

THE SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

Jerry McKelvy, Editor

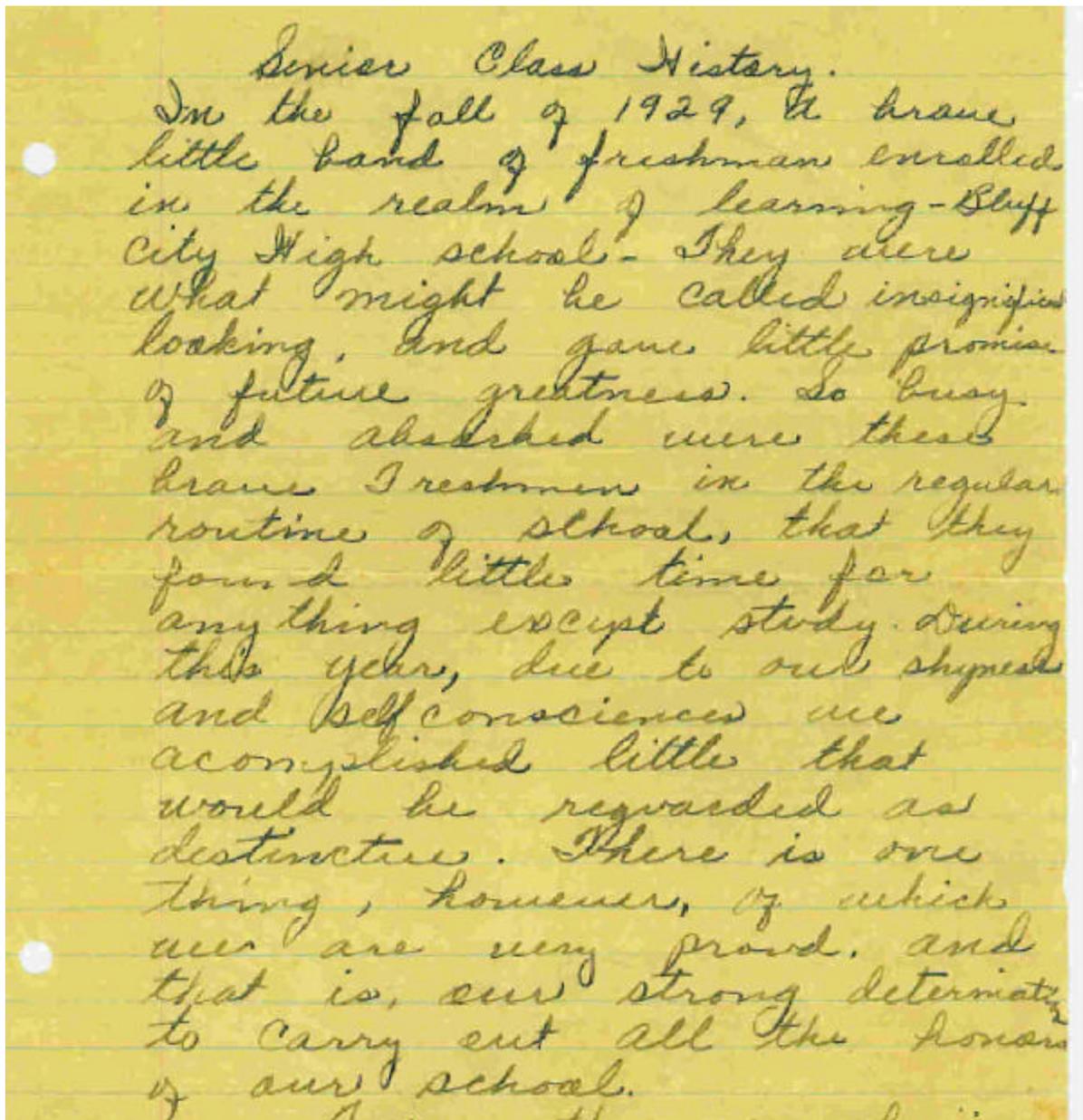
Vol. 6 - No. 5

May, 2006

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BLUFF CITY CLASS OF 1934

A cousin of mine in Texas recently sent me six handwritten pages of the senior class history of the Bluff City High School class of 1934. These belonged to my aunt, Myrtie McKelvy Irvin who passed away in 1994. To conserve space in this issue, I scanned the first paragraph as it was written. Following on page 2 is the rest of the class history transcribed from the handwritten copy.



Senior Class History.

In the fall of 1929, a brave little band of freshman enrolled in the realm of learning - Bluff City High school. They were what might be called insignificant looking, and gave little promise of future greatness. So busy and absorbed were these brave freshmen in the regular routine of school, that they found little time for anything except study. During this year, due to our shyness and self-consciousness we accomplished little that would be regarded as distinctive. There is one thing, however, of which we are very proud, and that is, our strong determination to carry out all the honors of our school.

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From the very beginning of the next year, we made great strides towards the hall of fame. We toiled and studied extremely hard in order that we might gain the good will and favor of our instructors who were the best that could be had. We also tried, and did, live up to the real meaning of the term "sophomore", which when correctly interpreted, means "wise fools", at least as we were told on one occasion. Our sophomore year was one in which we enjoyed most of all our school activities, and many of our members won honor and distinction through the various activities.

Our junior year, begun in the fall of 1932, really marked the period of growth and prosperity. The class membership of the previous year was doubled and we actually lived up to the expectation of everyone by proving to them mental power, our fine traits of character thru our regular school work, the activities in connection with the school, and by competing very hotly with the seniors. The instruction and experience which we received during this year paved the way for a successful senior year.

In our senior year, needless to say, we were compelled from the very beginning of the school term to summon up and manifest a certain degree of reserved dignity. We were not so dignified and self reserved, however, as to forget the existence of our lower classmen. No, far from that. But we endeavored to exhibit standards of dignity, loyalty, and self respect in order that they might be the more determined to direct their thoughts and actions in the proper channels. And as we look back on those days we spent in Bluff City school and reflect upon the good times we had, we cannot but think of those many opportunities which were afforded us and of our failure to take advantage of some of them.

We also endeavor to please and cooperate with our instructors, and we regret much that we didn't do more for them. The members of the faculty also cooperated with us in all our efforts to pluck fruit from the tree of knowledge, and desired that which we most needed. For this cooperation, we wish to extend our gratitude to them. Especially do we wish to thank our sponsor, Mrs. C. C. Stuart, for her earnest and well directed endeavor to guide the Senior class always for the best.

The social events of this year of years were few in number, but most pleasing in quality and sociability. The most prominent of the entertainments given us by lower classmen was the Junior-Senior party, which we greatly appreciate. We do not forget the favors shown us by other classmen, which have helped to make our last year in Bluff City the most pleasant one of our high school career.

We are now taking leave of our school and our thoughts are now, and will be in the future years with her, always hoping for the advancement and success. For those we are leaving behind, we extend our heartfelt wishes that they may have an even more successful high school career than we have had.

Creed of 1934

We, senior class of '34, believe in B. C. H. and all the noble ideas for which she stands. We believe in her tradition of uprightness, honesty, and fairness to one's fellow man. We believe it is our duty to uphold Bluff City's name; to forward her interest in all the ways that

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we can; ever to honor and respect her faith which brings out the best in all of us; her love that keeps us plodding on and which will help us to fulfill the bright dreams our school has for us.

After getting this material, I looked up the county newspaper for 1934 to see if anything was mentioned about the Bluff City class of 1934. I found an article concerning the bacculaureate service. Bro. Highsmith of the First Christian church was the speaker. His subject was "Falling In Love".

The article also gave the names of the class members. Mae Plyler was the valedictorian and Hershel Carter was salutatorian. Other members listed were Gerald Carter, Buel Murphy, Myrtie McKelvy, Annie Mae Barlow, and Mrs. Hardwick Martin.

PROPOSED STOCK LAW FOR NEVADA COUNTY NEVADA NEWS –MARCH 4, 1909

1. Posts must be firmly set in the ground and be no more than 16 feet apart. There must be four strands of barbed wire. The bottom wire will be 18" from the ground, the second wire 28" from the ground, the third wire 40" from the ground, and the top wire 54" from the ground. This will be considered a lawful fence in Nevada County.
2. All hogs, pigs, sheep, cows, calves, goats, or geese shall not be permitted to run at large. They may be impounded by the owner or tenant of the land upon which they are trespassing. The owner must notify the owner (of the animals) who will take charge of the animals and pay the owner of the land for the expenses of the impoundment. If after five days the owner has not been found, the person must post in three prominent places in the township and on the front door of the courthouse a description of the animals, including ear marks, flesh marks, and brands. If no one claims the animals the person may sell them to the highest bidder and keep ten cents per day for each hog, pig, cow, sheep, or goose to cover his expenses of impoundment. The remainder of the money will be paid to the owner if he can be located and to the county treasury if he cannot be located.
3. A fine for violating the stock law will be \$1.00 per day with each day considered a separate offense.
4. This proposed stock law will be presented to the voters in July, 1909 for their decision.

THE DECISION

The proposed stock law was voted down at the election. The vote was 600 for it and 1200 against it. The vote in Union Township, which included the Bluff City area, was one vote for and 103 against.

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FEEDBACK FROM READERS

Jerry,

You talked about the peddlers and ice men in your April edition of *The Sandyland Chronicle*. Mr. Cross' name was Clifton, I think. I remember that he came by where I was living with my grandparents, Tom and Ibra Plyler, near Gum Grove church. I think he came by our house on Tuesday afternoon. I remember being given a nickel to spend and how hard it was to decide what to buy. My grandparents would buy flour, sugar, chicken feed, etc. from him. He sold big square jars with tea leaves in them, which you would boil to make iced tea. When the jars were empty, my grandmother would use them to put the liquid tea or milk in. If you bought a sack of flour, you would get a free glass with it. These glasses would sometimes be a goblet or have different colored stripes around them.

You talked about the ice man, which I remember well. A family would have a card with the numbers 25 and 50 on one side and 75 and 100 on the other side. The numbers on each side were printed upside down from each other. A family would put the card in their window with the number of lbs. of ice you wanted pointing upwards. If you were not at home, the ice man would put your ice in your ice box and leave. (Don't try this now). He had a leather apron or a shoulder pad which he carried the ice on. These ice boxes were made of wood, with a metal insert and a drain pipe which extended to a pan under the ice box, to catch the water as the ice melted.

I remember when the R.E.A. came through bringing electricity to the area around Bluff City and surrounding countryside. The poles were dropped around in the community and then the men came around putting the poles in the ground and stringing the electric wires. It was all everyone talked about. You would have thought the circus was in town. This took place about 1948. You had to wire your own house, which usually meant that one wire ran all through the house and the light bulbs hung down from that line.

I didn't intend to carry on so much, but your articles bring back memories of when I was a child.

Adrian Hunter

AGE

from the 1-23-1928 issue of *The Camden Evening News*

Age is a quality of mind
If you have left your dreams behind
If hope is sold;
If your ambition's fires are dead
Then you are old.

But if from life, you keep the jest,
If love you hold;
No matter how the years go by,
No matter how the birthdays fly,
You are not old.

LOCAL NEWS ITEMS

BIRTHS--

KYNLEE ANN CARMAN born March 14, 2006. Parents—Britt and Kelley Carman

DEATHS—

JAMES HANNA, JR. ; age 72; from Chidester; died April 4, 2006; burial at Bluff City Cemetery

EUGENE BURROUGHS; age 75; from Camden; died April 7, 2006; burial at Bluff City Cemetery

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Photo of Mrs. Ann Dunn exhibiting her handiwork. I zoomed in so you could better see the pattern. The Dunn family lived in the Rocky Hill community of Nevada County.

The 1920 census shows Ann Dunn, age 55, as the wife of John R. Dunn. Children listed in that census were: Victor, Thelma, Alvin, Velma, and Howard. Two or three large oak trees still mark the location of the Dunn home place on the south line of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 12 South, Range 20 West.

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ODD SUPERSTITIONS FOUND IN *THE COLUMBIA BANNER* IN 1891

If you cut your nails on Monday, you cut them for news
If you cut your nails on Tuesday, you will get a new pair of shoes
If you cut your nails on Wednesday, you cut them for health
If you cut your nails on Thursday, you cut them for wealth
If you cut your nails on Friday, you cut them for woe
If you cut your nails on Saturday, a journey you will go
If you cut your nails on Sunday, you cut them for the devil
All next week, you will be ruled by the devil.

Born on Monday, fair of face
Born on Tuesday, full of God's grace
Born on Wednesday, merry and glad
Born on Thursday, sour and sad
Born on Friday, Godly given
Born on Saturday, work for a living
Born on Sunday, never shall want

**NOTE: To find the day you were
born, go to this website:
<http://www.maxx.mktg.com/birthday.html>**

Sneeze on Monday, sneeze for danger
Sneeze on Tuesday, you'll know a stranger
Sneeze on Wednesday, sneeze for a letter
Sneeze on Thursday, for something better
Sneeze on Friday, sneeze for sorrow
Sneeze on Saturday, see your sweetheart tomorrow
Sneeze on Sunday, your safety seek
The devil will have you the whole of the week.

DIRT ROADS **By Paul Harvey**

What's mainly wrong with society today is too many Dirt Roads have been paved. There's not a problem in America today--crime, drugs, education, divorce, and delinquency--that wouldn't be remedied if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character.

People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride, that it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes, but it's worth it, if at the end there is home, a loving spouse, happy kids, and a dog.

We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along. There was less crime in our streets before they were paved.

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Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob and rape, if they knew five barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun welcomed them. And there were no drive-by shootings. Our values were better when our roads were worse!

People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were courteous. They didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust and bust your windshield with rocks. Dirt Roads taught patience.

Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly. You didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk—you walked to the barn for your milk. For your mail, you walked to the mailbox.

What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part. Then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows, popped popcorn, pony rode on Daddy's shoulders, and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody. At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap. Most paved roads lead to trouble; Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole.

At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't, some neighbor would fill it with too mush squash.

At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra springtime income from when city dudes would get stuck and you'd have to hitch up the team and pull them out. Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road!

The Camden News April 4, 1940

News—

Maud Crawford first woman elected to city council (picture in article);

War news from Europe;

Fred Stott, a blind man, operates a vending stand in courthouse lobby (picture in article)

Social—

Mr. and Mrs. George F. Furr celebrate 50th wedding anniversary (picture);

Swanee River Minstrel Show to appear in Camden

Obituaries.—

Mrs. Annie Tittle-age 86 of Bearden;

James L. Marks, 51—a well known farmer;

J. W. Warren-age 73—an attorney;

Mrs. Ola F. McKinnis—age 32—died following a court case involving her husband

Local News Columns—

Elliott; Fellowship; Maul; Buena Vista; Cullendale; Fairview; White City; Heckerville

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Comics—
The Doolittles

The Camden News June 5, 1940

News—
War news from Europe

Ads—
Mann Motor Co. located at 200 Madison St. advertises a new Pontiac six cylinder coupe for \$783;
Usrey Drug Store—DuBarry face powder;
Camden Business College on Jefferson St.-day and night classes; school established in 1928;
Snow Hardware—Phone 11;
Perfection Cleaners—advertises Jacques furs and fur storage;
Rialto Theater—World Famous Mystic-“Ask him your future”; “La Conga Nights”;
Ritz Theater—“Brother Ray and Baby”;
Strand Theater—“Girl in 313”

Camden News June 7, 1940

News—
Bluff City to get new nursery. The Arkansas Forestry Commission just bought a 43 acre tract near Bluff City. The nursery will produce 10 million pine seedlings.

Ads from Dishongh's Store —
Spuds—10 pounds for 17 cents;
Cantaloupes—10 cents;
Home grown string beans—5 cents per pound;
Oranges—13 cents per dozen;
Bananas—5 cents per pound;
Bacon—25 cents per pound;
Beef roast—20 cents per pound;

Other grocery stores with ads—
Gillespie's; Palmer's; Safeway; Leysath's; Cathey Grocery—“You ring-we bring”

Comics—
Scorchy Smith; Diana Dane; Li'l Abner; Tarzan

Movie Theater Ads—
The Rialto—“Johnny Apollo”;
The Strand—“Tumbleweeds” with Gene Autry and “Convicts At Large”;
The Ritz—“Renegade Trail” and “Spirit of Culver”;