



Vol. XLIV, No. 1
Spring 2023

C of E NEWS

MANAGING MEMORABILIA

Linda (Sadler) Myers, X62, your alumni association's Historian, reported some planned ongoing changes in the way our excellent C of E memorabilia collection is managed. We intend to initiate a process that will ultimately move all of the important pieces to the Lyon County History Center. Currently, most of our collection is stored in Kenyon Heights.

As is the case with every historical society, the Lyon County entity cannot allow unlimited quantities of items to simply be transferred. Permitting this would soon overwhelm the organization with more "stuff" than it could possibly catalogue, store and display.

So, the plan is to move everything to the History Center. Staff will then go through all of our items to determine what will go into the permanent collection. The remainder will be returned to us. We can determine what to do with the returned items after assessing them.

Discussion is underway about what happens after the transfer process is complete. The goal is for the alumni association to continue to have access to the C of E materials. Consequently, we would continue to biannually change out the displays in Kenyon Heights and the Sauder Center, using materials borrowed from the History Center. Eventually, after the dissolution of your alumni association, responsibility for these changeouts would shift to the History Center. If we wish, we could use this same process to borrow items for a memorabilia room at a future reunion outside of Emporia. Future reunions in Emporia will most likely include a special display in the History Center.

We will continue to solicit donations of memorabilia, which we will then pass along to the History Center. Those doing research about C of E will be able to make arrangements with the History Center. It will be an advantage to researchers to have all of the C of E items accessible and in one location.

This process is just getting underway. A completion date has not been set.

Past President's Report

By: John Acomb, X64

Writing at the close of my year as alumni association president, I'm delighted by the level of activity within your alumni association. First and foremost, after two one-year postponements, we held our reunion, and it was an excellent event. We would have liked to see more attendees, but all who came enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

During 2022, we have built new ties with the Emporia Community Foundation and strengthened our bond with the Lyon County History Society. At the reunion, we greeted alumni who had never before attended a reunion. We added money to our scholarship fund, which helped to smooth out the bumps stemming from

the national economy's challenges.

Your board continues to explore long term plans for our scholarship program and memorabilia. Stay tuned as we embark on a discussion about the possibility of a future reunion in a state where we have never before gathered.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term as your president, and I thank every one of you for your continued support, interest and activity. Your membership renewals, scholarship contributions, reunion attendance, work on various committees and service on the board are all very much appreciated. It's been a great year.

Scholarship Committee

By: Jim Brooks, A72

The scholarship committee will be gearing up for another year of reviewing and processing applications for the College of Emporia scholarship program. Last year, 2022, saw the largest number of applicants in recent years. With 20 students applying for the award, the task was difficult, but rewarding.

Over the years that the College of Emporia Scholarship program has existed, over 200 students have received the award. Currently, the amount is \$2,000 for a school year. This is considered a generous amount by some as compared to smaller amounts awarded by other programs. One of the application requirements is for a student to write an anecdote about the relative that they know who attended C of E. Many of these stories are very interesting. They reveal how much influence the alumni have on our younger generation. They have shared their experiences, and to their grandchildren and other relatives these stories prove to be very enlightening.

The major issue that is now facing the committee is how this program will continue into the future. Currently, the funds available for awards are slightly north of \$60,000. Each year, 4 winners are selected, which would equate to just over 7 years of funds. There are donations to the fund each year, and participants at the reunions have made some generous donations, however, the total of all these donations do not set the college up for a sustainable period of time. One of the lasting purposes of the Alumni Association is to maintain the practice of providing scholarships.

At the July 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors, a presentation was made by the Emporia Community Fund's (ECF) Director, Becky Nurnberg. They are an organization whose purpose is to support organizations

in Emporia by establishing investments and endowment funds that will help preserve the legacies of the Emporia area. As the number of members of the Alumni Association is slowly diminishing, so are those that are willing to manage the scholarship process. The goal is to maintain a fund that lives beyond the lives of all C of E alumni. The Emporia Community Fund would be an ideal organization for our association to pass the baton to and let them manage the funding and selection of scholarship winners.

At the last meeting of the Scholarship committee everyone was in agreement that utilizing the ECF would be beneficial, and an effort needs to be made to move in that direction. The ECF would also aid the Alumni Association with raising new money to keep the candle burning. The remaining C of E alumni need to be contacted to see how interested they would be in making a bequest in their will for benefit of the scholarship fund. Should the fund grow to \$160,000, a 5% annual return would yield the \$8,000 for awards every year forever.

Consider your involvement with your Alumni Association Board and the scholarship program. C of E can continue to fight, but we need more support!

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 Cynthia Huisman at mrsdavidh@gmail.com.



Successful Reunion

The October 14-16 “Red White & You 2020+2” reunion was a great success. The weekend actually kicked off early with a Thursday evening open house at the home of **Jim and Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**. Early arrivals relaxed, visited and enjoyed an array of appetizers in the Gambles’ very nice home.

Registration was opened on Friday at the renovated Anderson Library. Also featured at the library was an excellent selection of C of E merchandise put together and brought to the site by **Carolyn (Cruikshank) Day, A60**.

Friday evening opened at the Lyon County History Center and an opportunity for reunion attendees to view the brand-new C of E exhibit, which included items archived and never previously displayed at any reunions. One display was dedicated to the legendary football rivalry between the Fighting Presbies and the Kansas State Teachers College (now Emporia State University) Hornets. Our group then moved to a different floor in the History Center for an excellent dinner, a report on our scholarship program and another opportunity for classmates to visit.

Saturday was busy. The day kicked off with the E-club gathering, which featured **Elaine (Osterloh) Schnebel, A64**, widow of legendary coach **Bill Schnebel, FF**. This was followed by a Class of 1959 picnic at The Orchard, a popular

fruit farm and store located just outside of Emporia and owned by **Bob Karr, A59**. Other alumni went to the lakefront home of **Jim Rasinsky, A71**, on scenic Lake Kahola. Jim is justifiably proud of his skills with the grill. Alumni and their spouses were treated to two briskets, one grilled Texas style and the other Kansas City style. There was also grilled chicken and grilled pork tenderloins, complimented by baked beans, potato salad, pies and more.

Saturday afternoon was free time other than rehearsal for members of the choir set to sing at the Sunday church service. The alumni banquet took place that evening at the Sauder Alumni Center on the Emporia State campus. After an excellent meal, scholarship winner Ashley Atkinson personally thanked the alumni for her scholarship and Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented. The winner of the striking C of E quilt was scholarship winner Ashley Atkinson. A quilt runner was also raffled, and the winner was **Maxine Mitchell, A54**.

Sunday morning began with an excellent church service conducted by **Joe & Selena Keesecker, A65**. This was followed by a farewell brunch at the Gufler Mansion which turned out to be a perfect ending for a great reunion.



At the October reunion, members of the E-Club are pictured here with **Elaine (Osterloh) Schnebel, A64**, widow of successful C of E Coach Bill Schnebel. E-Club members in photo are left to right: **Paul James, A61, Jim Mathis, A61, Mike Stalcup, A61, Ken Miller, A60, Jerry Baker, A61** and **Rex Crane, A67**.



The Class of 1959 gathered at Bob Karr’s Apple Orchard just outside of Emporia for a class luncheon at the October reunion. Pictured left to right are: **Dr. Harriet (Adamson) Wilkins, Jack Gilmore, Ron Higgins, Jean (Johnson) Gilmore, Julia Hudson, Sue (Roberts) Nispel, Belle (Gates) Grimsley, Nancy (Thomson) Ebberts, Ruth (Griffiths) Timberlake, Bob Karr** and **Merna (Nagely) Roe**.

Novella E. (Lodle) Merry, X44, of Olpe, KS passed away January 6, 2023, at age 99. She served for many years as the Olpe Community News Reporter for the Emporia Gazette. She was active in a number of community and church organizations. Her husband, three of her children and brothers **Elwood Lodle, A40**, and **Robert Lodle, A48**, predeceased her.

Portia (Anderson) Allbert, X49, of Hoyt, KS died January 18, 2020, at age 92. She graduated from Emporia State with a degree in library science. She also studied organ performance. Most of her career was at the Kansas State Historical Library, where she served for many years as director. In addition to her library career, she played organ at a number of churches in Topeka. Her husband and two sisters predeceased her.

Robert “Bob” H. Rogers, A49, of Newburgh, IN passed away May 30, 2020, at age 94. Before his enrollment at C of E, he served in the US Navy in World War II. Subsequent to his graduation from C of E, Bob earned a master’s degree at Indiana University. He then embarked on a 60-year career as a high school teacher. His wife and son survive him. He was predeceased by a daughter.

Laura Louise (Clark) Rongish, X50, of Wichita died August 21, 2022, at age 93. She was a teacher in several schools in various Kansas communities. She and her husband, **John “Jack” Rongish, X51**, who predeceased her, lived most of their married lives in Wichita. She is survived by three sons, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A son predeceased her.

Richard Paul “Rich” Wright, A61, of O’Fallon, MO passed away April 15, 2022, at age 82. After graduation from C of E, Bob served three years in the US Army and earned a master’s degree from the University of Illinois and a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Missouri. He worked for many years in medical research and spent the latter part of his career as a high school science and

chemistry teacher. Three sons survive him.

Ralph “Leigh” Johnson, A62, of Leavenworth, KS passed away September 11, 2022, at age 82. His 25-year career in education was in the Leavenworth School District where he served as Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. He is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

William R. “Bill” Veitch, A64, of Boulder, CO died August 15, 2022, at age 79. After C of E, he enlisted in the US Navy. He attended Officer Candidate School and ultimately served three tours in Southeast Asia. After his military service, Bill earned a master’s degree and PhD from Kansas State University. Subsequently, he spent the next thirty years of his life as an administrator in testing and research for public school districts in Michigan and Colorado. He is survived by his former wife, two children and six grandchildren.

Lawrence “Larry” Rubin, X66, of Narberth and Wynnewood, PA passed away April 28, 2022, at age 81. He received his BA degree in Political Science from Temple University. He began his career with the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. From there, his public relations career took him to the Philadelphia Police Department. Subsequently, he was named Vice-President of Public Relations for the Spectrum, which hosted sports, concerts, Ice Capades, circuses and more. He then became Vice-President of a major public relations firm and eventually the owner of his own public relations firm. He was inducted into the Philadelphia Public Relations Association Hall of Fame. Active in his community, he served for ten years as a Narberth city councilman. His wife, two children and two grandchildren survive him.

Fred J. Veltri, PhD, A67, of Tucson, AZ passed away February 19, 2022, at age 77. After C of E, he earned his PhD from Indiana State University. He then embarked on a career in mental health, which concluded

Missed Opportunity

Vernon Louis Parrington, X1893, was one of C of E's most outstanding students. Previous editions of this newsletter have noted his selection to the Athena Society, the Athletic Hall of Fame and a Lifetime Achievement Award. We have also chronicled his athletic exploits and his outstanding coaching career at both C of E and the University of Oklahoma. Most importantly, we have noted his literary career, which culminated with a Pulitzer Prize in history in 1928.

When Parrington was 6 years old, his father gave up a flourishing law practice to purchase a farm near Americus, KS. The family then moved to Emporia, which led Vernon to C of E. He left to

attend Harvard to wrap up his bachelor's degree and to earn a master's degree. We have learned that he hated his time at Harvard and apparently had no love for the institution.

After Harvard, he returned to C of E for a four-year stint teaching and coaching. At that time, with his father in danger of losing the family farm, Parrington asked C of E for a raise. It was not granted. Consequently, he moved on to the University of Oklahoma, where he taught English and coached football. Unhappily, C of E had missed out on an opportunity to keep a future nationally known writer and Pulitzer Prize winner on its faculty.

Meandering With Judy

Judy Rinker, A55, has completed her second book, entitled *Meandering Between the Raindrops*. In a series of vignettes, she tells interesting and amusing tales of her travels throughout the world, beginning with a visit to San Francisco during the summer after her freshman year at C of E.

Her book follows her travel adventures all over the world. Through the lens of Judy's early experiences, we see the world as it was fifty or more years ago. She has visited places that would be difficult or impossible to visit today, such as Afghanistan and Iran.

Also very interesting were her visits to seven Olympics, including the tragedy marred Munich Olympics in 1972, when eleven members of Israel's

Olympic team were massacred by Palestinian terrorists. She describes the dark cloud that was cast over what should have been a joyful event.

The 1988 Seoul Olympics were a contrast. Judy and her traveling companion were hosted by **Kwi Ock Moon, A56**, one of a number of Korean students who attended C of E over the years. Kwi Ock introduced Judy to acupuncture, got them seats in the Korean section at the Olympics and enabled 17 days of action and enjoyment.

While few, if any, of us have traveled to every continent and to so many parts of the globe, we have an opportunity to meander with Judy through the pages of this recommended book, available through Amazon and other fine booksellers.

Joseph T. Chen, A53, after leaving C of E earned a MA and a PhD from the University of California at Berkley, where he subsequently served as head librarian at their Center for Chinese Studies. He then accepted a position as a Professor of History on the faculty of the University of California Northridge where he worked until his retirement in 2001.

Catherine "Katy" (Choguill) Goldsmith, A56, after leaving C of E earned a master's degree from the University of New Mexico and a PhD from the University of Tennessee. She recently

recalled that her parents had enrolled in C of E, where they met each other, as freshmen 100 years ago. Her father, **Orlo Choguill, A26**, was a part of the C of E debate team that won the prestigious national debate tournament.

Cecil "Skeeter" Claytor, X76, is currently residing in Oklahoma City, OK, where he serves as an Air Traffic Control Instructor. Previously he spent 29 years working as a controller, supervisor and manager in three New York City metropolitan airports.

Change

At its regularly scheduled meeting January 21, 2023, the board decided to end its practice of holding January meetings. Adverse weather conditions, which can make travel difficult, were cited as the principal reason for change. So, the biannual board meetings are changed from January

and July to April and October.

Consequently, the next meeting of your board is now scheduled to take place at 10:00 a.m. on October 7 in Emporia at the Sauder Alumni Center on the Emporia State campus. Please note that alumni are always invited to attend board meetings.

Scholarship Awarded

Jim Brooks, A72, Chair of your alumni association's scholarship committee, has announced the four winners of \$2,000 scholarships for the current school year. These winners were selected from a group of 20 applicants.

Scholarships were awarded to: Julia McMillan, University of North Carolina; Abigail Steward, Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine; Ashley Atkinson, Pittsburg State University and Matthew Mandel, William & Mary.

Note that scholarships may be awarded to underclassmen or graduate students. Note also that

scholarships can be awarded to those attending two-year community colleges or accredited technical colleges. Those eligible include descendants of those who attended or were employed by the College of Emporia.

All C of E alumni are urged to make your grandchildren or great-grandchildren aware of this opportunity to continue their post-secondary education. Deadline for the school year beginning this fall is April 1. Applications and relevant information can be found on the C of E Alumni Association website c-of-e.org.

with his years of private practice in Tucson. He is survived by his wife, stepson and two grandchildren.

Dr. Betsey (Courter) Corby, A68, of Salisbury, MD passed away July 3, 2022. After C of E, she earned her master's degree from Niagara University and her PhD from the University of Buffalo. She then worked for many years in the Grants Department of Salisbury University. Two children, three grandchildren and her sister, **Susan (Courter) Obletz, A68**, survive her. Her ex-husband, **Robert Corby, A68**, predeceased her in 2020.

Deborah Ann Germond, A68, of Little Silver, NJ died August 29, 2013, at age 67. She worked for many years at the Monmouth Medical Center in the Central Sterile Supply Department. Two brothers survive her.

Ruby L. (Patton) Butcher, A70, of Emporia passed away November 30, 2022, at age 76.

After leaving C of E, she earned a master's degree from Emporia State. She then taught school in several small Kansas communities before spending 25 years teaching at Lowther Middle School in Emporia. Two stepdaughters, her sister **Judith M. Patton, A70**, and her brother **Dr. John C. Patton, A71**, survive her. She was predeceased by her mother and her father, **Dr. John C. Patton, A37**. An uncle, **Chester Patton, X39**, and an aunt, **Margaret (Patton) Spencer, A31**, also predeceased her.

John G. Schmidt, A73, of Emporia died September 20, 2022, at age 74. He was employed as a corrections officer at the Topeka Correctional Facility where he attained the rank of Sergeant. His wife, three children and five grandchildren survive him.

A Different Kind of Day

Jack Rickard, A57, has written a different kind of book, titled *A Different Kind of Day*. Jack combines his talents as poet and artist to create a book of rhymes, each with its own illustration. Each poem is unique. Some look at personalities, and others look at our world. With Jack's permission, I'll share my favorite poem from the book which, I believe, reflects the world that we live in today. It is titled "Up Is Down."

*I saw a man with his hat on backwards
or was it his head that was turned around?
You can never be sure in this camouflaged town
Where what is up is sometimes down.*

*Where people go to the movies to see
Somebody else who they would rather be.
They love walks in the forest but cut down the trees.
They shout save the whales and pour oil in the sea.*

*They judge each other with suspicion and hate,
And do violence to others at an alarming rate.
This world is a reflection of their inner distress.
Their current condition is a terrible mess.*

*Being responsible is a thing of the past.
They have answers for everything but nothing that lasts.*

*They speak of concern for the whole human race.
How are things going in your little place?*

There is food for thought here. More can be found if you read the entire book. It's recommended and available at fine booksellers.

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



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Voting Numbers are Up

119 votes were cast in your alumni association's most recent board of directors' election. Numbers of votes were much smaller when all voting was done by mail. The availability of electronic voting has increased participation.

Directors elected were **Kent Craft, A68, Megan (Isaac) Evans, A70, Barbara (Brenner) Mathis, X63, Earl McGinn, A71** and **Earl Visser, X61**. They will each serve a three-year term. Officers taking office this year include President, **Joanna (Mutschler) Brooks, A71**, President-Elect, **Earl McGinn, A71**, VP/Membership, **Cynthia Huisman, X73**, Secretary, Natalie Senecal and Treasurer, **Cecil Lane, A71**.

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