

# *The Metz Cardinal*

**April 2008 Newsletter of the Metz School Alumni Association**

Metz Alumni Assoc., c/o Colleen Reed, Route 1 Box 110, Rich Hill, MO 64779 (660-643-7420)

Dear Metz Alumni and Former Students,  
Teachers, & Employees:

Hello again! Once again it's almost time for us to gather and celebrate our Metz School educational heritage. Your alumni committee has been diligently engaged in planning an event that hopefully will be as enjoyable as last year's event. Last year's meeting place was destroyed by fire, so another facility and catering service had to be found. We are pleased to announce arrangements have been made with the Nevada Country Club; and the banquet will be provided by Bill Askew, Certified Executive Chef associated with both the American and World's Culinary Chef's associations. Further good news, in these days of insanely rising costs, the fee for attendance is the same as last year.

The theme for this year's event is recognition of teachers of the Metz school system, and we anticipate several attending. We'd especially wish to thank those of you who have sent your memories of teachers who influenced your lives, and they are included in the newsletter. If you haven't sent us your special memory, please feel free to write it down and bring it with you to the reunion. An opportunity to share these will be provided at the event.

I'm looking forward to seeing you again.

Joe Willis, Metz Alumni President

P.S. As usual, Nancy Thompson with the assistance of Madge Baze and Kay Harper have composed an exceptional, informational

newsletter of keepsake quality. Please read, enjoy, save and savor their artistic efforts.

## **MAY 31, 2008 METZ ALL-SCHOOL REUNION**

The Alumni Meeting and Dinner will be held at the **Nevada Country Club**, Country Club Drive, Nevada, MO, with registration and visiting beginning at 5 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a delectable buffet dinner. To facilitate visiting, all tables will be set up to accommodate 6 to 8 persons. **The cost of the dinner is \$12.50 per person, and meal reservations with payment must be made in advance.** Please complete and mail the enclosed meal reservation form with payment by May 10.

### **TENDER ROAST BEEF IN AU JUS**

**BAKED HAM**

**GOLDEN FRIED CHICKEN**

**SCALLOPED POTATOES**

**RICE PILAF**

**MIXED GARDEN VEGETABLES**

**PASTA SALAD**

**FRESH FRUIT**

**DELUXE GARDEN SALAD**

**GELATIN SALAD**

**HOT DINNER ROLLS & BUTTER**

**ICED TEA, COFFEE, ICED WATER**

**CAKE**

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We extend our condolences to the families of the following Metz graduates who have

passed away since the 2007 Alumni meeting.

**Hazel Dawson** Class of '33  
**Velda Rose Prough Rahn** Class of '43  
**Eula Mae Bevers Foster** Class of '27  
**Gene Shields** Class of '56  
**Betty Burchell Mustain** Class of '46  
**Lucille Charles Baker** Class of '37  
**Rex Charles** Class of '37  
**Marjorie Foreman Heggy** Class of '42  
**Esther Brown Snyder** Class of '30  
**Dorothy McGinnis Furnell** Class of '40

This information was taken from various area newspapers, and we would appreciate information on anyone who may have been inadvertently omitted. Please contact Madge Baze at (417) 667-0653 with information.

### THANK YOU

Dear Colleen,

Just wanted to drop you a note to tell you what a fantastic job you and your helpers did on the alumni banquet. A lot of hard work goes into a thing like that, as you well know. I appreciated it and want to thank all of you. I don't know who works on the committee with you except Madge Baze (who is a second cousin of mine). I thought the food was the best I had ever eaten. It was all so very tasty, even to the tossed salad. I was quite surprised and pleased over the gift certificate from Wal-Mart. I will make good use of that.

I'm sure that will be my last one. Thought the class of '37 did real well having three there. Sure wish your mother could have been there, and your dad too. [Bernard and Lavern Ransom Farrell, class of '33 and '37] She and I had a lot of good times together. It's nice to have fond memories of things like that.

Thanks again to you and all the rest who made the banquet such a great thing.

Faye Weddle Strait [Class of 1937]

[Faye, we hope you **WILL** be at the reunion this year—we look forward to seeing you! Editor.]

### REMEMBRANCES OF METZ SCHOOL

The request for stories of our school days at Metz brought several wonderful remembrances. We are thankful to these former students and the stories they have shared about the teachers who influenced their lives. We would like to print more stories about teachers and the Metz Schools next year also. Please submit your story to be published by sending it to Madge Baze, 1204 W. Cherry St., Nevada, MO 64772. We want to hear from more former students.

Pictures from various annuals have been copied and included with the below stories. We regret that we were unable to locate pictures for everyone mentioned.

#### BERYL BROWN ALEXANDER

##### CLASS OF 1932



Beryl Brown

I liked all my high school teachers. I believe Claude Summers was my favorite. He taught agriculture and 2nd year algebra as well as basketball coaching.

Nellie Dye was a neighbor as well as a teacher. We used to walk together going through our pasture and some of Irl Hudson's land. She also picked us up in her little Ford roadster.



Claude Summers

A teacher we never hear much about was Bess Musick from Springfield. She had the first carnival. Her husband really did give it a boost!

#### VIRGINIA PETTIT PETERSON

##### Class of 1937



Virginia Pettit

First I'd like to say I always liked my teachers. Maybe some a little more than others. I started to school in late August 1925 in the old white building. The most important memory from that school was my teacher Miss Madeline

Robinson. She was so nice. And every Friday afternoon she would send two of the older girls - probably 4<sup>th</sup> graders - up town to Morrisons' Restaurant for "Eskimo Pies" for all the students. We also had ciphering and spelling bees.

I began my second grade August 1926 in the 'new' brick schoolhouse. It was very exciting. My next teacher was Mary Hopkins, but she left before the end of the year as her fiancé was drowned herding a bunch of wild horses across a rain-swollen river in Kansas. She retired permanently. Our next teacher was Laura Handly, then Helen Gregg in fourth grade.



**Claude Summers**

In high school I think the teacher that influenced me most was 'Prof' Claude Summers. He was one of the most intelligent teachers I ever had. And he was very patient with all my 'stupid' questions. He was excellent in math and history.

Regardless of how busy he was, he took time to help if you had a problem. Math was one of my favorite subjects.

Miss Nellie Dye made our English and literature class very interesting. Madeline Gaines made history classes interesting, almost as though you were living in those times.

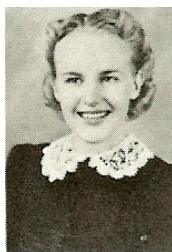


**Nellie Dye**

I'm really not a very good writer – not too good at getting my memories down on paper. Just know that my years in the Metz schools were very happy ones.

**MARGIE LONGBAUGH BRENEMAN  
Class of 1943**

Carmen Crawford was the music teacher at Metz my sophomore and I think also junior year. She went the extra mile for her students. She lived at home in Nevada and drove out to Metz each day. She wanted me to take violin lessons from Mrs. Franklin Norman, who gave private lessons in her home on South Main. Since my aunt taught in



**Marjorie Longbaugh**

Nevada, Miss Crawford took me with her to Nevada and to Mrs. Norman's home. Then she picked me up after my lesson and took me to where my aunt lived. The next morning she took me back to Metz. Mrs. Norman later taught violin at



**Carmen Crawford**

Cottery College. She had one rule and if you didn't abide by it she said you were wasting her time and your parents' money, so "Practice (so long) every day!!!"

Carmen returned to Nevada after she was quite old and was in a nursing home and died there. I visited with her several times.

**REX CHARLES  
Class of 1937**



**Rex Charles**

I remember once when Roy Gregg was bouncing a ball off the wall while sitting at his desk. Katie Blake told him to quit. He looked up, smiled, and done it one more time. So she knocked him clear out of his seat. You didn't mess with her!



**Katie Blake Peters**

**RUBY WESTERHOLD WIKOFF  
Class of 1941**

It was in the spring of the year when we were sent out the last hour to play softball, which we weren't interested in doing. So four of us decided to go bicycling! 'Eagle Eye' Katie Peters was looking out the study hall window and yelled, "Get them kids back on the school ground and send them to me!" We were supposed to write a 500 word theme on any subject. I copied mine out of the World Book. Russel Clutter wrote, "I saw a pretty kitty, so I called, 'Kitty,



**Ruby Westerhold**

Kitty, Kitty," to make up 500 words. I really bet that surprised her.

I want to say Opal Heatherly was rough in the classroom, but a friend away from school. I would say she influenced me the most. I had several classes under her.



**Opal Heatherly**

**MERLE R. WEBSTER  
Class of 1944**



**Merle Webster**

Mr. E. J. St. John is a standout for me. I had him in science and he insisted that I should continue my study of electricity as I built several of the projects in class. So I went on to the Navy where I spent most of 24 years immersed in electronics, radio, radar, navigation, and

weapons control. I taught electronics at the Naval Air Training Center, Memphis, Tennessee. Then I worked for a company designing control systems in buildings and industry for 19 years where I retired again.



**E. J. St. John**

Gladys Westerhold insisted that I should take the course in drafting, as I was in her art class. This turned out to be a plus for me. I worked on the design of controls and layout of electronics, and building design, on a computer and made the drawings in AutoCAD for 10 years.

Mr. Mike Robinson in grade school pushed the math and was strict when I really needed it. Stella Minor was my teacher in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, drilling math and English again as subjects I needed most. The list of teachers I have shown really impacted my life, and for the better in every way!!!

**Patty Jean Shields Edmonds Vacca  
Class of 1948**

I have only good memories of my school years at Metz High School. I graduated in 1948. My teacher, Superintendent Logan Wilson, was such a person who tried to council his students with their best interest in mind. He was a teacher but also a caring person. When I told him I was going to get married he tried to talk me out of it until I had some college behind



**Patty Jean Shields**



**Logan Wilson**

me. Of course I, a know-it-all, would not take his advice. I graduated with him as my superintendent, which is interesting since I started school at Horton with his sister Ada Wilson Cole as my first grade teacher. They were wonderful people.

Another teacher I remember was Faye Fisher who taught commerce. She was a fine person and the thing I remember was her saving string. We would all donate every once in a while. I think she had a huge ball when in later years she stopped.

**GEORGE E. LILES  
Class of 1945**



**George Liles**

In my school years at Metz, I had several special teachers. As I search my memory, I have selected Mrs. Nell D. Tolle as my favorite teacher. She was very strict, kind, and very helpful.



**Nell D. Tolle**

**NANCY THORPE COFFEY  
Class of 1953**



**Nancy Thorpe**

Elgie Sivils, Superintendent and American history teacher, had some funny ways at times, but he kept order in the school and always knew where every student was.



**Elgie Sivils**

We never got by with anything, but he was respected.



**Blanche  
VanHorn**

Blanche Van Horn: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade-1949: She made learning interesting and fun. Her students could go to her with any problem and she would take the time to help and talk to them. She would say, "A time to work and a time to play." I would say she was the best influence in my life.

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**EVERETT FORKNER  
Class of 1957**

While attending 12 years of schooling in the Metz school system, I have fond memories of many of my teachers.

All of them had an influence on my learning and growing in my life. But the one teacher that influenced my life the most was my 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Leta



**Everett  
Forkner**

Pryor.



**Leta Pryor**

Maybe it was my age of early teens, but Leta Pryor helped me to build a foundation of faith, self-expectation, and a desire to be my very best. She instilled a desire to do whatever it took to complete a job and a commitment to succeed.

Every class day began with everyone standing, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and a scripture reading from the Bible that lay on her desk. Leta was a strict disciplinarian with high expectations of all her students. She was a teacher I respected greatly and who raised my bar of being the best I could be.

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**MARJORIE RAABE SCHAFFER  
Class of 1962**

The teacher was Mrs. Katie Peters. I have 3 older brothers and Mrs. Peters had been a legend in our home. The boys had talked

about some of the discipline they had received in her class and the discipline they had watched other boys receive for misbehavior.

I started school in 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the old building. At recess our class went directly from the class through double side doors to the slides, swings, and merry-go-round. I liked to swing but I was small for my age and the swings were made for students through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I was swinging too high and I lost my grip and fell out at the peak of the swing's arc. When I came to from being knocked unconscious I was in Mrs. Peters' arms. She was very concerned and took me to the office so they could monitor my recovery. I was fine, but I was scared to death of Mrs. Peters. In reality she was very kind and concerned.

The teacher who influenced me was Mr. Ralph D. Cruzen. Mr. Cruzen was my teacher in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades I believe. At that time each teacher taught two classes in each room. Mr. Cruzen had purchased a set of Nancy Drew Mystery and Hardy Boys Mystery books and brought them to class. We were allowed to check the books out and take them home to read. He gave each of us special attention and encouragement.

Through this encouragement I learned that I could excel in reading and spelling. For the first time I felt like I could make a future for myself through education. I look back on those two years as a turning point in my life.

---

**Keith Breneman  
Class of 1965**

For a small school, I believe that Metz was able to acquire some very remarkable teachers. I couldn't possibly narrow any selection down to one, but I did reluctantly narrow it down to four. There are many more I could have mentioned.



**Marjorie  
Raabe**



**Ralph  
Cruzen**

First would have to be Beverly Weddle. Miss Beverly took on 32 lively and precocious first graders in what I believe was her first teaching assignment. It's to her



**Beverly Weddle**

credit that we all survived that year although I'm sure a number of us richly deserved another fate. From her able hands our educational careers were launched.

Next would have to be Joe Olive. His unlimited enthusiasm for knowledge infected us all. He drilled us on the basics of English to a depth I was later to discover many college students didn't understand. I still remember his response when the class would get into trouble; "Y'all just can't stand prosperity," delivered in his Tennessee drawl.



**Joe Olive**

I think the best way to describe Charles McGinnis was that he was unique. He had a way of rarely taking a negative view of anything. He seemed to always approach any situation, logically of course, by exploring the possibilities of a positive outcome. However that didn't always work. One time when the aroma of fresh baked cookies filled the math room, he agreed to allow a note to be lowered to the Home Economics window below asking for samples. The Home Economics teacher was not impressed and panhandling was permanently curtailed.



**Charles McGinnis**

Last, but not least, is Jerry Sparks. You rarely find a teacher with that mix of compassion and caring, not to mention his apparently unlimited supply of patience. Not only did Mr. Sparks care about his students while at Metz High, his concern extended to their lives and careers as they entered the adult world. Not bad for a guy from Sallisaw,



**Jerry Sparks**



**Keith Breneman**

Oklahoma. I'm looking forward to seeing the other teachers that are picked.

### **TERRY WESTERHOLD LOGAN Class of 1979**

When asked to think about a teacher that made an impact on my life, I immediately thought of two very special teachers. The first would be Mrs. Rozanne (Fite) Sparks, who was the longtime music and band teacher at Metz. I started playing the alto saxophone in the third grade and she would be my teacher until midway into high school. Mrs. Sparks made sure that everyone who wanted to play an instrument got to play one, and play we did! We played at school events, graduation ceremonies, at church, and even at some of the senior citizens meetings. We marched in parades and went to music contests in Fort Scott and Joplin. Everyone involved in band was in an ensemble and generally had a solo as well. Please keep in mind that she was "The Only" music and band teacher for the entire school. That meant she taught music and band to the entire grade school, junior high and high school! That in itself would be quite an undertaking by today's standards, let alone prepare all the junior high and high school students with music and band pieces for contest. She was very good at what she did and quite successful! One of my best memories in band was during my freshman year. There was a very large group of us who competed at the state music contest in Columbia. That definitely was the big time for the kids at little old Metz!

Mrs. Sparks had a way of making all of her students feel that they could play any piece of music and get a #1 rating on it. She also helped her students to appreciate music and cultured an interest and love of music as well.



**Terry Westerhold**



**Rozanne Sparks**

Rozanne's other gift to all of us was the yearly trip to Kansas City to see the Kansas City Royals play. Every year she would load all of us up in the buses and take us to Kansas City to eat out and see a baseball game. To most people now they would say, "What's the big deal about that?" Keep in mind that we didn't get to take trips like kids do now and it was a big deal. We got to eat at McDonald's, and yes, in the 1970s that was one of the highlights of the trip! That along with getting "The Metz High School Band" on the Royal's scoreboard made the entire trip perfect! Teachers like this do not come along very often, and although this thank you comes 30 some years later, thank you Mrs. Sparks, for going the extra mile so many times for all of us who went to Metz.

The other teacher who had the most impact would be Coach Terry Azevedo. Coach Azevedo came to teach at Metz when I was in Junior High. My entire class fell in love with him the first day we saw him walk in the gym. He would be our coach until he left in 1978 when we were juniors. Coach Azevedo got along with everyone and made each of his students feel special. Like Rozanne, Coach Azevedo also taught K-12th grades. He was responsible for all physical education classes for K-12 as well as coaching "all" sports for both boys and girls. This along with teaching high school History and Sociology, what an enormous amount of teaching and responsibility that must have been! However, he did it all very well and made it seem effortless. Coach Azevedo had a wonderful sense of humor and was a kind and caring teacher. He treated everyone fairly and I feel lucky to have been one of his students and athletes. Our class continues to have some ties with this teacher-- he has numerous times come to our class reunions, and it is always a pleasure to have the opportunity to see him and spend time with him. Terry and his lovely wife Janet, who



Terry Azevedo

was the kindergarten teacher at Metz, were both an incredible asset to our little school. I am truly grateful for the hard work these teachers put forth on my part and for the other students who went to Metz. The school is now just a memory, but a very good and sweet one at that!

### METZ SCHOOL DISPLAY AT METZ BANK

Heavy spring rains caused a roof leak at the Bank in Metz, and one class picture in the school display received minor water damage. Robert Seater has removed the picture for repair. All class pictures have been temporarily removed from the walls and are covered with plastic to protect them. Until the roof has been repaired, the display is closed to viewing. The roof will be repaired as soon as possible.

Coordination will continue with the Bushwhacker Museum regarding setting up a temporary exhibit of Metz School memorabilia for the May-October 2009 museum season.

### ALUMNI NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Copies of the 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 Alumni Newsletters are available online at the Tri-County Genealogical Society's website at [www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~motcogs/) Click on the *Resources* tab and then the *Vernon Co Towns* button. Follow the *Metz* link.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT REUNION

During the Reunion, special recognition will be given to our former teachers in attendance. If you have contact information for any former Metz School teacher, please contact him/her and extend an invitation to the reunion. They may not have received the newsletter if we do not have a current address for them.

### CLASS ANNIVERSARIES & CONTACT STUDENTS

If your graduating class is planning a special anniversary celebration next year and would like it publicized in the 2009 *Metz Cardinal*

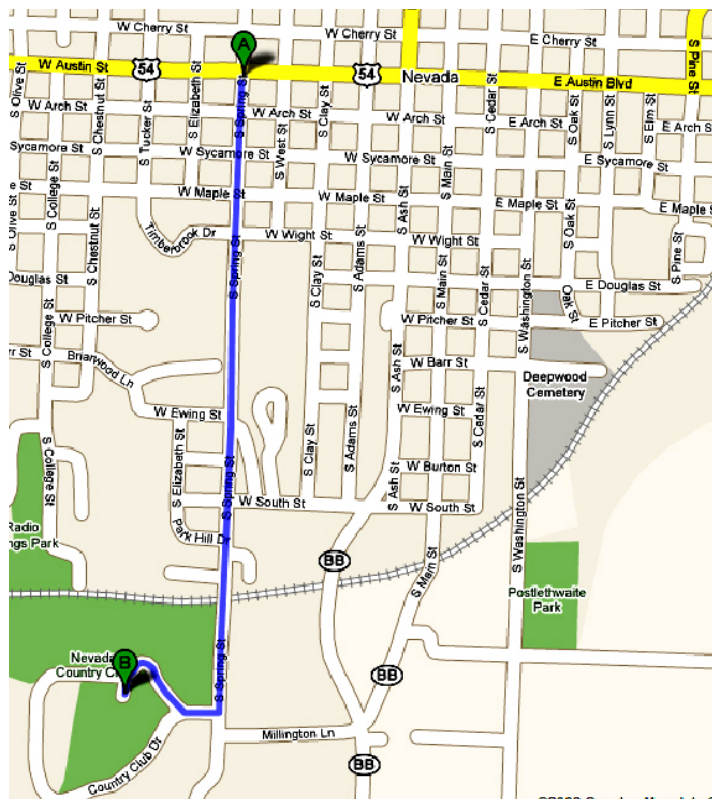
alumni newsletter, please contact the alumni officers for publication deadline information.

Also, we ask your help in locating students for whom we do not have current addresses. Lists will be available at the reunion.

### DIRECTIONS TO NEVADA COUNTRY CLUB

From U.S. Hwy 54/West Austin Blvd. in Nevada, MO, turn south onto Spring Street. Proceed south and cross the railroad tracks (about 1.1 miles). Turn right (west) onto Country Club Drive at the sign and stay to the right at the Y. Proceed around the curve and up the hill to the Clubhouse. Parking is available around the circle drive. **Enter via the ramp on the east side of the building.**

*We hope to see you on May 31 at the Reunion, and remember to tentatively mark the first Saturday after Memorial Day for next year's Reunion!*



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Metz Alumni, c/o Colleen Reed  
Rt 1, Box 110  
Rich Hill, MO 64779



2008 Metz All-School Reunion Meal Reservation Form  
**Complete form and postmark by May 10 for meal reservations.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If Metz Alumni, year graduated \_\_\_\_\_. If Metz classmate, year class graduated \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If Metz Alumni, year graduated \_\_\_\_\_. If Metz classmate, year class graduated \_\_\_\_\_.

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$ 12.50 per person  
x \_\_\_\_\_ # of reservations  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount

Make checks payable to **Metz Alumni**  
**Meal Reservations Must be Received in Advance**

**Postmark by May 10.**

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