



S.C.H. & C.S.  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION

# ALUMNI NEWS

## *The 1992 Alumni Banquet*

The 100th annual Alumni Banquet and Meeting of the Sandy Creek High and Central School will be held on Friday, June 26, 1992 at the River Valley Inn. A steamship round of beef buffet will be served at 7:00 P.M. at a cost of \$12.00 per person (this includes meal, drink, gratuity and operational expenses). Prepaid reservations should be returned to the secretary no later than June 19, 1992. Any problems experienced in past years have been addressed.

We will be honoring the classes of 1917, 1942, 1967 as well as the present graduating class. We also wish to locate former teachers. If you have addresses, please include them with your reply.

This year's banquet, our 100th, promises to be an event to remember.

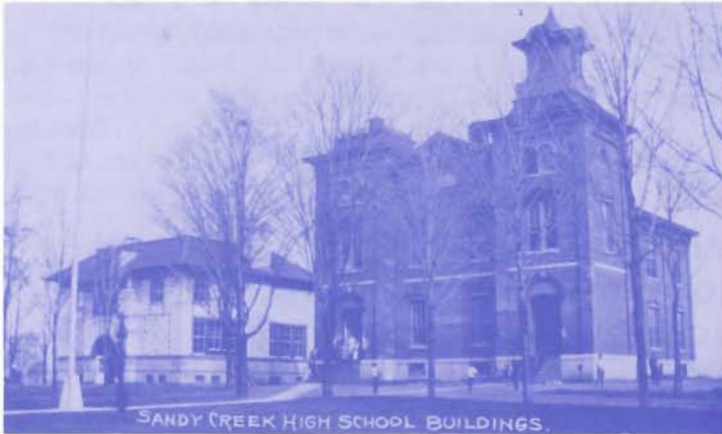


### ***Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association***

Honorary President - Ella Jane Ridgeway Chrisman, '42  
President - Sandra Guyette Hughs, '67  
Vice President - Rhonda McDougal Barron, '68  
Recording Secretary - Brian Killam, '75  
Corresponding Secretary - Betty Bachar McDougall, '52  
Treasurer - Sandra Guyette Hughs, '67  
Executive Chairwoman - Sue Bitz, '70  
Chairman: A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund -  
Peggy Potish Manchester, '70  
Historian - Margaret Hollis Kastler, '51  
Executive Secretary - Nancy Potish Ridgeway, '63

*Address Correction Requested*

# History of S.C.H.&C.S.



1913 and 1872

In 1803, William Skinner and Stephen Lindsey were the first white men to settle in the area which became the Town of Sandy Creek. The Town was incorporated on March 24, 1825.

In 1807, a log schoolhouse was built near Lacona. Mamrie Harding had taught some pupils in her father's home (on today's Orwell Road) the previous winter. By 1835 there were thirteen common school districts in the town, each one officially numbered, but also known by the name of a prominent neighborhood family. Teachers were usually paid \$1.00 per week and "boarded around" with the families of the district.

In 1871, the voters of Districts 9 and 10 (Lacona and Sandy Creek Villages), agreed to combine into a Union Free School District and to build and support a high school. It was sited on three and three-fourths acres of land, on what became Salisbury Street, and donated by Oren R. Earl, who also gave \$200 to clear the land. The school was two stories high with basement, fronted by two square towers.

In 1878, the first high school class graduated. A Teachers Training class was organized in 1885. By 1913, a second building was erected as a high school, located just west of the original building, which became the grade school, allowing the closing of the East and West Primaries (Grade Schools). Between 1928 and 1929, the first two buildings were torn down and the central (high school) portion of the present school complex was erected. Additions were constructed in 1951, 1963 and 1975.

The very first Sandy Creek High School graduating class held ceremonies Friday evening, June 21, 1878 at the Congregational Church (Masonic Temple, 1992) with five members. Graduation evolved into a week-long event with Baccalaureate, Class Night, Prom, Senior Picnic, Graduation and the Alumni Banquet. Most graduation exercises were held in the Methodist Church until 1930 when the new auditorium was first used.

The idea of flower presentation was carried out with the Class of 1888, composed of William F. Canough and LeRoy F. Hollis. They selected Julia Widrig (Wart) and Florent Tiff (Hollis) as their flower girls. The next class to follow this custom was the Class of 1905, with smaller children selected for the honor of delivering gifts and flowers to the graduates. At first, the custom was not followed continuously, but for many, many years there has been no break in this colorful tradition.

The spade ceremony was begun in 1891 by Alton Wardell (Class of 1891), presenting the spade to Roscoe Sargent of the Class of 1892.



1929

The Alumni Association was not formed until the summer of 1892 when a meeting was held at the home of Minnie Bulkley Robbins, where it was decided to hold a picnic at "Twice Told" hotel at Mexico Point, at which time a permanent organization was perfected.

*"The object of this association shall be to promote the interests of our Alma Mater and to secure to ourselves the advantages of a united organization . . . The annual banquet shall be held during commencement week of the Sandy Creek High School at such time and place as the Ex-Com (Executive Committee) may deem proper."*

The Class of 1930 members were the first to wear caps and gowns which were made of grey gaberdine and were extremely hot. The first to wear the blue and white caps and gowns were the members of the Class of 1940. The school motto, "Carpe Diem," (Seize the Day!), which is carved above the front entrance, was selected by the Class of 1930.

The first school bus was a GMC purchased in 1932. Bill Reid, Sr. was the driver, traveling to Orwell, Vorea, The Corners and the Goodnough District to pick up high school pupils. The High School bought a second bus in 1935 and Tracy Killam was the driver, adding the Lake area to the routes. Buses were first housed in Bill Reid's garage and later in the Fred Austin garage, both in Lacona. Frank Snyder was the first mechanic hired and was also a driver. The District now has a fleet of 31 vehicles including four vans and five cars.

In the new (1929) school, the homemaking girls heated soup and made sandwiches for some students. Most students brought their own lunches.

In 1942, the residents of the various school districts in the Towns of Boylston, Orwell, Redfield and Sandy Creek, and those in shared or joint districts in the Towns of Ellisburg, Osceola and Williamstown, voted to form a centralized school district, at the behest of the New York State Education Department.

The cafeteria program was implemented during the 1941-42 school year, with a cooking staff hired who worked under the direction of the late Mrs. Pearl Slater. The first cafeteria was located in the basement, about where the Girl's locker room is now.

The present graduating class has eighty members and the exercises will be held on the front lawn of the school, Saturday afternoon, June 27, 1992.

# Minutes of the 1991 Alumni Meeting

The 99th annual banquet of the Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association was held Friday evening, June 21, 1991 at the River Valley Inn in Mannsville, New York.

Following an invocation offered by Georgia Edgar Perkins ('66) 237 members and guests sat down to a family style meal prepared by Chef David Haynes ('83).

The business meeting was opened by Stanley R. Miller ('66) who was Toast Master for the evening.

The roll of the classes was called by Betty Bachar McDougall ('52). There were 15 members of the 50 year class, 35 members of the 25 year class and 2 members of the class of 1991. Also present were Mable Rawlings of the Class of 1916, Josie Hedger of the Class of '21, Mabel Carnrite of the Class of '22, Ellen Corse Potter and Gladys Archer of the Class of '23, Kathryn Hamer Widrig and Eva Yerdon of the Class of '25, Ila Smith Chanley of the Class of '26, and Irene McDougal Noaks of the Class of 1930. Betty thanked everyone for their help during the year.

The minutes of the 98th annual banquet were read by Brian Killam ('75), Recording Secretary.

In the absence of Sandra Guyette Hughs ('67), who suffered an injury the day of the banquet, the Treasurer's Report was unavailable.

The Historian's Report was presented by Margaret Hollis Kastler ('51) who commenced with the roll of the deceased, which was followed by a moment of silence in their honor.

Flowers were presented to Mable Rawlings of the Class of 1916 by Megan Brownell of the Class of 1991, the youngest member present.

Two families had 3 generations present. Naomi Miller Donahue ('44), her daughter Cathy Donahue McGrath ('66) and her sons Andy ('86) and Ron ('87) McGrath. Also Andrew J. Porter ('35), his daughter, Patricia Porter Silliman ('66) 1991 Co-President and her daughter, Tonya Silliman Grossman ('86).

Margaret also mentioned the former teachers who were present. She also pointed out the history display that had been assembled by Marie Kent Parsons ('57).

Mable Rawlings shared memories of Sandy Creek from when she started in 1904, graduated in 1916, started teaching in 1930 and retired in 1971. After her former students stood in tribute she was presented with flowers. Andy Porter was in Mrs. Rawlings first class and remembered that she gave each of her students a gold fish for Christmas. Mention was also made of her famous Halloween witch costume.

Peggy Potish Manchester ('70) gave the A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund Report. There was a balance on hand of \$4936.76 with \$3105.30 past due. One loan for \$1000.00 was paid in full this year and one new loan for \$690.00 was granted this year.

The Election of Officers was conducted by Betty Bachar McDougall in the absence of Sue Bitz ('70), chair of the Executive Committee, who was home ill.

The following slate of officers was presented for election and was accepted unanimously:

President	Sandra Guyette Hughs '67
Honorary President	Ella Ridgeway Chrisman '42
Vice President	Rhonda McDougall Barron '68
Executive Secretary	Nancy Potish Ridgeway '63
Executive Chair.	Sue Bitz '70
Recording Secretary	Brian H. Killam '75
Corresponding Secretary	Betty Bachar McDougall '52
Treasurer	Sandra Guyette Hughs '67
Historian	Margaret Hollis Kastler '51
Chair. A. Elmo Cole Fund	Peggy Potish Manchester '70

The 50 year class was welcomed by Cathy Donahue McGrath ('66) whose father, Harwood Donahue, had been a member. Shirley Tiff Morgans responded for her class.

Richard Hazard, Sr. ('41) shared reminiscences of his class and thanked Irene Joyner who had worked with him in gathering the 50 year class for the banquet. A tribute was offered to Aileen Crichton, Class Advisor and other class members also offered memories.

Stan Miller welcomed his fellow members of the 25 year class. Stan also apologized to members of succeeding classes but allowed as how his class had had a great deal of fun in Washington, D.C. Jeff Chamberlain responded, sharing reminiscences of the Class of 1966 indicating great pride in being a part of the S.C.H.&C.S. tradition.

The Class of 1991 was welcomed by Doug Brownell ('66) who shared an article on graduation from the "Post-Standard". His daughter, Megan Brownell responded for her class, thanking the Association for its warm welcome. She also thanked her father for his love and care, hoping that she can pass the same on to her children.

Supervising Principal Jerry Quimby presented the Annual Review of the school year. There were 1,112 students registered, supported by a \$7.2 million budget. He announced that \$18,000 would be awarded to a class of 74 graduates, 76% of whom would go on to higher education.

Following a benediction, the meeting closed with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Respectfully Submitted  
Brian Killam

## AFGHAN RAFFLE

The Alumni Association is having an afghan raffle, at \$1.00 a piece, to benefit the History Fund. This beautiful afghan was made and donated by Mildred Carnrite Balcom, class of 1933.

Clip out and mail this ticket stub with your reservations and donations.

**SCCS Alumni Association**  
**Afghan Raffle**  
**Benefit - History Fund**  
**Donation \$1.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Does Anyone Know . . .

the whereabouts of, or addresses of, the following Sandy Creek Central School Alumni? If you have any information, or an address, please notify the secretary.

Jean Rattray Burns, 1967  
Babs Schulz, 1967  
Trudy Schulz, 1967  
William Van Alstyne, 1967  
Mary Ann Jaques, 1967  
George Johnson, 1967  
Guy Stevens, 1967  
Robert Iredale, 1968  
Marjorie Ames, 1968  
Pauline Woodard Wilson, 1943  
Harold Gove, 1943  
Arnold Jackson, 1943  
Daniel Hughes, 1963  
Laura Widrig Scott, 1942  
Elsie Root Springer, 1942  
Marian Carr Brady, 1942  
Albert Lawrence, 1942  
George Scott, 1951  
Kenneth Porter, 1968  
Robert Bumpus, 1968  
Pauline McCaw Lake, 1943  
Maurice Newman, 1943  
Oliver Williams, 1943

**YES!**

I am planning to attend the  
1992 Alumni Banquet

Enclosed is my donation/support  
of the SCCS Alumni Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Year Graduated \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Reservations &  
Operational Expenses for \_\_\_\_\_ (x \$12.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Cole Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Dollars for Scholars \_\_\_\_\_

History Fund \_\_\_\_\_

## **A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund:**

The A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund's sole purpose is to assist SCCS Alumni in their pursuit of a college education. *It is a loan and must be paid back with interest.* Alumni interested can apply for a \$500 loan. The application is an easy and quick process but you must have a co-signer.

Several loans are now past-due. Within the next 12 months, we will be taking legal action to collect these. In next year's newsletter, we will print the list of those alumni who are in arrears. Come on!! You know who you are. Make your payments now and make it possible for more SCCS Alumni to go on to college!

Make checks payable to: A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund and mail them to: P.O. Box 98, c/o Peggy Manchester, Lacona, New York, 13083.