

TOPEKA HIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

News from the Paul Fink Room

THS Historical Society/Alumni Association, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612
 Website: www1.thsweb.org/alumni Phone: 785-295-3200 Email: thshs2001@yahoo.com

Vol. 38 No.3

Topeka High's 150 and Still Going Strong

Topeka High School kicked off its 150th commemoration this summer in advance of the sesquicentennial anniversary in 2021. Take note: Much more to come!

The 150th will be highlighted in ongoing school and THS Historical Society activities leading to the special birthday. The year 2021 will be filled with events and programs designed to fete this amazing school and all it has meant to students, faculty, friends and community for a century and a half. But events are starting now, including fund-raising to make the 2021 celebrations possible.

THS Principal Rebecca Morrissey said of the next two years: "The rich tradition that is Topeka High School will be on full display throughout the celebration of our 150 years. Our current staff and student body are honored to represent the generations who have come before us. It is because of their commitment and passion for excellence that the 'Hoy, Hoy, Mighty Troy' motto has come to bind us all together as a community; a nation of sorts, the Trojan Nation.

"Come join us at an event, or at all of them. Whether or not you graduated from Topeka High, we will gladly ensure you are a Trojan for the day, but be sure to sport your Black and Gold!"

"Topeka High stands as a tower of excellence," said Dr. Tiffany Anderson, USD 501 superintendent, in kicking off the sesquicentennial. "From the bricks and mortar of one of the most beautiful schools in the Midwest to the shaping of young minds at Topeka High, the tradition of excellence has continued for 150 years. The Topeka High mighty Trojans have impacted the world in all academic and artistic areas which has created an incredible 150-year legacy, filling all Topekans with pride. As we celebrate 150 years, we celebrate the Trojan tradition of excellence that distinguishes Topeka High as a tower of excellence in education."

A bowling fund-raising event and the 18th Annual Patriotic Chimes Concert were held in June, with the chimes concert helping everyone get in the patriotic spirit of celebrating 150 years of Topeka High.



Enjoying the shade at the 2019 Patriotic Chimes Concert are from left, Lisa Sandmeyer, Julie Elting Schloetzer and Sara Senne Hischke. If you look closely, you'll see '150' on the cookies that were baked by Sara and Amy Hischke Birch.

The Topeka High Historical Society has taken the lead on the sesquicentennial, organizing the Topeka High 150th Committee—co-chaired by Shayla Babb Kincaide and Nikki Ramirez-Jennings, both Class of 1995—to arrange fund-raisers this year and next, and then to treat the community to celebratory events in 2021. For information on joining the planning committee and/or becoming a sponsor, contact the THS Historical Society, thshs2001@yahoo.com or 785-295-3200.

Upcoming events with a 150th flavor:

- The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6, in the THS Woodward Library. Those whose portraits will be added to the Hall of Fame Room are T.C. Broadnax (1987), Gary Taylor (1971) and David H. Overmyer (thought to be 1910). Also to be honored as Distinguished Staff are Mike Homan, an Air Force veteran who retired after 35 years as coordinator of the THS police; and Donald Madl, a THS language arts teacher. At the ceremony, Walter Hatke (1967), a Hall of Fame inductee, will officially present his painting "Homage to Urbino" to the THS Historical Society. The public is welcome
- A Vendor Market to raise funds for the 150th will be on Saturday, Oct. 19, during Homecoming Weekend. If you'd like to purchase a table, please contact Nikki Ramirez-Jennings at nikkir-mirezjennings77@gmail.com or Shayla Babb Kincaide at sbkincade6@gmail.com.

Like 'Topeka High 150' on Facebook for details

Pennies in the Courtyards?

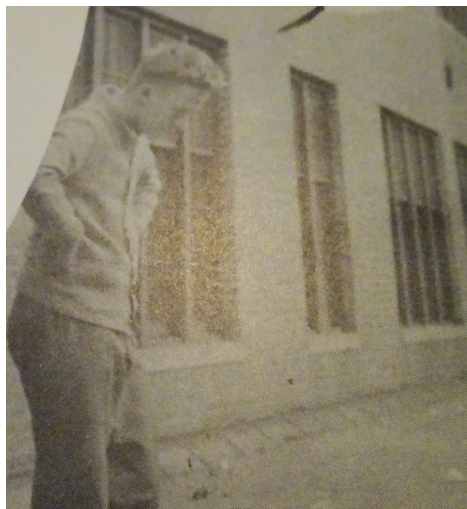
By Mike Stewart (THS 1967)



Collected from the grass in the air courts from one former THS employee and his family during the 50's and 60's

Here's a fun one for all of us! The statute of limitations has long passed by on this minor high school infraction, so you may all confess your past deeds. Are you one of the many Trojans who pitched pennies (or other coins) into the courtyard when the teacher wasn't looking? Apparently a lot of you did, because it has been a little known secret that you could find money in the grass in the two air court openings in the center of the building. It was common practice for teachers to keep the windows open during the hotter days of the spring and fall, and the mischievous deed was bound to happen. Boys will be boys (and some girls, too, we suspect). One can easily imagine; the window is open, the teacher is either out of the room temporarily or better yet, busy writing on the blackboard, and the cute girl across from you or your best

buddy in the back row is watching to see if you will do it. You sneak a coin out of your pocket and ZING! out the window it goes. Imagine the snickers if you were successful, or maybe the belly laughs if you failed and it ricocheted back into the room and rolled noisily around while the teacher turned to see if she



From the 1946 yearbook - Franz Smith hunts stray pennies

could figure out who the guilty party was. Are you one of the guilty ones? If so, would you please send us a few words describing the events of the day? Who egged you on? Did you make it or did it bounce back? Whose class was it? What year did you graduate? There was al-

ways room for a few harmless shenanigans back then. Sometimes you got lucky, sometimes you didn't. Most of the money that has been found is from the 40's, 50's and 60's, but we think it was going on before and after that. Let us know your personal story on this and we'll try to print some of them just for fun.

The Walls of Troy

Walking the grounds and Halls of Troy stirs pride. It is always a treat because of the traditions, the memories we have, and the overwhelming and unique history and beauty of our building. We also want to honor and remember those who have gone before us, who have contributed to our history and memories. Conceivably, preserving our history and beauty for all while recognizing and remembering our earlier leaders, could conflict. To help us manage this, the Topeka High School Historical Society has created a

policy that directs adornments on our walls and outside areas yet tries to be sensitive to the desires of those wishing to honor a special person. This policy was written, reviewed, and approved by the THS Historical Society Board and also reviewed and approved by other entities.

Before proposing or changing a plaque or adornment on the THS walls or outside areas, please review the new policy now in effect. It can be found at www.thsweb.org/alumni.

The Parents of 2019 U.S Open Champion, Linda and Dan Woodland (1971)

Many Topekans are proud of 2019 U.S. Open golf winner Gary Woodland, but perhaps none more so than his parents, Linda and Dan Woodland, both 1971 graduates of Topeka High School.

Although Gary is a Shawnee Heights High School graduate, Linda remembers the first time she introduced her young son to the halls of Troy during her high school reunion tour of the school.

“He was in awe of the building,” Linda said. “He thought it was really cool.”

Linda and Dan have faithfully attended their son’s golf tournaments—12 so far just this year.

“We are extremely proud of him,” Linda said. “He has worked hard all his life. As a little tiny kid, he wanted to play ball, to play basketball, he always had a passion for sports. And he had a passion to get better at everything he did.”

That continued into adulthood.

“He just worked really hard for it. He’s always practicing or working out. Hardly any down time at all,” Linda said.

Although they had met as children through a mutual friend, Linda—a graduate of Sumner Elementary and Roosevelt Junior High—and Dan—from Quinton Heights and Crane Junior High—started dating when they were sophomores at Topeka High and then went steady as seniors.

While at Topeka High, Dan played basketball and golf. Linda held several class offices, was in drill team and Honor T, and was a home-

coming queen nominee.

After graduation, Linda started working at Commerce Bank (now CoreFirst) at age 19, continuing her service there for 45½ years. Dan was self-employed as an electrical contractor for more than 40 years.

The couple married in 1973. Besides Gary, they have a daughter, C.J.

Retired, they attend many of Gary’s tournaments, where folks they meet tell them what a nice guy their son is.

“What we are most proud of is that he’s a good person, that he’s kind, and engages in people,” Linda said. “He’s a good person.”

Linda said she and Dan are grateful for Topeka’s reaction to their son’s victory.

“We’re just so humbled by all the support and comments,” she said. “It makes us feel so good. He’s done something people connect to. They are excited for him. That’s really good for the city of Topeka and for the state.”



Black and Gold Report Grads in the News



Fans & former teachers of **Tommar Wilson (1994)** - **Sally Glassman (1983)** left, and **Carolyn Thomas Glassman (1957)** right, were in the audience of the Broadway hit **HAMILTON** in Kansas City. Wilson

will travel with the cast to Tennessee to continue playing the role of Aaron Burr. He has also played the roles of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Next, he will be directing and shooting a movie in New York. Then, back on tour with **HAMILTON**.

Congratulations to **Jeff Jacobsen (1969)** on his induction in the Shawnee County Baseball Hall of Fame Class of 2019. In the late 1970s Jacobsen was the lead staff photographer in the Topeka Capital-Journal coverage of the KC Royals. Since 1997, he has been the staff photographer for University of Kansas athletics. He recently published a book that features a collection of his KU sports photos.

Congratulations to **Dee Smelser Bisel (1966)** for being recognized with the Distinguished Service Award at the Washburn University Alumni Awards Banquet in April 2019.

A shout out to **John Lewis (1972)** who was recognized as USD 501 May Above & Beyond Winner. Lewis retired from 501, then returned to the Math Department at Topeka High. He is said to not only be a wonderful role model but a caring and generous person by his students. Lewis' lessons don't stop at the classroom door. He supports his students by spending money out of his own pocket to treat his students to food and snacks. According to one student, Lewis doesn't like to see people go hungry. His acts of kindness have helped his students learn that possessions are only meaningful if they can do good towards others. Thank you, Mr. Lewis for your compassion, generosity and dedication to our students!

Pam McComas, former THS Debate/Forensics Coach and THS Distinguished Staff, is the first Kansas woman to have received an Eighth Diamond Award. Diamond awards are presented by the National Speech and Debate Association to coaches who have garnered at least 22,000 points and served as a coach for 40 years. **Peter Crevoiserat (2001)**, received the 1st Diamond Award. He is coaching at Wichita Northwest.

In June, **Dr. Dale Taylor (1957)** spoke at a Senior Americans Day event at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire on the topic of Diversity in Public Information .



The Kroger Stores sponsors the Community Rewards Program of Dillons. In the 1st quarter of 2018 supporters of the THSHS contributed to a \$178.25 donation from Kroger. Thank you to Kroger and to the 34 households that shop for the THS Historical Society. Go to www.dillons.com/communityrewards and shop for Topeka High.



SHOP AND GIVE WITHOUT SPENDING A DIME - It's easy!

- Start at smile.amazon to support the THS Historical Society every time you shop
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- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service
- Support your favorite charity, the THSHS by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com



Wondering what to do with your used car, truck or motorcycle? Donating your old vehicle to the Topeka High School Historical Society is convenient, easy, and may qualify you for a tax deduction. And best of all, your donation of that used vehicle will make a big difference in supporting Topeka High projects.

All you need to do is to complete the Vehicles for Charity simple form on the THSHS website or call 1-866-628-2277 and we'll take care of the rest. We will pick up your vehicle, arrange to have your donation towed, and provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, all at no charge to you. Call 1-866-628-2277 or online at www1.thsweb.org/alumni/vehicles-for-charity.

IN MEMORY

Virginia Trusdale Eicholtz 1936
 Thelma Coon Pope 1938
 Blenda Blankenship 1938
 Jean Rutter Warner 1941
 Mary Lee Huff 1942
 Bernice Shelton Darrow 1942
 Richard T. Petro 1943
 Ann Cadwalader Guy 1944
 Berneta Austenfeld Palmer 1944
 Dorothy Griffin McClelland 1944
 Robert B. Thorn 1944
 James W. Sloan 1945
 Frances Heckel Paschall 1945
 Florence Kane Richey 1945
 Betty Flenniken Meyer 1946
 Richard D. 'Dick' McConnell 1947
 Lynn E. Carlin 1947
 Paul L. Boatwright 1947
 Bette Anne Rogers Tyler 1948
 James "Lee" Smith 1948
 Rollo R. Gurss 1949

William Scully 1949
 Lois Rathbun Lorence 1949
 Betty Winney Baldwin 1950
 R. Dean Erwin 1950
 William N. Smell 1950
 Roger W. Lee 1950
 Edith Schmid Jorns 1950
 Keith E. Brinnon 1951
 Eugene F. Baer 1951
 Idamay True Terry 1951
 Donald H. Moses 1951
 Donna Coffee Meister 1952
 Robert L. Wilkinson 1952
 Norma Tussel Broxterman 1953
 Adeline Moberly Towle 1954
 Mary Sears Roth Williams 1954
 Beverly Bacon Walden 1955
 Barbar Hardman Card 1956
 Gilberto A. Rodriguez 1957
 John S. Kiem 1957
 Margaret Lee Franklin 1959

Donald G. Ragsdale 1960
 Barbara Reilly Handley 1960
 James A. Marshall 1960
 Earl Wheeler, Jr. 1961
 Thomas M. Chapman 1962
 Carol Patzkowsky 1965
 Thomas W. Kennedy 1965
 Sharon Woodson-Bryant 1965
 Daniel Sanchez 1969
 Joel L. Harper 1969
 Pamela Luthye Rodriguez 1972
 Jose Tetuan, Jr. 1976
 Mitchell G. Murphy 1976
 Walter N. "Sam" Scott 1976
 Dorothy Van Buren West 1976
 Dwight L. Field 1982
 Kori Alexander 1998
 Raymond Solis 2013
 Jacob C. Staab 2018
 Michael Titus, THS Faculty

~ 2019 TROJAN CLASS REUNIONS ~

Homecoming 2019 - October 18

<u>Class</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>For More Information</u>
Boswell Reunion	September 13 - 14	douglas.barnes67207@gmail.com
Class of 1959	October 4,5,6	rjschL1514@sbcglobal.net, Njkperry@gmail.com topekahighclassof1959.com
Class of 1964	October 11-12	germ101@cox.net
Class of 1969	September 13-14	Facebook, www.ths69.net, robnjeni51@gmail.com
Class of 1974	October 18-19	beverlypost@aol.com, kogle_1@yahoo.com
Class of 1979	October 18 - 19	amydk@excite.com, https://www.thsclassof79.com sdouglas@tiffamily.org, jim.ramos@wibw.com
Class of 1984	October 18-19	redekelley@gmail.com, Facebook
Class of 1989	October 18-19	clarksamclark@gmail.com
Class of 1999	October 18	lorihwilson@mac.com

The THS Historical Society assists class reunions by: 1. providing classmate contact information 2. arranging THS tours 3. facilitating the use of the building 4. offering \$5 discounts for new memberships during reunions. Go to thsweb.org/alumni/reunions for words to the school song, THS graphics, information for reunion coordinators and more. **Let the THSHS know if your class is having a reunion and we'll help you get the word out to your classmates.**

What's Mandala?

The following article is from a 1997 Mandala piece about the founding of the Topeka High literary magazine, by **Vicky Foth Sherry (1975)**:

We Called It Mandala: an oral history

When I was a junior, I went to the journalism teacher who was the sponsor of the newspaper and said, "Why don't we have a literary magazine at Topeka High?" And she looked at me and said, "You want it, you start one." That was not what I wanted to hear: I wanted her to start one so I could send in my poetry. But I thought about it and realized here was something I really cared about. If I wanted to see it happen, I would have to do it myself, and that was kind of a good lesson-- something I've managed to make use of since then. So I started talking to some other students, staff, and other people who wrote poetry and thought it was a good idea to start a literary magazine.

We had to come up with the money. We went to the school district, and then we went to the Junior League and got a two hundred dollar grant from them, and that was so exciting. We wrote a little proposal, we gave it to them and said Topeka High needs this, and they gave us the money.

The magazine that was started we called The Mandala. And I can see the Mandala box in the back of the room. Every time I come to Topeka High I think, I can't believe it's still going. Because when we started it, it was just one issue at a time. Every time we had to raise the money. We didn't know if there would be another issue. Nobody really supported it.

The first issue was really pretty simple. It was kind of like a poster. This was the only one that I actually have any of my poetry in because we got so few submissions for the first one that the editors actually had to supply a lot of the stuff. Later issues we got more material. They all have a mandala on the cover. That was probably the most fun thing I did in high school. And anybody who looks at my picture in my last yearbook -- you got to write down all the activities that you did in high school, and some people had a list so long-- the only thing I had next to my name was Mandala. That was the only thing that I thought was really important."

From 1918 to the 1940s a similar publication was called *The Scribbler*. To complete our collection for the THS Archives we are needing these issues: 1973 - 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2013. If you have one of the missing issues, please send it to: THSHS, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612

Graduate in the Spotlight Jerry Anderson (1967)

In June 2019 Jerry Anderson performed an organ recital at First Lutheran Church, Topeka, in commemoration of his 50 years as their church organist. He began his organ studies under the late Mrs. Awyn Lauer while he was in high school. During his college years at Washburn University, he studied the organ under the late Max Elsberry, Professor of Organ at Washburn and Organist/Choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Cathedral. He also studied with the late Myles Criss, Organist/Choirmaster at Grace Episcopal Cathedral.

He began his career as an organist when he was a Topeka High student, playing for Lowman United Methodist Church. He played at Central Park Christian Church for four years before starting at First Lutheran Church on June 8, 1969.

Jerry has been the driving force in expanding the organ at First Lutheran from 4 ranks to 31 ranks, with the addition of the pipes from the original First Lutheran Church organ.

Currently Treasurer and past Dean of the Topeka Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, he serves as treasurer of On Stage Live (Topeka Community Concert Association) and Railroad Heritage (Great Overland Station). He is a past President of the Topeka High School Historical Society and a multiple term board member.

For the last 18 years, Jerry has played a 4th of July Patriotic Concert on the THS Deagan Chimes and is the organist for Topeka Public Schools commencements. The Kansas Federation of Music Clubs named the Anderson family as the "Kansas Musical Family of the Year" for 2003.

Jerry is the Chief Investment Officer for CoreFirst Bank & Trust and will celebrate 50 years of employment on August 11th. He is married to Linda Koehler Anderson (THS 1969). They have 4 children and 4 grandchildren.



Jerry has transposed all the music he plays on the 18-note THS Deagan Chimes.

~ THS Historical Society ~

Graduation Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name (at graduation) _____ Current Last Name _____

THS Spouse's First Name _____ Last Name _____ Spouse Graduation Year _____

Street _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Country _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES – (for operational expenses & THSHS special events)

	Amount
Yearly (\$25)	\$ _____
5 Years (\$100)	\$ _____
10 Years (\$175)	\$ _____
Special annual payment of \$1 for each year since my graduation (i.e. Class of 1966, 50 years since graduation=\$50)	\$ _____

I want to send a gift membership to:

Name _____ Graduation year _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership levels: ____ Yearly (\$25) ____ 5 Year (\$100) ____ 10 Year (\$175)

Total \$ _____

PURCHASES -- go to www.thsweb.org/alumni for complete list of THS items

	Amount
THS Construction Video (\$10, plus \$5 shipping).....	\$ _____
Constitution Plaza Brick (\$30), thsweb1.org/alumni , download form & attach with payment	\$ _____

TOWER SOCIETY FUND – (for building projects)

	Amount
Freshman (\$200).....	\$ _____
Sophomore (\$350).....	\$ _____
Junior (\$500).....	\$ _____
Senior (\$750).....	\$ _____
Top of the Tower (\$1,000).....	\$ _____
Mighty Trojan (\$2,500).....	\$ _____
Guardian (\$10,000+)	\$ _____
Given in honor of _____	
Given in memory of _____	

Check enclosed: ☐ (payable to THS Historical Society or THSHS) TOTAL \$ _____

Charge account: ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Discover (**\$50 minimum requested**)

Name on Card: _____

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ CV # (required) _____

Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____

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The THS Historical Society appreciates our members!

The THSHS appreciates our dues paying members. As a recipient of this newsletter you are a member of the THSHS. Members have made possible our many accomplishments and projects for Topeka High over the past 34 years. Membership dues cover the operating expenses for the THSHS.

We welcome new members! Help us get the word out about our mission to support Topeka High. Encourage a classmate or friend to join the THSHS. Consider giving a THSHS gift membership to a sibling or classmate for a gift. You don't have to be a THS graduate to be a THSHS member. All who are interested in historic preservation are welcome. You can remit your dues by completing the form on page 7 of this newsletter or by going on-line (thsweb.org/alumni) and renewing via PayPal or credit card.



DIGITAL THS SUNFLOWERS

Order a digital copy of your yearbook (1911 - 1989). Send \$25, THSHS office, 800 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612, Credit cards also accepted.