



Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma November 2012 Newsletter

President's Ramblings

I must admit that fall isn't my favorite time of the year. The reason being that I don't care for the cold of winter and fall reminds me that winter is coming sooner than I want. Having said that I do appreciate the beauty of the season and the events that come with it. As I am out walking far before the leaves turn color and I see the first golden rod appear or the purple asters peeping through I remember the lines of the poem of Helen Hunt Jackson that I learned in fifth grade. (The golden rod is yellow, the corn is turning brown, the trees in apple orchard with fruit are bending down.....) I always say it in my mind many times as summer ends and fall arrives in all its glory. It was such a simple assignment in fifth grade to memorize and illustrate the poem. I don't think my teacher thought it would still be able to recite it these many years later. This year it made me think of what influence we have over our students and how assignments and our actions stick with them through time.

National Education week is coming soon. (November 11-17). This is a time when we hope everyone realizes the value of public education and all those individuals, like each of you, that make a difference each day in a child's life. Thanks you to each of you for providing a quality education to your students.

New Initiates

We are happy to welcome our new members:

Sue Middaugh - Learning Support teacher - Northeast Bradford School District

Lisa Reynolds - Music teacher - Athens School District

Dorothy Weir - Music teacher - Northeast Bradford School District.

A special thanks to Pat Stadelmaier for preparing and conducting the new initiation service. We received many positive comments on the new ceremony.

November Meeting

November 3, 2012

First Baptist Church, Troy PA

Remember this is our brunch meeting. The ladies will be serving us at 9:30. Executive Committee will meet at 8:45 followed by Chorus /committee meeting at 9:00.

We are excited to welcome back Donna Mussigman . She will be entertaining us with her musical talent on the Dulcimer.

Hope to see you on the 3rd.



DKG Projects Reminder:

Each school district is **responsible** to bring a gift basket for our Basket Raffle on November 3rd at Troy. The money raised is used to buy baby books for the hospitals, so please bring a little extra "raffle cash" to help the project!

Have you read any good books lately? Would you like to trade them in and for only \$1.00 get something new to read?! We will be having a used book sale at our November meeting to also benefit our Baby Book Project. We would be grateful for any of those used books you would like to share!

We are so thankful for your support to continue these DKG projects.

Beth Carman (Project Chairman)

News From Our Members

My husband and I are looking forward to celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary Oct. 17 - 28 with a river cruise on the Danube River. We will visit the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

Sincerely,

Maureen Downs

Lee Ann Wolfe continues to recover from her fall.

Linda Ferrario has headed south to warmer weather and time to relax. Congratulations on doing a great job organizing the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Talent Show.

Bits and Pieces

A special thank you to Vicki VanNoy for working so hard to get all the dues in and to meet the time schedule set by the state. This is not an easy task and she spends many hours seeing that our chapter meets the necessary deadlines. Also thanks to those members that had their dues in by the September meeting.

If you haven't looked to see what committee you are on this year please do so. Also contact your committee chair to see what you can do to help her out. Many times only the chair does the work and remember many hands makes the load lighter. We should all try to be participating members.

If you know of any achievements by our member or health issues please let one of the officers know so we can alert our members.



“School Days School Days, Good Old Fashion School Days”

School (Building) Changes

My elementary years were marked by change and lots of it! The changes I’m referring to are regarding the actual school buildings. I have not addressed any curriculum changes in this article.

I started elementary school in 1956 at the Laceyville Elementary School, part of the Wyalusing Area School District. The school district jointure was newly formed and joined the communities of Camptown, Laceyville, New Albany and Wyalusing. A new modern high school had already been built in Wyalusing. Each of the four towns previously mentioned, now had a former high school building that had been converted into an elementary school. The old one and two-room schools were standing empty and deserted throughout the various small communities. This scenario may sound familiar to you, too. The United States had a large population of “baby boomers” who needed schools to house all of them and prepare them for the new challenges of post-World War II. Communities everywhere were building new schools.

In the late 1950’s, after much discussion, the Wyalusing School Board made the decision to build four new elementary schools (one for each community...probably the politically correct decision!). The first groundbreaking was for the Laceyville building. The old building had been condemned due to some unsafe conditions including termites in the ceilings. Now the pressure was on! Where would they put all of the Laceyville grade school students in the interim? Well, there were some boarded-up two room schools, just sitting there, and they were brought out of mothballs. With some busing changes and classroom and staffing adjustments, the students were soon safely continuing their studies.

My days at the old Laceyville Elementary had been idyllic. I loved my teachers, Mrs. Mildred Robinson, of Stevensville, who taught First Grade, Miss Mildred LaFrance, of Laceyville, who was the Second Grade teacher and Mrs. Evelyn Keeney, of Wyalusing, who taught Third Grade. (These ladies instilled a love of learning and a love for school that contributed to my becoming a teacher.) My classmates and I attended these first three grades in our beloved old school until Christmas vacation of Third Grade. When we returned to school in January 1959, we went to the Spring Hill School, a two-room school that we shared with the Second Grade. Recess there was fun; we had a wooded area to play in. I remember the toilets seemed rather large and cavernous and, boy, were they loud! To get to the toilets, we had to pass through the “cloak rooms”. Hot lunches were brought to us daily via a station wagon-like vehicle chauffeured by the custodian who brought our two favorite smiling cooks to serve the food to us.

Fourth Grade was another two-room school, this time in Silvara, and we had the First Grade as our schoolmates. Again, we had spectacular surroundings with woods to play in. For a bunch of country kids, we were very taken with the “skunk cabbage” that was growing nearby. I remember well the day when our teacher, Mrs. Vera Clapper, of Laceyville, allowed only those of us who had memorized our times tables to go out for recess. There were only a few of us on the merry-go-round that day!

Fifth Grade found us at the Wyalusing Elementary, blending in with the Wyalusing kids. There we studied under Mrs. Lida Bart, of Wyalusing. The Wyalusing Elementary made room for us by sending their Sixth Graders to Camptown along with the Laceyville Sixth Grade.

In September of 1961 (my Sixth Grade year), our brand new building with its’ contemporary mauve and blue desks and spanking clean walls and floors was opened and ready to go. Our teacher was Mr. Gerald Burke, of Wyalusing, our first male teacher. We loved him...he played softball with us and did fascinating science demonstrations! It was also a comfort to be back in Laceyville. Those longer bus rides around the countryside had lost their excitement!

My class had the distinction of being the first class to graduate from L.E.S. in June of 1962. The district’s other elementaries were soon completed and all served the district well for fifty years. In September 2011, a new large building, the Wyalusing Area Elementary School, opened its’ doors to all district elementary students.

The Laceyville Elementary students of 1959-1961 had a rather unique education. We experienced the two-room schoolhouses of our parents and grandparents and then moved into our brand new, up-to-date school. Our teachers must have been excited to escape the old two-room schools, step back into the present and, at last, settle into their new “state of the art” classrooms! **Maureen Downs**



My memories consist of having the same teacher for 3 years. Grades first through third and the other fourth through sixth. We did not have a copier for pictures. There were cookie sheets with a hard gelatin covering the pan. Then a purple master picture was put on the gelatin and the lines were in the mixture. Then a student would make copies one at a time. It was an honor to do this. There was no such thing as an art teacher. We did have a music teacher that came twice a month. Physical education was recess and no teacher went outside with us. We were not allowed to wear long pants to school. If we did a dress had to be on top in the winter. We had to look like little ladies. To go to the bathroom we had to raise our hand and make a Y with two fingers. That way the teacher knew you had to go. Wouldn't Mrs. Woodruff and Mrs. Rinker be surprised today! **Joanne Adams**

One school memory that comes to mind is when I was in 5th grade, our teacher played basketball with us in her stocking feet. We did not have a gym teacher and perhaps she did not have sneakers. She was a pretty good player anyway. **Sandra Hollenback**

When I was in a combination 3rd/4th class at Wysox school, we had a "cloak" room located down the hall a ways. It was my first time hearing the word cloak. I also remember my teacher taking one of my classmates from a very poor home under her wing. When "Linda" arrived in the morning, my teacher would bathe her in a washtub in the cloak room and dress her in pretty dresses. The children thought nothing of it and her parents apparently did not object. Imagine such a thing in this day and age. This was in 1958. I have wonderful memories of Wysox school. **Michele Snell**



At catholic school, we were inspired to insert JMJ at the top of each paper handed in. This of course initialed....Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We were not allowed to use pencil for final products...everything was done with Schaffer pens. At first we filled the tube with bottled ink but were in heaven when the new cartridge filled pens were invented. **Barb Pulver**



The school I attended from first through third grade (no kindergarten at that time) was the same school my father and aunt attended. It had 2 classrooms, one for grades 1-3 and an upstairs room for grades 4-6. There was no indoor plumbing but the back of the school had chemical toilets. We obtained our drinking water and water to wash our hands from an outdoor pump each morning. It was a thrill to be the one chosen to retrieve the water! The ceramic urn that held our drinking water is now on display at the LeRoy Heritage Museum. Our heat was supplied by a huge cylindrical-shaped furnace. In the winter, our teacher opened its front door and toasted our sandwiches so we could have a hot meal. Since 3 grades were in one classroom, each grade had a black board with our lesson schedule for the day. When you completed your work you could watch the upper/lower grades and learn from their lesson. Our desks had a wooden seat bolted to the floor. Your desk contained the seat for the next person hinged to its metal support. Each Friday during our morning recess, our teacher escorted us down the road to the corner store. We were allowed to shop for 15 minutes. We would buy candy which was usually priced at a penny or some brands at 2 for a penny. Once a month, the Ladies Aid of the local church provided a wonderful lunch for all of our students. The cost was 10 cents and included your meat, potato, vegetable, salad, bread, dessert and milk. The year I entered 4th grade, a brand new school was opened (presently it is the Twin Oaks Retirement Facility) and the old Granville Center School was closed. **Vicki VanNoy**



After attending a one room school for one year our family moved to town and I went to the four room school there. It was quite an adjustment from being the only student in my grade to having 10 classmates. Each year brings different memories of my teachers. My first teacher had the nickname of Mrs. Ruler as she walked around the room often using the flat of the ruler on our fingers if we weren't paying attention or the side on our heads if we really needed to refocus. The standing joke among her student is that we still have indentations on our heads. Through all this we all loved and respected her.

I loved my 3rd and 4th grade teacher as she brought learning to life for me; however, I have one unpleasant memory. It was the first or second week of school and we had read a story about a ventriloquist. She explained that the doll was only pretend like Santa Claus. Still believing in the jolly man in the red suit I became so upset that I ran out of the room and home to be reassured by my parents of his existence.. Mrs. McClure did redeem this mishap in my eyes when the morning before Christmas vacation while we were outside for recess she placed real candles on the tree and had them lit as we returned to a darkened room. The room just glowed and we all joined hands and sang Silent Night. We were dismissed early and she handed each of us a popcorn ball she whisper in my ear, "I hope Santa is good to you."

My fifth and sixth grade teacher opened my eyes to geography and history. She seemed have a way of making each person or event come alive and to cause us to want to travel and experience the world. It was in fifth grade that I decided to become a teacher.

Since I lived in this small town all students, unless you lived more than a mile from the school went home for lunch. Recess was always will all eight grades and no teacher was on duty. It was neat to learn the jumping rope rhyme (Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear, Turn Around) from older girls and special when the boy joined in High Water, Low water. All grades were included in ball games, King on the Mountain, and Red Rover. Autograph books were passed around each spring by the fourth and fifth grader. Although we thought we were being original when I look back there are a lot of Roses are Red entries.

I can still smell the wet wool mittens drying on the radiator in the winter and on really cold day when the heat didn't get all the way to the second floor switching seats on the side of the room when it was our turn to have the teacher. **Naomi Edsell**

Thanks to each of you for sharing these memories with us. If anyone else cares to share a memory they will be included in the next newsletter.

