



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

# ALUMNI NEWS

## THE 1996 ALUMNI BANQUET

The 104th annual Alumni Banquet and Meeting of the Sandy Creek High and Central School will be held on Friday, June 21, 1996 at the River Valley Inn. A steer roast, baked chicken, and lasagna 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 14, 1996.

We will be honoring the Classes of 1921, 1936, 1946, 1971 as well as the present graduating class. Special recognition will be given to any SCCS teachers who are in attendance to celebrate Mable Rawling's 80th anniversary as a member of the Alumni Association.

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

### **SANDY CREEK HIGH AND CENTRAL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Honorary Co-President-Mildred Noble Kersey, '46  
Honorary Co-President-Irene Wilder Fuller, '46  
President-John Shelmidine, '71  
Vice-President-Roxanne Janacek Ferguson, '72  
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**

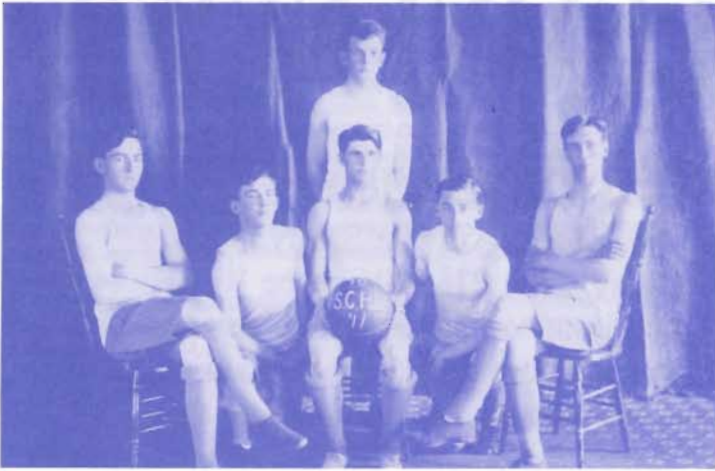
Sandy Creek Central School District  
P.O. Box 248, Salisbury St.  
Sandy Creek, NY 13145  
ATTN: ALUMNI

Bulk Rate  
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# History of Our District Schools



The practically unbeatable team of 1910-1911, pictured above, went on the next year 1911-1912 to defeat every other high school team in the area, including Watertown and Oswego to give Sandy Creek their first championship in basketball. All members of any team must have "an average of not less than 75% in scholarship, attendance, and deportment."

Sports has always been an important part of school life at Sandy Creek. The school did not have a gymnasium or auditorium until the "new" school was built in 1929. From 1872 until 1929 basketball was played in various buildings around town. One building used was the upstairs of the Hydorn (Hollis) block. A two story brick business block in Lacona, now the village parking lot across from the Central Hotel. Practices were sometimes held in the fire hall meeting room, where Iv's barber shop now stands. Teachers, the principal or men from the community, who served as coaches, tried to put together teams of young men, but students could give little time to practice as they were expected to work after school. Much of their expertise came with playing the game. With few practices, many seasons were rather dismal in the win column. Scores in basketball games, on both sides, sometimes were rather low, for example, one game played in 1927 ended with Sandy Creek 12-Mexico 15.

In the early days Sandy Creek played out-of-town teams by traveling on the train from Lacona to their destination. Later, they traveled by private automobiles. For one track meet in 1926, the team went to Troy the day before in order to be there on time. Public support for the teams was generally good. Notices were put into the Sandy Creek News paper for members of the community to come to the school with rakes and shovels to help prepare the field for the coming season.

Football, basketball and baseball were the sports of choice. Until the beginning of the school year 1925-1926 a track team was one thing that had never existed in our school. Soccer was suggested as an autumn sport but due to the fact no competition existed in the neighboring schools, a cross country team was decided on. Local schools participating were Pulaski, Mexico and Sandy Creek. The track team did not have much local support. In 1931 some of the fellows again wanted a soccer team, but through lack of funds, it was decided the cross country team be revitalized. As these were without the services of a coach, the runners voted to allow Captain Daley to have supervision of the team. They competed in three meets; Camden, Oswego and Sandy Creek.

With the building of the "new" school in 1929, for the first time we had a gymnasium and auditorium. The auditorium was an open area up stairs with a large skylight in the ceiling that could roll back to let in air. Class rooms opened out onto walkways around the perimeter or students could walk through the auditorium to their next class. The wooden seats were an invitation for many students to sit and visit with their friends during school.

The gymnasium with its locker rooms and running water for showers was also a first at Sandy Creek. The gym was situated east and west, with three entrance doors on the south wall, opening to one solid wooden bleacher. The north wall was a bank of windows that could be opened for fresh air. In the hall way outside the elementary classrooms, glass windows looked down into the gym, from the east and west ends. A quote from the Ontarian yearbook 1930. "We lost the first five games on account of lack of practice and a small court added with the ineligibility of players, the team made a very poor start. After entering the new school a large gymnasium was at the disposal of the team but very little could be accomplished as the players could not become acclimated to so large a playing space thrust suddenly upon them."

This facility was the site of many exciting games until 1950 when renovations began to enlarge the school. With no gym to use, the basketball team of 1950-1951 accepted the hospitality of the Mannsville School gym for practice and "home games". This new expanded gym with its fold down bleacher seats increased floor space and a sliding partition divided the facility so two phys ed classes could be held at the same time. With the installation of an elevator, in recent years, both the auditorium and gym are now accessible for the handicapped.

Girls basketball has always been popular at Sandy Creek. A 1906 picture shows five young ladies with their basketball. Written accounts of other teams come from the Ontarian Yearbooks. In 1926 two team were formed; one named the Reds, the other the Blacks. "There were three games played between the Reds and Black. The Blacks defeated the Reds in two games. In 1927 the teams were named "Tom Cats" and "Bull Dogs". Due to illness of some of their players, female high school teachers were drafted to fill out the "playing" season. "Toward the close of the season a combination of boys' and girls' rules were played". This proved very interesting as well as exciting. "Next year (1928) we hope to have an even better season...with perhaps a team, which will not only play in town but may also go out to other places to compete with outside teams". Until about 25 to 30 years ago "girls rules" prevailed. This was a 6 position team, 1 dribble and playing half court. There was no formal league for girls. Fortunately for our present "Sandy Creek Raisins: the excitement and fast pace of the "boys rules" game is here. We are very proud of these young ladies. During the 40s, 50s and 60s few girls teams existed. Exclusive Sandy Creek scorers with 1000 career points in basketball are: John Brennan, class of 1959; John Tryon, class of 1983; Teri Haynes, class of 1984; Thad Schug, class of 1985; Wendy Dickerson, class of 1993; and undergraduate Margaret Yerdon put that 1000th point through the hoop this year.



Bloomers, hightop shoes, and middy blouses made up the uniform for these young ladies. A "first" this year was to play out of town

Football had a difficult time at Sandy Creek. One picture of the 1899 team shows 11 men on the team. Leather straps across their head and nose guards made up their uniforms. By 1902 thick leggings and shoulder pads have been added to the 14 man team. For many years there was not a football team because not enough students could be recruited. During the 1940s, and 50s, a 6 man football (modified) game was played at Sandy Creek. 11 man tackle started in the fall of 1960.

Baseball seems to have been the one sport that had continuous fielding of a team and is enjoyed by more students than any other sport. Little League in Sandy Creek has 20 teams, ranging from senior to T ball. Both boys and girls enjoy this favorite American pastime. Many a young person may move from the experience of Little League to the school teams of baseball or softball and bring with them an expertise in the method of the game.



Until the 1930s, physical education classes were not a big part of the curriculum. However, with the new school, gym teachers could now be hired and eventually boys and girls had their own teacher. One of the early men coaches was Metcalf Palmer, Fred Tully came in the mid 1940s until 1950. Martin Maurer was hired in December of 1950; retiring in 1974 and the term athletic director now replaced the word coach. Roy Hunt has been with us since 1964 and introduced wrestling into our school. By 1970 Roy had built a wrestling dynasty that other schools had the greatest respect for. In 1986 Jeff Shirley, class of 1981, was hired as phys ed teacher. The ladies in our school will remember Metcalf Palmer also as their gym teacher, followed by Mahala Debbie from 1940 until she retired in 1971; Miss Taylor in 1972 and then Mary (Molly) Yerdon from 1974 until the present.

With the work of dozens of teachers and community members acting as coaches, students participating in a sport at Sandy Creek have grown from three teams at the beginning of this century to thirty team now. More than one-half of our student body of 1200 plus have a sport available to them. From the varsity to an entry level at the 5th grade, boy or girl can choose from basketball, baseball, soccer, football, wrestling, softball, volleyball, cross-country track and field and cross-country skiing. Interest in hockey has grown in recent years and many devoted parents have formed a league and taken on the responsibility to transport their player to meets. Maybe sometime in the near future a school team may emerge.

With cheer leaders encouraging the teams to win and helping spectators to keep the spirit flowing, Sandy Creek can be proud of these agile ladies. Originally at SC a young man or two was the rooting section leaders. About 1944 cheering squads as we know them today was formed. Made up of seven girls wearing homemade uniforms they helped develop the varsity, followed by junior varsity cheering squads. The uniform has changed many times in the past 50 years but the spirit and enthusiasm that is expressed during ball games is timeless.

The athletic department at Sandy Creek has seen many changes, all ones that we can be proud of. Sports are alive and well here at your Alma Mater.



1902 Sandy Creek High School Football team-They had no regulation uniforms and only nominal padding and protective devices. Note the nose guards on the three boys at the right and the boy in back at left and the home-made leggings on those in front.

## A. ELMO COLE MEMORIAL FUND

At last year's 1995 banquet there was a balance of \$993.24. Three loans totalling \$1500.00 were given out this year to deserving SCCS alumni. Alumni contributions of \$401.00 were received, thank you very much. Loan payments totalling \$767.50 were received this year. Outstanding loans total: \$13622.98. Balance on hand on January 1, 1996 was: \$661.74. We are continuing to receive regular payments on 5 loans. Three loans were turned over to a collection agency this year, as these three alumni members have refused all pleas to pay on their loans. Thank you in advance for everyone's continued support of the A. Elmo Cole Memorial Fund.

## Minutes of the 1995 Alumni Meeting

The 103rd 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 23, 1995. Chef David Haynes ('83) served a roast chicken and pork buffet to 160 members and guests following an invocation by Nancy McDougal Fahnestock ('70).

The business meeting was opened by Sue Bitz ('70) who introduced Dave and Barbie Haynes and mentioned that perhaps the restaurant should be renamed the Phoenix Inn as they had just reopened with the help of a lot of family and friends following a devastating fire.

Brian Killam ('75) read the minutes of the previous banquet and asked for volunteers for the secretary's job which he has been doing for 19 of the last 20 years.

The treasurer's report was given by Sue Crandall ('67) who thanked the members for their generous donations. As of June 23, 1995 the balance on hand was \$3980.00 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 made \$9400.00 in loans to 10 students this year. She also noted a collection agency had been hired to collect past due loans. The balance on hand as of May 31, 1995 was \$995.77.

Sue Bitz ('70) conducted the election of officers. The secretary cast the unanimous ballot of the members for the following slate: Honorary Co-Presidents, Mildred Noble Kersey '46 and Irene Wilder Fuller '46; President John Sheldine '71; Vice-President, Roxanne Janacek Ferguson '72; Recording Secretary, Brian Killam '75; Corresponding Secretary, Betty Bachar McDougall '52; 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, the new supervising principal, and Frank Johnson, the new high school principal, shared their philosophies and goals with the association.

The Historian's report was given by Margaret Hollis Kastler ('51) who began with the roll of the deceased. A moment of silence was observed in their memory.

Margaret spoke of the old Teacher's Training Class of which Mable Rawlings ('16) was a member. She also singled out Mabel Carnrite ('22) who has missed only 2 banquets.

Flowers were presented to Mable Rawlings ('16), Mabel Carnrite ('22) and Josie Hedger ('21). An iris corsage was also given to Mrs. Rawlings ('16), the oldest in attendance, by Nate Chittenden ('95), the youngest.

Margaret noted the 50th anniversary of the yearbook. In 1945 it was a Junior class project. The Spade for which it is named was on display. It officially became the Spade in 1952.

60 years previously, 1935, Margaret had been a flower girl for Vivian Ridgeway Slater ('35) to whom she presented a basket of flowers.

Betty Bachar McDougall ('52) conducted the roll of the classes. The earliest class represented was that of 1916 by Mable Rawlings. Also 1921-Josie Hedger; 1922-Mabel Carnrite; 1923-Gladys Archer and Ellen Corse Potter; 1925-Eva Randall Yerdon and Kathryn Hamer Widrig; and 1929-Frank S. Snyder. There were 16 of the class of 1945, 14 of the class of 1970 and 5 from the class of 1995.

Alice Carnrite Teal ('45) responded for the class of 1945 who were welcomed by Peggy Potish Manchester ('70). Alice mentioned that each class thinks it will change the world and then finds out how big a job it will be. She also shared memories of Mable Rawlings, Aileen Crichton and Irene Killam. Many in her class left early to go to war and the class sold war bonds and stamps and collected aluminum to pay for 2 jeeps and an ambulance.

Sue Bitz ('70) welcomed her class of 1970 and mentioned that it was a twist of fate that she went to SCCS. She grew up in Mannsville but Sally Kastler Bettinger ('43), SCCS librarian, talked her into going to Sandy Creek.

John "Chip" Wheeler ('70) responded for his class. He also shared memories of how war affected his class and mentioned that because of his memories his classmates will always be a part of him. All the boys in the class presented a pink rose to Mrs. Rawlings ('16).

Rob McKown ('70) (A last minute volunteer) welcomed the class of 1995 offering two important pieces of advice--Do Your Best and Have Humility.



Minutes continued-

Nate Chittenden ('95) (Also a last minute volunteer) responded for the class of 1995, thanking the association for the warm welcome.

Executive Secretary Nancy Potish Ridgeway ('63) briefly discussed the state of the association, noting that this year we had started with a balance of less than \$600.00 and was pleased to note that people must indeed read the Newsletter as we had received \$2500.00 in donations and we will be able to continue. We sent out 2254 Newsletters on the School's bulk mailing permit. It is important that we have correct addresses because the cost of paper increased 95% in 5 months and returned Newsletters are sent back 1st class postage due.

Following a Benediction by Nancy McDougall Fahnestock ('70) the meeting was closed with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian H. Killam ('75)

### Dear Fellow Alumni:

Over the years those of us that have put your letter together had the pleasure of reminiscing about our days at Sandy Creek. We would like to ask you to send in some of the memories you had, to share with the association. Here are a few examples:

**DO YOU REMEMBER?** Teachers reading to us until the 7th grade...rest mats in kindergarten...Mrs. Soule teaching us to read...Miss Dobbie drawing our silhouettes...Mrs. Delong and penmanship...Miss Carnrite teaching Greek and Roman Mythology...Mrs. Killam having us identify birds...Mrs. Rawlings dressed like a witch at Halloween...her Scottie dog...diagramming sentences for Mrs. Edgett...Mrs. Curtis telling the study hall to quiet down...Mr. Bond with his yard stick in typing class...climbing on the "BIG" rock on the playground...dancing in the gym on Fridays during lunch hour...the boys smoking in the boiler room with Mr. Slater...the clock ticking before the hands moved...students leaving their seats at the sound of the tick...senior class painting the sidewalk at graduation time.

Send us your **DO YOU REMEMBER** and next year we will put some in the newsletter. Names, date and places would be helpful. Looking forward to hearing from you. MK (1951)

**YES!**

☐

I am planning to attend the 1996 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### SANDY CREEK HIGH & CENTRAL SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT JUNE 1, 1995 -TO- JANUARY 31, 1996

RECEIPTS;	
Balance on hand:	\$ 587.44
Interest:	49.38
Total deposits:	4929.82
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS;</b>	<b>\$5566.64</b>

EXPENSES;	
Bulk Rate Postage:	\$ 430.90
Printing & Supplies: (2300 newsletters, etc.)	544.00
175 Programs:	150.80
Dinners at RVI:	1535.60
Transfer to Cole Fund:	201.00
Bank Maintenance Fees: (also fees for bounced checks)	49.00
Transfer to History Fund:	104.00
1995 Yearbook:	19.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES;</b>	<b>\$3034.30</b>

**BALANCE ON HAND JANUARY 31, 1996: \$2532.34**

### FELLOW ALUMNI

Last year as we went to press, we thought we were going to have to beg, borrow or steal to finance our newsletter. Instead, we put the future of the Alumni Association, the Newsletter and the Banquet in particular in the hands of you Alumni. We are pleased to report that we received over \$2845.00 in donations. Thank you for keeping us alive and please don't forget us in the future.

We want to thank Betty Bachar McDougall and Brian Killam who have worked on the Alumni Association for a combined total of over four decades. They have resigned and we have been fortunate enough to find replacements. We are however looking for someone to assist Margaret Hollis Kastler in the position of co-historian. Thank you for your interest. NPR'63

### 911 HAS ARRIVED IN OSWEGO COUNTY

With 911 change comes new addresses for a large number of our Alumni. Please take a minute and send us your new address. This way you will continue to receive the newsletter.