Center vs. Knox

Lots of things have happened in my short lifetime. One thing of interest is that school rivals could join together in a reunion to celebrate graduation. On July 10, 1982, a class of the Center Township School and a class of the Knox High School jointly held their 50th class reunion. Each group had graduated in 1932.

Now, for some of you who may not know, the Center Township School (for students living in Center Township outside the city limits of Knox) was located just west of Knox on the property where the White Flyer Company is now. The Knox High School was in town. The two schools were only a mile apart, but were strong rivals in sports. The "Blue Streaks" (Center) and the "Knox Redskins" would always battle very hard in basketball (the sport of the day). The Center School burned in January 1942, so the "country bumpkins" had to join together with the "city slickers" to form the Knox Community Schools. And that is why the official colors of the Knox Community Schools are now Red, White and Blue.

The news article about the unique reunion relates how each person shared memories about living conditions in the great depression and how different things were "now" (in 1982).

It is interesting in 2014 to read about corn selling for 10 cents a bushel and a cup of coffee selling for 5 cents in 1932. The news article lists other items subject to inflation over the years (now 82 years ago). Fascinating where time has taken us.

Attached is the article with picture of those "rivals" who put aside differences to celebrate together. (Maybe folks in the Middle East could take a lesson?) You may have to enlarge the article to be able to read it better.

Jim Shilling Starke County Historical Society

http://www.starkehistory.com http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/

Knox P.O. Box - Jul 29,1982c-c.jpg

Knox P.O. Box

by Helen Edgar
Historically speaking, 50 years is not
very long, but to some of the former
residents that gathered together on July 10, 50 years seemed very long ago,
and to others, only yesterday. Some of
the people had changed but most of
them resembled their graduation pictures with a gentle aging such as a few
more pounds, a few more wrinkles, or a
few less hairs as the most visible
changes.

tures with a gentle aging such as a few more pounds, a few more wrinkles, or a few less hairs as the most visible changes.

The gathering on July 10 was the Joint 50th Anniversary Reunion of the 1932 Graduating Classes of Knox High School, at the Starke County VFW for dinner.

One of the members of the class told the story about Duffy Daugherty, the Michigan State football coach, who once said "There are three stages in life: 1) when you are young, 2) when you are "Looking Good." The new motto seemed to be "The Good Looking Class of 1932-is now-"Looking Good." The new motto seemed to be "The Good Looking Class of 1932-is now-"Looking Good." The new motto seemed to be "The Good Looking Class of 1932-is now-"Looking Good." The new motto seemed to be in 1982 with living at the time of their graduation in 1932 provided many laughs for the after-dinner program topped off with recollections of the intervening 50 years by members of the class and a silde-show of events in their high school days, and views around the area as it was then.

Memories conjured up about little things hardly thought about at the time such as: Guy Well's elevator was paying 10 cents for a bushed of corn; a graduate was lucky if they could get a job working 60 hours a week for a salary of \$10 a week; the Starke County Trust and Savings Bank was paying 4 percent interest on savings accounts; and gasoline was eight gallons for \$1 at Alvie Martins Gas Station.

At Eli Green's Hot Dog Stand in 1932 the hot dogs were 5 cents and doughnats two for 5 cents; pop was a nickel a bottle at Charile Johanan's nickel a bottle at Charile Johanan's

Lunch Room and there were under-thecaps prizes so that you could get a free
poop for every 10 pops purchased.

And the South Bend Tribune was
delivered to your home at a cost of 15
cents per week, including Sunday, and
the Starke County Democrat was \$1.50
a year. The Blue Brothers Bakery had
bread for 10 cents a load.

Men's Florsheim shoes (now \$75)
were selling for \$3.55 and the Eagle
Store sold men's neckties for 55 cents
and \$1. Those same ties today sell for
\$8.50 and \$12. Taitel's Pants Factory in
Knox manufactured many men's pants
that sold in the stores for \$1.39 per
pair... and you could buy the "seconds"
at the factory for 50 cents per pair.
Drew Sanitary Dairy delivered milk to
your door for 10 cents a quart.
President Hoover's budget, which
was \$25 billion, was thought to be
terrible-this year's budget is over \$80
billion. The stock market had crashed
in 1929 and the National Bank Holiday
was waiting to be declared in 1933.

The class members agreed that times
were rough when they got out of school
in 1932-but, in many ways it was good
because the young people of that day
really learned the value of a dollar, a
lesson that helped them throughout life.
Class members also agreed that 1982
is not much better-jobs are difficult to
get. Inflation is terrible. So the young
people of today also face many problems.

The Center Township and Knox
Schools were only two miles apart but
the rivairy was intense. Nevertheless,
several marriages united members
from the rival schools. Some pupits attended Center School and then attended
Knox after Center burned. In one case,
Leslie (Bud) Shaw went to one school
and his brother Bill went to the chool
in 1987-but, Prank wrote
The Center Township Coac, in 1932,
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Florida. Unable

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Each member present made a few remarks about their high school days 1928-32 or about 50 years since then. Rudy Pawlik made an especially interesting speech about his 50-years, post-graduation. It was remembered that J.G. Henry was the superintendent and Henry F. Schricker (who later served two terms as Governor of Indiana) was president of the school board when the Class of '32 graduated. There were 14 members of the Center Class of '32, and 38 of KHS. Two CTHS graduates are deceased and 10 of the KHS class.

A total of 55 people attended the reu-

nion: Wayne and Frances Bortel, Bill and Naomi Clark, Sherman and Doris Chamberlin, Joseph and Louise Cromey, Bill Delaplane, Ted Drews, Lela (Engle) Klampe, Charles and Jeanette (Fitzpatrick) Gardner, Jim and Helen Hatfield, Albert and Dorothy (Flodin) Byer, Vernon and Edith (Voreis) France, and Bill and Betty Falvey.

(Voreis) France, and but a Cavery) Falvey. Also, John and Martha (Savery) George, Ralph and Mabel (Holm) Davis, Don and Lillian (Nulf) Rodgers, Rose (Pettinato) Anton, Rudolph and Alyce Pawlik, Linus and Audrey Spoor, Jane (Teufert) Pulver, Henry and

Ethel (Wolf) Rans, and Henry and Vivian (Thompson) Voelkel.

Also, Herman and Appie Zechiel,
Dale and Bonnie (Murray) Hudkins,
Elsie (Waselewski) Szwast, George and
Marie (Waselewski) Wasil, Roger
Laramore, Donald and Dorothy
Singleton, John and Mildred Wentland,
Glen Rodgers, LaWayne (Welkie)
Reed, and Carol Singleton. Teachers
who attended were Julia (Nees) Hite
and Oscar Valentine and his wife Carol.
Most of the classmates had not seen
each other for many years and identification badges were necessary: redand-white for KHS, blue-and-white for

CTHS, and red-white-and-blue for those who married a graduate from the rival school or who attended both schools. it was a reunion, a party that surpassed the imagination of those who attended and, as they parted company, it was often repeated that "this was the most enjoyable time" they had shared since the schoolhouse burned about 1930.

This special column expresses thoughts and ideas of those attending the reunion, not this writer. And they said that it was all in fun and they made promises not to wait another 50 years for another anniversary party.