



# ALUMNI NEWS

## The 1994 Alumni Banquet

The 102nd annual Alumni Banquet and Meeting of the Sandy Creek High and Central School will be held on Friday, June 24, 1994 at the River Valley Inn. A steamship round of beef buffet will be served at 7 P.M. at a cost of \$12.00 per person (this includes meal, drink, gratuity and Alumni expenses). Prepaid reservations should be returned to the secretary no later than June 17, 1994.

We will be honoring the Classes of 1919, 1944, 1969 as well as the present graduating class. We are always trying to locate former teachers. If you have any addresses, please include them with your reservations.

We will be looking forward to spending another nostalgic evening with you.

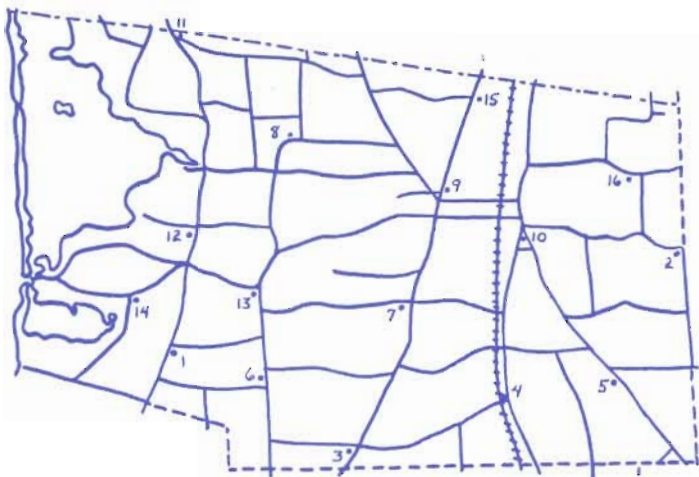


### **Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association**

Honorary President - Margaret Caufield Dence, '44  
Co-President - Richard Hazard, Jr., '69  
Co-President - Steven Timmerman, '69  
Co-Vice-President - Sue Bitz, '70  
Co-Vice-President - Peggy Potish Manchester, '70  
Recording Secretary - Brian Killam, '75  
Corresponding Secretary - Betty Bachar McDougall, '52  
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



# History of Our District Schools



*Sandy Creek District Schools*

The first school in the area now known as the Town of Sandy Creek was taught in the house of George Harding in the winter of 1806-1807; the teacher was his daughter, Mamrie Harding. In the fall of 1807 a log school house was built at Lacona and prior to 1812 a similar structure was erected near John Spalsbury's on the northern road. This site most recently was the home of Ivan and Thelma Crast on county route 22. Down to 1871 nothing but ordinary district schools (one room) existed in town.

**No. 1** May District was the west end of Hilton Road and was established about 1825.

**No. 2** Ormsby District or Hamer District was a joint district of the Towns of Sandy Creek and Boylston, two and one half miles east of Lacona, on the Smartville Road. Established before 1840, the school served its purpose until 1871, when it was moved from the site.

**No. 3** Agricultural Hall after 1854 known as the Meacham's District, located midway between Sandy Creek and Pufaski. Plain living and high thinking was the order of the day.

**No. 4** Ridge Road or Seeley District was built in 1812 and is still standing in 1994.

**No. 5** Stevens District on the Orwell road was established around 1815. Today it is the home of Thomas and Jackie Gregg.

**No. 6** Sage District's record books show repairs to a school house prior to 1813. The district extended west including the South Pond.

**No. 7** Scripture district was located off Route 11 on the Fraser Road, south of the Village of Sandy Creek. In early 1850 the school registered between 40 and 60 pupils. Twice each day students were lined across the schoolhouse toeing the mark for spelling down.

**No. 8** Leach District, established well before 1854, lies northwest of the Village of Sandy Creek and formed the northwestern boundary of the Sandy Creek High District.

**No. 9** Sandy Creek (Sandy Creek Union). An old brick school house was erected about 1825 approximately where the Snackery now stands. This was torn down about 1850 and succeeded by a larger structure known for many years as the West Primary. Upon completion of the new high school building, this schoolhouse was sold and converted into a dwelling. It still stands today as an apartment house next to the Wesleyan Church, route 11 Sandy Creek.

**No. 10** East Sandy Creek (before 1870) or Lacona and known as the East Primary located in the eastern part of the town, and one of the first schoolhouses erected in this locality. At the onset it was a small building but was enlarged from time to time to accommodate the growing number of students - between sixty and seventy. This school was located in the point between the Orwell and Richland roads. For many years it was owned by the Noble, Porter and Bauer families. It burned in 1991.

**No. 11** Goodnough District is situated in the extreme northwestern part of the Town of Sandy Creek and also comprises a portion of the Town of Ellisburg, being a joint district in Oswego and Jefferson counties. About 1812 a little log school house was built. One time the log school house was superceded by a frame structure which collapsed in the 1980's.

**No. 12** Hagan District. This was a joint school in Jefferson and Oswego counties, located on the North Ridge road between Lacona and Mannsville.

**No. 13** White Schoolhouse District was erected on the corner of the Lake Road and North Road about 1849. In 1828, the first school stood on the north side of Lake Road.

**No. 14** Learned or Ballou District. This district was formed in 1844 and closed in 1947, with Isabelle T. Carpenter as the last teacher. This building is still standing at the corner of Tryon and Ouderkirk Roads and the interior has been restored.

**No. 15** Young District is one of the oldest districts in the town, originally known as No. 15 before becoming District 10. It was formed Nov. 13th, 1833. In 1855 the schoolhouse was burned and a tax of three hundred dollars was raised to build a new one on the east side of the road.

**No. 16** Woodruff District. Prior to 1897, it was known as No. 16 and then changed to No. 1 at that time. This later became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willett Presley, Sr. on the Center Road in Lacona.

**No. 17** Joint District. This was called the Bettinger or Staplin School in Jefferson County in the McDonald Hill area.

In 1871, the voters of Districts 9 and 10 (Lacona and Sandy Creek) 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, on what became Salisbury Street. The school was two stories high with a basement, fronted by two square towers.

The one-room school houses were slowly closed and, after 1929, children were transported to the new high school. Most of the school houses were sold and turned into private homes. Some have fallen into disrepair and tumbled down.



*School Bus No. 1, 1932 (GMC)*

The first school bus was a GMC purchased in 1932. Bill Reid Sr. and Frank Snyder were the drivers; traveling to Orwell, Vorea and the South Ridge Road to Cobb's. The seats were along the side and one row through the middle. The seats along the sides faced into the middle. One row of seats, back to back in the middle, faced out to the sides. This bus seated 30-32 passengers. The escape doors were at the rear of the bus on the driver's side. This was later changed so that students using the escape door wouldn't empty into traffic.



## History continued -



School Bus No. 2, 1935 (Brockway)

The high school bought a second school bus in 1935, a Brockway. Rich Reynolds was the bus driver. The first busses were blue and white. This bus took the place of No. 1 and Bus No. 1 went west of town to the Corners and up Weaver Road to the Goodnough District.

A third bus was purchased in 1937; a GMC, with Tracy Killam as driver. The seats in this bus were removed and placed in the order of present day bus seating. This bus was stored at the H.S. Killam and Sons Garage, in Sandy Creek, which is the present site of Ontario Tire Co.

High school boys would ride with the drivers in the winter to assist the driver with putting on chains over the tires whenever slippery conditions existed. Tracy Killam would ask the students to move to the back of the bus, putting more weight over the rear wheels and giving more traction to get through snow drifts.

Bus No. 1 and 2 were first housed in Bill Reid's garage and later in the Fred Austin garage, both in Lacona. Austin's Garage is now the site of the Lacona Auction Barn. Bill Reid's garage was located across the street from Austin's and is now a vacant lot. The building in the background of the photos is Austin's Garage.

Frank Snyder was the first mechanic hired, retiring in 1974 after 33 years of service. The District now has a fleet of 31 vehicles including four vans and five cars.

Peggy Potish Manchester, '70, reported on the A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund. A collection agency has been retained for \$100.00 to collect the outstanding balances on seven accounts, totaling \$5217.62 including interest. She also noted that an anonymous member of the class of 1943 donated \$1000.00 to the Cole Fund.

In the absence of Sue Bitz, '70, Chairwoman of the Executive Committee, Peggy Manchester presented the proposed slate of officers for 1994:

Co-Presidents	Steve Timmerman & Rick Hazard 1969
Honorary President	Margaret Caufield Dence 1944
Co-Vice Presidents	Sue Bitz & Peggy Potish Manchester 1970
Recording Secretary	Brian Killam 1975
Corresponding Secretary	Betty Bachar McDougall 1952
Treasurer	Sue Crandall 1967
Executive Chairwoman	Sue Bitz 1970
Chairwoman, A. Elmo Cole Mem. Fund	Peggy Potish Manchester 1970
Historian	Margaret Hollis Kastler 1951
Executive Secretary	Nancy Pottish Ridgeway 1963

There being no other nominations, the Secretary cast the unanimous ballot of the Association for the slate of officers.

Supervising Principal Gerald Quimby gave the annual report of the school year. There were 1101 students in grades K-12 with 76 graduating in the class of 1993.

Betty Bachar McDougall, '52, called the roll of the classes. Josie Hedger, '21, was the oldest member in attendance. Also attending were Mabel Carnrite, '22, Ellen Corse Potter and Gladys Archer, '23, Kathryn Hamer Widrig, and Eva Randall Yerdon, '25, and Ila Smith Chanley, '26.

There were 13 members of the 50 year class, 21 of the 25 year class and 1 from the class of 1993 in attendance.

Margaret Hollis Kastler, '51, began the historian's report with the roll of the deceased followed by a moment of silence in their honor.

Josie Hedger, '21, the oldest graduate attending received flowers from Carrie Penoyer, '93, the youngest. Carrie also presented flowers to Mabel Carnrite, '22 who was at her 69th banquet, and to all the rest of the graduates from the 1920's.

Once again the McDougall family had the largest group with 14 in attendance.

Paulette Potish Lindsey, '67, welcomed the class of 1943 of which her mother is a member. The Potish family has a total of 254 years of membership in the association. She noted that she knew for a fact that her mother's class walked the farthest to school in the worst weather, they were the brightest class - any member will confirm it. Paulette also spoke of the power of memories for this and any other class.

Lt. Col. Phyllis Grant, U.S.A.F. (Ret.) responded for her class. She thanked the association for the honor and noted that her class was the first to graduate from the centralized school system. There were seven seniors from Redfield that year - they almost never got to school on time.

Daisy Olin Rayo also reminisced for her class. She recalled that 37 graduated in her class with graduation functions starting Sunday, June 20 and lasting a full week.

Richard Gilbert, Elementary Principal, welcomed the class of 1968. He had recently given a tour of the school to the class and they were all surprised at how little things had changed in 25 years. He fondly recalled that this class had given him a shower when he was married and it seemed that they still had their priorities in order - realizing that life's simple joys are much more important than money, power or fame.

---

## Minutes of the 1993 Alumni Meeting

The 101st annual banquet of the Sandy Creek High and Central School Alumni Association was held Friday, June 25, 1993 at the River Valley Inn, Mannsville, NY.

Following an invocation offered by the Rev. Donald Plummer, '68, 187 members and guests sat down to a delicious roast beef and turkey buffet during which we were entertained by "Harbor Lights," a Jazz Ensemble.

Rhonda McDougall Barron, '68, Association President, thanked the ushers and opened the business meeting.

Brian Killam, '75, read the minutes which were accepted without correction.

Sue Crandall, '67, presented the Treasurer's Report, showing a balance on hand of \$6374.75 with banquet expenses, Cole Fund and History Fund transfers yet to be made.



## Does Anyone Know . . .

Minutes continued from previous page -

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

Jean Rattray Burns, 1967  
Babs Schulz, 1967  
Trudy Schulz, 1967  
William VanAlstyne, 1967  
Mary Ann Jaques, 1967  
George Johnson, 1967  
Guy Stevens, 1967  
Robert Iredale, 1968  
Daniel Hughes, 1963  
Robert Bumpus, 1968  
Maurice Newman, 1943  
George Scott, 1951  
Paul Finen, 1944  
Winona Brown Brezak, 1944

### 911 Alert

#### *Attention all grads everywhere!*

If 911 has come to your area, or when it does, your address will change. The number that 911 assigns your residence will become your mailing address.

*Help us when this happens. We do not need 2,600 newsletters being returned to us.*

If your address changes, let us know. Many thanks in advance.

Vivian Setzer responded for her class, noting the "awestricken-ness" of it all. She commended her classmates on all the work done to organize a very full week-end: reunion - banquet - prom - picnic. It is hard to believe they are as old as they are and there is a great fear of actually having "grown-up."

Vivian concluded by speaking of the changing rhythms we dance to on our trip through life and by wondering "What did we expect then? What do we still expect?"

Ron Archibee, '68, welcomed the class of '93 saying they were a fine group and much like the class of '68. He reminded them that they will do well if they foster good relationships with family and friends and if they work hard at "living the hell out of life."

Carrie Penoyer responded for the class of '93 - starting with a hug for Mr. Archibee. She thanked the principals for putting up with her class and said that despite the fact that no one knows what the future holds for her class they will work hard at living life to its fullest, asking for our support and best wishes.

Rhonda also welcomed the 75, 70, 45, 40, 35, 10 and 5 year classes. Then she closed with a toast used originally by Agnes Duane Grant, mother of Phyllis Grant, '43.

Following a benediction by the Rev. Donald Plummer, the meeting closed with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian Killam, '75

---

### A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund

At the 1993 banquet it was announced that we would be turning over to a collection agency any long overdue loans to the A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund. In doing so, we have collected a lot of the unpaid balances and interest that was due.

One loan was repaid in full. Four members of the Alumni are making regular \$25. per month payments to the Cold Fund to avoid further collection agency's fees. One is making payments directly to the collection agency and two have, so far, ignored all the collection agency's pleas for funds. We will continue this procedure until these past due loans are all paid in full.

By collecting some of the money owed, we do now have money in the account to loan to any Alumni who needs it. If you know someone who needs some cash for college, the loan applications are available by contacting: Peggy Potish Manchester, P.O. Box 98, Lacona, NY 13083, or call her at 315-387-5539.

Thanks to all the members of the association who continue to contribute to the A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund.

**YES!**

I am planning to attend the 1994 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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