



## Highest Level of Accreditation to Be Awarded to Fremont Public Schools

The mission of the  
Fremont Public School  
Foundation is to  
support the Fremont  
Public Schools by:

- ★ Raising funds to support programs for the enhancement and enrichment of public education, which would not be possible through local tax funds.
- ★ Recognizing excellence in Public Education.
- ★ Enhancing the quality of education for all students.
- ★ Reinforcing positive relations within the community.
- ★ Enriching the quality of life for the Fremont Community.

### FPS FOUNDATION

#### Board of Directors

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**Steve Sexton,**  
Superintendent of Schools

**David Pinkall,**  
Executive Director

In September of 2006 the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA-CASI) approved Fremont Public Schools for the District Accreditation Quality Achievement award. As such, Fremont became the first district in the state of Nebraska to receive such recognition as "district accredited."

In the intervening five years, the North Central Association was reconstituted and combined with the Southern Association to form the relatively newly named AdvancED accrediting agency. *AdvancED is the world's largest education community, representing over 27,000 public and private schools and districts across the United States and 69 countries worldwide and serving nearly 15 million students.*

**Fremont has now scored another first.** It was recently notified that it would be recommended for accreditation renewal by AdvancED. This will make Fremont Public Schools the first district in Nebraska to be recommended for renewal of District Accreditation for another five years. This action was based on a thorough three-day

review of the district, its instructional programs and organization. The analysis was conducted by an eight-member quality assessment review team composed of four individuals from within the state and four from other states. According to FPS Superintendent Dr. Steve Sexton, "Accreditation of this level demonstrates to our students, parents, and community that we to continue to move forward on all levels and that we are focused on raising student achievement and improving opportunities."

Terry Snyder, FPS Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, noted "The real value of AdvancED accreditation is the school-community commitment to youngsters and their education. We regularly assess and measure our progress in all goal areas, and AdvancED holds us accountable for demonstrating growth. The process keeps everyone in all our schools focused on raising student achievement, and recognizes that the district engages in a continuous systemic process of educational improvement. It also acknowledges the existence of effective and efficient quality assurance controls." ★

## Alumni Association Gives Technology Project a Boost

The Fremont Alumni Association has made a \$10,000 gift to the technology fund for the purpose of purchasing LED projectors for FPS classrooms. This Foundation project, undertaken in 2008 is nearing completion. The goal is to have an LED projector in place in every core classroom in the District. ★

## Board of Directors Changes

The Foundation Board has accepted with regret the resignation of Bart Qualsett from the Board. Qualsett, who was serving his second term as vice-president, resigned his position as President of Fremont National Bank in order to move to a new position in Omaha. Qualsett's place on the board has been filled by Ronda Niehaus, Vice President and Trust Officer with First State Bank in Fremont. Ronda has children in the Fremont Public Schools, and is excited to be a part of the Fremont Public School Foundation.

## From the Executive Director's Desk



Dr. David Pinkall,  
Executive Director

Publishing this edition of Cornerstone has presented an interesting dilemma. We have so many exciting things to share about the Fremont Public Schools and our Foundation, that we literally ran out of space. As a result, my comments will be brief (I know you will appreciate my solution!). I hope you enjoy reading about the many wonderful things taking place in our district. This is truly an exciting time to support a progressive school system that is doing its part to provide a great education for our students. When quality education is delivered, we all win! I hope you will consider supporting this noble cause. ★

## What's Happening in School Construction?



New construction on west side of Bahe Gym

It is really great to see a plan come together. Nearly three years ago, development of Phase II of the long-range facilities plan began. On Monday, April 14, 2011, Fremont Public Schools hosted a "ground-breaking" ceremony at Linden Elementary School in celebration of the completion of the bidding process for all construction tasks throughout the school district. With acceptance of project bids, all of which have come in **within the anticipated budget**, the financial planning phase is complete.

- Linden plans include removal of the two story section and replacing it with a single floor including 10 classroom spaces and supporting areas. Construction at Linden Elementary

School is tentatively expected to begin in mid to late May.

- Construction activity began at Fremont High School in early April of this year. Those efforts include the addition of a new wing of 11 classrooms which will include Family and Consumer Science, Social Studies, and one special education classroom. Renovations include the addition of a commons area to the west of the existing Al Bahe Gym, central relocation of most special education services, and reorganization of the serving plan for the cafeteria.
- Construction of the addition at Clarmar Elementary School is slated to be completed by mid July, 2011. That project includes two classrooms, a cafeteria space, and support areas.
- Efforts to renovate entrances for safety and security purposes at Washington Elementary School, Grant Elementary School, and Howard Elementary School are expected to begin in June of 2011 and be completed by the fall of 2011.

The above four projects were made possible by the passage of a \$10.6 million general obligation bond issue on March 9, 2010.

Construction of the new intermediate school for grades 5-6, to the west and south of the existing Middle School, began with site work in October of 2010



New classrooms taking shape on east side of FHS

and continued with pouring of concrete footings in April of 2011. *It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the beginning of school in August of 2012.* The project was funded by Build America Bonds which were available through the federal stimulus plan. The new facility will include 32 regular classrooms and support services and spaces. After the relocation of fifth and sixth grade students to the new facility, approximately 15 classrooms will

(continued on page 3)



## Seniors Honored at FPS Foundation Event

On Sunday, April 10, the Fremont Public School Foundation sponsored its seventh annual Academic Achievement Banquet, which was held in the Midland University Dining Hall. This was a very special evening for 48 seniors who were honored for their academic achievement at Fremont High School. These students have not only maintained a grade point average of 3.75 or better, but have done so while earning their credits in selected course work that represents the most academically rigorous curriculum the Fremont Public Schools have to offer.

Each of these honored students also selected a Fremont Public Schools educator who has served as a mentor for them, and had a positive influence on their academic career. Along with the students and their parents, these educators were honored at the banquet for the positive influence they have had on the lives of their students. This was a unique opportunity to honor our top students and their parents, as well as the educators who have played a major role in their success. **The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. Roger Breed, Nebraska Commissioner of Education.** Dr. Breed has been providing leadership in Nebraska public education for 38 years through various positions, and currently serves as the highest ranking public education official in the state.

In his comments to students, Dr. Breed saluted the efforts of the students, their parents and their teacher-mentors who have made this achievement possible. He also challenged students to continue to work hard in order to continue their success. He expressed hope that students will look for opportunities to stay in Nebraska, which he stated is poised to offer great opportunities for bright young college graduates.

The honored students were presented with laptop bags as a gift from the Foundation. ★



Nebraska Education Commissioner Dr. Roger Breed addresses attendees.



## Creative Teaching Grants 2010-2011

This school year marked FPS Foundation's second year of the Creative Teaching Grants program and it was a rousing success in terms of quantity and quality. Last year there were eleven submissions and six winners, but this year the Foundation Board received 27 applications and ten teachers were awarded amounts ranging from \$300 - \$1500. The quality of the requests and the evidence of innovation and creativity in the classroom were outstanding. In addition, the grants served some unique populations across the district, expanding their opportunities for learning and participation in the educational process.

*The elementary schools in Fremont have undertaken a new approach to focus on building reading, writing, and listening skills in all students. As a result, several teachers requested materials that would assist them in developing these programs to an optimum level.* Among this group were Christine Radcliff and Jody Sheppard, two second grade teachers at Milliken Park who will develop reading and listening centers with grants of \$300 each. Kindergarten teachers, Emily Baker and Liz Cooper from Howard, also received \$300 for listening centers and an audio library in their rooms.

One of the most unique grant applications was prepared by three literary coaches – Sharon Field, Jenna Gifford, and Melissa Gates – who serve all the elementary schools. The new reading programs require additional assistance from paraprofessionals and they plan to create Literacy Kits for each building and to provide training for these important staff members. As a result of their district wide initiative, they were granted a total of \$1500 from the Foundation. Mary Lambley from Bell Field received \$500 for an after school program for those students who need additional assistance in meeting their reading, writing, listening and math goals.

*Grants for students with special needs were also among those awarded.* Jennifer Grenier, a music teacher at Howard and Milliken Park, requested \$400 to purchase materials and instruments to allow for adaptive music opportunities. This gives some of our

students with high interest and great need exposure to music at an accessible level. Students in the Middle School Basic Skills program are served with the \$300 awarded to teacher Paige Brune and speech pathologist Lisa Gallo. Since several of the students in this program cannot speak and must use signs, switches or technology to communicate, Paige and Lisa requested some specific software programs to help them.

*The Middle School art program is enhanced by the purchase of PC drawing tablets to help students use technology in art.* The \$500 grant was given to art teachers Axton Kahler and Andrea Highstreet and they are excited to discover new ways to use these tablets in their curriculum. *The High School physical education department, at the request of Kelly McMeekin, received \$500 to purchase individual pedometers to assist students in monitoring their own cardiovascular fitness.* With all the concerns about childhood obesity and the need to develop healthier lifestyles, this was an easy selection for the committee. *High School ELL teacher Megan Lambley was awarded a \$500 grant for a digital camera that will be used for curricular support and creating personalized activities for students who seldom have access to this type of technology.*

In all, a total of \$5,100 was awarded to these teachers and the Foundation Board salutes their efforts. The selection committee consisted of Foundation Board Secretary and Middle School Assistant Principal Pam Murphy, Washington Elementary Principal Mike Aerni, and Middle School math teacher and Fremont Education Association President Doug Sheppard. The task was a difficult one but the committee was truly impressed by the breadth and depth of the applications. To all *Cornerstone* readers and FPS alumni, we appreciate your memorial donations that are used for this purpose. The staff and students of FPS receive huge benefits from your generosity and we will continue to encourage teachers to think "outside the box" and to create innovative experiences for the 21<sup>st</sup> century student. ★

### Seniors & Mentors Honored at FPS Foundation Event

STUDENT	MENTOR	STUDENT	MENTOR
Beeson, Elizabeth	Mark Harman	Kukoly, Katelyn	Alice Johnson
Brodd, Kristen	Mark harman	Kunkel, Cole	Dan Cox
Casper, Kally	Quenna Koch	Lacy, Jenna	Melody Chvatal
Cottier, Megan	Mike Schleicher	Leslie, Antonio	Scott Wagner
Dunker, Kristine	Mike Ronspies	Martin, Joslynn	Dawn Weinandt
Eairleywine, Erin	Dan Cox	Muhle, Angela	Deb Beightol
Everly, Kaylee	Shannon Hansen	Niehaus, Connor	Mark Williams
Giesick, Megan	Steve Steager	Pemberton, Laura	Dan Cox
Giovanazzi, Robert	Trish Gray	Perry, Jordan	Justin Bigsby
Hair, Jagger	Mike Schleicher	Peters, Sophie	Heidi Moran
Hallstrom, Jena	Mike Schleicher	Poehling, Cory	Mike Schleicher
Hamilton, Alex	Joanne Lehman	Poppe, Lisa	Andrea Wagner
Hansen, Darian	Jennifer Watzke	Reese, Kathryn	Krisane Olson
Harms, Jacob	Mark Harman	Samuelson, Lukas	Trish Gray
Hoelsing, Kristen	Deb McCord	Schroeder, Hannah	Diane Hento
Horrocks, Dylan	Perk Beckman	Soe, Melissa	Katie McShane-Schwieger
Housman, Kelly	Perk Beckman	Sorrick, Chase	Sean Murphy
Howard, Joshua	Trish Gray	Stewart, Bailey	Dan Cox
Hulett, Claire	Gina Hoffman	Thayer, Ryan	Emily Brown
Jensen, Britt	Sean McMahon	Thomas, Sheyli	Katie McShane-Schwieger
Johnson, Alicia	Lynn Walz	Troupe, Ana	Regina Guinn
Kavan, "Blake"	Pat Osborn	Vass, Braxton	Tony Weinandt
King, Ashley	Ted Husar	Vuong, Dan	Wendy Britton
Koertner, Nathan	Bryce Lambley		

### Foundation Golf Outing Scheduled for July 29<sup>th</sup>

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Fremont Public School Foundation Golf Tournament has been scheduled for Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the beautiful Fremont Golf Club, and will be a 4-person scramble. The event will kick off with a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m., and the entry fee (\$110 for non FCC members or \$85 for members) includes green fees, practice range, complimentary beverages, pin prizes and a dinner. Space is limited so contact the Foundation office soon to sign up your foursome. For information contact: david.pinkall@fpsmail.org or 402-727-3027. ★

### What's Happening in School Construction? (continued from page 2)

be available at the elementary schools, and 15 classrooms will be available at the current Middle School. Enrollment increases in the lower grades have been slow but they have been steady.

Completion of the above projects, which constitute Phase II of the long-range facility plan, will better position the district for modest enrollment increases as they occur. As of April 19, 2011, our projects remain **on time and within budget**. That is a great thing. ★



# TIGER tracks

Fremont Public School Alumni Association

Fremont Public Schools  
130 E. 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Fremont, NE 68025  
402-941-1172  
fps.alumni@fps.org

## News

Dear Alumni,

When sending in your dues or donations, please put the year you graduated and ladies, please put your maiden name on the form also. It will help us greatly to make sure we are crediting the right people for their dues and donations. We also appreciate your email address and phone number. This will help class reunion planners contact you.

Thank you all for your continued support.

The Fremont Public Schools Alumni Association

### Officers

President. . . . . Butch McDuffee '72  
Vice-President. . . . . Bob Krafka '66  
Secretary. . . . . Shirley (Johnson) Angermund '54  
Treasurer. . . . . Virginia (Bader) Marshall '64  
Membership Services. . . . . Kathy (Hansen) Soderling '79

### Board Members

Shirley (Maxey) Harrah '52, David Christensen '48,  
Linda (Kappeler) Goracke '60, Faith (Johnson) Dunn '62,  
Lucinda (Woods) Brester '64, Sue Schlieker '74

Dr. Duane Keilstrup, class of '53, has published a new book with stories of growing up in Fremont and how God led him on paths of joy all his life -- all the way to Africa. It's called: "The Christian Professor in the Secular University: Singing and Soaring on Paths of Joy." Duane, who was a professor at The University of Texas at Arlington for 37 years, relates that his book is "most of all how God makes the ordinary beautiful and how a simple and ordinary fellow can be blessed by and walk with the Lord on paths of extraordinary joys in learning, in teaching, in ministry, in music, and in family and everyday living." Duane, who since retirement from teaching has a show on Yesterday-USA.com called "Song and Smile Time, also relates how God led him to cross paths with entertainers like Patti Page, James Arness, and Frankie Laine. Excerpts can be found on his website at OTRClassicsandCurios.com, and the book is available at amazon.com/books and also at barnesandnoble.com or from Xulon Press at 866-909-2665. If you missed the recent Fremont Tribune article about Duane, you can type in "Former Fremont Publishes Book" on your computer search engine. 🐾

The board meets every other month. We meet the last Monday of every other month at 7:00 pm in the old high school building on 9th & Main St. Meeting months are Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept and Nov. We welcome all visitors and would be happy to have you join us on the board. We always need more board members. For further information you can contact, Virginia Bader-Marshall at vbaderdunn@hotmail.com or call 402-719-6294. 🐾

There has been a website establish for just Fremont High School alumni. It is located at the following address: <http://www.alumni-class.com/Fremontsrhigschool/>

Welcome Fremont High School Alumni! School alumni can utilize this site to reunite with old classmates and plan class reunions. It is a free website. If you need further help, please contact me at vbaderdunn@hotmail.com. 🐾

The class of 1939 meets twice a year on the 4th Wednesday of April & September of each year. 🐾



## What A Deal - Only \$15!!!



That's right!

**For only a \$15 annual fee, you can have membership in the Fremont Public School Alumni Association**

The Alumni Association was founded to promote association among alumni of the Fremont School System and its faculty and staff, to promote class reunions and to disseminate information on the current activities and needs of the Fremont Schools.

Please consider joining the Association for the small annual fee of \$15. You will receive three newsletters yearly. In addition to the newsletter, we have made donations to activities such as science trips and purchasing books. We also provide mailing lists for class reunions for a nominal fee. For the past several years, we have hosted a dance during John C. Fremont Days. SIGN UP TODAY TO KEEP IN TOUCH! Visit our Web site at: [www.connectfremont.org](http://www.connectfremont.org).

Thanks For Your Support! Mail Today!

Last Name First Name Class Yr.

Last Name First Name Class Yr.

Last Name First Name Class Yr.

☐ Annual Membership \$15 per alum ☐ Life Membership \$225 per alum ☐ Mr./Mrs. Annual Membership \$25 per couple

☐ Donation: Alumni Association Student-Aid Endowment \$ ☐ Donation: Alumni \$ ☐ Donation: Foundation \$

Mail to: Fremont Public Schools Alumni Association  
Fremont Public Schools • 130 E. 9th St. • Fremont, NE 68025  
402-941-1172 vm

The class of 1949 meets for breakfast at the Clarion Lodge (formerly Wilderness Lodge) in Fremont on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. For more information contact: Norma Vance 402-727-1784. 🐾

The Class of 50 meets the first Saturday of every month for breakfast at 9:00 A.M. If you need additional information, contact Helen (Henkens) Lannin at (402)721-5101. 🐾

The Class of 1951 is celebrating their 60th Class Reunion August 12-13-14, 2011. Contact Barbara (Clausen) Carlson for further information. 402-477-0761 bobilu2@aol.com. 5311 Marigold Ct, Lincoln, NE 68521 They are also looking for Robert Shaw. If you know anything about him, please let them know. Thanks. 🐾

The Class of '56 meets the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at the Clarion Lodge (formerly Wilderness Lodge). If interested please join us. 🐾

The Class of '59 meets 6:00 pm on the 4th Friday of April & September. For further information contact Karolyn Westphalen Sherman, 402-721-7681 or email rodkar@omni-tech.net 🐾

#### **FREMONT HIGH CLASS Of 1963--50th YEAR REUNION**

The class of 1963 will have a 50 year reunion June 21-23, 2013 in Fremont. Classmates are asked to reserve those dates now and watch for further announcements Please keep us informed of your contact information.

Contact: Larry Fiehn, 840 Yuma Circle, Bowling Green, KY 42104 815-762-0434 🐾

The Class of 1964 meets for breakfast at 9:00 am on the 1st Saturday of each month at the Outpost Grill (Wilderness Lodge). If you have any questions, contact Virginia Bader Marshall 402-719-6294 or email: vbaderdunn@hotmail.com. Come join us. 🐾

If anyone has any news they wish to share with the alumni, please send it to Virginia Bader-Marshall at vbaderdunn@hotmail.com or PO Box 455, Fremont, NE 68026. 🐾

Dear Tigers,  
We hope you like this issue of the Tiger Tracks Newsletter. Let us know if you have any suggestions to help make it more enjoyable or entertaining. We are always looking for story ideas, articles pertaining to alumni and teachers, and e-mail addresses. The Alumni Association also assists each class by making available its address list for each class. Address lists may be purchased or pre-printed address labels are available at a nominal fee. Please contact Virginia (Bader) Marshall 402-719-6294 or vbaderdunn@hotmail.com 🐾

### **Wedding Celebrations**

<b>Marty Koolen</b>	<b>1990</b>	& Annie Hua	St. Paul, MN	7/3/10
<b>Andrew Finley</b>	<b>1995</b>	& Caryn Siegel	New York City, NY	10/9/10
<b>Boone Oshel</b>	<b>1996</b>	& Jerilyn Quigley	Marshalltown, IA	4/10/10
<b>Sara Jirovsky</b>	<b>1998</b>	& Daniel Townsend	Fremont, NE	10/9/10
<b>Brooke Holkt</b>	<b>2000</b>	& Jonathan Denio	Norman, OK	5/29/10
<b>Dan Ilten</b>	<b>2000</b>	& Kylie Milleson	Doniphan, NE	6/12/10
<b>Brett Miller</b>	<b>2002</b>	& Carrie Ann Mann	Blair, NE	6/19/10
<b>Lexy Wilt</b>	<b>2004</b>	& <b>Willie Baughman</b>	<b>2000</b> Fremont, NE	10/9/10
<b>Stephanie Macklin</b>	<b>2004</b>	& Anthony Bradley	Omaha, NE	9/18/10
<b>Amber Kerschinske</b>	<b>2005</b>	& Derek Carruthers	Fremont, NE	6/19/10
<b>Chelsea Hanen</b>	<b>2006</b>	& Caleb Kuddes	Fort Wayne, IN	6/12/10
<b>Christopher Tank</b>	<b>2006</b>	& Katie Baldwin	Fremont, NE	9/4/10

The Class of 66 is planning a reunion this summer, Saturday, August 6, 11 at the Fremont Golf Club. The Brakman will be playing at the reunion. They are inviting anyone from the classes of 1964 thru 1969 to come out and join them. They are charging \$10 for anyone not in the class of 1966. If you have any questions, please call Mike Funk at 402-720-3401 or email him at mfunk66@aol.com. 🐾

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR REUNION PLANNERS**

The Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau will give the Alumni Association a \$3 per room (first night only) donation for any class that books a block of hotel/motel rooms. When you set up your block of rooms ask the hotel\motel if they participate in the "Room Rebate" program. Below is the form that will have to be filled out by the people using this program. Call Kathy Riggles at 402-598-2794 or email her for more information at Ksriggle1@netscape.net. The Fremont & Dodge Co. Convention and Visitors Bureau will need to have the below form to process the donations for us. Thank you for supporting your Alumni Association. 🐾

### **Fremont & Dodge County Convention and Visitors Bureau Hotel Rebate Program**

Room Occupant's Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Event You Are Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Room # \_\_\_\_\_







Peggy Mae Larson Stromer-Hirschberg, Class of 52, wrote to me and shared the following information. "Canteen—Not a common term these days, but in the WW2 era and shortly beyond, it was recognized as a place for social gatherings. The Fremont Youth Canteen was the brainchild of Clara Muir, a County Social Welfare employee who believed in an ounce of prevention. Her efforts were largely on her own time. The first version was put into place in the late 40's on the 1st floor of an unused building in downtown Fremont in 1950. It moved to the second floor with an improved dance floor and better support facilities such as rest rooms and snack bar. A lot of volunteer labor, both adult and youth, went into putting it into operating shape. It succeeded because it was able to get the mainstream youth involved and interested. A few rules no alcohol or tobacco, once you entered you could not leave and re-enter. The parents gave the stamp of approval to the place. This meant it was a safe place for girls, hence a place where the boys would eventually be. Volunteers kept the place going and the key to willing volunteers was the Signature Wall. You earned points for each volunteer function and when you accumulated 100 points you could sign the wall. It was bright red and the signatures were in white. Some were spectacular. Patty Purcell had a signature rivaling a highway billboard.

It was the great equalizer. You didn't have to have a nice house to entertain in or a socially active family and it took almost no money to be an active participant. The well stocked jukebox was free and most activities outside of snacks were available at no cost. This included pool and ping pong. It was the place to go 3 days a week. After athletic events, it was the only place to go. This included visiting students. Most girls could dance. Most boys could not. John Rinde taught a beginning dance class for years and once the fundamentals were introduced, the girls improved the boys ability in short order. We all had favorite dance partners and sometimes it sparked a romance. But not always. That was the beauty of it.

A large pool of dance partners nor requiring the mating ritual to enjoy a dance. It produced an unusually large number of excellent ballroom dancers. To this day, I can go to any part of the country and enjoy a few turns around the floor with an unfamiliar partner. There is no substitute for time on the floor.

Most towns that attempted to duplicate the Canteen were not successful over a long period of time. The Fremont version lasted maybe 10 years and then faded away. Lots of reasons, many not so easy to define. Those of us fortunate to be there in its prime, count those nights at the Canteen among our fondest memories. That is why we refer to them as the Golden years." "Mary Rinde Adam's story reminded me of a story I had written in my Writing Group here in WI. We were so fortunate in our teen years when few had cars we could always count on finding our friends to hang out at the Canteen. Thanks Mrs. Muir." Peggy Mae Larson Stromer-Hirschberg '52. Thanks Peggy for sharing with us about the Canteen. I do believe the Canteen lasted much longer than 10 years as I was going there in 1964 and I think it was still around in the 70s'. Jon Appleget was a big influence back then to keep it going. He was a teacher at Fremont High. I will see if I can get more information from him for the next issue. 🐾

## HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

by Peggy Mae Larson Stromer-Hirschberg

Most folks have only one story to tell about their high school experiences. I guess you could say, I was lucky, for I have two high schools to tell about. The first high school I attended was Benson High School in Omaha, NE, 1948-50. I have told about my experiences while there in an earlier story.

Now on to high school number 2, Fremont High School in Fremont, NE, just 34 miles west of Omaha, where I had last resided with my mother, her sister Aunt Mabel & Uncle Ted and grandfather, Charles M. Shepard, mother's dad.

My mother remarried on Aug 29, 1950! I had no choice in the matter. In my young days, age 16, you minded your parents and you did as you were told. It didn't matter whether I thought I couldn't live another day without all of my friends at Benson High School! The school created an atmosphere of fun and boyfriends and some homework and social activities and most of all, being a Benson Bunny.

I should explain that Benson Bunnies were the all girl's cheerleading squad for all sports.

Besides all that, I had a wonderful PE teacher, Mabel Leach, who weight 250 lbs if she weight an ounce, but in my mind's eye, a wonderful woman with a great heart full of talent. Miss Leach could maneuver her students to do anything she wanted. Besides one cannot be expected to demonstrate everything about every sport. She chose me to do a lot of the demonstration of dance during our dance unit. Right up my alley, as I had been taking lessons from Cora Quick Dance Studio in downtown Omaha, since I was four years old. Miss Leach was a teacher who inspired me to choose PE as my career.

In late August of 1950, after my sophomore year at Benson, we moved to Fremont, where I was enrolled into Fremont High School. New stepfather, new home, new town and a new school. Didn't know a soul!

I quickly learned that Fremont High School had cheerleading tryouts in the fall of the year. I was excited about the opportunity of being able to try out. They had squads of four (boys & girls) representing each class. I tried out for the Junior Class Cheerleaders and much to my amazement and pleasure I had been chosen. The other three were Theola Klatt, Sydney Sorenson and Dick Merkling all returning squad cheerleaders. I was the new kid on the block who had gotten more votes than the squad cheerleader, Jeanalee TeSelle, who just happened to be Fremont High School's principal's daughter. Oh great, was my thought, I just replaced the principal's daughter on the cheerleading squad! What a beginning for me! As it turned out, what a wonderful beginning it was for me to quickly get acquainted with the other kids and Jeanalee could not have been more gracious in defeat. We are friends to this day.

My junior class had 126 students in an old red brick two story school house across from a park right in the middle of town. I lived at 7<sup>th</sup> and Clarkson, so walked the fourteen blocks each way to and from school.

Classes were great, teachers were great and school activities were wonderful. My first year there we put on "The Pirates of Pensance", an opera, under the direction of Albert Gay. Mr. Gay was quite a sight to behold. He reminded of Iccabod Crane. Mr. Gay stood over 6 ft tall, long and lanky build with suits that never seemed to be made long enough in the arms and to stretch to the wrist area. When Mr. Gay directed us, especially in Chorus, his forearms and hand with long sinuary fingers looked as though they would become detached from his coat sleeve and fly out at us. To add to his peculiar appearance were his crossed eyes. Now a day, one could call it a lazy eye but one could never figure out which eye was looking at us, thus we paid strict attention and besides we dearly loved the man.

Boyfriends were quite an item, so little by little, I dated around until I found Ray Clement, a senior and also a football star. We dated half way through my junior year with house parties and the Youth Canteen as our chief hangout after the games. Ray was rather a serious soul, as I recall, so we broke up. In the meantime, the Canteen was the perfect place to go singly or with a group to meet all the kids.

Early on I dated Dick Morris, but he liked to drink too much and also smoked cigarettes.

Then came Chuck McClain, another senior, great friend and good dancer but our relationship could never last. Chuck was allergic to my hair and he would sneeze and break out in hives. Next came, John Neff, good looking and perhaps the best all around athlete and scholar in our high school. We dated only a few times as I really could not get John to have fun!

Another cutie was Howard Johnson, a shy farm boy and athlete, but again we just did not hit it off. Finally I discovered Ron Donahue, a blue eyed blonde, football & basketball player with a magnetic personality. Skinny kid but that didn't really matter as many of the boys were in that shape plus knobby knees and an adam's apple, which seemed to be out of proportion to the rest of their neck. Hard to say what the boys thought of us girls?

Ron was an only child himself and living with his grandmother. We hit it off just perfectly and enjoyed the remaining one and a half years of high school as friends and





sweethearts until "I broke his heart," he said when I enrolled as a freshman at the University of Nebraska and never came back to see him in Fremont where he stayed and enrolled at Midland College. Funny how one learns things after the fact in later years of conversation.

Other teachers I recall were Frances Hanlon, English. I thought she was ancient at the time. Wonder if she was the reason I never learned to spell? Mercedes Reed was the PE teacher. Nice lady but felt so sorry for her as the gymnasium was literally a "pit" with a balcony running around the edge on the upper floor. Everything was old and the locker rooms were disgusting! The smell was enough to cause you to hate PE and a lot of girls did.

Football and basketball seasons at Fremont were fabulous. Our coaches were outstanding, Bob Farris and My Draemel respectively. My very 1<sup>st</sup> year there, the guys played in the Big Ten football playoffs in North Platte. Cheerleaders got to take the train to the game.

And in basketball Ron (guard) and his teammates were so good they played at the state tournament in Lincoln. Guess which team we played in the semi-finals? Benson High School! We beat my former school. Of course, I was cheerleading but "for the wrong school", my former classmates said. I was called "the trader"! By the way, we went on to the finals, won and became State Basketball Champs, our junior year (1951) and State runner's up, our second year (1952).

While at Fremont High School, I was discovering Fremont was a pretty neat town in which to live and that my unwanted high school was filled with new found friends and many wonderful opportunities.

EG. Each year the school held a "Variety Show" for which students could try out and be accepted for performance. My junior year, I did a solo modern dance to the tune of Blue Moon sung by another classmate, Shirley Hipke. I thought I looked quite sexy in my long midnight blue satin gown slit up to the hips on both sides. Others in the audience, perhaps had the same thought as I did. As the music played and I danced my routine, pennies were being tossed upon the stage. I was mortified and to this day, I have never discovered who started the barrage of coins! Truly a most embarrassing moment in my life.

In my senior year I elected to gather together fifteen female classmates. I taught them a tap dance routine to the tune of Ball and the Jack. We auditioned and were accepted to dance in the "Variety Show" in black satin tails & white vests and black mess opera hose. Each girl did an outstanding job. We were not quite as good as the "Rockettes" but we did leave a lasting impression. Mary Jean Harpstrieth found

the routine to be quite challenging and begged to change some of the dance steps. But I thought she would eventually rise to the challenge and she did. Those girls became fast friends during those 7:00 am practices before school each morning. And to demonstrate how good our memory and abilities still are ten of us danced Ball and the Jack routine for our 50<sup>th</sup> Class reunion in 2002.

Still another teachers to recall were Miss Roberts, the typing instructor, who would drum out typing rhythm on the keyboard by tapping her wooden ruler against her desk! She kept preaching: "We all needed at least one year of typing in order to become successful." One semester was enough for me and to this day the keyboard letters are embedded into my brain and fingers. Could it have been the tapping of the ruler?

Drama class was fun under the direction of Miss Mary Gayle Sigler. I performed in the threesome of girls called Ladies of the Mop. Miss Sigler took the drama students on a field trip to the University of Nebraska Theatre Department production of You Can't Take It With You. One character stood out in my mind, Mr. Kimber, Mr. God Dam Kimber, who really wasn't old at all with his stage makeup removed. He was a handsome blue eyed blonde freshman from Hastings, NE. I didn't know it at our first meeting but our paths would cross again and Marvin E Stromer (Mr. Kimber) would become my husband!

And finally, perhaps the most fun and educational and rewarding class experience at Fremont High School was young, Mr. Barclay Wade's journalism class. He was fresh out of college into his first teaching experience and all the girls loved him. We learned all sorts of human skills which have carried me through many of life's turmoil. Because we short on boys in the class, my senior year, I was assigned to be sports writer for our school's weekly newspaper, The Rustler. I knew nothing about writing sports, e.g., football, downs & positions of players and all that but with my boyfriends' (Ron Donahue) help each week, I got stories written and published. Good experience for me as I could see the game from the player and coaches' view as well as a cheerleader.

Another embarrassing moment came for me, however, during a rainy football game, when as a cheerleader, I ran out onto the field to give my boyfriend a big congratulation smacker. In front of the whole stadium, I heard the whistle of the referee signaling me to get off the field as we still had 30 sec left on the time clock! Never have lived that situation down. Every class reunion, I am reminded of my enthusiasm and Ron's embarrassed look at the teasing of his teammates in the locker room after the game.

Oh well, it was all in good, clean fun as was my whole two years at Fremont High School. What started out to be an unwanted move turned out to be one of the most happy two years of my life." 🐾



## Fremont Public School Alumni Association

NAME	CLASS YR	PLACE	DATE
<b>1920's</b>			
<b>1930's</b>			
Eugene Keating	1930	Fremont, NE	1/3/11
Vola (Boothe) Slette	1930	Woodburn, OR	2/24/11
Julia (Middaugh) Walling	1931 or 32	Fremont, NE	1/26/11
Gorden E. Reier	1933	Fremont, NE	12/4/10
Durward Black	1934	Mesa, AZ	2/14/11
Geraldine (Ladehoff) Price	1938	Fremont, NE	3/24/11
Mary Jean (McCune) Cotter	1939	Gretna, NE	3/20/11
<b>1940's</b>			
Robert Tegt	1941	Fremont, NE	4/16/11
Dorothy (Mordhorst) Swanson	1942	Fremont, NE	7/17/10
Lou Jean (Samuelson) Snow	1943	Omaha, NE	12/6/10
Kay (Murphy) Graves	1944	Ft Meyers, FL	3/17/10
Nancy (Frank) Engle	1944		9/19/10
Jeanne (Sorenson) Pierce	1944	Omaha, NE	6/11/10
Ross Watchorn	1946	Lincoln, NE	6/19/10
LaDonna (Tank) Powell	1946	Fremont, NE	7/9/10
Charles Ostrand	1946	Fremont, NE	11/30/10
Joseph Bales	1946	Fremont, NE	12/21/10
Patricia (Gray) Sorensen	1947		12/30/10
Darlene (Camberg) Schlottag	1948	Omaha, NE	6/20/10
Warren Harms	1948	Fremont, NE	3/17/11
Albert Dean Brunmeier	1948	Omaha, NE	2/12/11
Roger Gilmore	1948	Fort Collins, CO	2/11/11
Mary Ellen (Anderson) Davis	1948		
Merle Webber	1948		
Jerry Kaarstad	1948		
Lila Rae (Harker) Tharp	1948		
Richard Larsen	1949	Loveland, CO	4/6/10
Joan (Rice) Krael	1949	Fremont, NE	4/9/10
Delores (Montanye) McMahon	1949	Fremont, NE	1/7/11
<b>1950's</b>			
Helen (Long) Schulz	1950	Fremont, NE	12/31/10
Robert Jewell	1950	Onawa, IA	4/11/11
Jack Smith	1950	Panama City, FL	2/17/11
Dr. Thomas Moriarty	1950	Omaha, NE	2/15/11
Lytle Echtenkamp	1951		1/1/09

NAME	CLASS YR	PLACE	DATE
<b>1960's</b>			
Ray Clement	1951		1/1/10
Dick Morse	1951		1/1/11
Karolyn (Sommers) Cernik	1952	Fremont, NE	2/6/11
Neil Luebke	1954		1/1/10
LaVearle Sam Baker	1955	Omaha, NE	7/16/10
William Clark	1955	Albia, IA	3/8/11
Gerald Bruce	1957	Lake Elsinore, CA	12/5/10
Jackie Moad	1957	Fort Collins, CO	4/14/11
Virginia (Wilson) Rohren	1957	Waverly, NE	1/27/11
<b>1960's</b>			
Lanny Coufal	1961	Omaha, NE	2/27/11
Janice (Long) Rutledge	1961	Sebring, FL	10/22/10
Candice (Eidam) Sorensen	1965	Brentwood, CA	11/22/10
Connie (Wilch) Livingston Parra	1965	Kansas City, KS	1/7/11
David McLey	1966	Salisbury, MO	5/14/10
Charles Kilbourn	1966	Fremont, NE	1/20/11
Kenneth Poyer	1967	Omaha, NE	12/8/10
Timothy Johnson	1969	Georgetown, CA	3/24/10
Ronald Yannone	1969	Fremont, NE	2/19/11
<b>1970's</b>			
Kenneth Jim Clausen	1970	Yutan, NE	2/5/11
Lloyd Arie	1971	Fremont, NE	5/1/10
Michael Timm	1974	Nickerson, NE	7/18/10
Kevin Geisler	1974	Estes Park, CO	12/7/10
Douglas Lemons	1975	Fremont, NE	1/24/11
Robin Adams	1979	Wahoo, NE	3/22/11
<b>1980's</b>			
Cindy (Reason) Christensen	1980		
Kristine (Wilhelm)	1983	Arlington, NE	6/16/10
Michelle (Conrad) Nielsen	1985	Fremont, NE	
<b>1990's</b>			
Timothy Rise	1994	Omaha, NE	7/25/10
Kent McCoy	1998	Fremont, NE	12/7/10
<b>2000's</b>			



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