (Small) Frazell, A57, is this year's recipient of the Old Settler's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her thirty year teaching career in Halstead, KS. Although she retired in 1998, Frazell is still visited by former students. She admitted to feeling personally honored by the award while at the same time expressing pleasure at seeing the teaching profession recognized.

Nancy (Thomson) Ebberts, A59, and **Larry Thompson, A61**, were married on September 5, 2009, in a small family wedding at the Parkville

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Presbyterian Church in Parkville, MO. The couple will make their home in Kansas City, MO.

Ruth (Hawk) Yoder, A65, of Muscotah, KS, writes to let us know that at a time when others are retiring, she is returning to the workforce with a flexible schedule. She is working for the U. S. Census Bureau and substitute teaching in addition to her volunteer work. She goes on to indicate that she is enjoying every minute of her varied activities.

Mary Ann (Bath) Peck, A69, of Merriam, KS, was highly interested in the story in this newsletter's last issue about the C of E football stadium moving to DeSoto, KS. She taught school in DeSoto 1969 – '79 and was there when District Superintendent Dr. Robert Morris purchased the stadium. He also purchased music stands from C of E that Mary Ann used in her music classes. She left the DeSoto district to stay at home with her 2 children and then returned to teaching in the fall of 1991 at Shawnee Mission. She retired in 2008.

Daniel R. Govinsky, A69, is President and CEO of the Gold Canyon Bank in Gold Canyon, AZ. His 37-year banking career has seen him serve as CEO of four different banks. He is also active in his community. Currently he serves on the Board of the North Eastern Pinal Economic Partnership, a regional economic development corporation. He is also Treasurer of his local Rotary Club and active in his local Chamber of Commerce.

Howard Kinitsky, A71, of Fairfax, VA, earned two master's degrees after graduating from C of E. He is now the special education transition coordinator for the Loudoun County Public Schools in Northern Virginia. He has 2 children. The older one graduated from law school last year. The other currently attends college.

Ray Owens, A74, of Emporia, KS, has retired as a teacher and coach. His most recent coaching stint was as girl's softball coach at Emporia High School. His retirement was marked by many accolades including an editorial on Emporia radio station KVOE praising his integrity as a teacher, coach and role model.

Scholarships Awarded

Six scholarships of \$2,000.00 each were awarded for the 2009–10 school year by your alumni association. Each year college scholarships are awarded to descendants of those who attended C of E or were employed by the college.

This year's recipients were a mix of graduate and undergraduate students. Two are students at Kansas State. Joel Bland, a descendent of **Belle (Gates) Grimsley, X59**, is pursuing a degree in civil engineering, and Virginia Robinson is studying interior design. Virginia is a descendent of **Wayne Granger, A13**, and **Mabel (Willis) Granger, A13**.

Isaac Twombly, a descendent of **Jim White, A70**, will attend either Drake or Baker to pursue a pre-medical curriculum. Rebecca Gotti is in graduate school pursuing a PhD in animal science at Texas Tech. She is a descendent of **Naomi (Crellin) Clifton, A51**.

The remaining two scholarship recipients are graduate students at Kansas University. Kajsja Affolter is a fourth year

medical student. She is related to **Wiley Alberg, A49**, **Rosella (Davis) Alberg, X50**, **Bob Wimmer, A53**, **Maxine (Davis) Wimmer, X53** and **Ann (Davis) Cochran, A51**. Chadron Patton is a student in the KU School of Law. He is related to **John Patton, A71**, **Judy Patton, A70**, **John C. Patton, A37**, **Margaret (Patton) Spencer, A31**, **Harold Spencer, A31**, **John Spencer, A70**, **Sharon (Spencer) Stewart, A65** and **Ruby (Patton) Butcher A70**.

Annually your alumni association's scholarship committee sifts through a number of applications. This year there were almost thirty. They take their work very seriously. Members of the committee are: **Harry Herzer, A56**, **Mary (Kurtz) Ingraham, A55**, **Carol (Schreffler) Wilson, A63**, **Larry Thompson, A61** and **Clarence "Clancy" Howland, A58**. Application forms for C of E scholarships to be awarded

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Additional Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

There have been four additional nominations to the Athletic Hall of Fame since the last edition of our newsletter. All nominees will be recognized and inducted at the C of E Alumni Association's 2010 reunion to be held in Overland Park, KS. **Nominees and their families are invited to attend the induction to be held on the morning of Saturday, July 3.**

The new nominees are:

Legacy Award – Football: **Lee "Chig" Ames** , **Ernie "Cip" Cipra** , **Bernie Hinkle**

Coaches: **L. T. "Rosy" Harr**

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 (\$10 per year per member): Number of memberships: _____ For Years _____

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

Mail to:

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

COVER: Rodney and the Blazers cont.

throughout the United States and Mexico. They traveled with Bill Haley and the Comets and Jerry Lee Lewis. They appeared in Las Vegas and at both the Seattle World's fair and the Peppermint Lounge in New York City. They still hold the record for the largest crowd ever drawn to a concert in Tulsa. 110,000 people attended that event which was held in a shopping center parking lot.

Their CD "Rodney and the Blazers, The Complete Recordings 1960 - 1964" is currently for sale through Amazon.com. (Both "Teenage Cinderella" and "California Sun" are included among the 19 re-mastered songs on this CD.)

In January 15, 2005, Rodney and the Blazers were inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony, attended by then Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius, featured a reunion concert. The reunited Blazers played eight songs and every number filled the dance floor. Scott commented, "People couldn't believe we hadn't played together for all that time." When the set concluded, Rodney and the Blazers received a standing ovation from their 21st Century audience.

Today Bob Scott is long retired from musical pursuits. A longtime resident of Tulsa, he owns a commercial interior design business, Business Furnishings Group, Inc.

Memorabilia cont.

away to attendees. Conversely, alumni who are "downsizing" are encouraged to donate C of E items to the collection.

Currently an effort is underway to consolidate the majority of the memorabilia in one location. A portion of the collection will be specially designated for display at reunions. Eventually the remaining items will be donated to the Lyon County Historical Society. Their research center director, Brenda Lavington, is working closely with Linda Myers on preservation techniques and will be at the alumni association's January Board meeting to answer questions concerning this project.

The items permanently housed in the "C of E Room" at the Sauder Center on ESU's campus will continue to remain on display. This room is open to the public, and alumni are encouraged to visit when they are in the Emporia area.

Scholarships Awarded cont.

for the 2010-11 school year are now available. While the completed applications are not due until April 1, 2010, obtaining the form early allows orderly accumulation of all required information.

To obtain the application form and instructions, go to the C of E website at www.c-of-e.org, click on the scholarship link, download and print it. If you prefer to write for an application, you may write to P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801.



College of Emporia Alumni Association
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January Board of Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the C of E Alumni Association's Board of Directors will take place on **Saturday, January 16, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in Emporia.** The meeting will be held on the former C of E campus in Vollmer Hall (the men's dorm). As always, all association members may attend.



c-of-e.org