

CENTRAL HEIGHTS SCHOOLS



Memory

Essays



1966-2016

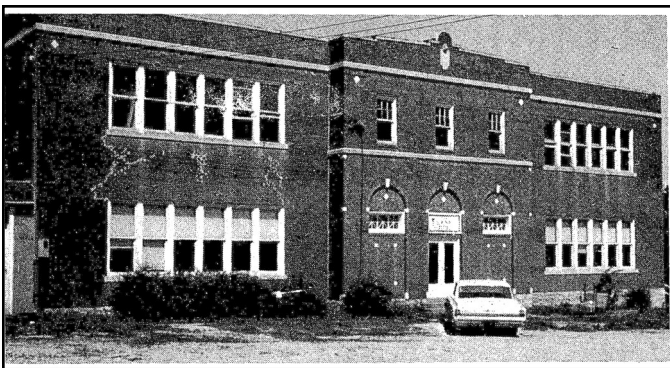
Memory Essays

“A compendium of remembrances from the Central Heights family covering the past 50 years.”

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The original schools in each town comprising USD 288 Central Heights Schools.
(Richmond Elementary School not pictured. MAC)



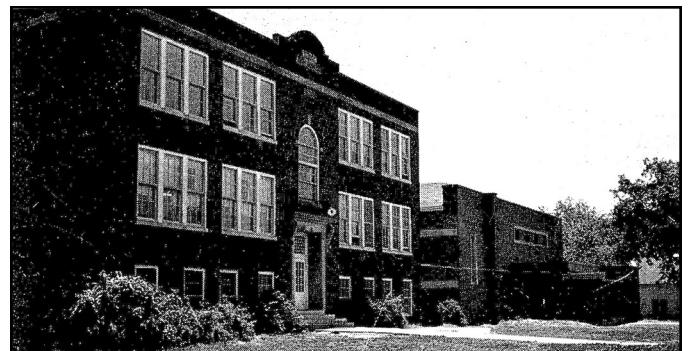
Lane School Building



Princeton School Building



Rantoul School Building



Richmond High School Building

Cover Art: Top of page, the original Viking logo drawn by Kenny Turley, member of the class of 1966.
Bottom of page, the most recent Viking logo drawn by Megan Oestreicher, member of the class of 2009.

Logistics on the Compilation 50 Years of Memories and how it came to be.

The 2015-2016 school year marked 50 years of existence for USD 288 Central Heights Schools (*The hay barn on the prairie. MAC*). Many events and activities were planned and completed throughout the school year celebrating the anniversary, some of which are represented in this booklet. Wanting to involve former students, staff, and patrons, a request was sent out seeking remembrances from the past 50 years with the intention of creating a booklet of such remembrances to be distributed to graduates, teachers, support staff, and patrons. The title of this endeavor would be “Memory Essays.”

“Memory Essays” submissions were to be limited to 300 words or less. (*Yeah, right! MAC*) The right to edit for language and/or grammar, as necessary, was reserved for all submissions. (*Mr. Redeker is still readily available if necessary. MAC*)

“Memory Essays” were to be submitted by January 30, 2016. This deadline, like all such deadlines, was not adhered to by a substantial number of individuals. As a result, it was determined to make the “Memory Essays” booklet a living document, PDF or e-book, which could be updated as new accounts would be submitted. Individuals have permission to and are encouraged to download and print copies (*Not for profit. MAC*) of this document as desired.

One must always keep in mind that the “Memory Essays” document represents each individual’s unique viewpoint. In some instances, several individuals have given remembrances of the same occurrence, incident, or historical event which, on the surface, do not appear to agree. These differences do not necessarily represent inaccuracies but the comprise the viewpoints and opinions of each individual. (*Continue to feel free to submit your own personal remembrances for inclusion in any future updates for this document. MAC*)



The Central Heights Graduating Class of 1972

I retain vivid memories of the founding of Central Heights and the efforts put forth by the patrons of the four existing schools during the “school fight” of the 1960’s. Central Heights, beginning in turmoil, continues today to be a family brought together with one purpose in mind, providing the highest quality education possible, here, on the prairie.

As the individual who instituted the *Memory Essays* project, it is only fitting that I include my own remembrances. I have multiple associations with Central Heights as detailed below.

c=x

Michael A. Carey

Class of 1972

Student, Patron, Parent, Coach, and Teacher

(I have included comments and updates as seem necessary throughout in italics with the initials MAC.)

USD 288 Central Heights Schools The Beginning: A Short History

(We'll let others fill in the rest.)

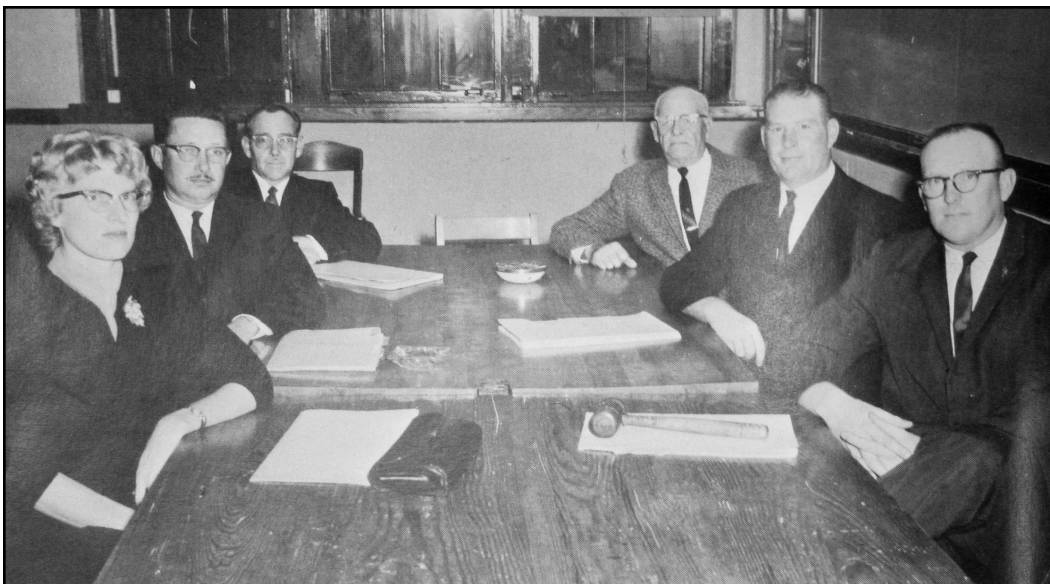
During the early 1960's the Boards of Education of Lane, Princeton, Rantoul, Richmond, presented to their patrons a plan to consolidate the four area high schools leaving the elementary schools as separate entities. The patrons approved the plan and Consolidated Joint District 10 was created as a preliminary step to the creation of Unified School District 288. During the 1964-65 school year, students from the Rantoul and Lane High Schools attended at Richmond and Princeton while all four towns continued elementary schools. (*This led to the "Lost Class" of 1965. MAC*) Patrons approved the plan bringing all educational entities into one Unified School District #288 creating the second unified school district in the state of Kansas as per state law.

On October 16, 1965, the voters of the newly created USD 288 passed a bond election authorizing \$1,148,000 in bonds for the USD 228 Board of Education to finance the building of a new attendance center housing grades K-12. The new center would be centrally located between Richmond, Princeton, Lane and Rantoul. However, the Board of Education faced opposition and several times it was feared that USD 288 would never get "off of the ground."

Leading up to the election, the Board of Education faced major opposition and lawsuits by several groups of locals and others who adamantly opposed USD 288 and the construction of a new educational center and fought overturn the proposed bond issue. Fortunately, each effort was overcome by the Board of Education effectively defeating the opposition lawsuits then successfully passing the bond issue to build the new Central Heights Schools educational complex.

High school students from the Lane, Rantoul, Princeton, and Richmond gathered at the Princeton gymnasium for the purpose of selecting a school name, colors, and mascot for the newly created USD 288. The student council members presided over the assembly. Following many suggestions, the name of Central Heights, the colors of Columbia blue and gold, and the Viking mascot were selected by majority vote.

Ground was broken for the new educational complex in October of 1967, and the complex was fully occupied by the spring of 1969.



Original USD 288 Board of Education
Ardyce Wilson, George Snow, Hobart Betz, Ralph McCrea, Victor Montague, Gene Vining

Administration Memories

Gene Vining

Board of Education: 1964-73

After being urged by several patrons, I ran for the first board of education. I was a member for eight years, president for the first four.

I'd never even met three of the board members who were elected, but we learned to work together because we had a common purpose. We had the support of the faculty and staff and the majority of the people; a good legal counsel, Orville Cole; and we knew we were doing the right thing. Like five of the six board members, I had kids in school and we always kept in mind that our decisions would provide a good education for all students.

We met every Monday night for a couple of years, and even after that, had many special meetings. We worked closely with the Kansas Department of Education and asked for opinions and advice from others.

It was understood USD 288 was the first unified district to build new for K-12 in one location, so we were breaking ground and wanted to do things right.

Many of the experiences we had were entirely new to most of us, especially having several court injunctions against the district, even having one suit go to the State Supreme Court. This suit claimed that the bond issue vote had illegal voters. Waiting months for that decision, which came down in the district's favor, was really stressful.

Before I left the board, I promoted adding vocational agriculture and FFA, which was done in the fall 1973.

Looking back, I think we had a board that was unified in purpose, honest and open about everything with the patrons, and that's very important.

I'm glad I could be a small part of this school's history. For 50 years the students and patrons have known they are one district, which was the original goal.

Ardyce Wilson

Board of Education: 1965-1975 and 1997-2001

Burning the midnight oil was not unusual for the first Central Heights Board of Education. There were only six of us, later one member was added, who met at the Richmond High School almost one night a week for almost a year.

There were many items on the agenda at the time, mainly state mandated unification. Once the board members were elected and sworn in we had to hire a lawyer and school superintendant to get things rolling.

The next big question was the desire of the patrons. Did all four towns and rural areas want one school K-12 or dissolve and attend the nearby larger existing schools (*Ottawa, Garnett, Osawatomie, Williamsburg, Wells-ville. MAC*)? The board decided to propose a K-12 school complex construction bond issue. The patrons voted to build a new, centrally located, school.

It was a cantankerous time, especially as to the site of the new school. Some wanted it on 59 highway, others thought the school should be on Vermont Road. One night we drew an "X" from the four towns. The center

(Continued on page 6)

Administration Memories

(Continued from page 5)

of the “X” fell very close to the eventual site. It was a forty acre hay meadow which the school bought for \$200.00 an acre. Ironically, the Central Heights music group eventually became known as “The Back Forty.” A round school in the middle of a hay field was indeed unique.

Any time there is change, problems do exist. There was neighbor against neighbor, family members against each other, even churches and businesses felt the sting. Some said that bus routes would be too long, others thought the building would make a great hay barn, but many, many, others thought it was a great endeavor.

Over the years, many people’s ideas changed. Families who were very much against the school had grandchildren graduate from Central Heights. From the very beginning, the students meshed together and gradually the communities came together also. Today, Central Heights is one of the top rural schools in Kansas.

Lester Wuertz

Board of Education: 1987-1989 and 1990-2005

Gerri Getty (elementary teacher) asked me to run for the school board; being a slow learner, I stayed for 14 years. I wasn’t mad at any teacher or administrator or coach, so I had no personal agenda. With no relatives in the state of Kansas I voted on each issue the way I thought best. Since I didn’t eat Sunday dinner with anyone local, I didn’t hear much about how I voted. I was board president for two years; during that time I had fewer than five phone calls. It was at board meetings that the value of 4-H and how to participate in meetings in a civilized fashion finally hit me, not that I was totally civilized at every moment. As a board we did use executive session too often; that reduces trust in your elected board by the general public. But we kept taxes relatively lower than surrounding districts. I considered the teachers and administrators as friends, not subordinates. CHS had many out-of-district students; in Kansas the state aid follows the student. Out-of-district students were a good business decision; it allowed larger curriculum choices for our students. I hope this remains a possibility in the future school finance laws.

Mary L. Hall

Board of Education: 1978-1987

Central Heights!! A new school, a new district! Moving to the Richmond area in 1964, finding a new home for our family and settling down in the area, the new school was very exciting and such a fine facility. At that time a school board member left and I was asked to complete their term, so I accepted the challenge.

Being on the board of education was an eye-opening experience, and a way to be involved with our children’s education. My interest and talent in the field of art was broadening at this time. Several very talented kids showed me some of their artwork and they were good at drawing, but needed help on fundamentals. Becoming aware that there was no art class and all of the art offered was through the regular classroom, I mentioned my interest to the board at a meeting, the superintendent Mr. Laird became very interested in my interest as an artist. Gerri Getty met with the teaching staff and honored me with starting the change to art instruction.

An art class was formed and given a small space with good, but not perfect, light and room for those that had creative interests. We use these lessons and skills all our life in our homes and family and workplace. Not everyone wants to “paint a picture,” but not everyone wants to catch a football.

Hoping the district could make creative design an important class for everyone, who has a spark of creativity. The right environment is important for learning, whatever the subject. This is especially important in the field of art. All of us need to learn about color, balance and design, the fundamentals of our daily life choices.

Teaching Staff Memories

Jim Coppoc

Teacher: 1964-1968

I was there...I was there when they drew an "X" and planned the new school building in the middle of four schools: Princeton, Rantoul, Richmond and Lane.

I was there when the four schools consolidated placing the junior high at Princeton and high school at Richmond. I started teaching and coaching in 1964 and taught 8th graders at Princeton and coached against Lane, Rantoul, Richmond, Appanoose, Pomona and Williamsburg. The county basketball tournament was at Pomona and Princeton won making our season undefeated at 10-0. My second year Lane came over to Princeton, and we were second in the county tournament at Williamsburg.

Then my next two years of teaching, we were the Junior High Central Heights Vikings at Princeton. That is when we started junior high full contact football. I coached all three teams - 7th, 8th & 9th - all three sports - football, basketball & track. We collected foam rubber from old car bodies and put it in net bags for our first high jump pit instead of landing into sand. While I did not teach at Central Heights High School in Richmond, my wife and I followed those teams as they had successful seasons.

We moved from the area in 1968 and I never got to teach in the new Central Heights building. However, I have driven by the school several times and realized it was a dream come true and that many great students and teams would come out of that school.



1965 Princeton 8th Grade Team
Coach Coppoc is dripping wet after a trip to the showers to celebrate a perfect 10-0 season.

Back Row: Jim Coppoc, Joe Bill Sutton, Rex Foltz, Milt Tinsley (Perry), Bill Anderson, Joe Saylor
Front Row: Dale Carey, Richard Welch, Trent Burkdoll, Noel Dagenette, Nelson Higdon

1966 Princeton-Lane A Team

Not happy with second place is the scrappy basketball team who lost the county tournament at Williamsburg, 31-30.

Left to Right: Allen Bronson, Ronnie Yates, Ronnie Neill, Mark Burkdoll, Frank McFarland, Ronnie Stockard, Larry Snow, Albert Imel, Mike Cole

Coach Coppoc is in back wearing a suit - no trip to the showers this year.



Teaching Staff Memories

Gerry Getty (*Written by husband Steve Getty. MAC*)

Teacher: 1980-2003

Gerry Getty came to Central Heights in 1980 to teach first grade. She loved first grade because she could build the foundation for their educational experience. She only taught first grade for a couple of years before she was moved to third grade. The grade didn't make any difference as she loved to teach and loved her students.

Eventually she was moved to fifth grade where she really found that her teaching would impact the greatest. To her, fifth grade was a transition period for her students from being a little kid to becoming a pre-adult. To her, her students were shedding their cocoon to become butterflies. Her teaching method was to show them the way, not to lecture, and she used literature to put them on the path of real learning. She wanted to show them that there was a real world beyond Franklin County and the State of Kansas. She wanted to show them that even though they might be from a small community, they could see the world and become whatever they wanted to be. Through literature she showed them places they might not actually see but through their imagination they were there.

Gerry brought in authors, she took them to Literature Festivals, she put on plays, they made quilts made up of panels of their favorite books hand drawn, she brought her students home to camp out in her backyard, and many other ways of teaching.

Her great dream was that her students would have a lifetime and the love of reading. She took that a little further as she founded The Franklin County Children's Literature Festival (*The festival continues today and is held in Ottawa. MAC*). Gerry wanted all of the Franklin County students to share in Literature. She loved her students, she loved teaching, and she loved Central Heights. Her health forced her to retire from teaching in 2003. She died in 2004. Central Heights honored her achievements in 2005 by naming the Central Heights Elementary Library for her.



John Schultze

Teacher: 1975 to 2014



One afternoon, Mr. Erisman went to talk to Mr. Powelson in the Ag shop. Mr. Powelson was not there. Mr. Erisman did find him in the old football locker room playing ping-pong with Chad Burkdoll with money on the table for the winner.

Years ago, in the gym, we had some very wild ping-pong games between Mr. Cearfoss and Mr. Welch. They were very competitive and kept the score on the gym wall. The games got very wild before they were over and a winner declared.

One day during cross country practice one athlete found a small garter snake. He picked it up and began chasing another athlete. The other athlete was afraid of snakes and was ready to fight if the first athlete did not quit.

Teaching Staff Memories

Pat Vining

Teacher: 1973-1983

There Was A Simple Explanation

When I was teaching a journalism class from 1973 through 1983, I sometimes put fictitious notes about an event or happening on the chalkboard. The notes would have the who, what, when, where and why of a story, along with other information, and be in jumbled order. Students were expected to write a story using the notes, deciding what should be the lead paragraph, and write in correct journalism style, including adding a source.

One such set of notes was about a light airplane clipping the water tower on the school parking lot, then landing in the parking lot. The pilot was slightly injured but no students were injured. Mr. Erisman took the pilot to an area hospital (name?). The Fr Co Sheriff (name?) was called and an investigation may result in charges against the pilot (be specific).

Remember... the notes were not in any sensible order.

I left the notes on the board that afternoon and after school, an employee came into the room and became alarmed about what he assumed really happened. He went to an administrator who, after a bit, figured this was an assignment and not an actual event. The administrator told me about the confusion, and I didn't leave story notes on the board after that.

Bob Erisman

Teacher and Administrator: 1965 to 2000

Driver Education always has fun experiences. I was taking a group to drive when we noticed the car had a flat tire. We got the old bumper-type jack ready for one student while I took the other student to block the front wheel. Those old jacks had a long rod that ran through the jack. After a few minutes, I noticed the back of the car going up high-it was about two feet too high. The students thought the car was to be jacked all the way to the top. I told the student to look at how far the flat tire was off of the ground! They both laughed.



Once, a retiring teacher brought a tiny dog in a little basket to school every day placing it beside her desk. Another teacher asked me to help him carry his hound named "Duke" in a bushel basket to school for the fun of it. Well, "Duke" was over sixty pounds. The teacher lived in front of the school and that made it easy. (*Mr. Erisman began his career in Lane then Richmond and finally to Central Heights. MAC*) The school was a two-story building and on a nice April morning with students and teachers hanging out of the windows, yelling and laughing, the fun began. We lifted "Duke" into the basket but he started kicking, barking, jumping, causing the basket to disassemble as he took off down the road. We knew he would do that but it was fun to try. I don't think his owner found him for two or three days.

We left on a senior trip one year and after a few hours we arrived at our destination. I had a phone call waiting for me from the superintendent. He said some senior had put honey on a stool in the faulty men's restroom and a faculty member sat in it! When I returned to the bus, I told them we go back if I don't find out who did it. We stay if I do. I never saw four seniors confess so quickly in my life! Later, they asked me if the prank worked. Kids!

Teaching Staff Memories

Peg Beach

Teacher: 1981-2006

Memories of my days at Central Heights...I could write a book, and many times I wish I had! It all began in July of 1973 when we moved to the Rantoul area and my oldest son, Brett, began first grade at CH, while I taught sixth grade language arts at Paola. All three of my sons graduated from CH...Brett '85, Troy '91, and Jason '96. In 1981, a third grade position opened at their school, and I was lucky enough to be chosen to fill it. There I remained, teaching third graders, until I retired in 2006. The following year found me back helping in first grade before going to Garnett to teach 4th grade for three years, and finally retiring for real in 2010. To all of "my kids," who played such a role in making me who I am today- let's take a walk down Memory Lane together and remember only a few of the memories I hold in my heart of you:



- riding and singing on the bus to all of those fun field trips to Fort Scott, museums, zoos, factories, police stations, and other learning venues...eating our sack lunches at parks on sunny, clear days and pouring down rain, muddy days...roller skating at times after lunch (with only one broken bone, I believe, and it wasn't mine!)
- visiting Sylvester's Ranch in Ottawa each year in October for "Day on the Farm," where we learned all about agriculture in fun ways at each station.
- enjoying the Farm Bureau ladies coming to school and teaching us to make butter in a jar and bread in a bag.
- being privileged to see and hear famous children's book authors, illustrators, and story-tellers at the Literature Festival at Ottawa University that our dear Mrs. Getty originated to promote the love of reading in all of our students.
- competing in sporting events for ribbons at our "Field Days" at the end of school.
- winning prizes at booths of skill and chance at our school carnivals provided by the PTO.
- memorizing and performing "A Christmas Carol" for our parents and other classes. Ryan Burroughs was Scrooge and the rest of you had parts. Mrs. Bryant and I made the props.
- practicing so hard to perfect your music programs which, with Mr. McCune's guidance, were more like theatrical productions, while teachers made costumes and props.
- sitting in StarLab learning about the constellations as they moved across the dome shaped "sky."
- enjoying the Life Education Center mobile unit which helped us learn more about our body systems that we were studying in science, plus Harold the giraffe teaching us how alcohol, tobacco, and drugs harm our bodies.
- singing our multiplication records to help memorize our facts (7's-"even angels high in the heavens sing this song of 7's" and 12's which we or I danced the Charleston to, were our favorites) and often opening the sliding room divider doors and having Mrs. Bryant's class join us.
- playing Around the World with flashcards to see who the champs were and challenging Mrs. Bryant's kids on Fridays.
- getting in the Treasure Box for hard work and appropriate behavior.

Those were the days, my friends..these and so many more memories of all of "my special kids," their supportive families, and all of the wonderful people I worked with at Central Heights linger in my mind...I recall them...and I smile! Thanks for the memories!

Teaching Staff Memories

Royce Powelson

Student: Class of 1985

Teacher: 1989 to 2000



The original faculty and administration of the consolidation of Central Heights provided quality instruction to the students and developed relationships with the families in our community. Staff members such as John Schultze, Bob Erisman, Bob Redeker, Maurice Bottom, and Bud Laird are icons of the Central Heights legacy and are part of what made our school great from the beginning. Academic programs such as FFA, FCCLA, Swing group – “Back 40”, and band gave us graduates the opportunity to serve others, become leaders, have pride, and travel to places outside of our school district. Athletics taught us teamwork, hard work, character, and competitiveness. My dream was to be a good basketball player, mostly because my

dad would play basketball with my brother and me after chores were done. I also idolized a few Central Heights players that were a little older than me. Area schools knew these names from Central Heights like Kratzberg, Horstick, and Schaub for their great shooting ability. I told Ike Cearfoss my freshman year that I wanted to be like them, so he encouraged me to come to school early and he would teach me to shoot.

On any typical morning outside of basketball season, I would walk into the gymnasium and down the ramp before 6:30AM. Ike would be shooting free throws counting 96, 97, 98 acting like he made 95 free throws prior to my arrival. I told him you have probably been here for hours warming up for me, then his story would change to, “I just got here, last night I counted 95 free throws in my mind before I went to sleep.” We would shoot baskets all morning, and every shot I would take was wrong: “you’re falling backwards, you’re falling forward, you’re falling side to side, your elbow is in, you’re elbow is out, you didn’t follow through.” I sure miss the days of being critiqued like that, as it was his way of showing me that he cared. We talked about life, working hard, being fundamental, and staying away from girls. Ike was a Central Heights treasure. I will never forget the snowy morning in February 1986, my best friend Tom called me out of psychology class in college, to tell me the news about the wreck. Ike’s funeral was one of the largest I’ve been to, if I had the courage to speak that day, I wish I could have mustered the words: “You were the best player in Franklin County and you were loved by many.” Ike always joked that he was the best player in the county, especially to one of his closest friends, Buddy Welch.

Cortney Kinyon

Teacher: 2006 to Present

I remember moving into my classroom in early August to have two high school boys who did not know me offer to help carry items from my car to my classroom. That is when I knew I made a great decision to teach at CHHS.

I remember taking bus loads of juniors to Hannibal to experience Mark Twain.

I remember being awestruck with projects that were beyond my wildest dreams.

Teaching Staff Memories

Deb Hampton

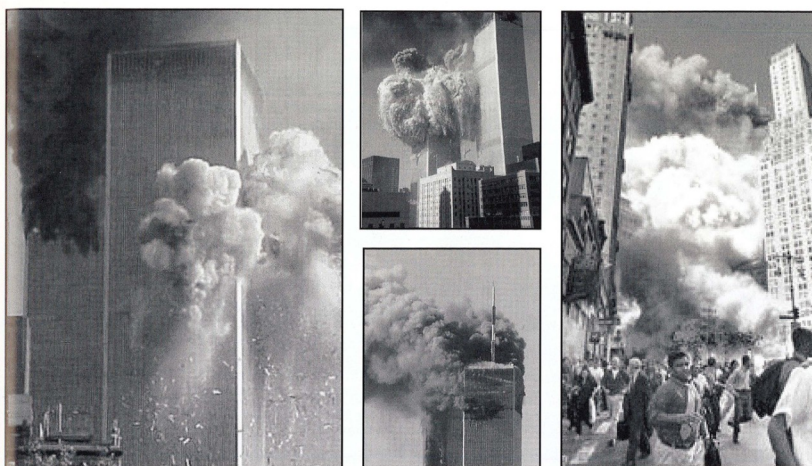
Teacher: 1987 to 1993 and 2006 to Present

Parent: Emily 2007, Madelaine 2008, Russell 2010, Cameron 2017

In the early 1990's several of us teachers ate our lunch in the cafeteria, what is now the "Commons." The cooks always fed us well, but this particular year, I remember that we must have had an abundance of pineapple on the shelves, because we teachers began to notice that pineapple had been on the menu for several days. Being a numbers person, Mr. Fluke started counting the days that we had pineapple. He counted 30...50...80..100 and still going. Pineapple rings may not have been served every day, but that was the most common variety. It may not have been served at all lunchtimes, but each day the yellow fruit made its way into someone's dinner. Finally the day arrived when both high school lunches seemed to have completely escaped the now cursed pineapple. UNTIL... I was late to the cafeteria. I went through the serving line, and the cooks assured me that even though I was late, they would find enough to feed me which they did. I took my tray to the teacher table and as soon as I set it down, all of the teachers groaned. I was the only one, but one was enough, PINEAPPLE AGAIN! We had a great laugh and I don't remember what the pineapple count finally got to. Hat's off to the CHS kitchen who have always taken care of us well.

And

September 11, 2001. The sky had been gorgeous on that Tuesday when we drove to school. 8:15 AM. The bell rang to begin 1st hour and I was standing at the door of my classroom right by the senior lockers. Mr. Tooley had already closed his door beside me. Senior, Phillip Webber had just arrived and was hurrying to his locker right by my room, and he said, "Mrs. Hampton, I think the news on my car radio said that the Twin Towers in New York got hit by a plane." Our principal Mr. Perbeck was making the rounds of the high school circle just then, and I stopped him and told him what Phillip had heard. We started our sophomore history class, but within five minutes Mr. Perbeck returned to my room and told me that he had checked the news and by that time both towers had been hit. The "school day" ended at that point as we were all frozen in a minute of real history. Everyone wanted to know what was happening. I had a classroom computer but did not have the technology to check CNN or Fox News; however, I did have a radio and our class listened and discussed what was happening to our fellow Americans, our president, and our country in that instant and in the hours that followed. The Pentagon... the crash of Flight 93 in Shanksville, PA... students still flowed from class to class... talking and listening to the news and to each other. My own kids (Emily and Maddie) said that Mr. Cubit (John) took his classes outside to view the contrails that showed all flights making abrupt turns to reach the closest landing fields. Then-- nothing, as air traffic in the US came to a halt. The following Friday at the football game, the CHS student council, Jenny Savage and Lynn Kratzberg, collected donations from the fans of both teams to be donated to the Red Cross for the emergency fund. Kids all over the country were doing the same. "I'm Proud to be an American" by Lee Greenwood was usually played once on the pregame PA along with other songs. That Friday night it was the only song played and no one complained about the repetition. That day brought a lot of discussions and changes for Americans. Those of us who lived it here at Central Heights will always remember.



The above images of the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Towers in New York City were copied from the 2001-2002 Yearbook. A remembrance of the day that included the Pentagon attack, and the courage of the passengers who fought back and crashed in Pennsylvania. MAC

Teaching Staff Memories

Scott Lane *(Written by Michael Carey, teacher 1994 to Present. MAC)*

Teacher: 2004 to 2016

I have many memories from my unfinished years teaching at CHS. I may include some of the more memorable events in future updates of this document but at this time I want to pay tribute to a fellow teacher who's time at CHHS was a blessing for the school, students, and patrons. *(Scott left CHS to continue his teaching career at Lawrence High following the 2015-16 school year. MAC)* I must admit that I really know little of Scott's teaching having never been in one of his classes but I will remember Scott Lane for four reasons given here in no particular order.

Scott has left a lasting impression with his handling of the National Honor Society by reminding students and parents that NHS membership was valued for more than a high GPA but also for demonstrated leadership in and out of school, personal integrity, and community service.

Scott spent his years at CHHS as Senior Class Sponsor and as a result participated in graduation ceremonies. One area involved creating an audio/visual experience highlighting each and every member of the current graduating class. His creativity developed and expanded over the years and each presentation integrated the unique personality of each class.

Scott became the Head Coach for the Women's Basketball team. Scott again strove to impart more than basketball skills to his athletes but an appreciation for the game of basketball, sportsmanship, and a sincere sense of team, of "family."

Scott also instituted what has become a major USD 288 community event at CHS with the annual "Veteran's Day" celebration. The event has grown from the theater with high school involvement and less than 20 veterans and spouses to the gym involving all students, PreK-12, and over 60 veterans and spouses honored in many different ways over the years.



(Central Heights students greet, and thank the many veterans in attendance for their service following the 2016 "Veteran's Day Celebration." MAC)

Thank you Scott for doing things with the Lane approach, that is, "Never Good Enough" but to improve, enhance, and of a strive for a higher quality the next time.

Support Staff Memories

Charley Feuerborn *(Written by daughter Cheryl Conner, class of 1979. MAC)*

Bus Service Driver and Owner/Operator:



A very important piece of Central Heights history is the C.F. Bus Service. Due to the location of the school, it was unthinkable that children would walk to school, and in 1968 there were not as many students with automobiles available to them as there are today. Therefore, bus transportation was a must and Central Heights was fortunate enough to have the best. Mr. Charles Feuerborn made sure the equipment was updated and well maintained, and it was his personal goal to make sure all the students were transported to and from school safely.

Charles Feuerborn started driving a school bus for Joe Kueser and Richmond Schools. He then drove two years for “Consolidated District 10” which was when the schools unified (Richmond, Princeton, Lane, and Rantoul) in 1963. In 1976, Charles and Gene Hermreck formed F & H Bus Service, and purchased the busses used in Richmond, Princeton, and Lane to transport the students to those sites. In the fall of 1968, the first students were transported to the then “Central Heights USD 288” located at 3521 Ellis Road, Richmond, KS.

In 1972, Gene sold his portion of the business to Charles and C.F. Bus Service was formed. At this time, Charles purchased the building located at 117 N. Ransom, Richmond from Richmond Truck Liens, as the location of the Bus Barn. The business was later incorporated and became C.F. Bus Service, Inc.

In 2010, when Charles retired, C.F. Bus Service consisted of ten daily routes, a handicap van and a special education transportation van. The reputation of C.F. Bus Service is one of outstanding service and equipment as well as an excellent safety record.

Through the years, many member of the community were employed by C.F. Bus Service as drivers and many generations of the same family were transported to school on Charles’ bus. Many will remember Charlie standing on the sidewalk of an evening with a cigar hanging out of the corner of his mouth. Never hesitating to tell some student to get on the bus, sit down, and shut-up.

Today, Charlie goes very few places without someone calling out “Hi Charlie! Remember me? I rode your bus.” After a little thought, Charlie always remembers them and maybe even a little story about their bus riding days.

Dorothy Detwiler *(Written by Nancy Spaulding Burroughs, class of 1971. MAC)*

Secretary: 1965 to 1985

My favorite memory of Central Heights was seeing Dorothy Detwiler *(Dorothy “Dot” was part of the support staff for CHS from the first days until the mid 80’s. MAC)* every morning in the window of the offices. My senior year my locker number was number “1” and I always saw Dorothy every day and she always had a smile and an encouraging word. I also cherish the friendships that I made and continue to have today!



Support Staff Memories

Ashanna Richards

Librarian: 2004 to 2016

I love how the elementary staff lines the sidewalk on the last day of school so that we can “high five” the students as they leave for the summer.

Student Memories

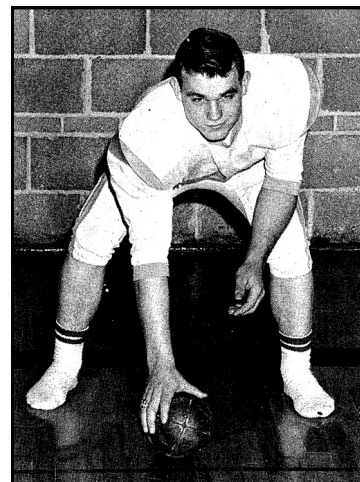
Jan (Wagner) Collins **Class of 1966**

My personal Central Heights memory actually predates the school. In the spring of 1965, high school students from the Lane-Rantoul and the Princeton-Richmond attendance centers gathered at the Princeton gymnasium for the purpose of selecting a school name, colors, and mascot for the newly created USD #288. The student council presided over the assembly. During that time, the name of Central Heights, colors of Columbian blue and gold, and the Viking mascot were selected. These choices were later accepted by the Board of Education and have stood the test of time. As I reflected on that experience, I am gratified that the four communities, the school staff, and the school board entrusted the STUDENTS to accept the challenge of making decisions that would guide their education, as well as the education of many future students. That event was just the beginning of four separate communities coming together to expand educational opportunities for their children. In the past fifty years, graduates of Central Heights have benefited from the trust extended to them by their community leaders, and those graduates are extending that forward thinking in communities around the world.

Jim Schulz **Class of 1968**

My first recollection of Central Heights is four small towns being combined to make one school. None of the kids knew anyone from the other towns and a couple of the schools were even rivals. This made for some tense situations and uncomfortable feelings in the beginning.

None of us boys had ever played football. Since football is the first sport of the school year, it helped the kids put aside their fears and become one school and not four. We had to get to know each other and learn how our differences could change attitudes. We were drawn together with one goal – learn football. By the end of the season we had become a TEAM.



One specific situation comes to mind. I was going up the stairs and met Mr. Cobbs. He introduced himself and said, “I am the head football coach, this is your helmet size, and you will be the starting center.” no questions asked. Little did we know, that football would draw us all together, as friends that we would have for the rest of our lives.

Dennis Peters **Class of 1970**

Unlike everyone else after all these years my memory is fuzzy to say the least. I will try to relate as best I can what I do remember and everyone can correct me.

I remember being bused from Richmond Grade School to Princeton and meeting in the gym to vote on school name, colors and mascot. I don't remember the year.

Central Heights began in the fall of 1965. The first year it pretty much only affected the high school. I was in the 8th grade that year. In the spring of 1966 I graduated from the 8th grade. We still called ourselves Richmond Grade School, we were the last class to graduate from R. G. S. Several of my classmates that I had gone through grade school with I would not go to school with again. They went to Garnett because of the issues of the new school.

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Student Memories

(Continued from page 16)

In the fall of 1966 the junior high was started in Princeton. It consisted of the 7th, 8th and 9th grades. I don't remember much of that year. I know I made a lot of new friends from the other towns, new classmates. I got my first taste of football and loved it.

My sophomore year started senior high in Richmond. I don't remember much that year. New surroundings and upper classmen and I still loved football.

My Junior year started at Richmond. The new school was completed that year. We moved in during the spring. They had an open house at the new school probably in December. I remember giving tours through the facility. They used senior high students to give tours to the visitors.

My worst experience of high school took place that year. It was early January we were still in Richmond. I was at the front door as students were arriving from the other towns. I was hearing talk about a shooting accident and that Allen Bronson had been killed. I remember being in disbelief and kept looking for him to show up and thinking it was another one of his pranks, sadly it wasn't. They called our class into one of the rooms and told us what had happened and asked for six volunteers to be pallbearers. They let us out of school the rest of the day. Probably not the smartest thing, Dick Wagner and myself drove around for hours. I couldn't tell you where we went or what we talked about, but I couldn't even have told you that the next day. Our minds weren't concentrating on driving, luckily nothing happened.

We moved into the new school in the spring of 1969. What a change! The round halls and gym, lockers you could almost get all your books in, locker rooms with carpet, nothing around the school and no paved roads. I got stuck on Ellis Road going to school, no gravel.

My senior year a new football field. I remember rolling around on it thinking soft grass instead of stubble. I got to play in the first game on that field and my son Mikael got to play in the last. *(The following year saw a move to the new sports facility on the south side of Ellis Road. MAC)* It had to be my most enjoyable year of football ever.

I know I had fun my senior year even though things are blurry in my mind. I graduated from Central Heights in spring of 1970. I do remember something about white socks.

Ron Stockard Class of 1971

Gary Cooper and I were in P.E. class our senior year and got into a fight. The teacher got out the boxing gloves, had us put them on, and the rest of the class circled around us as we boxed it out. No one got hurt and it ended with no winner. *(My cousin Eugene and I went through the same situation in Junior High with Coach Cobbs officiating. Those gloves were heavy. MAC)*

Student Memories

Michael A. Carey Class of 1972

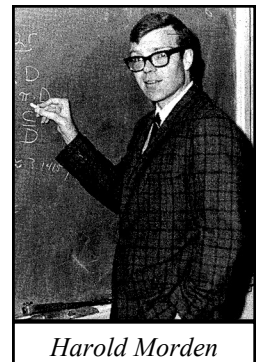
I began my education in this area at Princeton Elementary second semester of the second grade, January 1962. My first introduction to the unified school concept came in the fifth grade when District 10 was formed as the groundwork for Unified School District 288. My parents were heavily involved in the “school fight” along with many neighbors pro and con. Being pro USD 288, my parents lost many friends who worked to either do away with the unified district or at the very least to stop the building of a new school. Following many votes it was announced that we were all part of the Unified School District. I truly had no idea of the ramifications of that declaration until the beginning of my seventh grade year when the “Princeton Attendance Center” was created for elementary students and grades seven through nine from Lane, Rantoul, Princeton, and Richmond formed the Junior High School.

We would enroll in classes the same way the “big kids” would. (*The “big kids” were grades 10 through 12 and they were at the Richmond Attendance Center. MAC*). We would have hallway lockers for our text books and materials the same as the “big kids” would. (*My locker number throughout my school career was 101. This has some significance if you have read “1984” by Orwell which I read for the first time during Junior High. MAC*) We would move from class to class with each class period announced by bells just like the “big kids” would. We would have sports teams practicing to play other schools just like the “big kids” would. We would have multiple teachers each day just like the “big kids” would. I digress.

We Princeton kids were looking forward to the first day of classes at the Princeton Attendance Center; new name same building. We arrived on the busses, found our lockers, put our new pens, pencils, notebooks, and other items in our lockers and were instructed to go to the gym. The gym floor had folding chairs set up and we naturally grouped ourselves together by towns. We were given a welcoming speech, introduced to our new teachers, given instruction on logistics for each day, and a few other announcements. We were not introduced to any of our new classmates or members of the other two classes. We wondered how we would get to know the new members of the Class of 1972. Oddly enough, by the end of the day we, the Class of 1972, became a homogeneous group made up of students who were all in the seventh grade. We established friendships that have stood the test of time and we remain a homogeneous group of friends even to this day. We are forever Vikings and most importantly friends.

Robert “Bob” or “Bubba” Prue Class of 1974

I remember during Mr. Morden’s Algebra class there would be different ways of engaging us in learning. One thing we did was to pick stocks using the Ouija Board to theoretically invest in. It turned out at the end of the year our picks would have made us considerable profit had we invested. He also did fun things, like there was the period we had chess and checkers competitions during class, I recall one time challenging the entire class to play them in checkers or chess, going from seat to seat in rotation, I remember beating each of the other class members and the only one ever giving me a challenge was Stephen Hart. I guess I got off to a good start in Mr. Morden’s class, I had a knack for algebra. I remember him writing some super-long killer equation on the board (*Remember chalk boards? MAC*) and somehow I immediately knew the answer.



Central Heights was overall a good experience for me. Most of the boys were tracked into the shop classes. I remember helping to overhaul Jerry Horstick’s farm truck engine (or maybe it was a tractor) in auto shop,

(Continued on page 19)

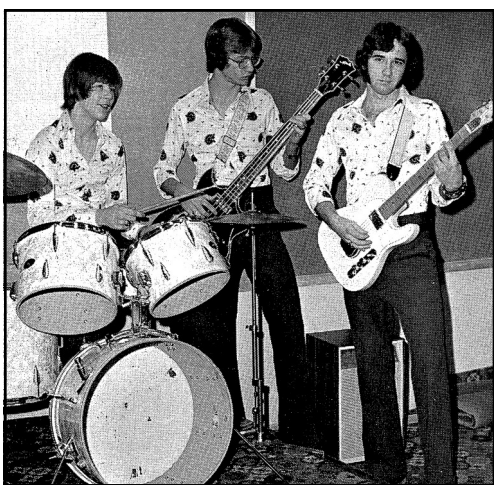
Student Memories

(Continued from page 18)

which gave me the confidence later to overhaul my own Ford Pickup and Harley Davidson engine and transmission later on. I still have some of the wooden boxes I built in wood shop, which gave me the confidence to build my own musical instruments.

I might have been fairly notorious for doing things like painting the entire concession/announcer's stand at the football field (including windows). Some of the other stuff I learned at Central Heights must have stuck, I continued my education after I returned from the Army, eventually receiving a PhD and am currently an Associate Professor and Chair of the Social Work program at UMKC.

Daniel L. Mildfelt **Class of 1975**



Central Heights was a most enjoyable experience, in terms of education, sports, music activities, and the numerous friends I grew up with. There are many favorite teachers that I greatly appreciate, and the opportunity they provided to influence my interests in math, history, business, English and music. Mr. Redeker, Mr. Cobbs, Mr. Morden, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Bronson, Mr. Bottom, Mr. Erisman and Mr. Showalter were among my favorites. They were excellent instructors, who made their classes educational, interesting and fun. Mr. Cobbs was a great football and track coach, and I have wonderful memories as a running back on the grid-iron, and many years as a sprinter on the track team. Mr. Bottom's "Back 40" music group was an exceptional experience in my life and I thoroughly enjoyed his vision of entertaining audiences throughout the region.

I could certainly write many pages of great memories at CHS. The teachers I mentioned, and many others created an excellent learning environment, and I was well-prepared for the next level of education at the University. The sports memories will last a lifetime, and so will those with classmates and friends. Thank you for creating Central Heights with a merger of the schools from four communities, and thanks for the memories.

David E. Bones **Class of 1976**

I participated in the ground breaking ceremonies (*See picture on last page. MAC*) on Sunday October 8, 1967. I was in the 4th grade at Princeton and as a member of the Cub Scouts we lead the Pledge of Allegiance. I remember it was a cold and blustery day. We moved into the new school building in January when I was in the 5th grade. I can remember eating our lunches in our classroom as the cafeteria wasn't finished yet.

While in the 6th grade I was a tour guide of the elementary circle when they had an open house for the new building. I am proud that the grandchildren I have attending Central Heights are the 5th generation of Bones' that have attended Princeton/Central Heights.

Student Memories

Becky Vining Koch Class of 1977

My first memories of Central Heights were when my dad was on the school board as the district was being created and the school was being built. We'd stop by regularly to see the progress. Finally, the other fourth-graders and I packed up our things before Christmas break and started the new year in the new building. We trekked around the big circle to have lunch with the big kids. For recess, we got to slide on the ice back in the trees during the winter and act out Partridge Family songs inside.

In the spring of my eighth-grade year, an announcement was made that if anyone was interested in a vocational agriculture class, come to the auditorium. Sheryl Neblock and I were active in 4-H, so we figured we'd check it out. In 1973, a group of us became the charter members of the Central Heights FFA chapter with adviser Don Benjamin. We had no funds for a hotel, so camped out for state FFA convention in Manhattan. Pretty challenging to put on hose and a skirt in a tent while it's pouring down rain.

After showing up at our first district event without FFA jackets and obviously being clueless, in just four years, we won district and state contests, hosted national officers, made friends from other chapters and, of course, learned lots in AG class. Those FFA and 4-H experiences even led me to major in Agricultural Journalism at K-State and then into a career in agricultural communications.

Rebecca (Becky) Wagner Wentzel, DVM Class of 1978

Our family has several connections to the beginnings of Central Heights Schools. Dad was on the school board at the time the new school was built. My sister's class was the first to graduate from the new district, my brothers were in the first two classes graduating in the new school building. Mine was the first to complete all of our education, K-12, in the Central Heights School district. Mom kept several scrapbooks of news articles about the conflict and struggles regarding the consolidation and subsequent school construction. At one point there was an article in the New York Times! We literally watched the school being built from the ground up.

Initially Lane and Richmond schools were combined and Rantoul joined Princeton. We moved to the new school mid-year. Everyone rode a bus, that was a given. Our first day in the new building, we stayed with our respective classes but the teachers opened the doors between and we all lined up and introduced ourselves. The following year we were all mixed together and the teachers' team taught most subjects all together. When we needed to go to the far end for lunch or music classes, we would often split up and see which group could speed walk around the gym circle the fastest.

Tom Cox Class of 1980

In 1980 the Central Heights men's basketball team qualified for the state basketball tournament held in Hutchinson, KS. It was my senior year and the team consisted of me, Randy Rossman, Donald Eimer, Rod Foltz, Ron Curtin, Dick, Brian Vining, Tom Prue, Bruce Laird, Lyle Yancey, Mark Wichman and Chris Hutchinson. In my humble opinion, we were led by the best coaching staff that Central Heights has ever seen with Ike Cearfoss and John Schultz.

The best part of this team was that every guy on the team did their part whether they played or not. Brain Vining and Tom Prue would always joke about being the bench warmers, but they were just as important to the team as the guys that played. They always joked and would say was they would "warm the bench all the way to State." Those guys demonstrated time and time again the true meaning of what being a team player really meant. Unfortunately we were beat in the first round of the state tournament.

Student Memories

Rachel Vining Casey **Class of 1982**

I'm sure we didn't realize it when we started, but at some point – maybe fourth grade when all of the sudden we became savvy about the world - the class of 1982 realized we would be the FIRST class to go only through Central Heights schools. We started our first day of kindergarten in the new unified school building – not in Richmond, Princeton, Lane or Rantoul. Of course many came and went during the next 13 years, but there was a core group of us who started in Mrs. Howarter's kindergarten class (afternoon or morning) and graduated together from Central Heights in 1982.

Along the way we had quiet time listening to Mrs. Gibbons and Mrs. Smith read the Little House books and then re-enacting the stories on the playground. Just once I wanted to be Laura! With the whole school under one roof, we had no idea at the time how unique and seamless our transitions through the levels of school were. FFA trips and contests and Swing Group tours were some of my favorite times, meeting people and exploring outside our small communities. All basketball games, but especially district tournaments in the packed, loud, hot gym, were so exciting where truly everyone came out to support the local school.

For several years someone visiting Central Heights would see a very large rock (and then more than one) in front of the school from the class of 1982. We thought it was a great idea to borrow a tractor to bring a large rock from the local quarry to leave as a legacy! *(The placing of a large limestone rock in front of the school was a tradition for several years. Does anyone know where they went? MAC)*

I don't remember most of the challenges my dad, Gene Vining, and other school board members faced getting this school district and school building going. I've now served on a school board myself and know the smallest decisions are rarely easy! I appreciate that the process was extremely difficult, but I hope they realize it was extremely rewarding for the thousands who are the living, breathing legacies of their vision of a unified school built in the middle of a pasture!

Aaron Dunbar **Class of 1998**

Central Heights was a great place to receive an education. I was one of several students in my class to attend K-12. It is a unique place that combines four small towns with the three circular buildings which was all we had before the expansions to the west and across the road. The design has confused visitors and perhaps young elementary students for most of the school's existence. The construction of the school with the gymnasium being the central point led to a bond among all classes and many shared experiences with the proximity of elementary students to high schoolers. One of the first memories I have is the visit from Mr. Redeker dressed up as Abraham Lincoln. He did this annually. He would come and share stories of Lincoln's life, and to a young kid you really thought it was Lincoln himself. The resemblance was definitely there.

Another memory that really stuck out to me from the elementary was the monarch butterfly migration. I am a little fuzzy on the year but maybe 2nd or 3rd grade for me. Words can hardly do this scene justice... where my grandparents lived one mile straight south of the school had thousands of butterflies come through one year for maybe a couple weeks. They had lots of trees everyone of them was covered with monarch butterflies so thick you couldn't see the branches. Word was relayed to the school and several of our classes made the mile walk to her house to see this incredible sight. I remember kids being strung out nearly the whole mile another migration I guess. Only at a country school!

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Student Memories

(Continued from page 21)

Of course I have to share a basketball memory from my senior year 97-98. Our team went undefeated clear up until the state semifinal game against Wichita Collegiate. We were the number 1 seed at state after overcoming an epic sub-state final against rival Wellsville that included three overtimes and to quote Blaine Brown “the shot heard round the world” the shot he made in the 69-67 win. *(This was one of the most intense games played at CHS with the crowd literally standing room only. MAC)* We were a team that really liked and played hard for each other. We were led by all-state point guard Brett Woolery combined with a deep team that grew up playing Coach Welch’s system. A unique team that benefitted from chemistry and playing smart together.

Madelaine Hampton **Class of 2008**

One of my favorite memories was freshman year in 2005. Stevie Paugh and I had Mrs. Benorden's class after lunch and we were gonna be late one day so we were trying to hurry. All of a sudden Mrs. B comes up behind us running and says "If I beat you to the classroom you're tardy!" So Stevie and I take off running and it turns into a full on race between Stevie, Mrs. B, and myself. Mrs. B won of course but since we joined in the fun she let us off with a warning and we didn't get a detention. It was a great memory I will cherish forever.

Cecilia Wuertz **Class of 2012**

To think it has been almost four years since I last roamed the circles of Central Heights is bemusing. Graduating a 13-year senior, with innumerable siblings coming before, I spent a great portion of my time at 3521 Ellis Road. I will never forget growing up, watching Buddy Welch coach my brothers as I trekked through my elementary years. Nor will I forget my own experiences playing on state-bound volleyball and basketball teams in high school.

For me, though, the greatest memories and the most impactful experiences of CHS came in the classroom. Not to say playing Bingo in Spanish class was a life-altering event, although it was a favorite. Rather, the courses at Central Heights truly laid the groundwork for my future successes. From being challenged in Mrs. Bryant’s 3rd grade class as I attempted to go “Around the World,” competing with classmates in a game of speedy multiplication; to ever-occurring mental trials in Mrs. Stinebaugh’s College Biology and Anatomy and Physiology courses (I will never forget dissecting cats for weeks straight and the whole high school circle smelling like death!); to daily confusion in Physics class. CHS molded in me a growth mindset, a desire to never stop learning. I have used this desire to pursue a career in medicine, and wherever I end up, I will be forever grateful to the teachers and peers who challenged me and provided me the basis to learn and succeed at new levels. Here’s to another 50 years of great education at Central Heights!

Parent / Guardian Memories

Lorene Stockard

Parent: Ron 71, Rod 73, Lori 74

Reaching back in my children's scrapbooks, many activities and events at Central Heights bring back happy memories. Central Heights has been a learning center for my family including my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. As a parent, these memories were and continue to be highlights of my life.

My husband, Melvin Stockard, was a member of the Central Heights Board of Education from 1970-1975. In 1971 Central Heights Board members, Ardyce Wilson, Helen Davidson, and Melvin Stockard attended the National School Board Convention in Houston, Texas. As Central Heights Board of Education President, Melvin had the privilege of presenting each of his three children; Ronald 1971, Rodney 1973, and Lori 1974, with their High School Diplomas.

In February, 1971, the Ottawa Herald reported Ronald Stockard, senior at Central Heights, continues to hold the top spot among the best high school basketball scorers in the Four County Area. One 58 point scoring performance this year help his average of 21.2 points. Ron was also quarterback for his high school football team.

Rodney Stockard was active in sports and later worked at the time table for home basketball games. Rodney continued his education and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Ottawa University and Masters Degree in Secondary School Administration & Supervision from Pittsburg State University.

Lori Stockard Brockus participated as a cheerleader from 1970-1974. One year Central Heights cheerleaders rode in the back of Donna Walters's pickup truck to attend cheerleader camp at Warrensburg, Missouri. Lori was also Homecoming Queen in October 1973.

Lori tells the story being in Mrs. Liss' English Class. They had been instructed that there would be no talking until all work had been finished. After completing the class work Lori begin talking with a friend behind her. The teacher came to her desk, hit the desk with a ruler and gave her desk a shove and it slide to the back of the room with Lori sitting in it. Of course all the students thought this was funny.

Many years at Central Heights have filled my life with memories I cherish.

Lester Wuertz

Parent: Mary 93, Nick 95, George 96, Sarah 99, Katy 00, Joe 02, Vinnie 04, Gus 07, Monica 09, Cecelia 12

The first time we heard of Central Heights was from Dale Dietrich, the real estate agent who showed us the 80 acre farm we bought in 1979. He showed us the farm, the Catholic church in Richmond and then either showed us the school or said it was in the Central Heights district. It was almost prophetic; the few real estate agents I have known in the area since then always say property sells better if it is in the district. CHS has a positive reputation in the area. The district has a sort of funny shape, almost like the state of Michigan; it reflects the days of consolidation where people thought they would escape high taxes for a new school. In reality those who deliberately put their property in Ottawa or Anderson County district have paid substantially more taxes then CHS patrons. I salute the original Board of Education members on locating the school where the line from Richmond to Rantoul and the line from Princeton to Lane crossed. The country side location has saved the school administrators many discipline problems because there are no attractive commercial establishments

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Parent / Guardian Memories

(Continued from page 23)

across the street.

Mary, our oldest child enrolled in kindergarten in January 1981. Barbara and I (we both attended one or two room schools until 7th or 9th grade) were pleased that the school had both an elementary music and art teacher. Thank You, Mary Hall and the original School Board. Cecilia, our youngest child, graduated from CHS in May 2012. Thirty years of kids at CHS ended. Eight of the ten have completed college; CHS provided them a solid basis for future success.

We didn't have television at our house for about 15 years; our kids learned to listen. So they could also listen when teachers spoke; who knows, learning might result. Consequently they did well in school; six were valedictorians or co-valedictorians. But nobody remembers that on your first day on the job; you still have to show up and work.

We bought a 15 passenger 1992 Dodge Ram van; it subsequently was known as the "Wuertz Mobile." I think Gerri Getty thought it was sort of school property; quite often Gerri and Barbara were hauling a dozen kids to a literature festival, a writers conference or some other educational event. Reading was big in her classroom; also at our home.

It was interesting that CHS started with only one gym, as each of the four districts in the consolidation had one. So it was easy to vote for a second gym in a bond issue that occurred. A gym is used as much or more as any classroom, especially on weekends. There may be life lessons learned, especially during games and practices.

Alton and Phyllis Carey *(Written by Michael Carey)*

Parent: Dale 1969, Michael 1972

My father was (he has since passed) and my mother remains a life-long learner. Neither one backed away from new experiences and learning opportunities. They also continually emphasized to us, their children, the need to learn and to expand one's knowledge. I include this memory of my parents and other like minded parents who, in the 1960's, put themselves "on the line" in support of the new Unified School District 288. As I look back to that time when I was in elementary school and the "school fight" grew to become a major divisive issue in our little area I understand just how much my parents and others supported a high quality and ever improving educational opportunity for all USD 288 students. Several memories have remained over the years:

- My father and other fathers painting and placing signs in support of the new school bond issue.
- Denny Kimball and I handing out flyers at the Ottawa Sale Barn.
- Several meetings between "friends" to discuss the new school that almost or did come to blows.
- Being given the "silent treatment" by neighbors.
- My mother and others going to Topeka to meet with education officials about the new school issues.
- My mother and others meeting with Mr. Wellington, publisher/editor, of the Ottawa Herald on his obvious support for the opposition in articles and editorials.
- The culmination of all their efforts and the happiness shown at the groundbreaking for the new school.
- Their joy upon the graduation of children from Central Heights.

I dedicate this to those patrons who, at the time, rose to the occasion in support of education in USD 288: Alton and Phyllis Carey, Leroy and Irma Fredricks, Elmer and Velma Louderback, Don and Mary Jane Lickteig, Bob and Dorothy Cooper, Harold and Betty Kimball, Hobart and June Betz, Raymond and Alma Wagner, and too many others to list here. May their vision for education at CHS always stand as guide to others.

Class of 2016 Memories

(Members of the Class of 2016, being the 50th, were asked to relate one memory from any of their years at Central Heights. Not all submissions have been included but a general representation is present. The memories are in no particular order and some have been edited, as necessary, for length and some for grammar but the gist of each has been maintained. Perhaps these remembrances will encourage others from other years to contribute. MAC)

Ciara Malone

I was in second grade. I was in Mrs. Shippy's class. That year I got news that no one wants to hear especially a second grader that had an extreme fear of blood and needles, I had to have surgery. I had the surgery on January 25. I had to stay at home for a week. When I came back my entire class had made me a giant "Get Well" card and several other things. After I got back, I wasn't able to do any sort of physical activity for six weeks. Second graders had recess twice a day and I sat on a bench twice a day while my classmates got to play. I was surprised though that many of them chose not to play and instead sat with me on the bench. When I was allowed to walk they walked with me. This memory shows how supportive Central Heights is and that if anyone needs help they are willing to. This shows me that in the future if I ever come to a roadblock I can always come back and the Central Heights family there to help me through it.

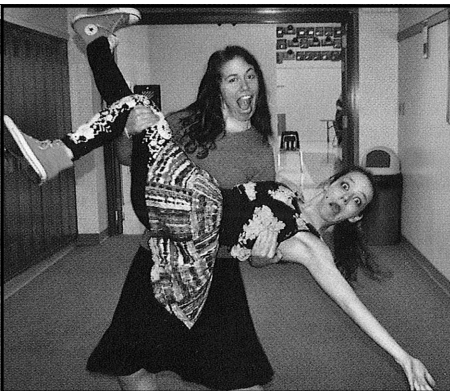
Cade Hibdon

My favorite memory of my time here at Central Heights would be my time spent with Mr. Cubit in our vocational Ag program. Mr. Cubit has influenced me a great deal in just four short years. Mr. Cubit has hauled me to many contests in and out of state, helped me build projects, and recently hooked me up with his father-in-law working over at the Paola Sale Preg Checking.

I will remember Mr. Cubit helping me and working hard. Cubit is always working to improve kids in the shop. Mr. Cubit is always willing to stay late or arrive early. He somehow works with students that other teachers just turn their head away from. He works with them and develops them into working hard and going to many contests and helping them achieve goals and participate.

Hunter Williams

I was riding school bus 11, in the fourth grade, sitting by myself as usual. All of the other kids around my age were all boys. Barb arranged our seats according to our age, pairing us up with other students in or near our class. I always had to sit with one of the boys, listening to stories about sports and monster trucks.



"Besties" Jessie Loudon and Hunter Williams cut-up following a Forensics competition (MAC)

It was a cool fall morning. We had taken our usual route, but there was something different about our stop right outside the Princeton city limits. We had new students riding the bus. One of those students was a girl my age, hmm. Come to find out, she was in my grade and was soon assigned to sit by me on the bus. It was the highlight of my entire elementary school life! I finally get to sit next to a girl and talk about girl stuff for the remainder of the bus ride! No more monster truck talk.

The girl wasn't as thrilled as I was. Apparently I came off as "weird" and "creepy". FINALLY have someone I can relate to! Well the whole creepiness thing faded when we started talking about pizza, our love for dogs, and hatred for boys with cooties. Jessie and I soon became the best of friends. We have had our ups and downs, but to this day we still remain "besties." I'm so glad I met my best friend on the school bus in the fourth grade. Just another reason why Central Heights is the best.

Class of 2016 Memories

(Continued from page 25)

Jacob Pryor

During our sophomore and junior years in Mrs. Kinyon's English class, many of us guys would have a competition to see how many pushups we could get in each class period.

Acacia Malone

One of my favorite memories was in kindergarten when our teachers handed out a gray t-shirt to all of the kindergarten students. On the shirt it said "Class of 2016." I thought that it was such a big number and that it was going to take forever to get to that year. I thought that the time would never come and then I would never be able to graduate and be like the older people I saw every day. On our very first day of kindergarten, most of us cried because we didn't want to go to school and leave our parents. Soon we will be crying about leaving our friends and the school we were at for 13 years. Although we will still have several of us crying for the same reason we did on the first day of school because we aren't ready to go out in the real world and be adults.

Alexis Finch

My memory of Central Heights takes place in Mr. Swendson's Classroom. I was taking chemistry at the time, but I think he did this in every class that day. We didn't have a lesson or an assignment that day; he just turned the lights off and had everyone gather around. He was filling soap bubbles with flammable gas, then lighting them. When the bubbles popped and the gas ignited it made a huge fiery flash. We could even hold the bubbles and they wouldn't burn our hands since the gas and flames would move upward. Everyone had a good time, and the entire class got along well. It was fun and our class came together for a while. School isn't always stressful, and that's the kind of thing I like to remember about Central Heights.

Lindsay Folsom

My favorite high school memory was my junior prom. I remember how long and stressful of a day it was, but it ended up being a lot of fun. Spending a hectic day decorating with my class the day before and getting ready the next. The prom theme was "Hollywood" and we made a Hollywood sign out of the bleachers. My date and I had a fun time eating dinner, dancing, and spending time with friends. "After Prom" was my favorite part with lots of options to have fun like sumo wrestling, a photo booth, snack room, and game room. Prom is my favorite memory because it was just a night to have fun with friends.

Ashlynn Brockus

It is hard to pick a favorite memory. Something that sticks out would have to be my junior year lunch period. It may sound silly that lunch would be my best memory, but to me it was great. At my lunch table, we piled as many people as you could possibly fit at one table, and sometimes we even connected two tables together. You had to rush the lunch line just to be sure you got a spot at the table! That's how fast it filled. There wasn't a time when our table wasn't filled with humor, some inappropriate and some not. Lunch period was definitely something I always looked forward to.

Emilio Lopez

When I was in middle school, we would go skiing at Snow Creek. It was definitely one of my favorite places to go and when we would go there I would get the Member Pass allowing me to go on all the hills instead of those tiny ones because I already knew how to ski and I had been there so many times.

Makalya Hamilton

My favorite memory from Central Heights would have to be the homecoming bonfire in Richmond. Everyone joined arms around the fire and all started swaying to the song "Boys of Fall." This showed when we had school spirit, and we could all be a big family supporting our boys of fall.

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Class of 2016 Memories

(Continued from page 26)

Regan Markley

My best memory of Central Heights would have to be freshman year in Mrs. Hampton's English class. Mrs. Hampton did her normal routine. She was walking towards her board and tripped over the cord to her computer. As she was falling her cup full of coffee went flying. I was the lucky student sitting right in front of her. I smelt like coffee for the rest of the day.

Logan Speaks

I'll never forget my junior year of high school, when a new German exchange student, Max, came to our school. He fit perfectly into my group of friends and I don't think he would've had a better experience at any other school. My group of friends and Max would at least once a week take a trip to Sonic and get a slushy with at least three or four different flavors in it just to see if it tasted good. Cole would make the trips really funny, and never boring.

Jessica Beets

I have not gone to Central Heights my whole life like most of these people. My favorite memory was the first day of school. I was really nervous about the first day, new school, new people I didn't know if I wanted to do this. I was also had been in a very serious car accident which messed my head up pretty bad and I had to meet with all my teachers so they were aware of what was going on. I have never been in a room full of strangers who already cared about me. They helped me through my junior year and made me successful. I have never been to a school were people cared so much.

Libby Johnson

My favorite memory has to be going to the school carnival every year in elementary. The first time I went to the carnival I think I was in the third grade. I remember playing with my friends in the bouncy house and racing through the blow-up obstacle course. I thought getting my face painted by the high school kids was so much fun. Getting my nails done for free was also something I thought was really cool. Another of my favorites was the snow cones, eating a snow cone after playing inside in the bouncy house for hours tasted better than anything.

Ron Hunter

The fondest memory I have of high-school came during my junior year. Most of our class took a trip to Hannibal, Missouri to explore the town and learn a bit more about Mark Twain. Something that jumps out for me was when Jason and I split off from the group and found a little shop in the side of a building. The shop was a cheese store owned by a man from Wisconsin, complete with a happy little accent (*I lived in Wisconsin for 14 years and I remember the "happy little accent" very well. MAC*) This guy was great; he gave us free samples and gave us a nice conversation for a good ten to twenty minutes.

Troy Herring

I'm sure this isn't my best memories but it's the first one that came to mind. It all started like any other day in my second semester of my junior year. I started the day off with three classes down in the Ag shop welding. That day we all had to prep our own metal for a skill we had to do that week. We were all standing around waiting on each other because we all had to use the torch to cut out our own metal for our skill. Cade was up for his turn to cut. Cade and I were having troubles getting the torch set right but I finally got the torch set right and hot enough to cut thru half inch steel. I handed it to Cade who was marking his metal. Cade dropped the chalk. I go down to grab the chalk when I did Cade mistakenly swung his arm, holding the torch, up. He burned a good part of my hair off. It took three hair cuts for it to finally not to be noticeable. The worst part of the whole thing is it smelled for days and to this day Cade won't run the torch if I'm around.

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Class of 2016 Memories

(Continued from page 27)

Alyssia Dunnivan

My favorite memory was State Wrestling my Junior year. The ride to Hays, KS was a long four-hour drive, but it was an entertaining road trip. I remember playing iPad games with Zack Grabbe and Preston Allen; and taking their pictures as they cuddled with one another trying to fall asleep. Mr. Swendson played old rock music and sang a few tunes all the way there.

We checked into our hotel and it had a pool. All of the boys went swimming and relaxed in the hot tub after the long drive. We stayed until the pool closed. We girls, Cheyenne, Kaye, and I stayed up watching Disney movies and talking. We eventually got bored and kept calling Brec Furst on the hotel phone. The best part was watching my three favorite senior boys wrestle at state. It was a memorable trip with so many unmentioned parts that I'll never forget.

Matt Percy

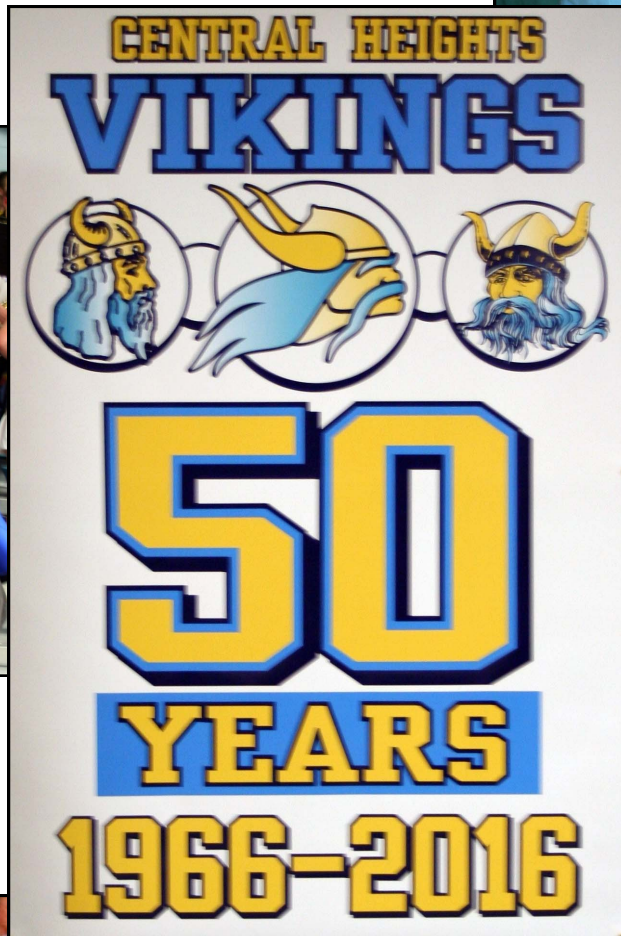
My fondest memory of Central Heights is when I was in grade school and was always around the high school basketball teams. I looked up to them and now it seems I have come full circle and now I am the role model for the younger generation. I had many role models on the men's team. Mr. Welch would let me be the manager and I picked up many things from him. Jordan Welch and Adam Horstick always helped and encouraged me to get better. I now try and do the same for those that are following me. The thing I probably remember the most is the gym being full every game night. Those were special times and I wish I could know how that felt.

Blake Stephens

I remember my first softball game playing varsity third base freshman year. I was so nervous my stomach felt like a million butterflies flying around, my hands started to sweat and my head felt like it was on fire because I was so nervous. The night before when I got the email about being on varsity, I was freaking out and my mom gave me the best advice that I have ever gotten. She said to me "If the coaches think that you are good enough to play on varsity, then you have to show them you can't be nervous because that shows them that you aren't ready. Just keep you head up and just play the game you know." And I can't thank my mom enough because, the first game that I played in we won.

50 Year Celebration

A collage of pictures from the 50 Year Anniversary Celebration held January 29, 2016.



50 Year Celebration



One Liner Memories

What follows are one-liner memories submitted by a variety of individuals as they reminisced about their years at CHS. These are in no particular order nor are they dated. Some names have been deleted to protect those involved.

- Mr. Cobbs' violin or the world's smallest record player playing "my heart cries for you" whenever anyone whined about an assignment
- Dressing up "Romeo" the biology skeleton in a Santa hat for Christmas.
- Clancy Moore making a special paddle for Mrs. Ikenberry after she broke hers on him.
- Driving through the edge of a bush my first time out in Drivers Ed; a full year course, including motorcycle safety.
- Lots of good boys basketball teams but it was the girls who made the first trip to State.
- You could ride the bus to a friend's house without three days/forms of written permission.
- Lots of time spent on those yellow busses!
- Going weightless as we passed over the bridge south of Vogler's house in a bus driven by Bob Knight.
- Driving in the fourth drivers education car in one year.
- Painting the sidewalks.
- Someone(s) lit and tossed a four foot length of Black Cat firecrackers in the trash barrel in the Richmond shop. (*I know the culprits but am sworn to secrecy. MAC*)
- Scoring 114 point in one basketball game.
- Watching Coach Cobb's neck veins protrude due to some poor play on the football field.
- Mrs. Bottom's Jazz Dancer group from the early years. WOW!!
- We would perform burnouts, donuts, or rev our engines in the parking lot our Senior year.
- My favorite school holiday, "Tooley Day."
- Why is it so hard for visitors to get around in a round school?
- I remember Greenhand initiation and the FFA Lock-in.
- I remember the team dinners before football games.
- Remember the many trips to the Golden Corral where we stuffed our faces with some delicious food.
- My best memory would have to be the trip to Hannibal with the class.
- We had people in our class that made you laugh all the time. Then, we had the people that did not say much but were funny when you got to know them.
- I was sent to the office by a teacher for using inappropriate language.
- I remember when I beat Tyler in the dead lift during my sophomore weights class.
- I remember when my entire lifting max was over 100 pounds more than Zach's.
- My junior year I broke the CHHS pole vault record.
- Walking through the crowded hallways passing the packs of students stopped in the narrowest section.
- Not being able to attend the state music competition for choir and missing performing my solo because of the weather.
- I enjoyed playing a singing monkey in the school play my freshman year. (*The play that year was "Seussical the Musical."* MAC).
- Watching the 4x800 relay team taking first place at the state meet and setting a state 3A record that is still there today.
- Wearing those fancy Letterman's Club blazers to every game.
- I remember being bussed to Richmond every day for 1st period band.
- Does anyone remember the original "Fight Song?" Somewhere it was changed. Too bad.

History

BINDERS OF STORIES

By Richmond Community Museum

One person in the Central Heights district had the foresight to save newspaper stories about the district from 1965-69. Alma Wagner (Mrs. Raymond Wagner) clipped AND DATED stories about the school's rocky road to reaching its goal. There were many stories published in The Ottawa Herald, The Anderson County Review and The Osawatomie Graphic. The school was even featured in a story, with photos, printed in The New York Times in 1970.

Mrs. Wagner knew the value of having newspaper stories as a historical record. She also included advertising fliers, school newsletters and similar pieces. News clippings were glued to scrap book pages and some of these pages were laminated. Mrs. Wagner gave the box of pages to the school a long time ago, and thankfully, the box was kept, though moved to various locations.

Knowing 2015-16 were anniversary years for the district, folks at the Richmond Community Museum asked the school to provide over-size binders and page protectors. Museum volunteers would get the pages in order and into the big notebooks. Charles Prue did most of the job of putting together the two large binders of CH stories. These are an important record of the district's progress, and sometimes lack of progress, until the building was actually filled with students.

Mr. Carey has the binders in his classroom and plans to use them as the starting point of further projects.

Hopefully, the notebooks will be available at the Richmond Community Museum in the non-school months. The Museum also has a notebook of all CH graduates by years, and a list of many deceased grads, as well as a notebook of Board of Education members and administrators of the school's 50 years. This was prepared by Brenda Wadkins and is also available in the high school office.



Central Heights started in on the new \$1,140,000 school building Sunday-board members and other officials started the construction by tossing up a few shovelfuls of dirt at the 2:30 p.m., groundbreaking festivities. Though the day was chilly and accompanied by a brisk wind (*And, what else is new? MAC*), the USD 288 band (*I'm in there somewhere. MAC*) performed. Three distinguished speakers were on hand, representative of each level of school spoke, and a large crowd of patrons in the district were on hand for the ceremony. (Picture and caption published in the Ottawa Herald, October 9, 1967)

This collection of Central Height memories is not meant to be an “end product” but to be a “living document” growing with additional memories from the past, present, and future years.

A PDF copy is available on the Central Heights web site.

<http://www.usd288.org>

I encourage you to submit your own recollection as student, patron, parent, or staff.

Email your submissions to

macarey@usd288.org

or mail to

Michael A. Carey
USD 288
3521 Ellis Road
Richmond, KS 66080

I look forward to reading your memories of CHS.

Michael A. Carey, Class of ‘72