

Vol. XLIII, No. 1  
Spring 2022

# C of E NEWS

## SAVE THE DATE

The extraordinary C of E Alumni Association reunion in Emporia, twice postponed because of COVID concerns, will happen this year. Mark the dates of October 14 – 16 on your calendar right now. There is an incredible amount of pent-up alumni enthusiasm waiting to be released in October. You won't want to miss what promises to be a memorable and fulfilling gathering. Registration forms will be available in the next edition of this newsletter.

Consider an early arrival on Thursday, October 13, and being a part of the informal reunion launch at the evening open house at the home of Jim and **Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**. Local alumni and early arrivals will be welcome at 1127 Rural Street in the heart of Emporia.

Early arrival will allow alumni golfers to be ready for the Friday morning golf outing. Details are still being arranged for this event, but participants always enjoy themselves.

Another opportunity first available on Thursday evening will be an opportunity to see the C of E quilt being raffled at this reunion. Last year's quilt, made by Marcia Craft, was stunning. There was a full color photograph of this masterpiece on our C of E website. A number of raffle tickets were sold in advance of the postponed reunion, and the raffle was held. Now a brand-new C of E quilt is under construction and another raffle will be held. As was the case last year, proceeds will benefit the scholarship fund. Raffle information will appear in the next issue of this newsletter.

Registration opens on Friday in the renovated Anderson Memorial Library. Alumni registering will get their gift bags and IDs needed for admission to reunion events, as well as having opportunities to make a dome visit, find local information, view C of E Quilt II, buy raffle tickets and meet with friends at "Pete's Parlor." Registration will also be available at the library on Saturday.

Friday evening will find everyone gathered at the Lyon County History Center for a casual evening of visiting. This event will mark the opening night of the "College of Emporia Exhibition" in the History Center's Preston Gallery. A Fiesta Buffet, catered by Casa Ramos and a cash bar will be a part of the evening's festivities.

Saturday morning will feature an E Club meeting and a "Scandalous Emporia" bus tour. Afterwards, lunch time will offer several options, including picnics and BBQ's. One is planned for Lake Kahola, another at an Emporia home and the Class of '59 is planning a lunch for a location yet to be announced. Other classes may, if they wish, plan their own gatherings. Please note that lunch costs, if any, are not included in your registration package.

Dinner Saturday evening will be at Emporia's beautifully renovated Granada Theatre. Dinner and a cash bar will be catered with excellent food from Radius Brewing Company. The Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented, and alumni are urged to be prepared to dance.

Sunday morning will wrap up at Emporia State's Sauder Center with a 10:00 am Sunday Worship Service, followed by a farewell buffet. This will bring to a close what promises to be a special weekend. You won't want to miss this reunion.

## President's Column

It's 2022 and this time it really looks like we are going to hold a reunion. Plan now to attend. An incredible number of opportunities to reunite with friends and classmates have been bottled up as we have twice postponed our reunions due to COVID. I predict that this October we shall joyfully reunite. Registration forms shall appear in the next issue of this newsletter.

To set your mood for attendance at the reunion, I invite you to take a thorough leisurely tour of your alumni association's website [www.c-of-e.org](http://www.c-of-e.org). There you will find new material, enhanced graphics and information that you may have previously passed over. You will find alumni association newsletters dating back to 2006 as well as the entire listing of those inducted into the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame and the Athena Society. Every recipient of the alumni association's Lifetime Achievement Award is chronicled on the website and a photographic history of our campus can also be found. It's certainly not surprising that visitors from all over the world find their way to our website on a continuing basis.

For me personally, 2022 should be an adventure. I once stated that there was no way that I could simultaneously serve our alumni association as President and newsletter editor. Well, here we are, and I'm doing both jobs. Moreover, I have some plans for innovation. In the next issue of the newsletter, I'm going to introduce a comprehensive member survey, with responses possible electronically or via US Mail. We want to know your expectations from your alumni association. The best organizations feature a two-way dialogue between its officers and its members.

Finally, I want to ask each of you to look at the article elsewhere in this newsletter headlined ***Emergency – Help Wanted!*** We have an immediate need for a VP/Membership. Note that you don't need to live anywhere near Emporia to do this job, but some familiarity with computers is needed.

We are on our way together to an exciting 2022.

**John Acomb, X64**

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## Past President's Letter

It's somewhat humorous to me that a few years ago I wrote my "final" letter as outgoing president of The College of Emporia's Alumni Association. Little did I know that I would be serving another term four years later. But I do remember the one single outstanding feature of both terms--the incredible dedication of the board members. I'm not going to mention all of them right now, but among those that stand out are Clancy Howland, of blessed memory, who so wonderfully chaired the scholarship committee for many years, Sue Nispel, our perennial secretary, John Acomb, our new president who so professionally and diligently publishes our newsletters, Linda Myers, who has so efficiently handled the difficult job of categorizing all of our memorabilia, Mary Jane Gamble, who served as president and is currently (for the third time!) as reunion chairperson and Jim and Joanna Brooks, who have served in several critical posts including Jim serving two terms as president and now as the scholarship chairman. There are many others, too, and I'll miss someone if I try to name everyone. I do want to single out Les Palmer, who has served many years as

membership chairman while battling several physical challenges and only now is turning over the reins of that critically important responsibility. Thank you all!

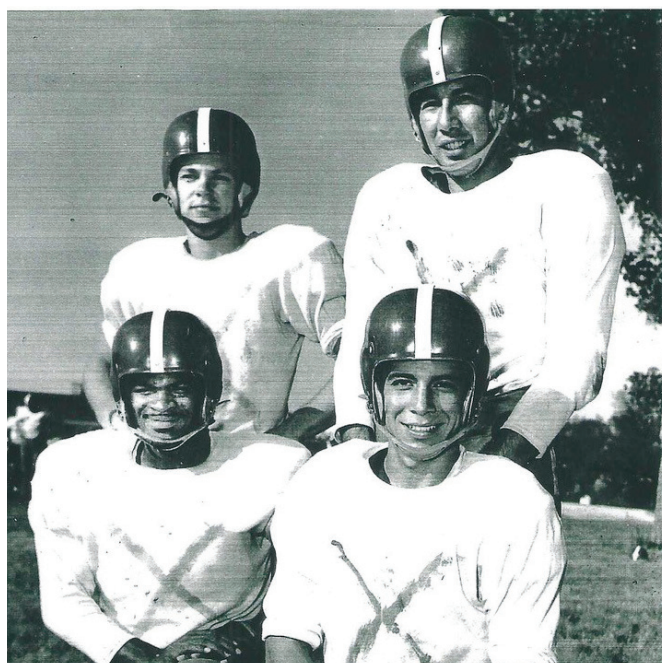
Although we're all aware that the association cannot last forever as neither can we all, at this point, it is still thriving and the reunion in October promises to be great once again (heck, we've had three years to plan it!)

However, our scholarship funds will be our ongoing legacy and we will be making a push to raise additional funds this year so that we can get to a point where we can continue to provide scholarships ad infinitum using only the interest earned without touching the principal. So please consider making a substantial contribution (I realize that's a relative term) to the C. of E. Scholarship Fund and those of you that can, please consider making it part of your estate plan including the fund as a charitable gift at death.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your president once again but I could not have done so without the support of such a dedicated board. Thank you all! C of E Fights!

**Roger Klein, A72**

## All American Backfield



Remember the “All-American” backfield of 1955? Quarterbacking was Joe Ortiz from Kingman, Kansas (Spanish and Mexican descent). Halfbacks were Willie Gaines from Lawton, Oklahoma (black American), and Jack Rickard from Kingman, Kansas (Caucasian English). The fullback was Lloyd Elm from Nedrow, New York (Onondaga Native American). At that time it was assumed that no other backfield at any college in the nation could show such a diversified heritage.

## Skippping Between the Raindrops A Book Review

**Judy Rinker, A55**, has written her first book, titled *Skippping Between the Raindrops*. In it she shares her memories of people and events that were a part of growing up in WaKeeney, Kansas. The time period covered in this ranges from early childhood to just before her departure for her freshman year at C of E. It consists of a series of vignettes about farming, family, friends and the process of growing up. The reader learns about Judy’s typically positive attitude that helped her navigate a sometime rambunctious childhood.

Farms in WaKeeney were generally large wheat farms where the land stretched unbroken all the way to the far horizon. In the book, Judy refers

to her “love and affection for the vast prairies of Western Kansas.” She worked hard on the farm. She began operating the tractor at age 11. In high school, she developed into an excellent athlete. In her senior year, she only lost one tennis match. (Ed. Note: At C of E Judy was President of W.R.A., the Women’s Recreation Association.)

A bonus section of the book contains recipes gleaned from various individuals that were a part of Judy’s early life. A couple of the more exotic recipes were “Chocolate Beet Cake” and “Burnt Sugar Cake.”

The title of the book refers to the author’s “Cinderella life” as she traveled all over the world, met and became friends with many interesting people and found joy while “skippping between the raindrops.” Judy expects to continue the accounts of her life in future books. Watch for them.

This book is recommended. It is available from Amazon and other fine booksellers.

### Keep Us Informed

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





**Robert P. Foster, A47**, of Prescott, AZ passed away in January 2022 at age 97. Bob's time at C of E was interrupted when he served in combat in WWII. After the war, he returned to C of E. He then moved to Southern California where he obtained a law degree from the University of Southern California. He went to work for Walt Disney in 1956. He put together the 27,000-acre land purchase that became Disney World. Years later, Bob was honored as a Disney legend. His wife and one son predeceased him. He is survived by four children and nine grandchildren.

**Janis (Irving) Bosch, A52**, of Council Grove, KS passed away in January 2022 at age 91. She was a high school home economics teacher who also was a Red Cross swimming instructor. She was active in her community and her church. She served on the board of the C of E Alumni Association. Her husband, **Paul Bosch, A52**, predeceased her. She is survived by four children, ten grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

**Elizabeth "Libby" (Pretzer) Smithe, X53**, of Wahiawa, HI passed away in September 2021 at age 89. At C of E, she met and married her husband **William Smithe, X52**, who predeceased her. After they married, they transferred to Emporia State. After graduation they moved to Hawaii, where they remained. She was a painter who was widely involved in her community, often in leadership positions. She is survived by five children, seven grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

**Richard B. "Rich" Freeman, A59, FF**, of Garden Grove, CA passed away in October 2021 at age 84. At C of E Rich earned twelve letters in the three sports of basketball, tennis and track. An All-Conference guard in basketball, he has been inducted into the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. After graduation he coached basketball at Americus High School, winning a state championship. He then served on the C of E faculty as a physical education instructor and assistant basketball coach, while at the same time earning a master's degree at Emporia State. In 1965 Rich moved his successful coaching career to California, where he taught and coached until retirement. He also played basketball successfully in Senior Olympics and indulged his passion for music with custom tapes and CD's that he made for friends and family each Christmas. He is survived by his wife **Joyce (Maechtlen) Freeman, X60**, 4 children and 11 grandchildren.

**Vessie (Ware) Nichols, A61**, of Broken Arrow, OK passed away in October 2021 at age 82. At C of E Vessie was elected Homecoming Queen in 1960. After graduation she taught elementary school in Chicago. Later she taught in Kansas and Oklahoma. She is survived by her husband **Art Nichols, A61**, 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**Sylvia (Mullen) Tohill, A62**, of Reedsport, OR passed away in December 2021 at age 81. At C of E Sylvia married **Joe Ortiz, A60**. They had three children who survive her. Sylvia taught English in high schools and went on to obtain a MA in Creative Writing from Kansas

State. She then taught at Marymount College where she was named "Teacher of the Year." Subsequently, she divorced, remarried and moved to Oregon where she continued to teach at the community college and led writing workshops in various communities in the area.

**Janet (Doxtator) Keyes, X64**, of Pasadena, CA passed away in January 2022 at age 79. Upon leaving C of E, she moved to California where she obtained a BA in English and an MA in Victorian Literature from UCLA. She worked for many years as a paralegal at Pacific Power and Light. Her interests extended to travel throughout the world, serving as an ESL instructor and serving on the board of the Textiles Museum Associates of Southern California. Her husband, brother **Richard Doxtator, A58**, and brother-in-law **Harvey Harriman, X57**, predeceased her. She is survived by sister **Ellen (Doxtator) Harriman, X65**, and three other siblings.

**Herman O. Rathman, X64**, of Leavenworth, KS passed away in December 2021 at age 80. An extraordinary athlete, Herman was the only athlete inducted into the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame in the post-1950 era who was recognized for excelling in three sports. His exploits in football, basketball and baseball were legendary. He ultimately played professional baseball for the Baltimore Orioles until a knee injury cut his career short. He then worked for the Leavenworth Federal penitentiary until retirement. Herman's wife, three sons and a granddaughter survive him.

**James L. "Jim" Switzer, X64**, of Wichita, KS passed away in January 2022 at age 79. Jim was an inductee into the C of E Athletic Hall of Fame. A fullback on the football team, he set the national NAIA single season scoring record with 168 points. Subsequent to his time at C of E, he served in the US Army in Vietnam. He then had a plumbing business until his retirement. His wife, his brother **Dick Switzer, A64**, three sons and five grandchildren survive him.

**Alan G. Bosomworth, A68**, of White City, KS died in August 2021 at age 76. After graduation from C of E, Alan earned a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Kansas State. He worked for the Nevada Department of Agriculture, serving as a supervisor of the state's animal disease laboratories and as state veterinarian until he retired and moved back to Kansas.

**Edward J. Little, A68**, of Palm Bay, FL died in 2021 at age 75. Edward was associated with the Mel Fisher treasure hunters, who found the Atocha Spanish Galleon, recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records for being the most valuable shipwreck to be recovered.

**William G. "Bill" Tolliver, FF**, of Christopher, IL passed away in December 2021 at age 84. Bill came to C of E to teach in the Speech and Drama Department in the fall of 1970. He remained on the faculty until the school closed in 1974. After the school closed Bill wrote several published fiction books and worked as a policeman. He was predeceased by his wife, **Linda (Fulks) Tolliver, A73**.

## Controversial College President

**Henry Coe Culbertson, FF**, served as President of the College of Emporia from 1907 – 1917. A Cincinnati native, he started as a lawyer, educated at Columbia University Law School. However, he decided early in his career to change his profession to the Presbyterian ministry, which led to church assignments in Illinois and then Kansas. After five successful years at the First Presbyterian Church in Iola, Kansas, he was named as C of E President.

He was described as “a 35-year-old human dynamo,” who rarely drove his carriage to school as he could walk faster. During his tenure, he made many changes, both large and small. He began the practice of bringing in outside commencement speakers. Jane Addams of Hull House in Chicago was the first. The *Alla Rah* became a regular annual publication. Mason Gymnasium and Emporia Hall were built and paid for. The college received full accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. The Athena Society was organized in 1910. The music Department thrived under the leadership of Daniel Hirschler, hired in 1914.

Disaster struck during the Culbertson presidency on December 2, 1915, when Stuart Hall burned. However, under the leadership of Culbertson and **William Allen White, X1886**, vigorous fundraising for building the Stuart Hall replacement began immediately. Cost for the new building was estimated at \$100,000 and insurance on the destroyed building was only \$32,000. Nevertheless, rapid success in raising the needed money seemed assured.

Unhappily, fundraising was derailed by a contingent of the college’s trustees who accused Culbertson of mismanagement of college funds and of “unchristian behavior.” The issue centered on the fact that Culbertson, arguably the best president in C of E’s entire history, was seen

in public with a woman who was not his wife, whom this group of trustees believed to be a “loose woman.” At the time, William Allen White observed “that he would rather have Mr. Culbertson with many loose women than anyone else as president of the College of Emporia.”

With advice from White and other supporters, “Culbertson kept silent for nearly six months. Finally, he opened his counterattack at the Board of Trustees meeting held May 31, 1916, when he presented his annual address to the ... Board. In that address he related how he had taken only half of his salary for several years and had personally paid for many college expenses, yet the enrollment had grown substantially during his years as president from 91 students to 257.” The trustees exonerated him, but this action failed to satisfy some local Presbyterians and, after a “trial” held in church, Culbertson was sent a letter of admonition.

It should be noted here that Mrs. Culbertson stood by her husband throughout this ordeal. The Culbertsons were, however, destined to soon leave Emporia and move to Washington, DC, where Culbertson became Secretary of the US Food Administration, a federal agency set up to control the production, distribution and conservation of food during World War I. Subsequently, he became president of Ripon College in Wisconsin. Later he served as minister at two churches which were Congregational, not Presbyterian. He also authored two books of a religious nature; *Evolution Helps Christianity* and *Songs of the 12 Apostles*. He died at age 58 in 1933 and is buried in Cincinnati’s Spring Grove Cemetery.



## Getting It Right



An obituary item in the previous issue of this newsletter noted the passing of **Sharon Wiles, A72**. Inadvertently, I confused some of her information with that of **Sherrie (Rawls) Bean, A71**, who got in touch. She assures us that she is alive, well and living the good life in Colorado with her husband **Michael A Bean, A72**. We apologize for any confusion that our mistake may have caused. *Note Sherrie is at the right in the photo to the left. She is seen here with Mike and their daughter at a 1920's themed wedding reception.*

## Mini-Reunions



While we were unable to gather for our postponed Emporia reunion, two small groups of alumni gathered in late 2021 for mini-reunions. They are pictured here. Captions are as follows. For the bottom photo: Gathering in Kansas were standing l-r: **Sue (Roberts) Nispel, A59**, **Jean (Johnson) Gilmore, A59** and **Merna (Nagely) Roe, A59**. seated l-r: **Jessamine (Ewert) Guislain, A59**, **Brenda (Catlin) Taylor, X62**, **Nancy (Thomson) Ebberts, A59** and **Harriet (Adamson) Wilkins, A59**.

Caption for the left photo is:

Gathering in Pennsylvania were l-r: **Barry Yelenik, A65**, and his wife Margret, **Patty (Wagner) King, X70**, **Mimi Maseloff, A70**, **Barbara Bonsangue, A70**, **Raoul Nolan, A71**, **Bill Standish, A70**, **Jim and Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**, **Jim King, A70**, **Dennis Pecoraro, A66** and **Frank Resola, A72**.



## Emergency – Help Wanted

Incredibly dedicated **Les Palmer, A63**, has served for many years as your association's VP/Membership. He has retired for health reasons, and a permanent replacement needs to be found.

Simply stated, this position is the heart of your alumni association. Here is the ongoing record of membership renewals, address changes, new members, scholarship contributions and deceased members.

Mail sent to the association's mailbox in Emporia is forwarded to the VP/Membership. Checks enclosed are, of course, forwarded to the association's

Treasurer. The VP/Membership does not need to live anywhere near Emporia.

What is needed is some familiarity with computers. Currently, membership records are kept using a program called Access. There has been some talk of changing to Excel spreadsheets. Your association can engage professional help to assist with the transition to a new VP and, if needed, the move to a different operating system.

This is an immediate urgent need at the core of our operation. Can you step up?

## Scholarships To Be Awarded

Once again in 2022, your alumni association will award four \$2,000 scholarships to deserving descendants of C of E students, faculty or staff. Deadline for submitting applications is April 1. Applications and directions for submission can be found at the alumni association website [www.c-of-e.org](http://www.c-of-e.org). It is suggested that efforts to accumulate all of the information required for submission begin

now in order to assure a complete and compelling application.

It should also be noted that separately funded scholarships are available at Sterling College and Emporia State University. Details as to eligibility and other requirements may be learned by directly contacting either or both of these institutions.

## 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



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

Return Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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## Raccoons in the Corn – A Book Review

**Jerilynn (Jones) Henrikson, A65**, has written several books. The book being reviewed here, *Raccoons in the Corn*, is an excellently illustrated children's book with a tale about sharing and families, both human and raccoon.

It revolves around a Kansas farmer who was inordinately proud of his sweet corn crops. He was, however, "stingy with his corn," which he guarded with a brightly dressed scarecrow. He certainly had no interest in sharing his bounty with raccoons. The strategies of the farmer and the animals move the story along. In the end, the farmer "learned to share" and the farmer's wife designed a quilt commemorating the raccoons' incursion into the sweet corn.

This book is available from Amazon and is recommended for ages 8 to 10 years. Actually, as a "read together out loud story" this recommended book should engage children younger than age 8.

**c-of-e.org**

