

New High School Opens For Class of 1960

By Luge Hardman and
Naomi Shelden

The Waynesville High School class of 1960 produced solid citizens: teachers, doctors, builders, engineers, postmasters, military officers, law enforcement personnel, housewives, businessmen, city administrators and computer specialists. In the summer of 2000, the class members gathered in Waynesville for their 40th reunion and remembered an exciting year in Pulaski County history. They were the first senior class in the present high school building. The newness made them feel special. Their community responded to their educational needs.

The push for the new high school building began in 1954. The Waynesville School Board made

an application to the State Department of Education for a new senior high school building. And in October 1955, the Pulaski County Democrat took a public and firm stand in support of a new senior high school building to be built in West Waynesville, proclaiming, "The citizens of the Waynesville School District can provide their young people for many years to come with a superior high school program. The responsibility is ours!" The newspaper stated two main reasons for its support: growth of student population and ensuring the permanency of Fort Leonard Wood.

The Army post was expanding at an unrelenting pace and was on its way to being named a permanent installation. The population of Pulaski County in 1940 was 10,775 and by 1960, it had increased to 46,567. The

community had to respond to the growth. By 1955, the school district population was 2000. West Elementary, for example, housed grades 1-4, with the kindergarten classes being held at the First Baptist church. Of the 75 teachers then employed by the Waynesville District, 14 of them taught at the West Elementary building. Some classes contained as many as 40 students.

In 1955 the public voted down the new high school plans twice. The first of the bond issue votes in November saw 291 casting votes for the issue and 394 against. The Waynesville School Board, under the leadership of Dr. R. O. DeWitt, voted to call a special election in December and that vote fell 30 votes short of the two-thirds majority needed. The Democrat, however, referred to the vote as a "moral victory."

Opposition to the bond issue was obviously present. One local man showed his displeasure with the plans for a track and football field by saying, "If those kids want to run, let them run to the Roubidoux and back." Tom Shockley, a Waynesville businessman, was originally opposed to the new building. Waynesville varsity basketball coach Kenny Foster felt Shockley's eventual support for the project helped shift support toward the construction. Foster recalled, "At the first home game, we had a special Lazy Boy chair for Mr. Shockley to sit in."

Jack Garzelli taught social studies at the high school. "I needed a room to teach in," he said. "We had no air conditioning, of course, and temperatures would reach 100 degrees." He recalled, "There was no cafeteria

Points with Pride

to Our Fine New High School Building



Jean Dodson
Jim Smith
Adolph Garcia
Pete Lee
Sally Keene
Jane Langley
Berri Breeden
Kathy Wells
Sandra Steffan

Michael Durgain
Chris Rigby
Cornelius Bessick
June Ballard
Danny Maddox
Pat Dunham
Pat Abel
Joe Miller
Nancy Glare



at the high school. We would bus students to the West Elementary School, were Mae Hensley would feed us."

Art Anderson, a current Waynesville City Council member and a local businessman, served on the school board during this time. The school board worked long and hard on the issue and Anderson had long supported a new high school building. He said, "There was so much business to conduct that many times the board would see the sun come up." By 1958 many of the early opponents of the construction had changed their minds concerning the construction because of the threat of a high school being built on Fort Wood, and several leading businessmen signed petitions to show their support for the bond issue.

A new vote was taken in February 1958, passing by an 8-to-1 margin, 1140 for the project and 159 votes against. A \$250,000 bond was issued and then matched by \$256,000 of federal funds, which were earmarked for the remodeling of the current Waynesville Middle School.

The Democrat reported the bond issue victory by saying, "...citizens of this area



Art Anderson

may sometimes see differently on issues, but when the time is right, when the issue is important enough and when the welfare of our children is at stake, they will united in full force to give their approval."

The new high school was placed in the Roubidoux Elementary School in West Waynesville. The nine original rooms were remodeled to house primarily English, math and social studies classes. Five other classrooms were added. An art room, driver's training classroom,



Kenny Foster

home economics, music and industrial arts rooms were built, along with a library, special education rooms and a modern gymnasium. On the basement level, the cafeteria was expanded and three classrooms were added.

Garzelli described the new building as a "piecemeal school." But, he explained, "A poor man has to do with what he has! The board had to create a school with the money they had." He was just happy to be in a bigger building.

In 1959, Kenny Foster was



Midge Mooney Bohrer

beginning his fourth year of coaching basketball at Waynesville High School. That year was the beginning of a larger family for Kenny and Sue, as their son, Anthony, was born that same year. The theme of the 1960 yearbook was "The Old and the New" and for the Foster family, the theme could not have been more appropriate. For Foster, the most exciting feature of the new building was the new gymnasium. He recalls, "Everyone was enthused. We had a new gymnasium. We had a new

Christian Health Care of Dixon

"Hometown Atmosphere for a Hometown Place"

- Skilled Nursing Care
- Aggressive Rehabilitation Program featuring: Physical, Speech, Occupational and Respiratory Therapy
- Outpatient Therapy
- Hospice Services

573-759-2135

Fax: 573-759-2600



Christian Health Care of Dixon

A Non-Profit Facility

Located At: 403 E. Tenth St., Dixon, MO. 65459
Mail: HCR 60, Box 121, Dixon, MO. 65459



At Christian Health Care of Dixon, physicians, nurses, rehabilitation therapists, social workers, activity directors and dietary staff work as a team to bring the physical, emotional and spiritual concerns of each resident into balance.



(Front row, left to right) Brenda Strickland - Activity Director, Diana Bivins - Social Services and Stephanie King - Medical Records. (Back row, left to right) Dr. Dennis Goodman - Medical Director, Susan Williamson - Administrator, Holly Irwin - PTA Rehab Coordinator, Joanne Rollins - Office Manager and Shawn Matherly, R.N. - Director of Nursing.



baseball field and locker rooms. Today we think the middle school building is inadequate but in 1958, it was terrible. We were so excited to be moving to a much bigger building."

As a teacher, Foster saw many innovations added to the facility and the curriculum in 1959-60. Waynesville Senior High School now had the first driver's education simulator in the state of Missouri. Senior Chris Rigsby Rowell was struck by the spacious and well-lit art room. Senior Mike Dodds, former Waynesville postmaster, remembered more classes being offered. During the '59-60 school year, Mrs. Vivian Humphrey taught Trigonometry for the first time and an entire year of Advanced Algebra was offered. Like many "town kids", Dodds recalled the new high school building being surrounded by open fields he had played in as a child. Senior Midge Mooney Bohrer added, "Our new school was so far out in the country, we even had a parking lot. I didn't have a car but I remember being impressed with that parking lot. We had a gym that would seat the entire student body. It was impressive that we now had a football team with



Mike Dodds

actual uniforms and a football field." Rowell added, "There were no bleachers at the field. We sat on blankets and enjoyed the game."

Bohrer recalled her apprehension at moving into the new high school building in 1959. "Moving to a new high school as a senior seemed so traumatic at the time," she said. "It meant leaving a school we had been attending for at least six years." Senior Tom Tinsley also was apprehensive about the move.



Chris Rigsby Rowell

"We had grown up in the old building," he recalled. "We were very close. When we moved, it seemed we actually lost contact with friends." Rowell added, "We were sad at first. We were leaving friends and familiar surroundings." Her classmate, Midge Bohrer, explained, "The new high school was such a contrast to the old. It seemed a sprawling mansion, with fresh paint and shiny tile floors, where we might not see close friends for hours at a time."

As that magical year ended for



Tom Tinsley

the 86 seniors, Bohrer summed up the feelings of many of her classmates, "During the fall, things fell into place and as the year ended, I felt very fortunate to graduate from such a facility." The community had responded to the educational needs of its students and the move to the new high school became the highlight of the year, making special memories for the class of 1960.

But the story continued. The seniors of that year began their lives and careers, many of them



Add Curb Appeal Without Working Up a Sweat.



Use Sun-Proof® Exterior Latex In Temperatures
As Low As 35°F

There's still time to beautify your home. Because even in cool weather, Sun-Proof 100% acrylic latex applies easily and dries to a durable finish that resists cracking, peeling and fading far longer than ordinary latex paints. For great results and an

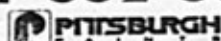
extended painting season, choose Sun-Proof paints. Only from your Pittsburgh Paints dealer.

Save \$17.98 per gallon

CROW PAINT AND GLASS, INC.

CORNER CITY RT. 66 & JACKSON, LEBANON, MO.

417-532-3551



You Work Too Hard To Paint With Anything Less.

Members Of The Waynesville Business Association

Are Pleased To Bring

You The 21st Annual
Old Settlers Day

2001



Casey's General Store
Cole-Mahan Enterprises
Deborah Hooper
Earl Arnold Agency
Homeplace
Waynesville Vision Center

Howe Plumbing
Lowe Chevrolet
Reznicek Dental Group
Rigsby Investment Properties
Sheila Debo

Have A Great Time and Enjoy!!



beyond Pulaski County. In 1978, coach Foster's son, Anthony, graduated from Waynesville High School. In 1980, Art Anderson witnessed the burning of the high

school bonds. In 1987, after 30 years of teaching in public schools, Jack Garzelli retired. He continues to teach for Columbia college at Fort Wood. Kenny

Foster taught school for 11 years and then became the safety officer at Fort Wood. He retired in 1993. And today, history repeats

itself as the community continues to experience growth, and once again is faced with meeting the needs of its youth.



~Fast Eddie Parker: An Ozark Legend

The death on South Padre Island, Texas, on February 2nd of this year of Eddie 'Fast Eddie' Parker brings to mind the legendary billiards great's connection with this part of the Ozarks. Parker, who inspired the 1961 Paul Newman role in the movie, *The Hustler*, was born in Springfield, Missouri, in 1931, but attended school in Ava, where he graduated from high school in 1949.

Contrary to popular belief, Parker's nickname was not related to the game he helped to popularize. In a 1996 interview with KJPW Radio, 'Fast Eddie' said he received the name as the result of his youthful athletic speed, not due to a fondness later in life of quickly upping bets at the pool table.

Parker taught himself to play pool beginning at age 9 after his father, the late C. W. Parker, bought a used table. He received help along the way from such notables as Benny Allan, a six-time world champion. A stint in the Navy relocated him to California, but it was in the early 1950's when Parker was playing pool in Kentucky that

he unsuspectingly knocked on the door leading to fame.

That knock was answered by a young college student, Walter Tevis, who was helping to pay for his college tuition by working in a pool hall that Parker frequented. The two young men struck up a friendship that lasted a lifetime. Tevis became an author and wrote a book based upon some of the experiences of 'Fast Eddie'. That book, *The Hustler*, published in 1959, was the basis for Paul Newman's famous film of the same title two years later.

Parker often used assumed names while playing pool. One of these aliases was Eddie Felsen, which Tevis changed to Eddie Felson in his book. The character, 'Minnesota Fats', played brilliantly in the movie by Jackie Gleason, had his real-life counterpart in 'New York Fats', whose real name was Rudolph Wonderone. Parker had told Tevis about Wonderone's legendary pool-playing skills.

While competing on the road, he

also told the future author about some of his experiences. These included a finger breaking incident and a big money match with a rich Kentuckian, incidents that were written into the book and also included in the movie. Tevis changed some of the particulars. Paul Newman's movie character had his two thumbs broken, while the real 'Fast Eddie' had his right forefinger broken. The \$12,000 won from the wealthy Kentuckian in the book and the movie actually was Parker's take of a real-life \$30,000 bet.

Even with these similarities, Eddie Parker always claimed that the book was based on only about thirty percent fact.

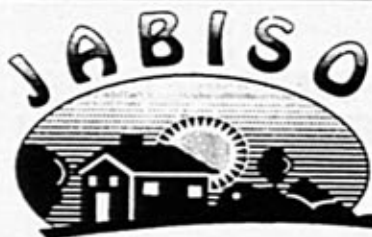
Some years later, Parker placed a call to Walter Tevis to chat a bit. During the conversation, he asked the author if he had thought about writing a sequel to *The Hustler*. Tevis told him that he thought the subject had been all written out. However, when sequels

became all the rage in Hollywood, the author apparently changed his mind and wrote *The Color of Money*, which prompted Paul Newman to reprise the character of 'Fast Eddie' on the silver screen. The sequel became a big hit in its own right.

Newman obtained a copy of Eddie Parker's 1987 instructional billiards videotape and workshop to prepare for his role in *The Color of Money*. The famous actor, who is well known for his refusal to sign autographs, sent Parker a letter of thanks for producing the videotape, which showed Newman how to play the game scenes more realistically. And the actor signed the letter!

Parker said he and his wife actually got to meet and visit with Newman once when they happened to be dining at the same restaurant as the actor and his wife - the actress Joanne Woodward.

Lawn Care • Carpet Cleaning
• Janitorial Service •
Remodeling • Gutter Cleaning
20 Years Experience • Insured



CARPET CLEANING

For Free Estimates Call Jim at
573-774-2798

No Job Too Small

Post Pawn Store

Money In A Flash

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
TVS • STEREOS • JEWELRY
GUNS • AMMO • DARTS

Just Outside Main Gate to Fort Wood
St. Robert

573-336-3441

POOR BOYS

**GARAGE &
SALVAGE**

17525 SUPERIOR RD., ST. ROBERT, MO.
We Have New and Used Car and Truck Parts.



**24-Hour Wrecker
and Road
Service From
1 to 25 Wheelers**

Call:

573-336-4957

Every Bloomin' Thing

206 Historic 66 West Waynesville, Mo.

Flowers
for all
occasions



Floral
Bridal
Service

Fresh • Dried • Silk Flowers
Hand Crafts • Flowers by Wire

"Professional Designer Services"

AFS Wire Service

Providing International Service

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:00

Phone (573)774-6775 • 1-800-262-7141

George Berry

Appreciates the opportunity
of serving you as ...

**Pulaski
County Collector**

SMITH • DUNBAR • TURLEY ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Auto & Other Accidents
Insurance Claims

Workers Compensation:
State & Federal

Medical Malpractice - Criminal Defense
Civil & Military Law & Trial Work

#266 Marshall Dr., St. Robert, MO

573-336-5222

or Call Toll Free:
1-800-842-7187