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# Alumni Banquet; A Night of Memories

**By Mary Masonholder Wilson**  
Walking up and down the aisles at the Alumni Banquet Saturday night at Roundy Elementary, snippets of conversations were heard of past school days as former classmates gathered to relive their memories. Approximately 126 persons attended the banquet with local Bob Curtis, class of '63 (the fifty year class) acting as the master of ceremonies.

Curtis gave a welcome and thanked the cooks for the delicious meal of pork loin, baked potatoes, apple salad, layered lettuce salad, and pie. Lorie Hauenstein gave a beautiful invocation and then everyone sang "God Bless America," a tradition at the banquet started years ago by Donna Belle Hughes.

Three recent graduates of Columbus Community High—Hannah Parker, Ashley Stagner, and Christine Milder—provided the entertainment with song. The current Columbus School Superintendent, Dr. Marlene Johnson, welcomed the group, emphasized that this was still their school, and invited them to come visit anytime. Some attendees had gone through the new addition at 4:00 P.M. that afternoon, but she said tours could still be given if anyone chose to stop by the school complex at a later date.

Following the meal, it was time to discover the person from the long-

est distance. It was Jane Smith Price, Class of '63, who had traveled from San Francisco, California. Ted Garrett of Columbus City was the oldest member there. The audience started to joke on who had come the shortest distance. There was much discussion, but two contenders were Tony Humiston and Betty Knupp who both live about two blocks from school in the "Ross Addition" of Columbus Junction.

The Class of 1963 was the honored class for 50 years, and the Class of 1988 was the 25 year class. There also was a group from the 60 and 70-year classes, (See pictures throughout the GAZETTE), along with representatives from many other classes. Gene Enke told of how his class doubled in size when Cotter School merged with Columbus Junction School.

At the end of the banquet, Paul Duncan, chairman, announced that next year there is a conflict with the usual date of the second Saturday in June. He asked for input on whether the date should be moved up a week or moved back a week.

As always, the conclusion was the singing of the Columbus School song, and it was a rousing rendition of many voices, all of them true to their years of education, all of them full of memories.

## 25 Year Class



Front: Nikki McFarland, Sarah Prior Davis, Diane Smith Gerot. Back: Tony Humiston, Jerry Gerot.

## Long-time School Personnel retire



Debbie Jones and Bev Nielsen

**By Donna Carpenter**

Five employees of the Columbus School District were honored at a breakfast on Tuesday, June 4, 2013. Retirees included first grade teacher Debbie Jones, math teacher, Bev Nielsen, Spanish instructor Joyce Kisner, and Roundy Elementary cooks, Jean Larimer and Becky Martinez. Following the breakfast a program took place in the auditorium.

Debbie Jones joined the district in 1999. Over the years she worked with special education teaching inclusion in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes, Title 1/Reading Recovery, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 1<sup>st</sup> grade/Reading Recovery, and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

Bev Nielsen has been with the school district since 1981, having taught junior high P.E., and math, as well as coaching volleyball, track, cross country, and basketball.

Joyce Kisner



## 70 Year Class



Joan Huber Gerling, Mary Clark Smith, Betty Dicks Knupp, Betty Cassabaum Miles, Verlee Jones Schneider, and Delmore Evans.

## 60 Year Class



Front: Dan Pine. Row 1: Carol Miller Thornton, Doris Cummings Woodruff, JoAnn Miller Nelson, Elaine Pine Nichelson, Elvine Snyder Stocker, Margaret Diller. Row 2: Kay Ford Ball, Gladys Rees Davis, Peg Hopping Reed, Marilyn Howell Smith, Don "Dean" Morgan, Gary Cecil, and Ted Allen.

## 50 Year Class



Front (L to R): Ed Peters, Bob Curtis, Jim Ingersoll, Tom Stirling, Dick Todd. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Farrel Wiley, Jane (Hankins) Wolford, Marilyn (Bausch) Percy, Terry (Bright) Higgins, Marilyn (Morris) Max, Donna (Dallmeyer) Henning, Dave Wehmeyer. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Ron Hobbs, Bill Quigley, Mike Forbes, Gary Idle, Lucy (Baker) Lasek, Janice (Wasson) Schafer, Janie (Smith) Price.



Jean Larimer

Joyce Kisner came to Columbus during the 1976-77 school year, having retired in 2002, returning in 2008 to teach through the 2013 school year. Joyce taught Spanish and English classes, as well as taking on administrative roles. Her final years at Columbus were spent teaching Spanish.

Jean Larimer worked as a cook at Roundy School for seven and a half years, while Becky Martinez has been



Becky Martinez

there for thirteen years. Becky noted the changes in lunch menus over the years, and has enjoyed seeing the children taking healthy fruits and vegetables.

Best wishes to all of these accomplished individuals, who have made a difference in the lives of countless children. Undoubtedly, all will be missed.

## Briefly -

### Legion Auxiliary to hold blood drive

The Columbus Junction American Legion Ladies Auxiliary will host a community blood drive from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> in the American Legion Hall located at 99 Second Street, Columbus Junction. To donate, please contact Tammy Martin at 319-212-0160. Walk-ins welcome! Donor Eligibility Criteria: Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo I.D. or MVRBC Donor Card is required to donate. To schedule an appointment for donation, please call the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center at (800) 747-5401. Donors who last gave blood on or before 4/29/2013 are eligible to give blood at this drive.

### City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will be holding a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### Farmers' Market coupons

Farmer's Market coupons are available at the Senior Center on Thursdays from 10:15-11:00 A.M., beginning June 13, until all supplies are exhausted.

### Grandview Women's Club to meet

The Grandview Women's Club will meet at the Grandview School Complex at 8 a.m. on Thursday, June 13. Breakfast will be at the Brickhouse in Muscatine, followed by a tour of the Muscatine area. Please wear tennis shoes or closed shoes - no sandals.

### 2013 Relay For Life

The 2013 Louisa County Relay for Life will be on Saturday, June 15, 2013, at the Wapello Football Field from 5-11 p.m. Opening Ceremony begins at 6:00 p.m. We are having a birthday party to help American Cancer Society celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Come help us celebrate with cupcakes and beverages. Other food and drink items will be for sale. We will celebrate and honor our survivors and take time to remember those who have lost the battle. We will have a pie auction, a silent auction and many other activities. Purchase a luminaria bag to honor a cancer survivor or in memory of somebody that has lost their battle. These bags will be placed around the track and lit at dusk. What an awesome sight! Celebrate - Remember - Fight Back!

### Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at 5:00 pm at Flaming Prairie Park. It is possible (due to weather) that the board may view the area and resume the meeting at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

### Historical Society free Breakfast

The Louisa County Historical Society, Highway 61 in Wapello, will hold a FREE Will offering biscuit and sausage breakfast on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 a.m.

### Historical Society Tractor Ride

The Louisa County Historical Society will host its third annual Tractor Ride on June 22nd, 2013. The group will leave Wapello at 9:00 am. Lunch along the way will be furnished with a meal and drawings for prizes at the conclusion of the ride. Call Mac McGill at 729-2281, Danny Gipple at 523-8278, or Dick McCormac at 728-8818 for details and registration forms.

### Letts Fest

The City of Letts will be holding its second annual Letts Fest on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The community is looking for vendors, and participants in the parade and car show. If interested, please contact Jake Shoppa at 563-571-4561; Monica Bieri at 319-212-1613; or Joy Murphy at 319-330-6063 and 319-726-3052.

### UMC Fun Days scheduled

Fun Days are being planned for students K-6 at the Letts United Methodist Church. The day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2. Lunch will be served. Activities, crafts, games, snacks, and music. Registration forms at the church office or call office in the a.m. M-F at 726-3641. Fun Days scheduled for June 20 and June 27 and August 1 and August 8. No fees. For questions, call Pastor Marsha Gerot at 319-725-6722.

### McGill/Kemp Reunion

Wapello, Iowa - The Annual McGill/Kemp Reunion will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 30th, at Academy Park in Grandview, Iowa. There will be a potluck lunch, a family picture taken, and an auction. Playground equipment is available for the children. All descendants of John Lee and Jesse Belle McGill, descendants of John's grandparents, William and Elizabeth McGill and descendants of Walter Kemp are welcome. For more information, contact Rondalyn K. Weyrick, 13685 105<sup>th</sup> Street, Wapello, IA 52653; Telephone 319-523-5252.

### Rees Reunion scheduled

The annual John A. Rees Reunion will be held at noon Saturday, June 15, 2013 at Marr Park west of Ainsworth. We will meet in the first shelter for a potluck meal. Officers are President Sarah Mayo, Vice-President Joel Greene, Secretary-Treasurer Sharon Rees and Web Master Richard Arthur. Drink Committee will be Kay Davis, chair, Megan Wheeler and Jeanne Davis.

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will be holding a public meeting on June 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM, at the Roundy Elementary School Library, 1212 Colton Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738.

### Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on **Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013** from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come by and have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol checked for free. We hope to see you there!

### Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Jerry's in Mt. Pleasant. Please meet at Spring Run Church to carpool at 11:00 a.m.

### Early Area Iowa Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting on June 19, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.