



ALUMNI NEWS

THE 1997 ALUMNI BANQUET

The 105th annual Alumni Banquet and Meeting of the Sandy Creek High and Central School will be held on Friday, June 27, 1997 at the River Valley Inn. Appetizers will be available at 6:30. A roast beef and baked ham buffet will be served at 7 P.M. at a cost of \$13.00 per person (this includes meal, drink, gratuity and Alumni expenses). Prepaid reservations should be returned to the secretary no later than June 20, 1997.

We will be honoring the Classes of 1922, 1937, 1947, 1972 as well as the present graduating class.

We will be looking forward to an evening of Alumni fellowship and reminiscences.

SANDY CREEK HIGH AND CENTRAL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Honorary President-Helen LaShomb Clark, '47
President-Roxanne Janacek Ferguson, '72
Vice-President-Dan McDougal, '73
Recording Secretary-Laura Weaver, '83
Corresponding Secretary-Mary Laveck Hicks, '68
Treasurer-Susan Crandall, '67
Executive Chairwoman-Sue Bitz, '70
Chairwoman A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund-Peggy Potish Manchester, '70
Historian-Margaret Hollis Kastler, '51
Executive Secretary-Nancy Potish Ridgeway, '63



Official Address

Sandy Creek Central School District
P.O. Box 248, Salisbury Street
Sandy Creek, NY 13145
ATTN: ALUMNI

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 7

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Address Correction Requested*

A. ELMO COLE MEMORIAL FUND



A. ELMO COLE

Year after year you, the Alumni, hear us talking about the Cole Memorial Fund - perhaps the lack of funds or the fact that a student has asked for our help. Just who was A. Elmo Cole and what about this scholarship fund? If you graduated after the fifties, you might not know about either. We're going to enlighten you.

This year's history column will salute the memory of one whose name will be forever associated with the development of the Sandy Creek Schools. For 25 eventful years A. Elmo Cole served as our principal-but he was far more than that. He was teacher, leader, advisor and friend.

When in 1927 he came here as Principal he was 29 years of age and with only a few years of teaching experience following his graduation from Syracuse University. He quickly proved his ability as a school man and won the respect and affection not only of the student body, but of the parents and townspeople.

Two major building programs stand as a visible monument of his leadership in school matters. First was the new high school building erected in 1929 and then 20 years later the present addition and reconstruction, including the Orwell Grade School. These enlargements were made to meet the needs arising from centralization of the school district in 1942.

These building programs along with construction of adequate playground and recreational facilities were very close to his heart, and the desire to see them through to completion was a strong factor in his refusal to consider repeated offers from larger school systems. Finishing the job he had started meant more to him than immediate financial return.

He found time to live much in his comparatively brief span of life. During vacation periods when he was not busy supervising the construction programs, he completed his work for advanced degrees at the University of Michigan and the University of Maine. He was active in the various professional educational organizations and also in his church and in his fraternal affiliations. He was a wheel-horse in the County Boy Scout Council and proudly wore the Silver Beaver of Boy Scouting. He brought honor both to himself and to this area by

his succession through the Chairs of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masonry culminating in the position of Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons of New York State.

These were things which made up the public part of his record and which will be remembered with pride. More important, however, were the lasting impressions and sound ideals he inculcated in the 725 graduates of this school who received their diplomas in the quarter century of his principalship.

Most have their own special memories of the help they received from "Prof" Cole-perhaps discipline when the occasion called for it; a kindly and understanding word when encouragement was needed; thoughtful help in vocational guidance-and not infrequently a bit of financial help for worthy students to continue their college work. These were the real monuments he left.

An unanimous decision at the meeting of the Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association gave the Association the privilege of sponsoring the A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund, to be set up as a revolving student-loan.

It was then planned to have all contributions deposited in a trust fund at the First National Bank of Lacona, today it is Cayuga Savings Bank. Loans would be made to worthy graduates of S.C.C.S. who might need some financial help to complete their college work. It was the intention that interest on the loans not start until the student is out of school. It was intended that these be truly "character loans." In this way the fund would "revolve."

With the start of the A. Elmo Cole Memorial Loan Fund, it was decided by the committee to keep the repayment schedule of these loans low so that all alumni members could repay them. The payment plan was set up as a promissory note payable at \$25.00 per month and becoming due, six months after leaving school. Now a student borrowing \$500 per year for a four year college would end owning \$2000.00 (no interest is added as long as payments occur on time and continue), at \$25 per month it would take this student six and a half years to pay back. That means from the date of the first loan, it would be eleven years before this account was repaid in full. That brings us to the problem that we now have — deleted funds. Rising college costs have put a much greater demand on this fund for loans, unfortunately in the past some students have failed to repay at all, some have filed bankruptcy and some are not yet due. In the future, this committee has decided that a student's loan or loans will become due at the same time. In the above example, then, that student would have to pay \$100 per month beginning six months after leaving school. This will shorten the time of the payments considerably.

We, also, would like to ask each of you to make a contribution. We will gladly accept memorial donations or honorary donations. How about making a donation in memory of or in honor of that favorite teacher or school employee? Acknowledgment cards will be sent. How about making a donation so that some future SCCS alumni member can have the same opportunity to go and pursue a career??? Donations should be made out to: A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund, c/o Peggy Manchester, PO Box 98, Lacona, NY 13083.

Minutes of the 1996 Alumni Meeting

The 104th annual Banquet of the Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association was held at the River Valley Inn in Mannsville, NY on Friday June 21, 1996. Chef /owner David Haynes ('83) served a steer roast, baked chicken, and lasagna buffet to 190 members and guests.

The business meeting was opened by President John Shelmidine ('71) with the invocation being given by George Rudd ('71).

Laura Weaver ('83) read the minutes of the previous banquet and thanked out-going secretary Brian Killam ('75) for his nineteen years of service to the Alumni Association.

The treasurer's report was given by Sue Crandall ('67). As of June 21, 1996 the balance on hand was \$5,791.14 with this year's banquet expenses and transfers to the Cole Fund yet to be settled.

Peggy Potish Manchester ('70) reported for the A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund. The Association Fund had \$1,400.65. Two alumni had paid their loans in full; four alumni continue to repay \$2,900.00 and two names had been turned over to a collection agency.

Margaret Hollis Kastler ('51) conducted the election of officers. The secretary cast the unanimous ballot for the members of the following slate: Honorary President Helen LaShomb Clark ('47); President Roxanne Janacek Ferguson ('72); Vice-President Dan McDougal ('73); Recording Secretary Laura Weaver ('83); Corresponding Secretary Mary Laveck Hicks ('68); Treasurer Sue Crandall ('67); Executive Chairwoman Sue Bitz ('70); Historian Margaret Hollis Kastler ('51); Chair of A.Elmo Cole Memorial Fund Peggy Potish Manchester ('70); and Executive Secretary Nancy Potish Ridgeway ('63).

Jon Van Eyk, Superintendent, thanked the Association for the invitation to speak. In his remarks, Mr. Van Eyk spoke about Mrs. Rawlings ('16) and her colleagues' dedication to the teaching profession. He also spoke about the growth of the number of sports teams at the school, giving credit to retiring Athletic Director Roy Hunt. It was noted that like Mrs. Rawlings, Roy had made a difference in many students' lives during his career at SCCS.

Richard Gilbert, retired SCCS elementary principal, spoke, thanking the class of 1974 for inviting him. Mr. Gilbert remembered coming to SCCS in 1960 and Mrs. Rawlings telling him the secret to her success: check the chairs; never eat the kids' projects and teach the children something every day. Mr. Gilbert recalled the time he took the class of 1971 on a field trip to the lake and he fell in. He concluded that SCCS has a school and a community committed to success.

John Shelmidine ('71) then presented Mr. Gilbert with a copy of the class of '71's yearbook revisited and a video. He also presented Mr. Gilbert with a plaque from the school board and the community.

Mary Laveck Hicks ('68) conducted the roll of the classes. The earliest class represented was that of 1916, Mable Rawlings. This was greeted with a standing ovation. Also 1921-Josie Hedger and Mabel Carnrite; 1922-Gladys Archer and Ellen Corse Potter from 1923; and Eva Randall Yerdon from 1925 and Bertha Stevenson Archer class of 1929.

There were sixteen members of the class of 1946; eighteen members from the class of 1971 and three members from the graduating class of 1996.

The Historian's report was given by Margaret Hollis Kastler ('51) who began with a moment of silent prayer observed for the deceased.

Margaret spoke about the early girls sports teams or lack thereof at SCCS and the present day success of the girls programs.

Margaret honored the following teachers and guests as John Shelmidine ('71) presented them with flowers: Mrs. Aileen Crichton; Mrs. John Hollis; Isabel Ballou ('32); Bertha Archer ('29); Eva Yerdon ('25); Gladys Archer ('23); Ellen Potter Corse ('23), Mabel Carnrite ('22), who was attending her 72nd Alumni Banquet; Josie Hedger ('21) and Mable Rawlings ('16).

Dr. Edwin Presley ('46) responded for the class of 1946 who were welcomed by Judy Clerkin Gerry ('71). Dr. Presley reminisced that six members of their class of thirty five were now deceased. In 1946, Alaska became a state and the United Nations was begun. The life expectancy was sixty three and the minimum wage was \$.75 per hour. Dr. Presley thanked Irene Wilder Fuller and Mildred Noble Kersey ('46) for organizing their reunion.

Marcia Freeman Brewer ('71) welcomed her twenty five year class. She remembered the late Bruce Archibee. Also that hot pants and bell bottoms were the fashion of the day and AIDES was a diet caramel, not a disease. She ended by saying good friendships don't die they just go dormant.

Jeff Soule ('71) responded for his class. He shared memories of how important his education at SCCS was. He also recalled how he and his cousin Julie Soule ('71) had his grandmother, Perdita Soule for a teacher. How beautiful Miss Carnrite's handwriting was and when you got to seventh grade you finally got to go upstairs in the school.

Jeff also thanked class advisors Barb Newton and Roy Hunt, who were in attendance, for their advice.

President John Shelmidine ('71) also thanked Mrs. Newton and Mr. Hunt and presented them with a class video and their yearbook revisited. John also presented Mr. Hunt with a plaque from the SCCS staff and friends on his retirement.

Linda Stock Wart ('71) welcomed her son's class, the graduating class of 1996. Matt Wart ('96) responded, mentioning some of the similarities between his class and his mother's, singling out the Wrestlers in 1971 and the Girls Softball in 1996.

Julie Soule ('71) welcomed the 40, 15, 10 and 5 year classes. She also thanked John Shelmidine and George Rudd for their hard work in planning the reunion.

Executive Secretary Nancy Potish Ridgeway ('63) briefly discussed the state of the association. We sent out 2,486 newsletters and to please keep sending us the new 911 addresses. She thanked John Shelmidine for all his hard work. She also spoke briefly about Roy Hunt and how through his teaching of sportsmanship he brought out the best in the youths he taught.

Following a benediction by George Rudd ('71) the meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. Weaver ('83)



**MABLE
LAURILLA
AUSTIN
RAWLINGS**

We are sorry to inform you that Mable Austin Rawlings, Class of 1916 passed away on January 13, 1997, leaving behind one son, Richard, class of 1947; daughter-in-

law Florence Cook Rawlings, class of 1948; a sister Lois Reed; a niece Joyce Chrisman Essom; two grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and thousands of Sandy Creek Alumni. Another sister, Ildra Rawlings, Class of 1917, passed away May 18, 1997.

We will remember her fondly from 7th and 8th grade math class and dressing as the "Witch" at Halloween. She began teaching in 1917 in the Ellisburg area and started with the Sandy Creek School System in 1930, retiring 40 years later in 1970 at the age of 72.

Her family has graciously asked that memorial gifts be sent to the Alumni Association.

Her absence at our 1997 Banquet will affect us one and all.

Mary Laveck Hicks ('68)
240 Miller Road
Lacona, NY 13083-3144

Attending the banquet:

Name(s) _____ Yr.(s) Graduated _____

Name(s) _____ Yr.(s) Graduated _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Dinner Reservations for _____ (x\$13.00) _____

Cole Memorial Fund Donation _____

History Fund Donation _____

Alumni Association Donation _____

**SANDY CREEK HIGH & CENTRAL SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT
JUNE 29, 1996 to APRIL 18, 1997**

RECEIPTS:

Balance of hand:	\$6544.83
Donations and Postage Refund	82.76
Donations in Mable Rawlings Memory	220.00
1996 Interest	39.75
1997 Interest	7.92

Total Receipts: \$6895.26

EXPENSES:

Dinners, RVI	\$1956.15
Printing, Letters, Envelopes & Programs	633.00
Postage	500.00
Cole Memorial Transfer	480.00
History Fund Transfer	277.00
Flowers	29.12

Total Expenses: \$3875.27

Balance on Hand April 18, 1997 \$3019.99

DO YOU REMEMBER? When you didn't have to rent a tuxedo to attend the Prom...there was a Junior-Senior Banquet and the Class Will and Prophecy were read...there was 8th Grade Graduation on Friday night, Baccalaureate on Sunday night and High School Graduation on Monday night...Miss Dobbie watched while the girls showered...Mrs. DeLong's ping pong paddle...when the boys had to take off their hats at the door because Mr. Bond made them...classes at the BPE...the "temporary" modulars...when there were no girl athletics...Mr. Sornborger blushed through the chapters on reproduction...Mr. Stagnitti's explanation of ASSUME...the Seniors selling candy and the Juniors selling ice cream during the noon hour.

**A. ELMO COLE
MEMORIAL FUND**

The balance on hand at the 1996 Alumni banquet was \$1400.65. Alumni contributions this year totaled \$440.00. Three members of the Alumni Association continue to make their regular monthly payments on their loans. The balance on these three loans is \$2200.00. Three new alumni members requested and received new loans in the amount of \$1850.00. With the rising college costs, we have felt the need to increase the amount of our loans. Each loan is based on an individual basis and depends on the college and the students ability to repay. We, again, are asking for your help. If you can make a donation to this fund, it would be greatly appreciated. Please take time to read the story of Prof Cole in this newsletter. Thanks in advance for your continued support.