

## COMMUNITY RURAL HIGH SCHOOL 1947-48 –1997-98

When I was asked by Kay Gage and Carolyn Jameson to give a history of Community High School, I thought "Oh well, I'll just call some of the other Seniors of '48 and we will put this in order. I forgot that 50 years had passed in our memory also, but we had a lot of laughs on the phone.

So here goes the history as best I know it from the standpoint of a student. The first graduating class of Community Rural High School. If any of my classmates remember different, I'll stand corrected. I don't know what all transpired the Summer of '47. I wasn't interested in the mechanics of getting a school started. Just interested in where we would be going to school. Late in the summer of '47 we were told that Josephine and Nevada had consolidated and would be known as Community Rural High School, with the High School at Nevada. Since the 2 schools were such rivals, I know the students from Nevada were as skeptical as the Josephine students

However, being the gracious, good natured students that we were, we accepted this, with plans to get along and have a great school. There were 9 students in the Senior class of 1948. Billy Caldwell, Lucille Cook Sedgwick, Jane Davis Allen, Aletha Ivy Hargrave, James Lambert, George McSpadden, Peggy Petty Reagan, Jeannie Smith Richie, and Carrie Juanita Renfro Bell. James later joined the Marines, so he wasn't here for graduation. After we assembled that Fall day, Mr. Bowen welcomed us and STATED just how everything was going to be handled, because we were obedient and gracious we set about getting our classes squared away. Then down to the big important business: CRHS needed a school song; a tune for it; Colors; and a mascot. Because we were the first Seniors of '48 we were given the honor of choosing these. To my memory, Jeannie Smith Richie, Jane Davis Allen and Cille Cook Sedgwick was on our song committee and probably the melody. George McSpadden could have been on this also. Anyway - All you young ones that have wondered "Why in the world is our song to the tune of 'Anchors Aweigh'? What does this have to do with school spirit?" Ask any of the above. I asked Jeannie why but she didn't remember - just that she could play 'Anchors Aweigh' on the piano and liked to do so. That is as good a reason as any when you are 16. I do know that they were the last committee to get their work done. Maybe we were just tired of waiting?

Now the color committee. I was on this one and well if you know anything at all about me, you know why blue! "Royal Blue" Not baby blue, powder blue or navy blue - but Royal Blue! I do like other shades of Blue, but not for school colors. That is why I am not on the color committee of anything anymore. Why the gold? I don't remember. Nevada's colors were maroon and white, and

Josephine's were red and white. We thought about the common color white, but decided to have all things new. Later I found out that Lavon's colors were Blue and Gold. In years past I know that some have wanted to change the colors to Blue and White and that is fine now.

For the mascot, most of the boys were on this. Mr. Bowen suggested the Indians, because of their strength and endurance but Bland had come into being this same year and their mascot was the Indian, so not to be outdone, the Committee chose the "Brave". By the way, Bland's colors were also Blue and Gold.

Now you know just how all these various things, so important to the life and spirit of a school, came into being.

In 1947 there were 235 students in the 12 grades. Today there are 1000 plus. We are a 3AAA school and growing, growing, growing. My, did you look at the buildings as you drove onto the Campus? These buildings sure put the red brick in Nevada, the cream brick in Josephine and Lavon in the shade don't they? However the Lavon building is still being used for the betterment of the Community. The city has a Library, place for the City Council to meet, and the lunchroom has been renovated for a fellowship hall. The Gym in Nevada is in the process of being repaired for the Youth of the Community. There is a lovely park in Josephine where the school building was and children play there every day.

The first New School was built across the road in 1974 and contained all 12 grades. Then in 1988, because we had grown so much this building, the High School, was built and dedicated, leaving the Elementary and Middle School across the road. Now this June, 1998, the McClendon Elementary School was dedicated, and will be to capacity by the school year 1999-2000.

In April, 1947 the School Districts of Nevada, Lavon, Millwood, McMinn, & Mt. Pisgah were grouped together and formed the Community Rural High School. Then on July 28, 1947 the Josephine Independent School District was added to this group. This has been the best thing for all the students in these districts. Community Rural High School # 718 was changed to Community Independent School District # 918 in 1975. The last meeting of the Collin County School Board was Dec. 4, 1978.

Several years ago, Randy and some boys were at the "junk pile" outside Josephine and found several papers that had been thrown away. One of these was legal brief that some patron had drawn concerning the legality of Community Rural high School. There is no name on the paper except the name of the lawyer. This patron was evidently unhappy about the school system and wanted to have it disbanded. This person was concerned about all the sports being played at

Nevada, moving the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to Nevada, and about the school building. Really, this person was never pleased about anything that happened, even if he suggested it. I have the brief and a copy if you would like to read it.

This Fall I went to McKinney to find out what I could about the grouping of the schools together. There is not much that you can find out. The first place I went was the County Clerk's office and all the tax records were supposed to be there. However the tax records from 1945 to 1950 were not in the book. I then went to the record storage building where they are putting all the old records on Microfilm and they looked up the records of the County Superintendent and told me that they were in the basement of the Court House and the man that has the Key was in the courthouse. At the County clerk's office again, I was told that the man in charge of the key was out to lunch, If I would leave the number of the volumes that I wanted, I could see them on Monday. I guess that he is the only man in Collin County that has a key. Well, Monday I was there and spent about 2 hours going through the records. I made a copy of them and believe me, there is not much to go on. Of course, all the meetings and all the conversation that went on during that Summer was not there, and as far as I know there isn't and other business about the school. Just what was told during the lifetime of the ones that were involved. Maybe, you can remember some things that were told to you as a child, but I just have this to go on.

Please feel free to visit the schools at any time, especially when there is a special something going on. The Homecoming is first Friday in Oct. When you meet any of the teachers, please tell them of their good work here. Also when you meet the Board of Trustees, tell them about the confidence you have in them, after all, you that are in the Community, have elected them and they are doing the thing that they think best. If not, then elect someone else next election. I'm proud that all our children graduated from CHS. Richard also served on the School Board 10 years, was on the Board when the School was built in 1974, and Randy was on the board 8 years and was on when in 1988 this building was dedicated. I've also served my time in PTA or PTSA and as "Room Mother."

Thank you Ex-Students of GREAT COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL!!!



Aletha Ivy Hargrave  
member of first graduating class  
Community Rural High School 1947-48  
1997-98