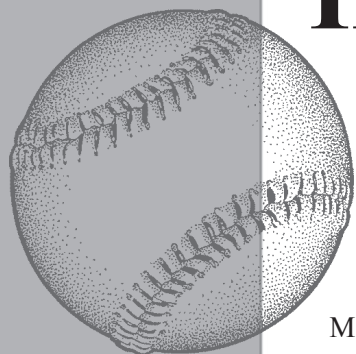


# Bison Alumni

PO Box 665 · McCook, NE · bisonalumni.com · mccoock2010.com



## Honor goes to McCook's *'Little Satchel'*

By Rob White WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Mickey Stubblefield may not have had to travel great distances to break the color barrier in the old Kitty League, but as with the experiences of many of the black men honored this spring by baseball, there was still so far to go.

Stubblefield, who played semi-pro ball and later lived in McCook, NE, signed in 1952 with the Mayfield (Ky.) Clothiers, his hometown team. The Pittsburgh Pirates farm team was in last place in the Class D Kentucky-Illinois-Tennessee (Kitty) League when he made his debut in June, 1952.

"It was a beautiful town, and I was a happy-go-lucky guy," Stubblefield said. "I wasn't trying to fool anyone. I went my way and they went theirs."

Still, it was a different era. Only five years earlier, Jackie Robinson had broken the major leagues' color barrier. By 1952, black players were still only gradually getting chances with other organizations.

That season, Stubblefield pitched only in home games because of the fear of racial tensions on the road.

"It was rough," Stubblefield said. "But it didn't bother me, what they said. And I was called everything."

Stubblefield, 85, and other former Negro League players were honored May 14, 2011 in Atlanta, prior to the Negro Leagues Tribute Game between the Braves and Philadelphia Phillies. This was the fifth annual Civil Rights Game.

Even though he made history in his home-



**Mickey 'Little Satchel' Stubblefield was one of the first black players in the Nebraska Independent League.**

town, Stubblefield traveled the continent in his career. The season that Robinson broke the color line, Stubblefield said, he played for the Omaha Rockets, a barnstorming team.

After teaming up with Satchel Paige, "Cool Papa" Bell and others with the Kansas City Monarchs, Stubblefield played semi-pro ball with the McCook Cats in 1950. He was playing semi-pro ball in Kentucky before signing to pitch in the Kitty League in 1952.

*continued on page 2*

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# Honor goes to McCook's 'Little Satchel'

continued from page 1

He stayed in the Pirates organization for one more season, pitching for Class C Duluth, MN., in 1953. But by then, he has said, his arm had "given out."

Stubblefield returned to McCook, played several years for the Cats and made the western Nebraska city his home until 1970.

Nine of his 10 children live in Lincoln, and some of his 22 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren are in the area.

Stubblefield moved from Mayfield to the Atlanta area just last week to live with one of his daughters.

Stubblefield's baseball travels took him to nearly every state, as well as Canada and Mexico, but there was a comfort level for him in Nebraska.

"In Nebraska, I didn't know I was black unless I looked in the mirror," Stubblefield said. "They treated me so well. I met a lot of wonderful people in McCook."

Stubblefield was born Wilker Harrison Thelbert Stubblefield. The nickname Mickey stuck when he was young because of his oversized hand-me-down baseball cleats, which looked a little like those of

a recently created cartoon mouse named Mickey.

As he matured as a player, Stubblefield played nearly every position, but gained much of his reputation on the mound.

Some accounts refer to Stubblefield as "Little Satchel," because of his Paige-like repertoire of pitches and deliveries.

In the 2000 book, "The Negro Leagues Revisited," by Brent Kelley, Stubblefield described his pitching style.

"A lot of junk stuff," he said. "Curveball. Drop, we called it at the time - overhand drop, sidearm, underhanded. I could curve it either way. We used to throw it sidearm, and we called that an inshoot."

He reportedly was 13-6 for McCook in 1950. In that era, semi-pro baseball generated significantly more interest and appeal than it does currently.

Hobe Hays, in the 1999 book Take Two and Hit to Right, said Stubblefield joined McCook late in the 1949 season and was among the first black players in the Nebraska Independent League.

Stubblefield, Hays wrote, was "a muscular 5-foot-9 athlete who pitched and could play all the other positions as well."

Back home in Kentucky in 1952, Stubblefield was playing semi-pro ball when he was signed to help bolster the Kitty League team. He was signed by Pirates scout Frank Rickey (brother of Branch


Rickey, the general manager who signed Robinson for the Brooklyn Dodgers). Reportedly 1,500 people - the second-largest crowd of the season - turned out at War Memorial Park for his debut, a 5-4 complete game victory in which he walked five and struck out six, including the first batter he faced, Russ Davis.

"He's told me that he was pretty scared that day," said **Dennis Stubblefield '74**, Mickey's son and a Lincoln resident. "But he took the risk. He said he wanted to beat them so bad."

Stubblefield was 7-6 with a 3.70 ERA that season, then was 2-0 with Duluth the following year before eventually returning to McCook.

Sometimes emotional in recalling his experiences, Stubblefield tried to rise above the prejudice. But the underlying scars are still there. "We prayed for people who didn't understand," he said.

(Editor's note: Mickey was the 2011 Grand Marshal during the Heritage Days Parade in McCook with a reception in his honor at the High Plains Museum. His children who attended McCook Public Schools, include: **Janice Stubblefield Woody '67, Mickey Jr '69, Mary Katherine Stubblefield Arvin '71, Steve '72, Dennis '74 and Angela Stubblefield Smail '76.**)

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## Websites Of Interest:

[bisonalumni.com](http://bisonalumni.com)  
[McCook2010.com](http://McCook2010.com)  
[mccookgazette.com](http://mccookgazette.com)  
[aboutmccook.com](http://aboutmccook.com)  
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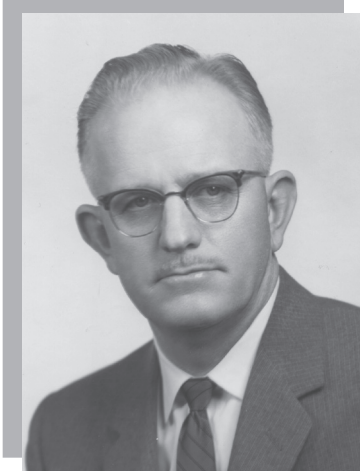
Mickey was Grand Marshal for Heritage Days 2011. He is shown here holding a McCook Bison cap that was presented to him



Photo courtesy **Connie Jo Discoe '73** & *McCook Daily Gazette*

# Wall of Fame

*Inductees have been announced for the 2011 Bison Alumni Wall of Fame.  
They are Don Thompson, Class of 1928  
and Brigadier General Gerald Eugene McIlmoyle, Class of 1948.*



**Don Thompson '28**

Thompson became involved in conservation and flood control. His philosophy that “underground water and surface water must be considered together or there will be problems in the future” led to his authoring of two legislative studies with UNL on the

**Don Thompson '28** was nominated primarily for leadership in the Republican Valley Conservation Association. This organization was responsible for the dam and lake projects in the Republican Valley. To quote from the letter of nomination, “We would not have our lakes without Don Thompson, and Nebraska would not have its water law structure without him.”

Because he witnessed the destruction of the 1935 flood,

topics of underground water and public power. He also penned some of the first underground legislation for the state. For this vision he received the “Headgate Award” from the US Bureau of Reclamation.

Elected to the legislature in 1954, Thompson’s first bill with Senator Harry Pizer from North Platte was to pave Highway 83 between the two communities. He served as Speaker of the Unicameral in 1961-62.

Don and his brothers, **Dale '38** and **Chester '25**, gained national recognition as leaders in the Registered Hereford Business. Because he remained in the McCook area, his influence was also evident in Kiwanis, Jaycees, the District 8 school board, the Chamber of Commerce and the McCook College Foundation. He served not only on the Red Willow County Fair Board but also as president of the Nebraska State Fair Board as well as the Nebraska County Fair Managers Association. He was a life-long supporter of 4-H and as such chaired the Red Willow County 4-H committee for a time.

**Jerry McIlmoyle '48** was nominated specifically for flying U-2 reconnaissance over Cuba and providing information to help avert the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. For this he was thanked personally by President Kennedy and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. At one time he was also assigned as Director of the Joint Personnel Recovery Center. Their task was to recover all allied MIAs and POWs from Southeast Asia.

A thirty year Air Force career included intelligence duties at Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, as well as the Pentagon. Conceptualizing and documenting SAC needs in cameras, films, processing, electronic and other intelligence collectors as well as specifying SAC’s worldwide intelligence requirements and processing and dissemination of the intelligence data collected were projects under his leadership. McIlmoyle was instrumental in briefing the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the need to

endorse and fund the Space Shuttle. Before Ronald Reagan was inaugurated, it was McIlmoyle’s duty to brief him on nuclear responsibilities and release codes. When he retired in 1981, Gen. McIlmoyle was well decorated. In all he had been awarded a Distinguished Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, and 3 Air Medals.



**Jerry McIlmoyle '48**

*The Wall of Fame Committee is always wanting to add to the pool of nominees. If you know of individuals who have been out of high school for at least ten years and who have contributed significantly to community and/or profession, please submit a nomination on their behalf. Letters should include the candidate’s name, address and phone number if applicable, and graduating class year as well as a paragraph outlining significant contributions. Nominations must be signed and dated and include a phone number for further clarification. They may be mailed to Steve Clapp 307 Park Ave. McCook, NE 69001. Alumni interested in serving on the selection committee may volunteer at the same address or by calling (308) 345-6835.*

# Spotlights

## *Alumni in Ministry*

*We would like to print a list or do stories of other alumni in ministry. Send your info to: [bison1973@yahoo.com](mailto:bison1973@yahoo.com). Information for these highlights came from stories by Dawn Cribbs at [mccookgazette.com](http://mccookgazette.com)*

### **The Rev. Adam Sughroue '02**

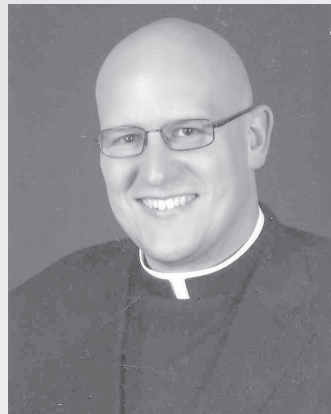


Adam Sughroue graduated from McCook Community College with an associate's degree in elementary education in 2004. He had planned to get a four-year degree to teach. However, because he had often thought about the priesthood, he changed directions and entered St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. Following his studies at St. Greg's he traveled to the East Coast, where he spent the next four years studying at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmetsburg, Maryland, receiving a Master's degree in Theology. On May 28, 2010, Adam was ordained as a transitional deacon. He was ordained into the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. The next day he delivered his first Mass, the

Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish, St. Patrick Catholic Church in McCook. Adam is serving in the Lincoln diocese at St. John's Parish, as an assistant pastor and is teaching religion at St John the Apostle School.

Adam says, "Four years on the coast showed me that there's no place like small town Nebraska. The coast was interesting and I'm glad I had the experience, but it is great to be home."

### **The Rev. Neal Hock '96**



As a senior in high school, Neal had thoughts about being a priest. He decided, however, to go to the university and following graduation, became an accountant for a grain company. Then, Sept. 11, 2001! He began to think about his own mortality and realized how quickly, and without notice, death can descend upon us. Neal turned to prayer to find answers from God. He was led to become a priest and to return to the path he now sees as God's plan all along.

Neal went to Conception Seminary College in Conception, Missouri, continued his seminary life in Rome, Italy and on Oct. 7, 2010, in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, was ordained as a deacon. He

was ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest on June 10, 2011 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. His first Mass was presented the following day, at his home parish, St. Patrick Catholic Church in McCook. He returned to Rome in October to complete his license degree. Sponsored by the diocese of Grand Island, Neal will move back to Nebraska in June 2012, and will be assigned to his first parish within the diocese's boundaries.

## *In Memory*

Ward Rounds - music teacher

Ruth Murray Leopold -  
MHS business manger

Mary Austin Horendeck '32

Betty Stahle Revard '34

Ed Harris '38

Loretta Sharp '39

Joan Ruth Petersen Cooper '42

Billie Dee Mapes '45

Elsie Clapp Hansen-Faught '46

Harry Krogh '47

Madlyn Gregg Larson '47

Betty Cady Decker '48

Glen Sliger '50

Jack Rogers '50

Willis Unger '51

Don Lieberth '52

Donald McDonald '53

Richard Dack '53

Ted Perry '54

Reuben Hoff Jr. '55

Harold Davidson '55

Burdette Geihlsler '55

Ron Grimm '57

Barbara Weiss Baker '59

Harold Berry Sr. '59

Dixie Shepherd Buffington '61

Barb Anderson Gaskins '66

James Cobb '71

Craig Francis '72

Tom Spradlin '76

Gregg Kasl '79

Carla McKillip '90

Sara McPhillips Cobb '04

*Each class expresses sincere condolences to the families of these classmates. You may read more information about many of these deaths on-line at [www.mccookgazette.com](http://www.mccookgazette.com)*

# McCook: Nebraska's Hot Spot

By Randy Andrews '73 & Peg Augustyn Andrews '74

This past year residents and visitors alike could enjoy musicals, dramatic plays, outdoor concerts, a film festival, a Story Telling Festival, and Heritage Week-end with its myriad of activities. A drive to Omaha or Denver was not necessary to scratch your cultural itch!

Southwest Nebraska Community Theater Association presented "The Music Man" in March. Large crowds turned out to see **Doug Ohlson '76** as Harold Hill, a flim-flam salesman who was out for a quick buck in this delightful musical. The grand finale each night had members of the McCook High School Band parading to "76 Trombones." "SWNCTA" supported the band with a \$10 donation per person per performance to help them raise funds for their next band project. Some alumni who acted or worked backstage included: **Phil Goodenberger '54, Chuck '59 & Dian Keene '61 Trail, Charles Coleman '67, Sarah Gansbom Brown '72, and Jim Coady '73.**

In August, "SWNCTA" presented "God's Favorite. The 1974 Neil Simon comedy was performed in the round at the McCook Community College Weeth Theatre. God wagers with the Devil that Joe Benjamin (**Randy Andrews '73**) will never renounce God no matter how much pain and suffering Joe has to endure. Rose Benjamin (**Peg Augustyn Andrews '74**) is Joe's nervous and excitable wife. The Benjamin's servants were **Nancy Haller-Towne '69 and Chuck Trail '59.** Chuck and **Diane Keene Trail '61** did their usual wonderful work of designing and building the set.

The 15th annual Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival was the second weekend of June. The festival began in 1997 with the belief that a community's greatest gift is the evolving history of its people and their stories. In 1987, Frank Popper, the chairman of the urban studies department at Rutgers University, and his geographer wife, Deborah, concluded that the arid Great Plains would lose almost all of their people within the coming quarter-century.

Time has proven them wrong! This year's events included a "Wild West Bus Ride" tracing the historic cattle trails through the rugged hills of Southwest Nebraska. Award winning storyteller, recording artist and educator Awele Makeba treated the audiences to her own tale of western trails. The finale at the Fox Theatre was emceed by **Cal Siegfried' 73.**

September brought the NET/Fox Theatre Film Festival to McCook. Spearheaded by **Tim Monzon '75 and Charlie Coleman '66,** the Fox Theatre became the first venue in the state to ever host a film festival exclusively devoted to showing original films produced by Nebraska Educational Television. Several NET producers were on hand to discuss their films.

The four day event included these films: "Walk Ons: Husker Edge"; "Home-made Astronaut: The Clay Anderson Story"; "Standing Bear's Footsteps" and "STRATCOM 9/11: A Different Doomsday." It was an engrossing film about the involvement of how STRATCOM, (based in Bellevue, Nebraska) was an essential part of protecting President Bush when America was threatened by the horrific acts of terrorism on September 11, 2001. Included in the finale on Sunday, September 11, was a "Salute to Heroes," a filmed series of interviews paying tribute to our own local First Responders and America's military men and women. **Dan Stramel '73** told of his late father Ray, who had a point position in the deadly Battle of Peleliu during World War II. He summed it up this way: "In the view of our fighting men, including those who have won the Congressional Medal of Honor, America's real heroes are those who did not return from the battlefield." The film was produced by **Cody Dame '01** of Divine Productions and sponsored by McCook National Bank.


The last weekend of September was the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Heritage Days. Do you remember when it was German Heritage Days? Chamber of Commerce director, **Pam Harsh '73** couldn't have asked for better weather! The grand marshal

of the Saturday morning parade was Mickey Stubblefield, a barrier-breaking right-handed pitcher who played with the McCook Cats in the early 1950s. On Thursday evening, several hundred people turned out to pay tribute to Mickey and reminisce about the 20 years he lived in McCook and raised his family (see our front page story). Most of his children who attended school in McCook accompanied him throughout the weekend.

Friday morning was the Norris Foundation Prayer Breakfast at the Heritage Senior Center. Tom Vickers, a former State Senator, was the keynote speaker who offered his opinion on what Senator Norris might think of the current state of the unicameral. Friday afternoon the McCook Community Foundation awarded over \$25,000 in grants to McCook organizations at Norris Park. Their first annual Random Act of Kindness Grant was awarded to the McCook Heritage Senior Center. **John Kugler '75** and several of his hot air balloon enthusiast friends drifted through the skies of McCook to the delight of those who looked upward.

The parade on Saturday morning had nearly 100 entries and was enjoyed by a large crowd. The Class of 1971 had their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion and many attendees rode on a flatbed truck together. (see picture page). Yes, McCook was "hot" this past year. Hope you were there to enjoy some of these events!

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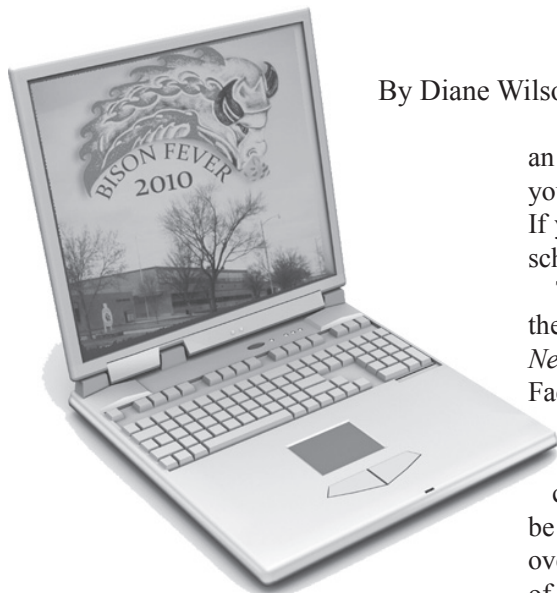
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LYONS & WOOD  
LAWYERS**  
  
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PHIL LYONS '74  
DAL WOOD '48 (1930-2005)  
PAUL WOOD '80  
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# Remembering McCook -



# facebook Style

By Diane Wilson Lyons '76



Quick, put on your thinking caps and see if you can come up with the answers to these questions about McCook. What type of entertainment business was located just north of Mac's Drive-In? What was the name of the big dance that Mrs. Coffey's students put on every spring at Central? Where was McCook's first drive-in restaurant located and what was its name? Answers are at the end of this article.

Questions and topics like this have been discussed and reminisced about repeatedly the last few months on a Facebook page called "*Remember When in McCook, Nebraska*". The page was started in late summer by **Kevin Schwartz '75** and his wife Mary, modeling it after other "Remember When" pages that started about the same time. Kevin's classmate, **Roch Bahl '75** used his "friends list" on Facebook to start sending invitations to others to join the page and has served as administrator of the page.

What is Facebook? According to Wikipedia, "Facebook is a social networking service and Web site launched in February 2004, operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. As of July 2011, Facebook has more than 800 million active users. Users may create a personal profile, add other users as friends, and exchange messages, including automatic notifications when they update their profile." It is a great way of keeping up with the happenings of your children, siblings, extended family members, classmates, and friends. To join Facebook, all you need is access to a computer and

an email address. Go to Facebook.com on your computer and you can start an account. If you have problems with it, ask any high school student to help you!!!

To join the McCook page, just type in the words "*Remember When in McCook, Nebraska*" in the search box at the top of any Facebook page. It will take you right to this page and you can start reading through the posts. At the top of the page you can click on a box that lets you request to be a member of the page. So far there are over 600 members of this page, the majority of them being MHS alumni.

There is lots of information about McCook that you can enjoy once you're on this page. On the right column there is an icon to click on which says "View Photos". Be prepared for a trip down memory lane! There are currently 166 photos that members have posted to the page that you can view. Some of them are postcards showing downtown McCook in the 40s, 50s, and 60s.

**Don Schaaf '55** has posted several photos that were taken at McCook Junior High in the early 1950s. There are pictures of a North Ward beanie, Little League baseball teams, and kids riding the circus elephants that came to town. **Aaron Cathcart '91** has posted several pictures that his father Steve took back in the 1980s, including shots of damage done to McCook from a microburst storm that hit in July of 1984. These pictures make a great montage of McCook scenes from the last 80 years.

My favorite part is the discussions that have gone on using this page. People can "post" or type in a memory or question and then others can add to the post with their own remembrances or thoughts concerning it. There have been great discussions on topics such as the names and locations of all the little grocery stores we had in McCook, how wonderful Amor Huff, the milk delivery man was, what cars we drove in high school, Ma Teter, DeGroff's Santa Claus, and our favorite part of Woolworth's store. Old friends have reconnected, names of classmates in pictures have been recalled, and lots of happy memories have been shared.

Be prepared to spend several hours on the page once you get there. It's addictive! The most current posts or the ones that have been commented on recently will be on the first page. But if you scroll to the bottom of the page and hit "Older Posts" it will take you back, a page at a time, to read things that were posted earlier. Feel free to post or comment on any of these older posts. It then brings them back up to the current page so other group members can read what you have to say on the topic.

I asked **Tom Murphy '66** to give his thoughts on the Remember When page. Recently he spent a few hours going back and reading every post on the page. Here's what he had to say about the experience:

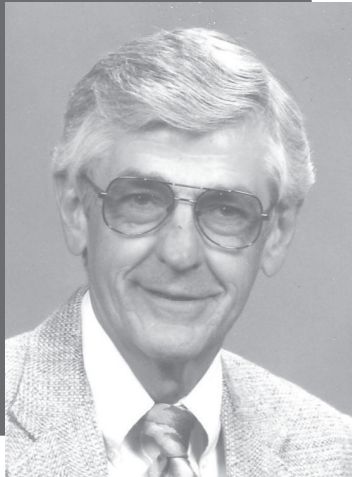
"I attempted to get back to the very first post on several occasions. Last Sunday, I had some free time and decided this was going to be the day I made it to the first post or I'd forget it. Once I began, it only took a few hours.

The stories about the people I have forgotten and who were part of my youth or adults who have long since been gone were by far the most enjoyable to read. It brought back to life the people and characters of Pop Kelly, Blind Sam, Stan at Stan's Newstand, Franny Weiland and his little red wagon, and the man who pulled his little cart to do lawn jobs around town. The events like Back-to School Parades, Kelly Park Canyon, and fun times at the river, sand pits, and drive-in theatre were visualized with a big smile. Equally enjoyable was reconnecting with people I had not seen or heard of in 40 and 50 years. Since reconnecting several of us have kept in touch just like old times. After that first hello, it is like time stood still; our friendship is as strong as it was many years ago—the bonds that brought us together then did so again.

To see a picture of Main Street with the red brick road facing south with a picture of the sign for Murphy's Cafe taken in the 50's, which was owned by my parents, was a real treat. The photos of the various young and old school classes brought back lots of memories of people, places and events.

*continued on page 7*

# The McCook Maestro



**Floyd Hershberger**  
1927—2011

**Floyd Hershberger** was one very special music teacher, business man and my close friend. He only taught vocal music for two years (1954-1956) at MHS and McCook College, but he stayed in McCook after his short teaching career and continued to teach the citizens of McCook what one person can do to make a community a better place to live. Floyd and his wife, Joyce, started Hershberger Piano and Organ Company in

1956, and through the years, until March of this year when he passed away, he championed important improvements for McCook.

His civic contributions are numerous! He served on the McCook School Board of Education. He was instrumental (pun intended) in keeping the McCook Concert series alive for many years. He was one of the original incorporators of the McCook Arts Council and was the first chairman of the Lied Main Street organization. He was a past President of the McCook Rotary Club and Floyd originated the name for McCook's Buffalo Commons Storytelling Festival. He was active in starting the walking trail through the old golf course. He started and completed the drive to put a NE Public Radio translator in Southwest Nebraska. Maestro Floyd was the sparkplug behind the formation of the McCook Community Foundation in 2000. He realized that the area could benefit from a community wide charitable organization. And Floyd, along with **Lloyd Benjamin '56**, purchased the historic Fox Theatre building in downtown McCook with the goal of turning it into a community center for the visual and performing arts.

Floyd's interest in community involvement took much of his spare time, but when

he wasn't busy running a successful business, he loved to sail on the various lakes surrounding McCook. He was interested in history and as a private pilot he flew the route taken by Lewis and Clark just to see what it looked like from the sky.

Floyd backed school musicals and the community theater and he made the production of the Messiah, using a community chorus, an annual event. He directed that chorus and he often provided musical entertainment, using his wonderful, strong baritone voice, for many community events.

My good high school and life long friend, **Larry Frazier '55**, and I were in Floyd's mixed chorus in both high school and McCook College. We enjoyed Floyd's sense of humor and driven desire to make us better vocalists. One Sunday after church, many years after our high school experience, Larry and I were visiting with Floyd and out of the blue he said, "yaaa know you two were the reason I quit teaching, don't you?" That was part of his dry humor—or was it?

As we pass through life, we're lucky if we can encounter two or three individuals like Floyd Hershberger. He was a wonderful teacher, not only in school but in life. His warm, vibrant and caring personality always gave those who knew him an extra inspiration to be a better person.

Floyd, McCook will miss you forever.

**J. T. Harris '55**

## Remembering McCook - acebook Style

*continued from page 6*

I would find myself reminiscing as I read and viewed the photos. When one is born in a smaller town and spends 20 years living there, there are many, many things and people remembered and also forgotten that a site like this brings back to life.


What boy could forget Little League Baseball? In the summer it was the center of our universe. We practiced, played games, watched games and just played around at Felling Field. One photo was of the U C T team. I have no idea what those initials stand for today; however, I played on that team several summers and had erased it from my memory until I saw that photo.

A big thank you from me and everyone who has participated in this site needs to go out to its creator(s). Just think of all those memories which would have been lost

had they not taken the initiative to create *Remember When in McCook, Nebraska.*"

So what are you waiting for? Grab your keyboard, tablet, or laptop, get to Facebook, and start remembering the "good ol' days" in McCook. You'll be glad you did.

Oh yes, here are the answers to those questions back at the beginning of the article. The business to the north of Mac's was a trampoline center, where parents could take their kids and let them jump on trampolines and endanger their lives for just a few cents in the late 1950's. The dance Mrs. Coffey had us skillfully perform was the May Pole dance. And we believe the first drive-in in McCook was called the Coney Island, ran by the Rutt brothers on the corner of B Street and West 4<sup>th</sup>. How'd you do?



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# Case for Anita Drain Went to High Court

## Maywood Teacher Set Standard in Fighting 'Unreasonable Dismissal'

**Anita Drain '66**, a lifetime member of NSEA and NEA, and the focus of a 1993 member rights case that was decided by the Nebraska Supreme Court, died in Orem, UT, on March 2, 2011. She was 62.

During her 30-year teaching career, Drain taught at Maywood and later at Hayes Center. On Valentine's Day 1990, Drain received a not-so-sweet letter from the Maywood Public Schools – a dismissal notice.

The district where she had taught for 20 years alleged insubordination and neglect of duty for failing to return to work within a 'reasonable period of time' following the serious illness, and then unexpected death during surgery, of her mother. Drain used a fraction of the sick leave she had accumulated to care for her mother, and to deal with funeral arrangements and other matters.

Although her termination was upheld by

the Frontier County Court, and later the Nebraska Court of Appeals, the state's Supreme Court later elected to review her case.

Nearly four years after her firing, the High Court reversed the finding that the length of Drain's absence was "unreasonable." The court also found that the negotiated agreement was clear in what leave was permitted; and said that neither a court nor the school board were at liberty to place a 'reasonableness' construction on the agreement's language. Drain received a substantial cash settlement as a result of the ruling. She had moved from her long-time home and was teaching at Hayes Center at the time.

NSEA Attorney Scott Norby said, at the time, that "cancelling Anita's long teaching career was, as the Supreme Court stated, 'reprehensible' and was properly reversed."

In an analysis also written at the time of

the case, NSEA Attorney Mark McGuire wrote that "school boards will not be free to search for obscure technical violations of school district policy to justify the termination of a teacher's employment."

Drain, a McCook native, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Kearney State College. She was an avid genealogy fan and historian, and enjoyed all kinds of puzzles. She is survived by a sister, two brothers and many nieces and nephews. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association.

*This article first appeared in the April 2011 issue of The Voice, the official publication of the 28,000-member Nebraska State Education Association. The NSEA was founded in Brownville in August 1867, five months after Nebraska gained statehood.*

## Alumni News

**Don Glaze '55** was an extra in the Matt Damon movie "Contagion". He was in a street scene where the military arrives and also the scene at the hospital where medical staff has set up help for those affected.

Heirlooms from the late Senator George Norris were purchased at an auction this summer and will now go into perpetual public display at the Norris home in McCook. The items, which included furniture, fishing rods, vintage political cartoons, and beaded Indian ceremonial gloves, were purchased by Senator Norris' great-grandson, David Rath at an estate sale in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Money to buy the items was given by the Norris Foundation, the Norris Institute and **Sen. Ben Nelson '59**, who donated \$2,500 of his personal funds.

**Terry Dowling '64** has been recognized as Teammate of the Month in North Platte, NE. He has been a mentor for 12 years and been matched with his current mentee for the past five years.

**Norma Hansen Lashley '64** of BSB Construction, Inc of Curtis, NE accepted the ADS/Hancor Award at the Land Improve-

ment Contractors of America convention in Las Vegas, Nevada last March. She was honored for practicing conservation stewardship in the company and assisting in the education of fellow contractors, proper installation of conservation practices.

**Judy White Anderson '65** was recently featured by the McCook Fine Art Center for her custom engraved name rings by Spunky Point Trading Company. She engraves custom rings on demand. She also displayed her other talents which include willow furniture, rope baskets, western lamps and coast racks made from horseshoes and other hand-crafted items.

**Connie Jo Discoe '73**, McCook Gazette reporter and photographer, was recognized by the Nebraska Press Association. Her photo of a bullrider doing a back flip off the head of a bull took photo of the year honors in the sports action category.

**Nancy Lewis Frecks '74** hosted a broadband internet regional forum in McCook emphasizing the importance of broadband in maintaining and returning younger generations to the area. Nancy is with the UNL extension office.

**Dr. Bruce Messinger '74**, was hired as Superintendent at Boulder Valley Schools in Colorado which has an enrollment of 29,000 students.

**Bob Elder '74** was chosen as the head official at the 2011 Nebraska Shrine Bowl high

school all-star football contest at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln.

**Colonel Jason Showman, '74 DDS**, was presented with the Order of Military Medical Merit Medal at the annual Association of Military Surgeon of the U.S. convention in Phoenix. He is currently serving on active duty at Fort Riley in Kansas.

**Delrae Thomas Hirschman '75** received the Lincoln Center Sertoma Club's annual Service to Mankind Award for her volunteer work in pedestrian safety. She has chaired the Lincoln, NE school safety committee for 12 years.

Life has come full circle for **Roger Henthorn '82**. He has become the plant manager at Gerhold Concrete-his father's former company and where Roger's love of concrete began.

**Matt Wiemers '87** was honored for his work promoting the sport of tennis in southwest Nebraska. He received the Junior Team Tennis Organizer of the Year award from the Nebraska Tennis Association and the United States Tennis Association-Missouri Valley region.

**Nate Allerheiligen '88** finished his tour as Commander of the 50th Airlift Squadron, a unit of 14 C-130H3s. He deployed to Iraq for five months last summer where he set unit records for the best rotation in 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron history and

facilitated the draw down that transitioned Operation IRAQI FREEDOM to Operation NEW DAWN. In his next assignment he will be teaching Strategy and Leadership at the Air Command and Staff College.

**Nathan Neuhaus '94** has been hired as an Assistant Director for the Nebraska School Activities Association. Neuhaus will handle football and track and field for the association. Prior to joining NSAA, Neuhaus was the recruiting coordinator and defensive backs coach at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Nate is taking over for retiring Larry Mollring at NSAA, who was previously a teacher and athletic director at McCook Public Schools

**Dr. Craig Nemechek '97** graduated from the general surgery residency at Iowa Methodist Medical Center in Des Moines, IA. He and his family will now move to Sioux City, SD, where he will enter the private practice of general surgery at Midlands Clinic in Dakota Dunes, SD.

**Cody Siegfried '98** has joined the Goodwin Law Office in McCook. Prior to moving back to McCook he had worked for the Lancaster County Attorney's office and worked for the U.S. Mission to United Nations organizations in Rome.

MHS graduate, **Andrew Rombach '00**, received his Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class promotion aboard the George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier. Rombach is an 11-year veteran of the U.S. Navy and is stationed at Oceana Naval Base at Virginia Beach

The veterinarian team of **Drs. Nathan'01** and **Jamie Kotschwar** have joined Red Willow Animal clinic in McCook. They worked at a veterinary clinic in Holdrege, NE before returning to Nathan's home town. They have two daughters, 7-year-old Sierra and 21-month-old Aspen. Welcome home!

**Brad '01 and Jill McConville Lauer '02** moved back to McCook this summer. Brad is engaged in farming and Jill is teaching 6th-grade English at McCook Junior High. When asked about being back in McCook, Jill had this to say: "It is a blessing to be back in our hometown. As adults, Brad and I view the 'small town community' as something to cherish. We have enjoyed reconnecting with familiar faces and having our son, Aiden attend things we attended when we were young. It has been wonderful teaching at the same school which I attended. and working with some of the same people that taught me! I am still having a hard time calling Mr. Berry, Dennis!" We are glad to have the Lauers back in McCook!

**Tyler Loop '01 and Tyler Randolph Loop '03** are still working on the opening of

# Alumni News

Loop Brewing Company in McCook. They have installed a fermenter at the restaurant and will be offering brick oven pizza as well as being a microbrewery.

**Adam Wolford '02** a speech-language pathologist at Community Hospital was certified last May in the application of Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation or VitalStim. This is a new treatment for swallowing disorders.

McCook has a new dentist **Dr. Kaitlin Powell Haag '04** who joined the dental practice of Dr. Chris Nix. She began seeing patients in the McCook and Imperial offices in July.

**Chris Lyons '05** is currently serving as a Peace Corp volunteer in Mongolia. He flew to Mongolia on June 5 and trained for two months in the small town of Khutul, where he studied the Mongolian language for four hours every day and learned how to teach English as a foreign language. Chris and 65 other volunteers were sworn in by the U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia, Jonathon Addleton, on August 19. Chris' assignment is in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar, where he volunteers as an English teacher at Gazarchin University. His stay in Mongolia will be for two years. Chris has a blog about his adventures in Mongolia that can be read at [mongomo22.blogspot.com](http://mongomo22.blogspot.com).

**Tenile Lytle '08** has spent the last 4 years in Tijuana, Mexico at the City Of Angels Orphanage. She loves the children and working with them. She is making a trip to Burkina Faso, Africa this fall for 3 months to do orphanage and clinic work.

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# Weddings

Marilyn Fritz Koch '54 &

Louie Ludwig '54

Kay Hoyt '61 & Vince Wasia '61

Erin M. Teuber and Ryan Mousel '90

Shalyn Marsh & Stuart Murphy '90

Brianne Hinz '98 & Beau Linn

Kerrilynn Sanders '99 & Ron Cash

Kerrie Christensen &

Joseph Wellman '00

Julie Gumb '00 & Edgar Alconera

Trisha Dooley '01 & Seth Weyeneth '06

Whitney Hochstetler &

Michael Kuhlen '01

Daniela Troester '01 & Shane Wilson

Starla Teel '01 & Kyle Werkmeister

Nichole Wallen '02 & Justin Ward '03

Talia Placek '02 & Aaron Sawyer '00

Amanda Ruzicka & Wade Felker '03

Sunee Haney '04 & Aaron Persinger

Kaitlin Powell '04 & Buckley Haag

Roni Sabin '04 & James Sughroue '04

Katie Grassia '05 & Kyle Weiser

Whitney Korte '05

Michael Schoenemann

Jacqueline Roberts '05 &

Adam Hendrickson

Sara Hagemann '05 & Josh Ridder

Jessica Togstad & Bart Gaboury '05

Stephanie McGarvey & Bill Traphagan '05

Amanda Pollnow '06 & Ahren Hays '07

Colby Eisenhart '06 & Danny Fisher

Crystal Cruse '07 & Keenan Dack '06

Whitney Jones '07 &

Aaron Goodenberger '07

Sara Alumbaugh '07 & Ian Riches

Jayleen Gomez '07 & Andrew Burrell '07

Nicole Green '08 & Christopher Leyba '08

Kelsey Schoup '08 &

Keith Messinger '07

Nicole Wagner & Koby Blake '08

Chelsea Rosbrough '09 & Kyle Johnson

Adrian Lambing '10 &

Dylan Clabaugh '09

Keri Hilker '10 & Ciprian Galarneau '04



# class information

All Phone numbers below are in area code 308 unless otherwise specified.

All Addresses are in McCook, NE 69001 unless otherwise specified.

**To: Employees of McCook Public Schools-Past and Present.** We would like to have your contact information, so we could send you the newsletter. If you know of someone who does not receive the newsletter, please contact *Al Cuellar* [acuellar@swnebr.net](mailto:acuellar@swnebr.net) or 345-2393 or *Randy Andrews*, [bison1973@yahoo.com](mailto:bison1973@yahoo.com)

**Class of 1931** *Dorothy Fitch Nicholson*, 1500 E 11<sup>th</sup> St Apt 305, 345-4148; **Class of 1935** *Russ Dowling*, 907 E 5th 345-2984, or *Phyllis Olson Marsh*, 111 Seminole St. 345-4220; **Class of 1936** *Kenneth Scheidt*, PO BOX 768, Scottsbluff, NE 69363, 308-635-2714; *SusanL@wyoming.com*

## **Class of 1938**

It is sad to report that Bernadine Traphagan Malcom, who was our class representative, passed away 11-5-2010. Cards of condolence can reach her husband Ike at 801 East 5<sup>th</sup> St. McCook, NE 69001.

## **Class of 1939**

I do not have a computer anymore, please call or write. *Helen Dutton Allen*, Willow Ridge, Apt 101, 1500 East 11<sup>th</sup> St. McCook, NE 69001, 345-6907.

## **Class of 1940**

Art Mason, husband of Pollyann Petty passed away in July 2011. Need to hear from classmates of 1940 class. There aren't too many of us left. *Evelyn Frank Morgan*, 1526 Centennial Dr, 345-4715

## **Class of 1941**

I've been sidelined the past few weeks with broken ribs and am recuperating at Willow Ridge. If it becomes my permanent residence, I may have to retire as class rep. *Ardis Randel Vukas*, 209 W M St, 345-5369

## **Class of 1942**

If you would like to be the '42 Class Rep. Contact Randy Andrews at 308-345-1257, [bison1973@yahoo.com](mailto:bison1973@yahoo.com)

## **Class of 1943**

Condolences to the family of Dale Fattig who died 10-20-10. Thank you to Don Gregg for a donation to newsletter. *Ruth Bamesberger Shields*, 608 W G St, 345-6982

## **Class of 1944**

I have had some health issues and have been laid up for a while. Would love to hear from

my classmates. *Shirley Axelson Johnson*, 903 Sunset Dr, 345-2458, [sajohnson1945@yahoo.com](mailto:sajohnson1945@yahoo.com) or *Gwenn Ream Brooks*, 1522 Centennial Dr, 344-7330, [dgbrooks@swnebr.net](mailto:dgbrooks@swnebr.net)

## **Class of 1945**

Please keep your address up to date-would like to hear from you. Living in McCook is still great-just like them old times. Remember them? Refers to our memories, and yours too. Best Regards. *John Hubert*, 901 Sunset, 345-4534, [jehubert@swnebr.net](mailto:jehubert@swnebr.net)

## **Class of 1946**

Sorry we were unable to get together for a 65<sup>th</sup> celebration, but am happy so many were able to attend the Bison 2010 event last year. While Jack and Bonnie Jo Gardner were recently visiting in McCook Bonnie had to spend several days in the McCook Hospital. All turned out well and both were impressed with our hospital and the personnel. Gladys Loose Knaus and husband, Dick are celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on a Fall cruise to the New England States and Montreal. I am sorry to report the death of Elsie Clapp Hansen Fought. She had been managing Parkinson's disease for 18 years. Don't forget to send address changes.. *Shirley Muffley Wallen*, 1006 W 3rd St, 345-1658 [swallen@mccooknet.com](mailto:swallen@mccooknet.com)

## **Class of 1947**

More and more of our classmates are finding their way to the Senior Center. The meals are wonderful and the card games exciting. The conversation rolls-Come join us while visiting here. We play pool too! Send news and address changes to *Rosalie Teel Weskamp*, 709 E 2nd St, 345-1666, [wesk@mccooknet.com](mailto:wesk@mccooknet.com)

## **Class of 1948**

Condolences to the family of Betty Cady Decker who passed away on Sept. 28. The ladies of our class continue to have monthly luncheons. Congratulations to Gerald Jerry McIlmoyle on being chosen for the McCook Wall of Fame. The Gardners, Bonnie Lieberth and Jack arrived in their motor home to spend some time here during Heritage Days. Bonnie ended up spending a couple of days in the hospital, but is fine now. Neil Moore made a quick trip through McCook, as did Frank Hyde and his wife. Let us know next time so we can get a group together. Please send news and address changes to *Ivan Schmid*, 1514 West 1st, 345-3081 or *Joan Hoyt Gilliam* at 914 East 7th, 345-5065, [jogill48@yahoo.com](mailto:jogill48@yahoo.com)

## **Class of 1949**

Thanks to Marvin Roth for the generous donation. Any address changes ..... let us know. *Donna Holmes Butler*, 38506 DR 712, 345-

3989 or you can e-mail Clara Adams at

[dcriverview@yahoo.com](mailto:dcriverview@yahoo.com)

## **Class of 1950**

Hi fellow classmates- I have not heard from anyone since taking over duties from Nancy Wilhelm. Would love to hear from you. Condolences to the family of Jack Rogers. Nancy Wilhelm would appreciate get well cards at 38711 RD 705, McCook, NE Please send any address changes to: *Dale and Phyllis Wilcox*, 610 West F St. McCook, NE 69001-3018 308-345-4121 [phyllwilc@aol.com](mailto:phyllwilc@aol.com)

## **Class 1951**

A special thank you to Frank Cuellar, Jerry Decker, Frances McCartney Kasl, Marien McIlmoyle Dicke, Marian Meininger Walters and Rose Metz Garey for the special key chains at our reunion. *Janice Eisenbarth Waddell*, NEW: P.O. Box 277, McCook, NE 69001-0277, 345-6663 [jklwaddell@mccooknet.com](mailto:jklwaddell@mccooknet.com)

## **Class of 1952**

Hope you all had a great summer! Plan for 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion in 2012. Send news/addresses& money to: *Peggy Appleyard*, 1006 E 4th St, 345-6486

## **Class of 1953**

Our condolences to family of Donald McDonald who passed away May 1<sup>st</sup> in Arizona. Hope everyone had a great summer! Happy Holidays to all! *Pat Rogers Schmid*, 1514 West 1st, 345-3081

## **Class of 1954**

Be sure and let me know of any change of address. *Ethyl Logan Siegfried*, 804 W 14th St, 345-7789.

## **Class of 1955**

Time continues to remind us of how far we've come since we left the hallowed halls of MHS. We lost three classmates, Reuben Hoff Jr., passed away in June, 2011, Burdette Geishler, passed away in July, 2011 and Harold Davidson. On a more upbeat note, Stephanie Frazier Stacy, the daughter of classmate Larry Frazier, who passed away in 1998, was appointed by Governor Dave Heineman to serve as District Judge in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District in Lancaster County, Nebraska. Stephanie's mother, **Anabeth Hormel Frazier Cox '57** resides in Lincoln, Nebraska. McCook is getting a lot of play on Facebook in the past 6 months.. If you do Facebook, check out the Group, "Remember when in McCook, Nebraska". There are only a few of our class participating regularly, so - if your memories of the '50's are still fresh, check it out. Send your news to *Dick Trail*, 201 West M St, 345-5181, [dickt@swnebr.net](mailto:dickt@swnebr.net)

## **Class of 1956**

We didn't have many class members at our

reunion but those who were here had a good time. Sorry to have missed those who didn't attend. *Al Cuellar, 703 W 3rd St., 345-2393, [acuellar@swnebr.net](mailto:acuellar@swnebr.net)*

#### **Class of 1957**

Condolences to the family of Ron Grimm who died 4-17-11. We will start planning our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion soon. If you have any ideas or special requests, please contact me or Dale Hofman. If you move, please send us your new address so we can keep our mailing list current! *Ruth Ann Kunkee Hackenkamp, 902 E F St., 345-6625, [rahackenkamp@yahoo.com](mailto:rahackenkamp@yahoo.com)*

#### **Class of 1958**

Only two more years until our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Stay tuned. Please keep me informed of anything newsworthy for our class. Thanks and warm greetings to all! *Judy Chinn Wortley, 607 East 4<sup>th</sup> St., McCook, 308-344-9122, [jwortley@swnebr.net](mailto:jwortley@swnebr.net)*

#### **Class of 1959**

*Mary Lee Mohr Corey, 308-345-1416, [mcorey@ocsmccook.com](mailto:mcorey@ocsmccook.com)*

#### **Class of 1960**

Send changes of address to Pat Fredde and changes of email address to Connie Carlson Bennett at [connieb1942@netscape.net](mailto:connieb1942@netscape.net) *Pat Wakefield Fredde, 1109 West 4<sup>th</sup> St., 345-1222, [p.free1960@gmail.com](mailto:p.free1960@gmail.com)*

#### **Class of 1961**

*Jean Parry, 2 Georgia Ct., McCook, NE 69001-3025, 308-340-2977, [parryj@gpcom.net](mailto:parryj@gpcom.net)*

#### **Class of 1962**

Casual gathering May 26, 2012 to celebrate our 50th. Interested? Please respond by 12/15/2011 to Linda Moffitt at: [dchall@windstream.net](mailto:dchall@windstream.net) OR to Kerry Strayer at: [strayer66@gmail.com](mailto:strayer66@gmail.com) or 405-207-3013. *Class reps: Mary Jo Wagner Baumfalk, 1104 W 1st, 345-2026 & Tom Buresh, 1212 Norris Ave, 345-5441, [tnburesh@msn.com](mailto:tnburesh@msn.com)*

#### **Class of 1963**

*Dick Cappel, #5 BRASSIE DRIVE McCook, NE, 345-6808, [dick@cappelsales.com](mailto:dick@cappelsales.com); Lorraine Rose Goldstein lgolds2002@yahoo.com, Peg Decker Bell, 1402 Fillmore, Sterling, CO 80751, 970-522-3008, [pegbell@aralegal.com](mailto:pegbell@aralegal.com)*

#### **Class of 1964**

See Thank You's, Gifts Given & Alumni news. Otherwise "No news is good news!" Send your e-mail address or find me on facebook. *Cheri Myers Beckenhauer, NEW: 4B Brassie Dr, 345-2032 or 340-0421, [bison-alumni@carpenterbreland.com](mailto:bison-alumni@carpenterbreland.com)*

#### **Class of 1965**

Send your email address. Check out [www.mccookdirect.com/classof65/index.htm](http://www.mccookdirect.com/classof65/index.htm)

*Steve Batty, Box 464, 308-345-4021, [sbatty@mccooknet.com](mailto:sbatty@mccooknet.com)*

#### **Class of 1966**

Barb Anderson Gaskins passed away suddenly in July while on a trip. She leaves her husband and son. Barb will be severely missed by her friends and family. *Judy Vap Sealock, 8593 Redstone, Highland Ranch, Co. 80216, 303-474-4330, [jksealock@comcast.net](mailto:jksealock@comcast.net)*

#### **Class of 1967**

There seems to be enough interest in a 45 year reunion to be planning that event. October 2012 is when I would try to plan a reunion as several have requested to avoid the heat of summer. Watch for further information. May not hear anything until spring newsletter, but please e-mail me with questions or ideas. If there is anyone who wants to take this on, please let me know. My thoughts are to invite the class of 68 to join us. *Jean Harmon Hollowell, 903 W 7th St, 345-7663, [terhall5@hotmail.com](mailto:terhall5@hotmail.com)*

#### **Class of 1968**

*Sue Coady Doak, PO Box 761, 308-340-8221, [sdoak@swnebr.net](mailto:sdoak@swnebr.net)*

#### **Class of 1969**

Condolences to the family of Sherrill Allen Thayer. *Debbie Krieger Jenkins, 1208 West 10<sup>th</sup> St, 345-2868, [debbie\\_ann\\_s@hotmail.com](mailto:debbie_ann_s@hotmail.com)*

#### **Class of 1970**

Twenty-eight classmates returned to McCook in support of their classmate Mary Stubblefield Arvin who's father, Mickey, was being honored as Heritage Days Parade Grand Marshal. A good time was had by all and it was decided we should have this gathering every year at this time. (submitted by Marilyn Weyeneth Klem). Classmates interested in joining a class of '70 email list please let Diana Newton Butler know by emailing at [dianabutler52@yahoo.com](mailto:dianabutler52@yahoo.com). Send address changes, donations & news to: *Cathy Glick Robinson-Brown, 71386 DR 387, 345-2721*

#### **Class of 1971**

A Great time was had by all who were able to attend our 40<sup>th</sup> class reunion! We had a number of class mates that were able to attend for the first time. A special "Thank You" to committee chairs: Kathy Abbey Wallen, Dixie Kiel Martin, Wayne Rouse, Sandi Boyd Pettera, Dave and Kim Riley, and Steve Clapp. The class photo can be found on the [mccookgazette.com](http://mccookgazette.com) web site. *Steve Clapp 307 Park Ave, 345-6835, [sclapp@gpcom.net](mailto:sclapp@gpcom.net) or [sclapp@esu15.org](mailto:sclapp@esu15.org)*

#### **Class of 1972**

Our 40<sup>th</sup> reunion will be in McCook Sept 2012.. If you have any ideas or requests

# class information

let me know.. Send address changes: *Ann Unger Confer, 1111 Norris Ave, 345-3102, [anne\\_confer@yahoo.com](mailto:anne_confer@yahoo.com)*

#### **Class of 1973**

*Mary Anderson Dueland, 112 E N St, 345-6163, [dmandue@ocsmccook.com](mailto:dmandue@ocsmccook.com)*

#### **Class of 1974**

*Nancy Lewis Frecks, 37098 Valley Dr, Culbertson 69024, 278-2520, [nancyfrecks@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyfrecks@yahoo.com)*

#### **Class of 1975**

Send address changes and news to *Dari Tucker Olson, 705 W 5th St, 345-5147, [dlolson\\_1@gpcom.net](mailto:dlolson_1@gpcom.net)*

#### **Class of 1976**

If you haven't received a class email from me recently, please send me your email address so I can get you added to the group. Had nice visits with Craig Johnson, Terri Gaver Kidwell, and Mike Larson when they were back for the Labor Day weekend. Maybe we can make it an annual event and have some type of get-together at that time next year. *Diane Wilson Lyons, 1007 E 1st St, 345-2189, [pdlyons@gpcom.net](mailto:pdlyons@gpcom.net)*

#### **Class of 1977**

Please contact me with your information by email or Facebook. *Donna Roberts Stone, 71981 US Hwy 83, 308-340-0750, [dstone77@hotmail.com](mailto:dstone77@hotmail.com)*

#### **Class of 1978**

Send news and updates to: *Jerry Calvin, 807 West 13th St, 345-7063, [pepsidude@swnebr.net](mailto:pepsidude@swnebr.net)*

#### **Class of 1979**

Send news and address info to *Robin Frick Calvin, 807 West 13th St, 345-7063, [craftwhiz@swnebr.net](mailto:craftwhiz@swnebr.net)*

#### **Class of 1980**

Please send news and updates to: *Peggy Rupert Messinger at 70307 Road 389, 308-737-776, [pmessinger@wildblue.net](mailto:pmessinger@wildblue.net) or facebook*

#### **Class of 1981**

Thank You's for time and/or donations of money for 30th class reunion! Kim Loose Rouse, Laura Benjamin Eldred, Connie Hinz Gildersleeve, Clifva Luther Budke, Dave & Chris Liess Carfield, Marty Sis, Wally Hampton, Jeff Vap, Leila Hoyt Koetter, Michelle Monzon Clapp, John Palic, and Al Cuellar. Special thanks to Mike Parsons (Rock) class of 80 for use of his place for the reunion Sat. night and Matt Sehnert, class of 82 for use of the Bieroc Cafe for reunion gathering on Friday night. We had a great time with all

# class information

that could make it and are looking forward to a 35th reunion, possibly a cruise or Vegas trip. Any interest in either can be sent to our new page on Facebook: Bison Class of 81 for further information. Continued donations to the class can be sent to Al Cuellar or Leila Koetter. *Leila Hoyt Koetter, 1001 West 1st, McCook, NE 69001, [lkoetter@hotmail.com](mailto:lkoetter@hotmail.com) or Al Cuellar, 703 W 3rd St., 345-2393, [acuel-lar@swnebr.net](mailto:acuel-lar@swnebr.net)*

## Class of 1982

SAVE THE DATE for our 30th Class Reunion in McCook, July 27-28, 2012. We are on facebook, so check it out! More information will be sent out later so be sure we have your correct address and email addresses would be GREAT!! *Sara Wiemers Rippen, PO Box 57, Culbertson, NE 69024 [jsrippen@mccooknet.com](mailto:jsrippen@mccooknet.com)*

## Class of 1983

Looking for a new Class Rep-contact Randy Andrews 308-345-1200 [bison1973@yahoo.com](mailto:bison1973@yahoo.com). We are running short on funds for the newsletter. If you would like to keep receiving this newsletter please send a donation as well as address changes and news to: *Kristy Ziemann Pollnow at 318 N Cherokee, [kpollnow\\_83@hotmail.com](mailto:kpollnow_83@hotmail.com)*

## Class of 1984

Send address changes and news to: *Lori McNutt Khamouna 607 Center Ave. Curtis, NE 69025; 308-650-1539; [lorikham@curtis-ne.com](mailto:lorikham@curtis-ne.com)*

## Class of 1985

*Annette Kool Wagner, 1609 Centennial Dr, 345-3852, [acwagner2@msn.com](mailto:acwagner2@msn.com)*

## Class of 1986

If anyone is interested in being our class representative for the newsletter, please let me know. *Tracy Lucas, 4484 Valley Brook Dr, Bettendorf, IA 52722, 563-343-9570 [tracybettendorf@hotmail.com](mailto:tracybettendorf@hotmail.com)*

## Class of 1987

Thank you to those who sent money to continue sending the newsletter. Our funds are still very low. It would be great if everyone could send a small donation to help cover the costs. If not, this may be the last newsletter you receive. *Ann Guthrie Teel, PO Box 128, McCook, NE 69001, 364-9281; [annlteel4@hotmail.com](mailto:annlteel4@hotmail.com)*

## Class of 1988

Keep us updated on your address and e-mail changes. *Kerri Davis Unger, 37923 Road 721, Culbertson, NE 69024, 345-2379, [kerriunger@netscape.net](mailto:kerriunger@netscape.net)*

## Class of 1989

Class funds are too low to pay for newsletters. Send contributions to Wendy Hampton Gillen 1515 Parkway Drive McCook, NE 69001. Other information or questions can be directed to: *Chanin (Huegel) Monestero, 5725 N 79<sup>th</sup> St, Omaha NE 68134, 402-991-8271, [cd\\_monestero@hotmail.com](mailto:cd_monestero@hotmail.com)*

## Class of 1990

We're sad to learn that Carla McKillip passed away on Sept. 20. Our sympathy goes out to her mother and family. This is the second classmate we have lost. I'm looking for local classmates to help at the "Folding Party" for the newsletter each March & October. Please send address changes, class info and donations to me. *Jeanette Cappel Wonderly, (on Facebook), 519 Buffalo St, Benkelman, NE 69021, 308-423-5376, [tjwonderly@bwtelcom.net](mailto:tjwonderly@bwtelcom.net)*

## Class of 1991

Thanks to those who planned our 20 year reunion. It was a great time! Please send addresses & donations to: *Michelle Chancellor Henrickson, 8208 Windmill Drive Lincoln, NE 68507, 402-325-6600, [s-mhenrickson@hotmail.com](mailto:s-mhenrickson@hotmail.com)*

## Class of 1992

*Jason Loop, 18 Wedgewood Dr. 345-1977, [jloop@ocsmccook.com](mailto:jloop@ocsmccook.com) or Trevor Taylor, 904 W 4th St, 345-6518, [tmtaylor98@gpcom.net](mailto:tmtaylor98@gpcom.net)*

## Class of 1993

*Joann Pick Barenberg, 704 Missouri Ave, 345-2317, [joann@mnb1.com](mailto:joann@mnb1.com)*

## Class of 1994

Thanks to the 8 people who responded to our plea for donations, however we still need \$ to insure future mailings. *Stephanie Hays Stevens, 1606 West 2<sup>nd</sup>, McCook, NE, 345-5688 [voiceonhold2@gmail.com](mailto:voiceonhold2@gmail.com)*

## Class of 1995

*Carmen Irwin Lervold 15788 W. Acapulco Lane Surprise, AZ 85379, 623-322-9281, [bisonclass95@cox.net](mailto:bisonclass95@cox.net)*

## Class of 1996

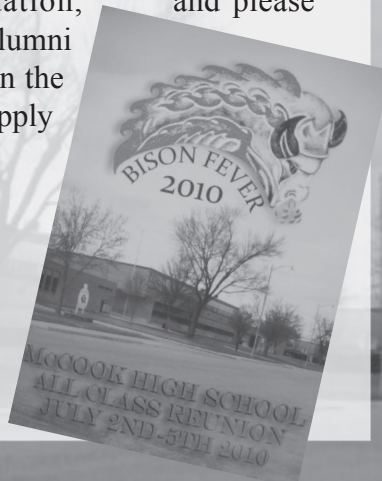
Please send donations, info and address

## Bison 2010 Souvenir Books For Sale

Final remaining souvenir books are limited. This is a wonderful 100 page book, which contains historical stories, innumerable photos, some "confessions", humorous and sad memories, a map and descriptions of local sites as shared on the driving tour around town – and much more! There are stories and memories from the 1900's through the 2000's! Hours of enjoyable reading and photos that will take you down memory lane as well as bring you up-to-date with what is happening around McCook.

Send a donation of \$15 or more per book. Make your check to: McCook Community Foundation, and please designate on memo line: Bison Alumni Newsletter. Books will be mailed in the order they are received until our supply of nearly 100 books is depleted.

Send your donation to:  
Bison Alumni Newsletter  
POB 665  
McCook, NE 69001.



# class information

changes to Amy Vontz Kehler 810 West 10<sup>th</sup> St., 345-5497, [amy-kebler@hotmail.com](mailto:amy-kebler@hotmail.com)

## Class of 1997

Lisa Beckenhauer Pomajzl, 1650 Karol Kay Blvd, Seward, NE 68434, 402.646.9062, [bepuzzled2@yahoo.com](mailto:bepuzzled2@yahoo.com)

## Class of 1998

Please send any updates you would like to include in the newsletter to: Brian Symington, 3104 Ravensworth PL, Alexandria, VA, 22302, 703-933-6007 [Brian.Symington@gmail.com](mailto:Brian.Symington@gmail.com)

## Class of 1999

Send address, news and donations to: Venessa Lytle, 909 East G St., McCook, 308-340-3863, [vlytle@gmail.com](mailto:vlytle@gmail.com)

## Class of 2000

If you have address changes or are feeling a class donation is in your future please send those to: Anna Dueland Hunnicutt, 1121 10<sup>th</sup> St, Aurora, NE 68818, 402-694-5787, [mccook2000@gmail.com](mailto:mccook2000@gmail.com)

## Class of 2001

Thanks to Deanna Moody Sellers and Jessica Myers for their help in organizing the reunion. Their help was much appreciated. Thanks to all who attended as it was great seeing everyone. Please send your contact information and mailing addresses to: Shaelin Monzon Stivers, 1005 W 12th, 345-2191, [stiversa@lopers.unk.edu](mailto:stiversa@lopers.unk.edu)

## Class of 2002

We will be having our 10-year reunion next June, probably near the end of the month. I will be mailing out more information after the first of the year. Should be a fun event; hope all of you can make it! NOTICE NEW EMAIL Laura Lyons Plas, 828 S Country Club Dr, York NE, 68467, NEW: [laura.plas@yorkdukes.org](mailto:laura.plas@yorkdukes.org).

## Class of 2003

Parents, please update me with your student's current permanent address. Send news to: Parent rep. Cindy Pohl, 904 Norris Ave, 345-4973, [dcpohl@yahoo.com](mailto:dcpohl@yahoo.com)

## Class of 2004

Parents, please keep us current on your child's address. Send news to Parent rep. Kim Lyons, 1201 West 2nd St 308-345-2140, [cklyons@mccooknet.com](mailto:cklyons@mccooknet.com)

## Class of 2005

2005 - Hope things are going well for the Class of 2005. Please be sure and mail me any address changes, marriages, or news so we can keep up with all your doings. Parent

rep.-Diane Lyons, 1007 East 1st, 345-2189, [pdlyons@gpcom.net](mailto:pdlyons@gpcom.net)

## Class of 2006

Please keep in touch with your address & Email addresses Class Rep. Parent Rep.-Sara Rippen, PO Box 57, Culbertson, NE 69024, [ripco@mccooknet.com](mailto:ripco@mccooknet.com); Julia Lyons Krebs, [jakrebs@mpsomaha.org](mailto:jakrebs@mpsomaha.org)

## Class of 2007

Please e-mail me so I can stay in contact. John Swanhorst, 9 Mashie Dr, 340-1648, [jswanhorst@gmail.com](mailto:jswanhorst@gmail.com)

## Class of 2008

Send address changes, email addresses and news! We need someone to be the class rep. Parent rep. Sara Rippen, PO Box 57, Culbertson, NE 69024 [ripco@mccooknet.com](mailto:ripco@mccooknet.com)

## Class of 2009

Send your email & snail mail addresses, weddings & news to: Parent Rep: Doug Skiles,

PO Box 36, McCook NE 69001, 345-2342, [dskiles@mssl-cpa.com](mailto:dskiles@mssl-cpa.com)

## Class of 2010

Please leave your newsletter address at the home of your parents until you are settled into a permanent location. Send your email & snail mail addresses, weddings & news to: Parent Rep: Linda Wallen, 38046 RD 712, McCook, 308-345-1397, [l-wallen@hotmail.com](mailto:l-wallen@hotmail.com)

## Class of 2011

Welcome to you our newest alumni. We hope you'll enjoy the newsletter. Please leave your newsletter address at the home of your parents until you are settled into a permanent location. Send your email & snail mail addresses, weddings & news to: Parent Rep: Greg Larson 402 Park Avenue, McCook, NE 69001, 308-345-5185

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McCook Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization created as a source of support to enhance educational opportunities for students at McCook Public Schools. Anyone wishing to contribute to this organization or needing more information should contact Al Cuellar at [acuellar@swnebr.net](mailto:acuellar@swnebr.net) at 308-345-2393.

# In The Halls

by Diane Wilson Lyons '76

## BISON TRACK RECORDS BROKEN

Both the boys and girls track teams were able to post new records on the Bison track charts last spring. For the girls, McCook set a new school record in the 1,600 relay, not once but twice. They broke the old record at a track meet in April, and then went on to better that time at the state track meet in May. Molly Sughroue, Kelsea Geshwentner, Emilyne Nichols and Jessa Sughroue are at the top of the leader board in that event with a time of 4 minutes, 2,059. seconds

Senior Kyle Craw rewrote the Bison boys pole vault school record twice in a span of 72 hours to earn the title of best vaulter in MHS history, at least so far. He cleared the bar at 14 feet, 4 ½ inches at the Dutch Zorn Invite in Gothenburg – a half inch higher than the McCook school record set by **Trent Lyons '03** in 2004. Three days later Craw went over the bar set at 14 feet, 6 inches at a meet held in Lexington.

Congrats to Kyle, Molly, Kelsea, Emilyne, and Jessa for setting new Bison track records. They give future MHS tracksters lofty goals at which to aim.

Color Day was held in February and the 2011 Color Day King and Queen were Grant Wilcox and Bonnie Dominguez. First attendants were Connor Larson and Laura Brooks while Brad Baumbach and Elise Polly served as second attendants.

McCook sent four wrestlers to the Class B state wrestling meet. Junior Skyler Kalinski survived a bout with the flu bug earlier in the week to win third place at 145 pounds. Two Bison seniors, Keldon Osterman and Rusty Sullivant, did not place in the top six of their respective weight divisions, but both won matches at state to end their prep wrestling careers. Sullivant won two straight matches and came within one win of earning a medal at 152 pounds. Sophomore Clayton Korus lost both his matches at 119 pounds, but he got another state tournament under his belt that will hopefully pay big dividends the next two seasons.

The Bison girls tennis team qualified for state in all four singles and doubles divisions. Despite playing well, the Bison managed to win just one match in the first two rounds of tournament play and finished in tenth place. In #1 singles, Brooklynn Trew (6th seed) defeated her first-round opponent but lost in the quarterfinals.

The boys track squad finished third at the state track meet, their best finish since being runners-up in 2006. Matt Chitwood, a junior, claimed an individual Class B gold medal, winning the long jump with a leap of 22 feet, 9 inches. Austin Cherry ran the second-fastest 800 in McCook school history at the meet with a time of 1:56.194, which

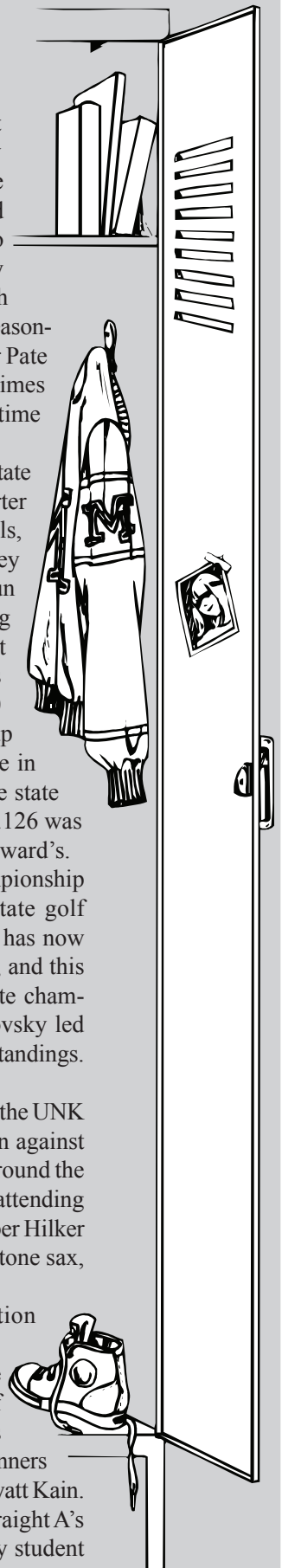
gave him a second place finish. He just missed the school record of 1:55.38 set by his older brother, **Josh Cherry '07** at the 2006 state meet. Senior Kyle Craw cleared 14 feet, 10 inches in the pole vault event to place third. The 1600 relay team of Cody Wudtke, Matt Chitwood, Brad Baumbach and Austin Cherry finished fourth with a season-best time of 3:26.343. Sophomore Trevor Pate turned in one of the best 1,600-meter run times in Bison history. He placed fifth with a time of 4 minutes, 32.536 seconds.

The highlight for the girls track team at state had to be the girls 1,600-meter relay quarter of Kelsea Geschwentner, Emilyne Nichols, Jessa Sughroue and Molly Sughroue. They came in first place with a school-record run time of 4 minutes, 2,059 seconds, bettering the school record the same foursome set earlier in the spring. The McCook girls squad has now won state titles in the 1,600 relay four straight years. The same group ran the 3,200-meter relay team and came in second to Seward. Both teams broke the state meet record, and McCook's time of 9:29.126 was just 12 hundredths of a second behind Seward's.

It's time to hang up another team championship banner in the gym, as the 2011 boys state golf tournament was won by McCook. MHS has now won eight Class B state titles since 1990, and this year was the first since back-to-back state championships in 2003-04. Senior Ben Vetrovsky led McCook and tied for fourth in individual standings. Sophomore Sean Backer tied for 10<sup>th</sup>.

Five MHS band students participated in the UNK Honor Band Clinic. They had to audition against more than 1,000 top band students from around the state to win a position. McCook students attending were Phillip Clay on the French horn, Amber Hilker on the trombone, Erin Premer on the baritone sax, and Nate Priebe on the snare drums.

Prior to the Class of 2011's graduation ceremony on May 15, Pam Wolford, MHS senior English instructor, was awarded the Allen Strunk McCook Area Educator of the Year Award. 120 seniors walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. The winners of the Bison Award were Beth Peck and Wyatt Kain. Peck also received an award for having straight A's for her entire high school career, the only student to receive this award.



Construction site of McCook Community College Events Center.



Hail damage to Maple Wood Apartments from storm this summer.

Class of 1971 in takes part in Heritage Days Parade.



1st Row L-R Kent Confer, Steve Clapp, Dixie Kiel Martin, Kathy Abbey Wallen, Ina Hatch Harris, Deb Hamilton Hadgens, Wayne Rouse, Kim Campbell Riley, Cindy Housley Quigley, Trish Backhouse Anderson, Rod Lytle, John Modrell, Pam Thiebar Messinger, Jim Davis 2nd Row Fred Pinkal, Dan Carstens, Steve Verraneault, Bryant Brooks, Ike Brown, Karen Harman Verraneault, Dave Haller, Sandi Boyd Pettera, Deb Arterburn Winchell (Behind) Randy Peters, Rayleen Rose Messinger (Behind) Dave Riley, Betsy Weigand Wagner, Lynda Hinz Ruppert, Rusty Park, Bob Burns

# *“Insuring The Future” of the Newsletter*

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J. T. Harris '55

**Loretta Steckmyer Felker '37**  
Ernie '56 & Terri Felker Markwad  
Tom Felker

**Ed Harris '38**  
Dewain '39 and Jackie Morris '40  
McCartney

**Bob Egan '44**  
Betty Knierim Shoulders '44

**Deceased Members of Class of 1949**  
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**Gary Lambert '51**  
Bill '51 & Jean Lambert

**Richard Klein '51**  
Frank Cuellar '51  
Willa Cummings Carlton '53

**June Godwin Dondlinger '52**  
Class of 1952

**Donald McDonald '53**  
Sharon McDonald Morrison '55  
Honey Lou McDonald Bonar '59  
Darrell Bonar '58

**Melvin Reiners '53**  
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**Bill Harris '57**  
Ed Caswell-Gillard '57

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Larry Owens '64

**Craig Rutledge '74**  
Gloria Rutledge Thelen '73

**Gregg Kasl '79**  
Frances McCartney Kasl '51  
Julie Kasl '82  
Marty '86 & Pam Rathjen '87 Kasl

**Joe Tarallo** (son of Wanda Rowland  
Tarallo '53)  
Willa Cummings Carlton '53

## **In Honor of:**

**Ted Perry '54**  
Jay Schnoor '54

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*We appreciate more than you know, all of those who have contributed to the future of the Bison Alumni Newsletter with these memorial gifts and donations! With that being said, we still need support from others to provide a modest salary, office space, photo copy, computer, printer, internet and telephone expenses. We are now located in the incubation room # 315 of Keystone Business Center. We estimate our expenses to be around \$600 a month. If you would like to make a donation to help: Make checks payable to McCook Community Foundation and please designate: Insuring the Future, In Memory of or In Honor of someone. Mail to: Bison Alumni Newsletter, PO Box 665 McCook NE 69001*

# THANK YOU

*Thank you to the following people for donations of TIME OR MONEY to the Newsletter.  
If names have been inadvertently missed, please send a note to us and we will get it in the next letter.*

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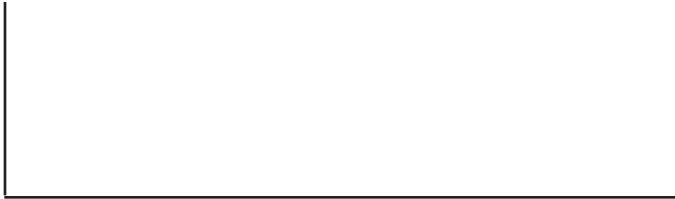
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 26, 2011



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- ◆ Write MHS Bison Alumni, PO Box 665, McCook, NE 69001
- ◆ Contact Randy Andrews [bison1973@yahoo.com](mailto:bison1973@yahoo.com), 308-345-1257
- ◆ E-mail Mary Dueland at [dmandue@ocsmccoock.com](mailto:dmandue@ocsmccoock.com)

**The deadline for the Spring 2012 newsletter is March, 2012.**

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