



Vol. XXXI, No. 3
Fall 2010

C of E NEWS

SUCCESSFUL REUNION

The C of E Alumni Association's 2010 Reunion, held in Overland Park, KS, July 2 -4, was a resounding success. A total of 368 people registered for some or all of the event. Alumni from California, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Florida, Texas and many points in between were among the attendees. **Andreas Vikis, A64**, came from Canada.

There were a number of successful events. The memorabilia room held more artifacts and drew more attendance than ever before. Friday afternoon saw fair weather and a successful golf tournament. Friday

evening saw the humorous, well-told reminiscences of **Laura (Lunsford) Schlobohm, A41**, daughter of C of E icon **Janie May Lunsford**.

Former cheerleaders had several opportunities to lead the entire group in "ein, zwei, drei." Former athletes shared numerous interesting, often humorous, stories from their days at C of E as a part of the Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Inductees included 34 cheerleaders and 29 individuals in the "Legacy Awards" (1894 - 1950) category. There were 169 inductions of athletes, coaches and managers from the post-1950 era. (The actual number of individuals

cont. on pg. 7



Scott Steves, former Director of Admissions Russ Gossage and William Crosley, A54, visit at the Athletic Hall of Fame breakfast

MASCOTS THROUGH THE YEARS AT THE COLLEGE OF EMPORIA – 1911 thru 1974

By Linda Myers, '62

Since writing this history and presenting it at our reunion in July, quite a bit of new information has come my way that needs to be included. No historical article can be complete if knowledge is ignored. I want to thank Roger Klein, Chip Barger, Steve Howard, Laurie Schlobaum, and Jerry Dyche for providing the additional information to complete the story.

We all remember our beloved Presby Pete, the feisty Trojan warrior whose fierce demeanor struck fear into the hearts of all opponents. At least we liked to believe that! However, before our Pete came along, the college had several other mascots, beloved by all in their respective eras. I spent several days this past January, going through every Alla Rah housed in the Lyon Co. Archives, as well as boxes and boxes of donations to our C of E collections. What I learned was surprising, as well as a deserved wake-up call to reinforce that my era was NOT the only one to ever grace the grounds of C of E.

In 1911, the first recorded mascot was a bulldog named Pat. By 1920, Pat had been replaced by a collie named Pucky. This well-loved mascot was mourned by the entire student body when he died sometime before 1923. He is mentioned in a write up about Gwinn Henry cemetery and there was a stone over his gravesite there. I had no idea that something once living was buried along with the spirits of our opponents.

The 1923 Alla Rah depicts a bear-like creature wearing a crown and clown shoes, along with a devil's tail, but he did not last longer than two years. By 1924, our own J. Irwin Beeson and his yell-leader partner, Hall Hibbard, were in charge of another bulldog mascot – this one named "Buzz". He wore a cape with the letter "E" and was the official mascot until 1926.

During the 1940-41 school year, a Scottie dog became the official mascot of the Fighting Presbies. Due to our Presbyterian heritage being from Scotland, it was logical that a Scottish Terrier became the mascot. Laurie Schlobaum couldn't recall his name but he was present at all the games. He would be the last "canine mascot" until the '70s.

Jack Bell came to C of E in the 1940's from Yonkers, NY. He became the art editor for the Alla Rah. Jack gave us "Pete the Presbie", a likable fellow who couldn't make up his mind if he was an angel or a devil – as he wore a halo and had inherited that 1922 bear's forked tail. Pete the Presbie was seen in many formats in the Alla Rahs, with varied themes each year. In 1950, the Alla Rah was dedicated to all the "Pete the Presbys" on campus. By this time, Pete was occasionally sporting angel's wings.

In 1957, a contest was held on campus to find an official mascot. A drawing of a skunk wearing a beanie and carrying a C of E banner won the \$25.00 first prize for Jerry Dyche, but his triumph was short-lived. It was widely believed throughout the campus community that we could only bring ridicule raining down upon us at athletic events by being referred to as "polecats" and other highly descriptive names.

President Sharpe talked with Jerry and the latter agreed to withdraw his submission, but was allowed to keep his prize. A second contest was held and research began in earnest to come up with a likable, appropriate character to portray the Fighting Presbies. Jerry spent hours in the library researching gladiators and looking at pictures of knights from the Crusades. He created some drawings of warrior-like figures with the helmet, armor, shield, and sword "our Pete" wears today. Harvey Paymella was known for his cartoons and he changed Jerry's serious, warrior faces to reflect a cartoon-like character. From Harvey, the drawings went to Roger Rickard and, subsequently, his brother, Jack.

Jack Rickard's submission of Presby Pete as a Trojan warrior won this second contest and was widely accepted with enthusiasm. This Presby Pete is the one we know today.

In 1962 and 1963, Omar Jones became Presby Pete, appearing at games and pep rallies. John Spencer recalled going to the NAIA playoff game in Minneapolis, MN on his 16th birthday. Omar was along, dressed as Pete. It was so bitterly cold that

cont. on pg. 5

From Gwen Lorenz

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in any way through the twelve years I served as your Membership Vice President. After a (usually) brief correspondence with many of you, I feel a stronger connection to you. Thank you for your friendship – and for your dues payments. Please keep them coming to our new Membership Vice Presidents, Larry Thompson and Nancy Ebberts.

New Membership VP

Gwen Lorenz has retired from her position as the Alumni Association's Vice-President of Membership. **Larry Thompson, A61** and **Nancy Ebberts, A59** are now co-holders of this position. Membership renewals, dues and address changes should now be sent to Larry and Nancy at:

C of E Alumni Association

P.O. Box 14450

Kansas City, MO 64152-9998

E-mails may be sent to Larry at larthomp@sbcglobal.net

Nancy's e-mail address is nanberts@sbcglobal.net.

Local News Releases

From time to time the Alumni Association would like to get some publicity in local newspapers, particularly those in Kansas. News to be disseminated might relate to reunions, Hall of Fame inductions, the scholarship program, meetings or the scholarship fund drive.

We are asking our alumni to volunteer to take news releases to their local daily or weekly newspaper. There

will typically be only one or two releases per year. They will be prepared by the newsletter editor and either e-mailed or sent via the U. S. Postal Service to volunteers.

Those interested in helping are asked to either e-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor, at jacomb2@mac.com or write to him in care of the P. O. Box listed on this newsletter's return address.

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.

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Louise (Whitla) [Johnson, Judy] Cheatham, A33, of Scottsdale, AZ, passed away on July 4, 2010, at age 98. Prior to retirement, she was an admissions counselor for the University of California at Berkley. Her husband and a sister survive her.

Howard Mendenhall, A35, of Fowler, KS, passed away February 20, 2010, at the age of 96. He was a basketball player at C of E and was the oldest attendee at the 2007 C of E Alumni Association Reunion. He was the owner of the International Harvester dealership in Fowler for many years. He was predeceased by his wife **Mary Elizabeth (Nelson) Mendenhall, X38**. She died in 2000. His second wife, 4 children, 16 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild survive him.

Harry M. Swift, A36, of Glenview, IL, died March 4, 2010, at the age of 95. He started, owned and operated Western Evergreens Nursery in Golden, CO, for 37 years. His wife and four children, four stepchildren, 20 grandchildren and four step-grandchildren survive him.

Alice (Wells) Arms, A38, of Leawood, KS, passed away at age 101 on July 30, 2010. She was a Magna Cum Laude graduate of C of E and was listed in Who's Who of American Colleges and Universities. Alice lived a very full life. She was a nurse, a sculptor and a world traveler. Her husband **Dr. Arnold V. Arms, A34**, predeceased her. Three children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren survive her.

Mae (Bergner) Caspari, A40, of Springdale, AR, formerly of Siloam Springs, AR, passed away November 22, 2009, at age 91. A son and two grandsons survive her.

Verl Dean Anderson, X43, of Abilene, KS, died March 26, 2010, at the age of 88. He received his B.S. and M.S. in education from the University of Kansas. Verl had a distinguished career in education serving as Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Russell, KS, and then as Assistant Superintendent in Abilene. His wife and several children and stepchildren along with their families survive him.

Lois Jean (McFerrin) Athon, A46, of Prairie Village, KS, passed away August 30, 2010, at the age of 86. Lois was an accomplished church organist and was a member of the American Guild of Organists. She is the daughter of longtime C of E Physics Professor **William V. McFerrin**. Her brother **Bruce McFerrin, X53**, and a sister predeceased her. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, **Dr. Merrill Athon, X49**, four children, six grandchildren and her sister, **Maxine (McFerrin) Haggerty, A55**.

Barbara R. (Nelson) Scofield, A47, of Newton, KS, passed away on July 28, 2010, at age 85. Barbara was a 1952 graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary and she had a master's degree from Bethel College. She taught school and ended her working career as Christian education coordinator at a local church. Her husband, two sons, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive her. Her sister, **Beverly (Nelson) Holstead, A50**, died in 2006.

Harry Ray James, A51, of Kingman, AZ, died September 13, 2009, at age 82. Most of his career was as a student counselor in the Seattle, WA, school system. Three children and two grandsons survive him.

June (Elwell) Bougan, X51, of Castle Rock, CO, passed away March 10, 2010, at the age of 80. June was a lifelong school teacher (retired in 1991) who loved to sing in her church choir. She spent most of her retirement in Panama City, FL, until she had to relocate because of failing health. Two sons, three daughters and eight grandchildren survive her.

Margaret (Renshaw) Bingman, A53, of Chevy Chase, MD, died August 25, 2009, at age 78. Her husband, **Sam Bingman, A54**, died in 2005.

Donald J. Boersma, X54, of North Newton, KS, died November 14, 2008, at age 76.

William Jennings "Bill" Llewelyn, A55, of Davis, CA, died at home on June 2, 2010, at age 80. Bill's wife of 55 years, **Dorothy Anne "Dottie" (Swift) Llewelyn, A54**, passed away August 31, 2010, at age 77. Bill and Dottie lived first in Chicago while Bill attended McCormick Theological Seminary and Dottie taught junior high school English. Bill served as a Presbyterian minister in Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma. In 1982 they moved to California where Bill joined the national staff of the United Presbyterian Church in Financial Campaign Services. Dottie was often able to join him in this work. After Bill's retirement, they worked together as consultants for the Presbyterian Pension Board Retirement Seminars. Four children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and Dottie's sister, **Willa J. "Billie" (Swift) Friday, X59**, survive them.

John F. Wolfe, A62, of Springfield, MO, passed away August 28, 2009, at age 70.

Eva Ursula (Plinton) Weng, A66, of North Brunswick, NJ, passed away on June 23, 2010, at age 67. At C of E Ursula was a cheerleader and was just inducted posthumously into the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. She worked as a test developer for Educational Testing Service and the State of New Jersey. She was also active in her community having served on various boards including a stint on the Board of the National Urban League (New Jersey chapter). Her husband **W. Lauritz "Laurie" Weng, A67**, predeceased her. He died in 2001. Ursula's mother, her brother, 3 children and 3 grandchildren survive her.

Herman William "Bill" Berning III, A67, of Montauk, NY, died September 18, 2005, at the age of 61. Bill was widely known in his community for his outgoing and kind nature. He owned the local Army-Navy Store. Two sisters survive him.

Beth E. (Winslow) Graham, A68, of Great Bend, KS, died December 3, 2009, at age 63. Her entire career was devoted to teaching, mostly Special Education in Larned, KS. Her husband, **Charles R. Graham, A69**, survives her. Three sons and four grandchildren also survive her.

Stephen C. Peirsel, A71, of Hedgesville, WV, passed away May 11, 2009. He was three days short of his 64th birthday.

Big Game

During the 1933 – 1934 basketball season, the Fighting Presbies traveled to Ottawa for a heated rivalry game. The event commanded considerable attention in Kansas. Governor “Alf” Landon attended the game. The Governor found the time to attend this big game even though he was

gearing up for his successful bid for re-election in 1934 and for his unsuccessful race for the Presidency in 1936. A basket by C of E freshman Dick Lee in the waning moments of the game produced a “thrilling” 32 – 30 Presbie victory.

Scholarship Fund Drive

The major fund drive to build our scholarship fund was officially kicked off at the reunion. All alumni are being asked to contribute. A contribution form appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Also in this newsletter is

a story about the six students who are benefiting this school year from our scholarship program. Please give serious consideration to contributing. This program is our legacy.

Mascots through the years cont.

John remembered trying to restore the circulation in Omar’s legs on the train trip back. Since Pete didn’t wear any leggings, Omar was having some serious problems. Sharon Spencer Stewart wrote on the back of a photo (seen in the “Our Pete” album) “Omar died in Viet Nam”.

The 1966 Alla Rah has a color picture of a student dressed as Presby Pete, standing in a chariot pulled by several male freshmen wearing beanies. Pete Harris has been identified as the one who took on the role after Omar Jones graduated.

During the early ‘70s, Elliott Stein, of Cheltenham, PA, became Pete. He called me on June 19th and gave me some great stories about those football days. He recalled pulling a chariot onto the football field before every game and participating in the funerals after wins. Elliott mentioned another student who played Pete

before him, a “Junior Portee”. Roger Klein provided the missing name – Burnett Portee Jr.

By 1973, “College Life” had ceased production due to cost cutting and “The Daily Planet” took its place. The logo on this sheet shows Presby Pete without “C of E” on his breastplate. Instead, it says “Super Pete”. Chip Barger and Steve Howard have told me it was only used for a correlation between Superman as the reporter, Clark Kent, for “The Daily Planet”.

The Final Walk” shows a dog wearing some type of headgear, with a cheerleader named Rosie, and on the football field before a game. Our last graduate, Steve Howard, told me the dog belonged to a football and basketball player, Doug Wright, and was the unofficial mascot. I find it somehow fitting, or Twilight Zonish, that we began and ended with a dog as our mascot, whether official, or unofficial.

Mary Helen (Kummer) Wallace, A43, celebrated her 89th birthday in July. She is in good health and living in Hearne, TX.

Lois E. (Crowder) Doyal, A43, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. She was joined by seven of her eight children, one grandchild and two great-grandchildren. The celebration included 90 helium filled balloons.

Thelma (Stout) White, A52, has 2 sons, 2 grandsons and 4 grandchildren. Her husband is still farming, and she regrets not being able to attend the reunion.

Joe and Selena (Petersen) Keesecker, A65, are retired and living in Phoenix, AZ. Both acquired Masters Degrees. Joe’s were from McCormick Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago. Selena’s came from Texas Christian University. Their careers in church-related work led them to New York City,

Chicago, Colorado, New Mexico and Guatemala. Joe has had stints as Co-Director of the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Director of Ghost Ranch, NM, and Executive Director of Agricultural Missions, Inc. They have 2 children and 2 grandchildren.

Paul and Judy (Dezenzo) Aimone, A69, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in July.

Megan (Isaac) Evans, A70, retired in July from the Kansas Learning Center for Health in Halstead, KS. She worked there for 18 years, serving as Director from 1999 to 2008. During her tenure she expanded the Center’s program beyond being a health museum designed to educate visitors on healthy lifestyles. She created an outreach program that actively goes out into Kansas schools with instruction about healthy lifestyles. This outreach effort reaches about 20,000 students per year.

Scholarships Awarded

The College of Emporia Alumni Association recently awarded six scholarships of \$2,000.00 each to: Amanda Iglasias at Wheaton College, Rachel Schroeder at University of Idaho, Rachel Turner at University of North Dakota, Connor Twombly at Drake University, Chynna Walters at Emporia State University and Madeleine Wilbur at either University of North Texas or Colorado State University. All of these recipients are descendents of one or more former C of E students or staff members.

The scholarship committee chaired by Clancy Howland, A58, selects recipients from a pool of applicants. Members of this hard-working committee are: **Bill Bunyan, X61; Harry Herzer, A56; Mary (Kurtz) Ingraham, A55; Larry Thompson, A61** and **Carol (Schreffler) Wilson, A63.**

Applications for the Alumni Association scholarships are due April 1, 2011. However, those interested are urged to go now to the C of E website at www.c-of-e.org, click on the scholarship link and download the application form and the instructions. Getting this start early in the school year will assure applicants of the opportunity to gather all of the information needed for the application.

There is also a scholarship program at Sterling College that is entirely separate from the Alumni Association's scholarship program. It is open only to Sterling students who are descendents of C of E students or staff. The amount awarded to each student varies from year to year. Recipients for this school year are Emily Conrade, Scott McCauley and Jessica Schooley.

Election

Seven newly elected C of E Alumni Association Board members were announced at the recent reunion. The group was elected to three-year terms. They are: **Roger Sager, A71; Chuck Ireland, A67; John Patton, A71; John Keliher, A69; Bill Linhart, A68; Art Campbell, A70** and **John Acomb, X64.**

Recognition

The Athletic Hall of Fame induction at the recent reunion was a huge success. Many inductees attended and were honored. (Editor's Note: **Inductee Dave Peebler, A65**, filmed a small portion of the induction event. It can be seen on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4Svncaji5E>)

Any inductee who was unable to attend the reunion should e-mail John Howland at howl@windstream.net. An induction certificate and a booklet listing all inductees, each with a brief biography, will be sent.

Directories Available

Reunion directories featuring photos and addresses of the attendees, tributes to former Alumni Association Board members and many photos from the reunion were available for \$10.00 to all who registered for the reunion. A few remain. Those who wish to obtain a directory while a few are still available should send a check for \$10.00 to Jean Gilmore at 5360 E. 189th St., Overbrook, KS 66524. Make your check out to Jean.



Ken Miller, A60, studies a piece of hand-made silver jewelry donated for auction by Louise (Romero) Trujillo, A60, and her husband Meliton



Dallas Kirby, X64, dressed as Presby Pete to the delight of all who attended the reunion. Here he shares a moment of hilarity with Pete's creator, Jack Rickard, A57

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 14450, Kansas City, MO 46152-9998

COVER: Successful Reunion

inducted in the latter group is less due to some individuals being honored in more than one sport or category.)

Several classes held mini-reunions within the larger reunion. Every class reunion was successful.

Everyone enjoyed the Saturday evening auction conducted by the inimitable **Dallas Kirby, X64**. Also part of the evening was recognition of members of the Athena Society by **Jean (Johnson) Gilmore, A59**. Thirteen society members were present and recognized. Professional musicians Kristi Mitchell and Cary Mock provided entertainment that evening. Kristi is the daughter of the late **Jack Mitchell, A59**, and **Maxine (White) Mitchell, A54**. **Linda (Sadler) Myers, X62**, delivered a tribute to Jack Mitchell. From 1963 until the college closed, Jack served C of E as assistant mathematics professor, dean of men, dean of students, vice president for internal affairs and registrar.

The Sunday morning worship service featured great music with many C of E alumni participating in the choir. Barry and Jeannette (**Murray) Roberts, A67**, provided direction and accompaniment for the musical portion of the service. **Rev. George W. Anderson, A54** delivered the sermon.

All who attended enjoyed the event. **Bill Bunyan, X61**, spoke of the "great spirit and loyalty" demonstrated by the attendees. **Harry Herzer, A56**, wrote, "It was great seeing classmates that I hadn't seen in 50+ years as well as those I manage to see more often." **Gary Monnard, A67**, wrote of spending "time with **Dan, A66**, and **Roberta (Jean) Hudson, A65**. Dan was my roommate in a basement apartment at 1015 Chestnut, and I was best man at their wedding. Hadn't seen them for over 30 years!"



Russ and Ruth (Thompson) Skorburg, A55, study two of the many scrapbooks found in the Memorabilia Room



Steve Muck, A58, and Herman Rathman, X64, visit at the Athletic Hall of Fame breakfast



College of Emporia Alumni Association
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Plan Ahead

Les Palmer, chair of the successful 2010 Alumni Association Reunion, has agreed to chair the next Kansas City reunion in 2013.

An East Coast alumni reunion in 2012 is also planned. The location is tentatively set in Baltimore. Ray and Roger Sager are in charge of arrangements for this gathering. Alumni are urged to plan to attend both events. Watch your newsletter for additional information. Since relatively few alumni from the Northeast are regularly involved with C of E Alumni Association activities, a regional reunion committee must be established "from scratch." The committee will begin work immediately to finalize the date and location for this East Coast Reunion.

Ray Sager stated, "In order to make this reunion a memorable event, we need volunteers. We were fortunate in 1998 to get an exceptional group of dedicated alumni to work on the Baltimore Reunion. That reunion committee was responsible for the success of that reunion. We need the same dedicated support for the 2012 Reunion."

To volunteer, please contact Ray at rsager6@verizon.net or Roger at rpsager@warwick.net.

Ideas Needed

Ron Roberts, A56, has proposed that one of the themes of the 2013 Kansas City reunion be recognition of non-athletic achievement at C of E. The Board has supported this proposal. Now ideas are being sought as to various ways that this recognition can be accomplished. A committee is being formed to evaluate ideas and to facilitate the necessary research. Those having ideas and those who are willing to help the committee are urged to e-mail Ron at rroberts@lakeozark.net.

c-of-e.org